

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 11, 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 Hunter, Lakin, Meyer, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark. Councilors Austin and Cheek were absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Town Council enter into an executive session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(e) for conference with the Town Attorney for the purpose of determining position subject to negotiations regarding Lake Ottanwanda.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and unanimously carried to enter into closed session.

The Council entered into executive session at 5:40 p.m. with the Town Attorney, Town Manager, Town Engineer and Public Works Services Administrator.

The Council reconvened to open session at 6:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2020.
2. Minutes of Joint Workshop held on February 10, 2020.
3. Register of Demands for March 2020.
4. Renew restaurant liquor license for True Grit Cafe.
5. Appoint Andy Nasisse to the Ridgway Creative District, Creative Advocacy Team.
6. Water leak adjustment for Meter #6270.1/ 155 S. Elizabeth Street.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Annabelle Clarke explained she lives at the corner of Otto and Cora and noted many 'large trucks' which "can't turn around" come into the residential area, "thinking they are" entering the Ridgway Business Park. She suggested a sign be installed at Railroad Street designating the turn on to Roundhouse Street, and into the Business Park.

The Council agreed and directed staff to research installation of signage.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7. Request to use Hartwell Park for Ridgway Old West Fest and use Town streets for wagon rides during the event

Eve Becker-Doyle displayed a PowerPoint presentation of the Ridgway Old West Fest. She explained the non-profit Ridgway Western Heritage Society organizes the event. She presented background on the the first event which was held last year. The second annual event will be held on September 25 through 27th and she presented the proposed venues and activities. Ms. Becker-Doyle requested approval to hold the event in Hartwell Park, to conduct draft horse wagon rides on Town streets north of the park, and requested a donation of \$500 in the 2021 Budget.

There was discussion by the Council.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to approve use of Hartwell Park and use of Town streets for draft horse wagon rides, and place \$500 in next years budget. Councilor Hunter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

8. Request to consider adopting regulations for small cell and other communication facility installations in Town rights-of-ways and on Town infrastructure

Letter from Kristine Skovli Martinez requesting the Council explore ways to restore local control over small cell facilities.

Kristine Skovili Martinez addressed the Council regarding “unknown and potentially serious health and environmental affects of the new general cell phone network, 5G”. She presented health concerns and studies conducted in relation to 5G cell technology. She suggested the Council “support the removal of House Bill (HB) 17-1193” to regain local control over installation of cell towers.

Town Manager Preston Neill reported on the legislation which was enacted through the house bill, noting a number of communities have adopted local regulations, which are limited to design and other protections.

There was discussion by the Council. There was consensus to request legislators repeal HB 17-1193 and direct staff to explore proposed language for an ordinance enacting local control.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Anthony Gegauff spoke in support of local regulations.

Chrlsta Meyer noted the Town’s Master Plan “mandates a healthy environment” and local regulations would meet that goal. She also expressed support for repealing the state law.

Daniel Venegas noted “property values go down when equipment is placed near homes”. He stated the “environment is affected” by the technology, noting “it is unknown what the technology does to animals” but “we know what it does to bees and migratory patterns of birds”.

9. Update on outbreak of Coronavirus

Ouray County Public Health Director Tanner Kingery presented decisions at the State and local level regarding regulations pertaining to containment of the Coronavirus. He reported on State mandates, and local efforts to provide testing.

There were questions from the Council and audience.

POLICY MATTERS

10. Request for extension of preliminary plat submittal for The Preserve PUD

Staff Report dated 3-4-20 from the Town Planner presenting a request to approve a two year extension for the Preserve PUD Preliminary Plat.

Planner Coburn reported on March 14, 2018 the Council approved with conditions, a request to extend the preliminary plat approval which was lapsed from an extension granted in September of 2007. In October of 2018 the new property owner Dalwhinnie Group LLC, began meeting with staff to discuss conditions and requirements placed on the 2018 extension. She reported the new owner is requesting a two year extension to meet the conditions of the preliminary plat approved in March of 2018.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Chris Hawkins with Alpine Planning reported wetlands and floodplain approvals have been processed with the Army Corp of Engineers.

Nick Barret with Del Mont Consultants explained the company is in the process of preparing an inventory of installed infrastructure, and preparing as-built maps. Permitting for the lift station is being addressed, and preparation of a proposal to possibly annex the south portion of the property, which is currently located within the County.

Michael Cox representing Dalwhinnie Group LLC explained the company desires to complete the project and construct "something the Town will be proud of".

There were comments from the Council.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to approve the extension for the Preserve PUD Preliminary Plat, Savath Subdivision part of Outlot A and the Woodford Addition, for a period of two years with the conditions assigned with the March 14, 2018 approval and allow for up to two years to meet those conditions, Councilor Meyer seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

11. Request from Alpenglow Cohousing Subdivision for additional time to meet condition of the subdivision preliminary plat approval relative to storm water planning

Staff Report from the Planner dated 3-6-2020 presenting a request to allow additional time for Alpenglow Cohousing Subdivision to meet the preliminary plat condition to finalizing the storm water plan with the Town and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

Planner Coburn explained conditions of the preliminary plat for the Alpenglow Cohousing Subdivision require finalization of the storm water drainage plan with CDOT and the Town,

to obtain necessary permitting from CDOT. The deadline was set for March 9th, and though the applicants has been working with the Town and CDOT, additional time will be needed before approvals can be granted.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Hunter, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and unanimously carried to approve up to six months for the Alpenglow Cohousing Subdivision to meet the condition of approval to finalize the storm water system.

12. Follow up to request for Town participation in the San Miguel Power Association Totally Green Program

Staff Report dated 3-6-20 from the Town Manager in follow up to a request from Ridgway Ouray Community Council (ROCC) made at the prior meeting, to participate in the San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Totally Green Program.

Manager Neill explained in follow up to the prior meeting staff researched participation in the SMPA Totally Green Program. Annual costs to opt into the program using 100% renewable sources for electrical uses, would increase annual electric bills by \$4,894.61. In 2013 the Town purchased shares in solar array panels with SMPA at a cost of \$7,500 for use at the wastewater treatment plant.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Rein Van West representing the ROCC Clean Energy Committee noted Town participation in the program would help to “reduce CO2 emissions in Ouray County”.

Terry Schulyer with SMPA displayed a PowerPoint presentation on the association’s Carbon Clear Energy Programs, which includes the Totally Green Program to promote “environmentally responsible electrical service” from “energy efficient renewals.”

Dave Jones representing the ROCC Clean Energy Committee noted the costs of “going totally green” based on electrical usage by the Town in 2019, and requested participation in a lighting inventory of Town facilities.

There was discussion by the Council. Consensus was to direct staff to adjust the budget to accommodate participation in the program in the current year, and to assist ROCC in a lighting inventory of Town facilities.

13. Introduction of Ordinance Revising Section 7-3-12 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Regarding Sign Regulations

Staff Report from the Town Planner dated 3-3-20 presenting a proposed ordinance recommended by the Planning Commission to update sign regulations.

Planner Coburn reported to comply with a 2015 state court ruling pertaining to content based restrictions on signage, and to meet a goal of the Town Master Plan, the Planning Commission is recommending updates to the existing sign regulations contained in the Municipal Code.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Lakin to introduce the Ordinance Revising Section 7-3-12 of the Ridgway Municipal Code regarding Sign Regulations, Councilor Hunter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

14. Requests for support

Mayor Clark presented a request for support from Mountain Pact to endorse a letter to the US Senate and House of Representatives challenging the appointment of William Perry Pendley as the acting Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed to endorse the letter.

The Mayor presented a draft letter supporting the Ouray County Historical Society's request to the State Historical Fund for funding to rehabilitate the society's museum.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Ouray County Historical Society. Seconded by Councilor Hunter, the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

The Town Manager presented a written report dated March 6, 2020 and reviewed some of the items contained in the report.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Hunter thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve on the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk