

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 20, 2020

The Town Council convened for a special meeting at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting platform, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy, due to COVID-19. In attendance Councilors Austin, Cheek, Lakin, Meyer and Mayor Clark. Councilor Hunter was not present for the roll call. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson was absent.

Town Clerk's Notice and Call of Special Meeting dated March 18, 2020.

1. Declaring a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway

Town Manager Preston Neill explained on March 17th he issued an order declaring a local disaster in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and requested the Council extend the emergency declaration to May 14th. He noted the order follows language and protocols implemented in other communities across the state and nation.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to approve the Order Declaring a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway. Councilmember Cheek seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2. Resolution closing Town facilities to the public until further notice

Councilor Hunter entered the virtual meeting platform at 5:05 p.m.

The Town Manager presented the Council with a resolution announcing the closure of public facilities based on the declaration of a local disaster.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Austin and seconded by Councilmember Lakin to approve Resolution No. 20-01 Closing Certain Town Facilities of the Town. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Use of Town Electronic Meeting Policy for public meetings

Town Attorney Nerlin explained based on the declaration of local disaster the Mayor has the authority to enact a policy requiring the use of electronic virtual meetings to 'conduct the business of government'. To preserve the spirit of the open meeting laws, he stated, the use of an electronic virtual meeting platform will allow the public to access into the meeting and participate.

4. Public questions and comments

The Mayor opened the meeting to questions and comments from the public.

Jake Niece explained the zoom meeting platform.

Tammi Tuttle noted new State regulations allowing restaurants to prepare alcoholic beverages to go, for persons ordering take out food.

Adam Dubroff inquired into the county public health order prohibiting rental of lodging units to persons for under thirty days.

Terry Schulyer presented an update on the emergency response plan prepared by San Miguel Power Association electric co-op.

Ben Tisdale presented an update from the Ouray County Commissioners regarding public health orders and economic recovery.

Jake Niece asked if the Town or County is considering implementing a “shelter in place” order.

Commissioner Tisdale addressed the Governors recent orders and possibility of an action at the State level pertaining to “shelter in place”.

There was discussion between the Council and members of the audience in relation to the current situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk