

**Ridgway Town Council
Special Meeting Agenda
Friday, March 20, 2020
201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado**

**Due to COVID-19, and pursuant the Town of Ridgway's Electronic Participation Policy,
participants are encouraged to attend via Virtual Meeting.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/911654302>

Meeting ID: 911 654 302

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL Councilors Robb Austin, Tessa Cheek, Ninah Hunter, Beth Lakin, Russ Meyer, Mayor Pro Tem Eric Johnson and Mayor John Clark

PUBLIC HEARINGS Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; hearings may be limited to 20 minutes.

1. Public Hearing: Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-02 an emergency ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, extending the Town Manager's declaration of a public health emergency – Town Manager

POLICY MATTERS Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; overall discussion of each item may be limited to 10 minutes.

2. Resolution No. 20-01 closing Town facilities to the public until further notice – Town Manager
3. Discussion regarding *Town of Ridgway Electronic Meeting Policy During Town Council Meetings* – Town Attorney

ADJOURNMENT

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
ORDER DECLARING A LOCAL DISASTER IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY

WHEREAS, the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, et. seq. (the “Act”), provides procedures for statewide and local prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, a local disaster emergency may be declared unilaterally by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision; for the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (the “Town”), the principal executive officer is the Town Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager issued an Order Declaring a Local Disaster (the “Order”) on March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Order was issued pursuant to the authority granted to the Town Manager, and issued with the approval and support of the Mayor for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to extend the Declaration of a Local Disaster; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, an "emergency" is an unexpected event that places life or property in danger and requires an immediate response through the use of state and community resources and procedures, and an "emergency epidemic" is cases of an illness or condition, communicable or noncommunicable, caused by bioterrorism, pandemic influenza, or novel and highly fatal infectious agents or biological toxins; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, this Declaration activates the response and recovery aspects of any applicable disaster emergency plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), the declaration of a local emergency shall not be continued beyond a period of seven (7) days or removed except by action of the governing board of the political subdivision for the Town, the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), any order declaring, continuing, or terminating a local disaster "shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the county clerk and recorder, the [Town] clerk ... and with the office of emergency management"; and

WHEREAS, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was recognized by the Governor of the State of Colorado on March 10, 2020, the Town is suffering and has suffered a disaster emergency as defined in the Act; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health issued a public health order prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people, including community, civic and public events; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED on this 20th day of March, 2020, that a disaster emergency is declared in and for the Town of Ridgway, beginning on March 17, 2020, and ending on May 14, 2020, unless further extended or amended by action of the Town Council for the Town.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity, filed immediately with the office of the Ouray County Emergency Manager and a copy filed with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorder, as well as to the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THIS 20th DAY OF MARCH 2020

John Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 20-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
RIDGWAY, COLORADO, CLOSING CERTAIN TOWN
FACILITIES OF THE TOWN**

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Town of Ridgway declared a local disaster within the Town in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health issued a public health order prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people, including community, civic and public events; and

WHEREAS, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Ridgway, the Council believes it is necessary and proper to close the offices of the Town to the public; and

WHEREAS, Town staff will still be available via telephone and email to continue to conduct the business of the Town.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway, as follows:

1. Town Hall for the Town of Ridgway shall be closed to the public until further ordered by the Town Council. The Town shall continue to conduct business as usual, with the Town staff available via telephone or electronically. The Town staff can be reached at (970) 626-5308, or at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this _____ day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

John Clark, Mayor

TOWN OF RIDGWAY
ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION POLICY DURING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Policy is to specify the circumstances and means under which the Town Council shall conduct regular and special meetings by telephone or other electronic means of participation, such as video-conferencing, that is clear, uninterrupted and allows two way communication for the participating members ("Electronic Participation"). Electronic Participation has inherent limitations because Electronic Participation effectively precludes a member of the Town Council from contemporaneously observing documentary information presented during meetings, from fully evaluating a speaker's non-verbal language in assessing veracity or credibility, and from observing non-verbal explanations during a speaker's presentation or testimony. The Town Council finds that these limitations, inherent in Electronic Participation, may produce inefficiencies in meetings, increase the expense of meetings, and alter the decision-making process. As such, the Town Council shall only utilize the policies contained herein upon the adoption by the Town Council or the Town Manager of a resolution declaring a local disaster emergency pursuant to Section 24-33.5-709, Colorado Revised Statutes.

2. Statement of General Policy. The Town Council may conduct a regular or special meeting of the Town Council by Electronic Participation only in accordance with this Policy.

3. Emergency Situations. In the event a quorum is unable to meet at the day, hour, and place fixed by the rules and procedures of the Town Council because meeting in-person is not practical or prudent due to an emergency affecting the Town, meetings may be conducted by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication so as to provide maximum practical notice. Meetings may be held by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. A local disaster emergency has been declared pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709; and
 - b. The Town Manager or the Mayor determines that meeting in person is not practical or prudent because of matters related to the declaration of a local disaster emergency affecting the Town; and
 - c. All participating members of the Town Council and the Town Manager can hear one another or otherwise communicate with one another and can hear or read all discussion and testimony in a manner designed to provide maximum notice and participation; and
 - d. Members of the public can hear the Town Council proceedings and are afforded opportunities to participate in public comment; and
 - e. All votes are conducted by roll call; and
 - f. Minutes of the meeting are taken and promptly recorded, and such records are open to public inspection; and

- g. To the extent possible, full and timely notice is given to the public setting forth the time of the meeting, the fact that some members of the Town Council may participate by telephone, and the right of the public to monitor the meeting from another location.

4. Arranging for Electronic Participation.

- a. The Town Manager shall contact the Town Council members at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of a regular or special meeting to provide notice of a meeting conducted under this Policy.
- b. The Town shall initiate the Electronic Participation not more than ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled time of the meeting. Upon disconnection during a meeting, the Town Manager, or his or her designee, shall make at least three (3) attempts to re-initiate the connection.

5. Executive Sessions. In the event that the Board holds an executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402, participants shall be authorized to attend via Electronic Participation. Any executive session conducted under this Policy shall be recorded electronically as provided for by statute.

Adopted this 19th day of March, 2020.



John Clark, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk