

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 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. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Austin, Cheek, Hunter, Lakin, Meyer, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark in attendance.

The Town Attorney requested adding to the agenda an executive session to receive legal advice regarding the upcoming election.

ACTION:

Councilor Hunter moved to add an executive session to the agenda. Councilor Meyer seconded and on a call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2020.
2. Register of Demands for February 2020.
3. Renew liquor license for Colorado Boy Depot.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Austin, seconded by Councilor Lakin and unanimously carried to approve the consent calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Terry Schuyler addressed the Council on behalf of the Ridgway Ouray Community Council (ROCC) Clean Energy Committee's 'Totally Green Program'. He explained the goal is to "source 100%" electricity generated with renewable energy sources. He suggested the Council consider all public facilities "go totally green" with electrical use, "all sourced from renewables". He presented an analysis of the Town's annual usage and noted converting to renewables would "cost \$5,000 a year or \$419 a month". The Clean Energy Committee may have matching funds to offset costs the first year, he reported.

There was discussion and consensus of the Council was to direct staff to work with Mr. Schuyler regarding participation in the program, and report back at the next meeting.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. Request to renew agreement with Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce for percentage of lodging tax remittances to provide marketing services for the Town

Staff Report from the Town Manager for the 2-12-20 meeting, presenting a letter of request from the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC) dated 1-23-20 requesting a renewal of the agreement to share lodging tax receipts to provide marketing services; 2020 marketing budget and narrative.

Representing the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC) Tim Patterson and Hilary Lewkowicz requested renewal of the agreement for a 70% portion of the proceeds from lodging tax remittance, to provide marketing services. They explained the board is requesting bi-annual reporting, instead of quarterly; would like to change the requirement for submission of year end report to January 15th of the following year; and continue to receive payment on a monthly basis.

There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed a financial summary should be submitted quarterly, and a verbal report presented twice a year.

ACTION:

Councilor Meyer moved to approve renewal of the agreement with Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce for a percentage of lodging tax remittances to provide marketing services, and approve modifying the agreement to bi-annual in person reporting, monthly payments and quarterly financial reporting. Councilor Lakin seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

5. Presentation from Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership

Tanya Ishikawa with the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) presented an Annual Report for 2019 and a new Watershed Guide.

Arlen Huggins presented a PowerPoint presentation with graphs addressing the UWP involvement in the statewide River Watch Program. The program is operated by the Division of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and administered by volunteers monitoring the water basins throughout the state for baseline quality data. The UWP monitors six segments along the Uncompahgre River, and he presented statistical data from the sites, between 2013 and 2018.

There were questions, and discussion by the Council.

Ashley Benbenk presented information on the Governor Basin Restoration Project located seven miles southwest of Ouray. The project, which will benefit downstream users, is currently in the planning process. Construction will begin in late 2020 or early 2021 and the area will be monitored for ten years.

6. Request from Habitat for Humanity to support the project on Laura Street by contributing water and sewer taps

Erica Weeks, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of the San Juan's, explained the organization is "ready to break ground" and construct a tri-plex project on Laura Street. She explained the building will provide affordable housing to three families that "live and work in Town", granting them an "affordable mortgage of \$600 to \$700 a month". She requested the Council consider contributing to the project by waiving water and sewer tap fees.

Mayor Clark explained the Council can not waive tap fees, as they are enterprise funds. If the Council chooses to contribute to the project the funds must come from the general fund. The Town Manager noted the subsidy would be \$14,960.

There were questions from Council to staff and representatives from Habitat for Humanity.

The Town Planner explained the subdivision plat notes waive excise development fees for affordable housing units, and waive building and plan check fees, which would waive approximately \$12,000 in fees.

There was discussion by the Council. The Town Clerk noted the 2020 general fund budget contains funds for affordable housing.

ACTION:

Councilor Austin moved to accept the request from Habitat for Humanity with funds to be used from the Affordable Housing line item in the General Fund in the amount of \$14,960. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

7. Request to use parking lot on the southeast corner of Hartwell Park for parking lot sale on May 9th

On behalf of Friends of Ridgway Schools Bernadette and Rick Taylor requested use of half of the south Hartwell Park parking lot, for a parking lot sale fundraising event on May 9th. They explained the organization desires to use the area which is adjacent to the highway "to get more exposure".

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Lakin to approve the Friends of the Ridgway School request to use half of the parking lot for a parking lot sale on May 9th, Councilor Meyer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS

8. Adoption of the application for International Dark Sky Community Designation

Staff Reported dated 2-12-20 from the Town Planner presenting the application for International Dark Sky Community Designation, which was prepared by the ROCC Ridgway Dark Sky Committee.

Planner Coburn reported the Town has received comments and suggested edits from International Dark Sky Association (IDA) regarding a draft of the document.

Val Szwarc representing the committee asked that any comments the Council would like included in the application be submitted by the weekend. He noted the comments from the IDA will also be included.

Speaking from the audience it was noted the regulations will also benefit residents in unincorporated areas of the county.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin, seconded by Councilor Meyer and unanimously carried to approve the application for International Dark Sky Community Designation subject to administrative changes and review by staff.

9. Authorization for Mayor to sign letter of support for Clearnetworx funding request to the Department of Regulatory Agencies to expand broadband network in Ouray County

Staff Report from the Town Manager presenting a proposed letter for the Mayors signature supporting a funding request for Clearnetworx LLC to the Department of Regulatory Agencies; and a map of the area to which broadband network will be expanded.

Manager Neill explained the request for a letter of support mirrors action taken by the Council in July. The current proposal will expand service to lower Log Hill and Colona.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Clearnetworx funding request to the Department of Regulatory Agencies to expand broadband network into the lower Log Hill and Colona area. Seconded by Councilor Lakin, the motion carried unanimously.

10. Scholarship funds to attend the annual CML conference

Mayor Clark reported there are scholarship funds available for registration to the annual Colorado Municipal League (CML) conference in June. He encouraged members of the Council to attend the event.

11. Intergovernmental Agreement for Shared Victim Advocate Services with the City of Ouray and Ouray County

Memorandum from the Town Attorney dated 2-7-20 presenting an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the City and County of Ouray for victim advocacy services.

Attorney Nerlin reported the IGA was discussed at the December meeting, and changes have been made at the request of the County Attorney.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Ridgway, City of Ouray and Ouray County for Shared Victim Advocate Services. Councilor Meyer seconded and on a call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

12. Temporary Access Agreement with Echo Properties Corp., Ridgway Railroad Museum and Ouray County Ranch History Museum

Memorandum from the Town Attorney dated 2-10-20 presenting a temporary access agreement between the Town, Echo Properties Corp., the Ouray County Ranch History Museum and Ridgway Railroad Museum.

Attorney Nerlin explained the Council has previously approved similar access agreements with Echo Corporation and it's tenants. The agreement will expire on June 1, 2020, and allows entry to the property from three points off North Railroad Street.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Meyer, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson to approve the Temporary Access Agreement between the Town, Echo Properties Corp., Railroad Depot Funding LLC, Ridgway Railroad Museum and Ouray County Ranch History Museum. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

STAFF REPORTS

The Council received written reports pertaining to the Creative District and Main Street Program; and an update from the Town Manager.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Hunter reported on the Creative District Committee.

Councilor Austin noted he will not be seeking re-election to office, and thanked the Council, and the residents for the opportunity to serve the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Town Council enter into an executive session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(b) for conference with the Town Attorney, for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding the upcoming election.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin, seconded by Councilor Meyer and unanimously carried to enter into closed session.

The Council entered into executive session at 7:30 p.m. with the Town Attorney, Town Clerk and Town Manager.

The Council reconvened to open session at 7:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk