

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING

JULY 25, 2018

The Town Council convened for a workshop meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. In attendance Councilors Austin, Heffernan, E. Hunter, N. Hunter, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark. Councilor Malone was absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Workshop dated July 12, 2018 to received an update on the water management plan, discuss new rates and usage allowances, and preparation of a water wasting ordinance.

Town Manager Coates reported staff is monitoring the water supply levels and user participation in the mandatory water restrictions. Council directed preparation of a water wasting ordinance as the next step in the water management plan, which includes a water rate structure for emergency purposes. She presented documents for discussion and consideration by the Council.

A draft resolution was presented which amends the water conservation and management plan. Manager Coates presented changes and discussed them with the Council. In late April public outreach pertaining to voluntary water restrictions was undertaken and on June 12<sup>th</sup> mandatory water restrictions were triggered when the water supply needed to be drawn from the reservoir, instead of the Happy Hollow ditch source. Additions to the resolution include goals for actions, which would trigger each stage of the plan. She noted the Town is currently in Stage 2 which includes citing for violations to the mandatory restrictions, noting none have been issued to date. The resolution includes four stages, the third stage triggers when the water supply drops off and 'makes a real and significant change to the water demand' and Lake Ottonowanda water depth falls two feet below peak storage for the year, or total depth falls below 6.5 feet. Stage 4 triggers when Lake Ottonowanda water depth falls three feet below peak storage for the year, or the overall depth falls below five feet.

Speaking from the audience, Vickie Hawse stated a monthly allocation of 9000 gallons per residence is excessive, and suggested it be lowered before an increase in cost is instituted. She suggested the planting of drought resistant plants be encouraged; and noted "it would be shame if trees died".

The Town Manager suggested landscape regulations such as xeriscaping be addressed through the upcoming community Master Plan discussions.

There was discussion by the Council, and questions answered by the Town Engineer. The Council agreed to reviewing the draft resolution at the next regular meeting.

Chase Jones, from Public Works Administration, presented a draft ordinance addressing water wasting based on regulations from other municipalities. He noted regulations vary greatly by each community and the most common water wasting regulations which 'fit the Town' were chosen. He reviewed the draft ordinance with the Council.

There was discussion between Council and staff regarding requests for leak adjustments. The Council reviewed a Staff Report dated 7-24-18 from the Town Engineer, Public Works Administration and Town Manager presenting an analysis of water rates.

Manager Coates reported on the cost to deliver and treat water. She noted other communities base rate structures are higher than those currently being charged, the current base rate for 9000 gallons of water each month is \$42 for a single family residence. Other users are charged at varying rate structures. Staff has reviewed the costs to supply water for the past two and a half years, and Manager Coates presented the findings. There was discussion by the Council.

The Town Manager reported in reviewing the median water use by each month May, June, July and August, "the irrigation season" have higher uses, including exceeding allocated amounts.

There was lengthy discussion by the Council pertaining to changes to rates and water allocations. The Council agreed to retain the current residential rate; increase rates when usages exceeds the allocated amount; reduce allocated gallons to 7000 with higher rates after the use of 12,000 gallons.

The Town Manager suggested staff look at current commercial and school rates, noting 'currently residential fees subsidize the commercial rate structure'. The Council agreed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk