

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

The Town Council convened via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting platform, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom Meeting. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Cheek, Grambley, Lakin, Meyer, Schuyler, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 12, 2020.
2. Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of August 6, 2020.
3. Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of August 20, 2020.
4. Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of September 3, 2020.
5. Register of Demands for September 2020.
6. Water leak adjustment for Account 5150.1/Wheeler.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilor Meyer and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve the consent calendar.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7. Proclamation honoring Randy Barnes for years of service to the Town

Mayor Clark read a proclamation honoring Randy Barnes forty years of service to the Town, and proclaimed September 10<sup>th</sup> as Randy Barnes Day. The Council congratulated and thanked Mr. Barnes for his public service.

ACTION:

Councilmember Meyer moved to approve the proclamation honoring Randy Barnes for his years of service to the Town of Ridgway. Councilor Cheek seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. Proclamation declaring September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Corrine Cavender with Tri-County Health Network asked the Council to adopt a proclamation declaring September as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. She explained suicide is the second highest cause of death in the state between the ages of 10 and 44, affecting one person every seven hours. She noted the campaign is to bring awareness and allow for the subject to be spoken of openly, and 'send the message' 'you are not alone'.

**ACTION:**

Councilmember Meyer moved to adopt the Proclamation Declaring September 2020 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness and Recovery Month. Councilor Lakin seconded, and the motion was approved on a roll call vote.

9. Presentation from EcoAction Partners

Memorandum from Emma Gerona and Kim Wheels with EcoAction Partners dated 9-9-20.

Kim Wheels addressed the Council regarding the regional sustainability action plan and presented an update on the tracking of greenhouse gas emissions. Jake Niece highlighted some of the programs in 2020; the Ridgway waste reduction programs and reviewed local electrical and natural gas use.

10. Presentation from San Miguel Power Association regarding new programs and projects

Wiley Freeman with San Miguel Power Association presented an update on the organizations new programs and projects. These include addressing climate change; keeping lines clear from hazards; finding redundancy in systems and running them during outages; reliability of projects; rebate programs; renewables in the power supply. Mr. Freeman answered questions from the Council.

**POLICY MATTERS**

11. Update on anchor build as part of the Region 10 Broadband Project

Staff Report dated 9-4-20 from the Town Manager presenting a background on the anchor build portion of the broadband project.

Manager Neill explained as part of the Region 10 implementation plan to develop regional broadband, participating members have been contributing funding to match a grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The establishment of a fiber network for the communities within Region 10 has been ongoing for a number years, and the project is in the second phase. The partnerships involved with the Town include Ouray County, City of Ouray, Montrose County, San Miguel Power Association and Universal Service Admin. Company. The Town has budgeted funds to match the DOLA funding to complete anchor builds by way of Indefeasible Rights of Use (IRU's). He explained an IRU is an agreement that confers indefeasible and exclusive right of access to the fiber for an agreed upon period, in return for upfront payment.

The Town Manager introduced Virgil Turner and Michelle Haynes with Region 10 and they presented an update and overview of the anchor build project. This included an overview of the project to provide abundance internet service; project blueprint for the entire Region 10 area, which currently includes 500 miles of fiber routes; anchor institution connections and importance of carrier location facilities. It was explained Clearnetworx is installing fiber and currently moving from Log Hill into Town, and will go to the City of Ouray next year. Clearnetworx will provide a 30 year term IRU. There were questions from the Council.

The Town has a carrier neutral location at the public works property, Manager Neill explained, and the Council discussed proposed sites for anchor builds. Ms. Haynes noted the Town can place sites over several budget years. The Council agreed to build new fiber to the Public Works Facility; use IRU's and install fiber to the Athletic Park, Town Hall, Elementary School

and Secondary School, all pending operation and maintenance cost discussions with Clearnetworx.

12. Dedication plaque for new pavilion in the Athletic Park

Staff Report from the Town Planner dated 9-2-20 presenting a proposed plaque to memorialize the anonymous donor at the new pavilion in the Athletic Park.

There was discussion between Council and staff pertaining to the plaque and donation. Council agreed to the installation.

13. Resolution adopting Stormwater Design Standards

The Public Works Services Administrator presented a resolution adopting the Stormwater Management Minimum Design Standards. He explained the comprehensive standards are guidelines to provide uniformity in public and private improvements.

There were questions to staff and discussion by the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilmember Meyer to approve Resolution No. 20-10 Adopting the Town of Ridgway Stormwater Management Minimum Design Standards, Councilor Lakin seconded, and on a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

14. Approval of Colorado Youth Corp partnership through Great Outdoors Colorado grant funds

Public Works Services Administrator Chase Jones requested approval to apply for a GOCO grant to partner with the Colorado Youth Corp to perform parks and trails work next summer. The Council suggested projects could include installation of the new baseball diamond and assistance at the proposed bike track.

Consensus of the Council was to apply for the grant funds.

The Public Works Administrator reported at a recent meeting of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee it was recommended the Council continue to require voluntary water restrictions and provide public education and outreach.

There was discussion between Council and staff.

15. Introduction of Ordinance adopting a New Chapter of the Ridgway Municipal Code Establishing Small Cell Regulations

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 9-2-20 presenting a proposed ordinance adopting small cell regulations.

The Town Manager explained after discussion at the March and August meetings the Council directed staff to prepare an ordinance placing regulations on installation of small cell facilities. He presented an overview of the proposed regulations contained in the draft ordinance.

There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed to direct staff to have the draft ordinance reviewed by HR Green before the next meeting.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Cheek, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to introduce the Ordinance Adopting a New Chapter 14-7 of Title 14 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Establishing Small Cell Regulations, with the provision that it is run by HR Green before the next meeting.

16. Update on the Heritage Park Improvements Project

Town Manager's Staff Report dated 9-4-20 presenting an update on the improvements project at Heritage Park.

The Town Manager presented a background on the bid process for improvements at Heritage Park, noting that bids received were higher than the budgeted amount of \$77,500 which included grant funds of \$20,000. Staff is proposing using one of the \$10,000 grants to install an irrigation system around the Visitor Center.

There was discussion by the Council, and consensus was to expend the grant funds and install the irrigation system.

17. Order extending the Declaration of Local Disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 9-1-20 presenting an order extending the declaration of local disaster.

Manager Neill suggested the Council extend the declaration of a local disaster relative to the COVID-19 pandemic through the end of the year, to expire at the first Council meeting in 2021.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilor Lakin and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve the Order Extending the Declaration of a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway.

18. Emergency Ordinance Extending Temporary Amendments to the Sign Regulations

Town Manager Staff Report dated 9-3-20 presenting an emergency ordinance to extend temporary amendments to the sign regulations.

Manager Neill explained in May the Council approved an ordinance to allow businesses to erect portable signs in the right-of-way until September 13<sup>th</sup>. He discussed with the Council extending the date until January 14<sup>th</sup> through adoption of the proposed emergency ordinance.

ACTION:

Councilmember Meyer moved, with Councilmember Lakin seconding to approve Emergency Ordinance No. 05-2020 Extending Temporary Amendments to the Town's Sign Regulations, until January 14, 2021. On a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

19. Request for Council to comment on the Baldy Landscape Resilience Project

Mayor Clark explained Robyn Cascade has asked the Council to review a proposed draft letter to the Ouray District Ranger presenting comments on the Baldy Landscape Resiliency and Habitat Improvement Project. The Mayor read the letter to the Council and there was discussion. The Council agreed to a proposed change in the draft letter and Councilmember Lakin was directed to make the appropriate change to the document.

ACTION:

Councilor Meyer moved, with Councilmember Cheek seconding to authorize the Mayor to send the letter on behalf of the Council to the Ouray District Ranger and comment on the Baldy Landscape Resiliency Project. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

The Town Manager presented a written monthly report and reviewed it with the Council.

The Mayor suggested staff research if any of the Towns investments support oil companies; Council Schuyler asked about the possibility of installing solar on the Space to Create building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk