

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Community Center at 201 North Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. In attendance Councilors Austin, Cheek, Hunter, Lakin, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark. Councilmember Meyer was not present for the roll call.

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Clark welcomed and introduced the new Town Manager, Preston Neill.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2019.
2. Pursuant to state statute designate the Town Hall bulletin board as the official posting place.
3. Register of Demands for January 2020.
4. Renewal of liquor store liquor license for San Juan Liquor.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilor Lakin and unanimously carried to approve the consent calendar.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Final Plat for Filing 2 of RiverSage Subdivision

Town Planner Shay Coburn presented an application for final plat approval for RiverSage Subdivision Filing 2. She reported at the January Planning Commission meeting it was recommended the Council approve the request. The development was constructed in two phases, each with eight lots, and includes dedication of 21 acres of park land. Approval includes a Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement (SIA) to address items which are completed. This includes an additional layer of road base and compaction, drainage improvements and overall site clean up; items which can not be completed due to winter weather conditions. She noted the proposed lien on one of the lots will "cover improvements" if the items are not completed.

Applicant Rick Weaver addressed construction of the road, noting all utilities are installed except phone line pedestals. Drainage infrastructure is currently being installed. After completion of the roads, piles of soil debris will be placed on two building sites to create building envelope height. Revegetation will be accomplished similar to the first phase, through the use of Colorado natural grass seed. He estimated the improvements will be completed by June 1st.

There were questions and comments from the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Hunter to approve final plat for RiverSage Subdivision Filing 2. Councilor Cheek seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hunter moved, and Councilor Austin seconded to amend the motion to include the two conditions as specified in the staff report, the motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS

5. Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement for RiverSage Filing 2

The Planner presented a subdivision improvements and lien agreement for RiverSage Filing 2. She noted the lien will be placed on Lot 15, with a completion date of June 1, 2020.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to approve the Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement for RiverSage Filing 2. Councilor Hunter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

6. Release of RiverSage Filing 1 Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement

Planner Coburn presented a release on the lien of subdivision improvements for the first phase of RiverSage Subdivision. During prior meetings the Council released the applicant from requirements pertaining to the pedestrian bridge and installation of lights on the vehicular bridge.

Councilor Meyer entered the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, and seconded by Councilor Austin to release the Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement for RiverSage Filing 1. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

7. Request for extension of preliminary plat submittal for Vista Park Commons PUD

Staff Reported dated 1-8-20 presenting a request for extension of the preliminary plat submittal for Vista Park Commons PUD; letter dated 1-3-20 from applicant Joe Nelson explaining the request to continue the previous extension is being submitted due to health issues with a member of the development team.

Planner Coburn reported the preliminary plat was approved on 8-14-19 with conditions to be met in 90 days. On 11-13-19 the applicant requested a 60 day extension, which the Council granted. The current request is for 90 days, with a deadline of April 10, 2020. She explained, "staff is confident" the applicant can meet the requirements.

ACTION:

Councilor Austin moved to approve the extension of preliminary plat submittal for Vista Park Commons PUD. Councilor Lakin seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

8. Report from Ride the Rockies pertaining to impacts of the event to be held in June

Staff Report dated 1-3-20 from the Planner and Community Initiative Facilitator presenting background on Town participation in the 2017 Ride the Rockies event.

Deirdre Moynihan, Tour Director with the annual Ride the Rockies bike tour event addressed the Council. She explained she has been made aware the 2017 Ride the Rockies event was “disappointing for Ridgway” and noted, she was not tour director at the time. She acknowledged “what a tremendous job you did” and “did not reap the benefits”, and apologized on behalf of the Denver Post event committee. She reported the committee has reassessed how the event affects “small towns” and regulations have changed regarding hosting. Until recently, she explained, the event would ask hosting jurisdictions to provide specific items, and stated “it is different now”, we are “not asking you for anything”.

Ms. Moynihan reported the Ouray County Fairgrounds has agreed to place all infrastructure for the event. “We would like to spend two nights in one place” and “experience the area”; the event will draw cyclists from “49 of the 50 states”, and “10 or 11 countries”. She explained Town staff has expressed concerns regarding traffic due to the event occurring on the same dates as the Blue Grass Festival in Telluride. She reported she has spoken to the Colorado Department of Transportation and State Highway Patrol stated “they will do what needs to be done” to “not take up local law enforcement time”. This year’s event route will be from Norwood to Ridgway, a 40 mile distance, and create “a short day.” The event staff will be facilitating “food and entertainment”. She requested input from the Council on the proposal, noting the only request from the Town would be use of municipal water. Ms. Moynihan answered questions from the Council.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Erin Stadelman, Manager of the Ouray County Fairgrounds, stated the fairgrounds is “more than capable to handle the event” and she is “totally confident”, “we can do it”.

The Town Clerk read an email dated 1-7-20 from Western Slope Rides offering to provide shuttle services, local and airport transfer services.

The Council asked Marshal Schmalz if the department had any concerns regarding the proposed event. He stated the event will “triple the population of Town” during a busy tourist time. He expressed safety concerns with the Telluride Blue Grass Festival traffic. He also questioned the proposal to have riders on county roads on the second day, noting the infrastructure is not in place to accommodate the use and number of riders. Additionally he noted concerns with moving participants in and out of the fairgrounds; and told the Council it will require hiring additional officers to assist during the event.

There was discussion between the Council and Ms. Moynihan. She noted part of the process of organizing the event is to coordinate with local jurisdictions, and bring law enforcement agencies together with the Highway Patrol, which is hired to represent the event and provide monitoring and safety. The event would bring “approximately 1100 people on site” and the “support and travel crew of 100 people” would stay in Montrose. In addition to use of the fairgrounds, the school may participate and provide “indoor camping” for “about 150 people”.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Judy Snelling explained during the 2017 event she was involved with the Chamber and “it was a massive undertaking” and “we put up \$20,000”. She noted it was “expected to be a great boom for local businesses and restaurant” and participants were too tired when they

arrived to travel away from camping areas. “No one came to the booths and the concert” in the park, and “we were really disappointed”. She suggested the Council “take a hard look” before consenting, noting “it did not do what we thought it would for the community”.

Community Initiative Facilitator Diedra Silbert reported if the Town agrees to host the event this year, there would not be “partners” to participate, noting “no one has the capacity this year” to host the event. She noted the Ride the Rockies coordinator “is not local”, and the support staff “doesn’t know the community”.

Ms. Moynihan stated she is “not opposed to finding someone locally” to oversee the event.

School Superintendent Susan Lacey asked questions regarding the request to use the school facility. There was discussion between Ms. Moynihan and Superintendent Lacey.

There was discussion by the Council regarding proximity of the school to the fairgrounds; Marshal Department staffing needs during the time period; the need for all local law enforcement agencies to meet and discuss the event; coverage of costs for additional law enforcement; positive impacts to local businesses to have the event in Town for two nights; planning over the next five months to work with agencies and individuals to ensure all items are addressed.

Consensus of the Council was if safety concerns can be addressed, the event will be a benefit for the community and businesses. The Council asked Ms. Moynihan to ensure communication flows between staff, county and the event staff; ensure there are no expectations from the Town other than those discussed; and that fairgrounds staff will assume responsibility.

9. Intergovernmental agreement with Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center for dispatch services

Town Attorney Nerlin explained in 2018 the Town moved dispatch services from Montrose County to the newly created Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center (WCRDC). At that time the WCRDC amended their intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to include law enforcement agencies within Ouray County, and to place a representative from each jurisdiction on the governing board. He presented an agreement for dispatch services in 2020 and noted he has reviewed, and agrees with, all proposed amendments to the document.

On a question from the Council Marshal Schmulz stated the arrangement is “working really well”.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Cheek to approve the IGA with Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center for dispatch services. Seconded by Councilor Hunter, the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

10. Update on the 2020 Annual Election

Memo from Town Clerk dated 1-3-20 presenting information regarding the 2020 annual election.

The Clerk addressed the Council and explained the annual election will be held on April 7th. The Mayor and three councilmember seats will become vacant. Based on vacancies which occurred in 2018, last years election had five seats open on the Council. Two of the members elected in 2019 chose to accept one year terms, and the 2020 election should return all seats to a two year term. The three council seats which will become vacant are currently held by Councilors Austin, Cheek and Hunter.

She reported a notice and call for candidates will be published and posted during the week of January 20th. The nomination period will begin on Monday February 3rd and close on Friday February 21st.

11. Miscellaneous staff updates

Town Manager Neill thanked the Council for the opportunity to work for the community, and with the Council and staff.

Planner Coburn reported on upcoming meetings pertaining to updates to the land use code.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Meyer reported at the recent Ouray County Joint Planning Board meeting the UGM boundaries were approved.

Councilmember Austin reported on the Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee and Joint Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

Councilor Hunter reported on the Creative District advisory committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk