



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: September 8, 2020
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

This report serves as an update to Council on key projects, activities and community issues.

UPDATE ON SB20-217 – ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY

SB20-217, passed earlier this summer, enacted several policy changes related to law enforcement practices and peace officers. This includes, but is not limited to, creating civil liability for officers and municipalities, changes in the use of force statute, body camera requirements, and data collection. Some policy changes took effect immediately upon the Governor's signature and others are slated to take effect at later dates. Marshal Schmalz and I met in July to review all of the policy changes and implications of SB20-217. There were three specific items that we made note of that the Ridgway Marshal's Office will need to complete by the stated deadline in order to remain in compliance. They are as follows:

- According to SB20-217, officers are prohibited from using chokeholds including carotid holds. The Town will need to amend the Police Procedures Manual to prohibit all chokehold techniques. Right now, only the "Bar Arm Chokehold" is prohibited.
- Effective January 1, 2023, law enforcement agencies, including the Ridgway Marshal's Office, must annually report the following to the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice:
 - Demographic and other information in all use of force cases involving death or serious bodily injury.
 - Any resignation occurring while officer was being investigated for any policy violation
 - Any instance of unannounced entry into a residence without a warrant, with demographic and other information about the entry.
 - Demographic and other information related to ay officer-initiated contacts with a member of the public.
- Every law enforcement agency, including the Ridgway Marshal's Office, is required to train police officers on new criminal use of force standards by September 1, 2020. My understanding is that the new criminal use of force standards are still in the works.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY YOUTH COUNCIL

The Town is now accepting applications from area youth for appointment to the newly established Town of Ridgway Youth Advisory Council. The aim is for Council to appoint members after candidates complete an application and interview with the Council during the October 14th



Council meeting. The application materials are available on the Town's website and the deadline for application is Friday, October 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

REVITALIZING MAIN STREETS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

The Town recently submitted a funding application to CDOT's Revitalizing Main Streets Program. The Revitalizing Main Streets Program was developed to support infrastructure projects that provide open spaces for mobility, community activities and economic development in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency. The Town is seeking funding to assist with improving stop bars and cross walk markings and to add bike symbols to paved roadways. This is desired in an effort to alert motorists to the potential of pedestrian crossing and define the area where pedestrians have the right-of-way. We're hoping to hear back from CDOT in the coming days.

AIR QUALITY MONITOR

The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce recently worked with a CDPHE representative to get a real-time air quality monitoring device installed at the Ridgway Visitor's Center. Check it out at <https://www.purpleair.com/map?opt=1/mAQI/a10/cC0#9.1/38.1399/-107.8007>.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create Predevelopment

Artspace facilitated a core group virtual meeting with local project partners and citizens on September 2nd, making public for the first time internal and external renderings of the planned Space to Create facility. A public meeting on Zoom is planned for Thursday, September 17th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., to update the community with the information that the core group received. Plans are steadily moving forward for construction this spring, assuming all the financing pieces come together as necessary. Many balls are in the air, and much activity is taking place behind the scenes. A permit application from Artspace for the project is anticipated in the next month.

Heritage Park/Visitor Center Improvements and New Grant Award

Quotes are being sought from irrigation contactors to install the planned irrigation system around the Visitor Center. In addition to the Colorado Main Street (COMS) \$5,000 mini-grant (and Town's required 25% match of \$1,250), COMS staff alerted communities that AARP was offering a simple and quick-turnaround grant to be expended by the end of 2020. We sent a letter requesting \$5,000 for Heritage Park improvements, to assist in making our entrance to town more welcoming as we try to recover from the pandemic. We were awarded \$5,000 from AARP, the largest amount they awarded! \$10,000 from external sources should help make it easier to get the job done.



Business Grant Program and CCI Reporting

Hand sanitizer was purchased from two regional producers with the remaining Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) grant funds after the 30 awards to businesses and organizations. Thank you to Betsy Baier and Andy Nasisse for picking up the products! The C.A.T. is setting up a few distribution dates and places, to be publicized, where community members can refill their sanitizer bottles. A final grant report was submitted to CCI for this project on August 26th. The annual Creative District Values report for fiscal year 2019-20 was also submitted to CCI on September 1st.

Colorado Creative Corridor

Zach Wolfson will be filming in Ridgway for our section of the short Creative Corridor video on Thursday, September 10th. The Ridgway Chamber, the C.A.T., and quite a few local folks are involved with this. The video will be finished this fall with promotions planned for spring 2021.

Ridgway Independent Film Festival

Short films are still being sought for the sixth year of this local film festival in early November. Films can be submitted until September 25th at <https://filmfreeway.com/ridgwayindependentfilmfest>. The Film Fest will be virtual with a possible in-person event at the Sherbino with appropriate physical distancing, if circumstances allow.

PLANNING UPDATE

From Shay Coburn, Town Planner:

Park Pavilion

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with staining! We racked up about 40 hours of volunteer time and got the job done! The stained T&G is almost fully installed and looks beautiful. The next couple of weeks will include finishing the ceiling and roof structure. It will also include replacement of the existing roof on the restrooms.

Planning Commission Bylaws

The Commission reviewed a first draft of bylaws at the regular August meeting. A revised draft will be presented at the September meeting and considered for adoption. As the Town continues to get busier with requests for hearings for development review, variances, deviations and more, it is increasingly important that these bylaws are formally documented. The bylaws should not include much new information but rather be a documentation of existing practices.





UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – September 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Regular Town Council Meeting** – September 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Ridgway Space to Create Update Public Meeting** – September 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Special Joint Policy Group Work Session** – TBD
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – September 23, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – September 29, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

How do you weigh a millennial?

In Instagrams.