



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: November 9, 2020
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

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

OURAY COUNTY MOVED TO LEVEL YELLOW ON SAFER AT HOME DIAL

With the uptick in positive cases here in Ouray County over the last few weeks, CDPHE has moved Ouray County to Level Yellow on the state's Safer at Home Dial, effective today. Should Ouray County restore metrics for a less restrictive level at any time during the more restrictive phase, the County would need to maintain those metrics for two weeks and complete the request process to move back to the less restrictive level. Additionally, when the state transitioned to the Safer at Home Dial, any sector or site-specific variances that exceeded the new dial framework remained intact. However, if a county moves to a more restrictive level in COVID-19 Dial, sector variances are permanently lost. As such, all sectors in Ouray County are required to operate according to the corresponding allowances and occupancies for Level Yellow. The Safer at Home Dial dashboard can be viewed at: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial/covid-19-dial-dashboard>.

COMMUNITY-WIDE COVID-19 TESTING EVENT THIS WEDNESDAY

The Colorado National Guard testing support team and Ouray County Public Health Agency will once again offer a community-wide, voluntary, no charge testing event. The event will take place on Wednesday, November 11th at the Ouray County 4-H Events Center parking lot from 6:30 am to 7:00 pm. The testing will be done in a drive-thru testing format. A doctor's note or order will not be required and people seeking tests do not need to show symptoms.

COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP

Council will hold a Budget Workshop on Thursday, November 19th at 5:30 p.m. Here is an overview of the agenda:

- Overview of 2021 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget
- Presentation of Draft 2021 Strategic Plan
- Review and direction on Council Initiatives/funding requests
- Follow-up on any Council directions or requests
- Council discussion and public comment



RECAP OF TOWN ASSISTANCE MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- On April 8th, Council temporarily suspended water service shut offs and waived penalty and interest for water, sewer and trash collection utility services until June 1st.
- On May 13th, Council adopted, temporarily by way of an emergency ordinance, amendments to the Town's Sign Regulations in Section 7-3-12 of the Ridgway Municipal Code in order to relax certain signage requirements for lawfully operating businesses for a four-month period until September 13, 2020. Normally a business must apply for a sign permit before installing a portable sign within the Town right-of-way. In recognition of the difficult business environment created by the COVID-19 pandemic and orders related to business operations, the emergency ordinance waives the need for a portable sign on Town right-of-way proposal/sign permit application to be submitted to the Town with applicable fee and reviewed and approved by Town staff. On September 9th, Council extended the temporary amendments to the sign regulations for a period of two months or until November 12th.
- Back in May, we developed a Business Grant Program by repurposing a \$10,000 grant from Colorado Creative Industries to assist local businesses with costs associated with the reopening phase of the pandemic. Nearly all of the \$10,000 was awarded to Ridgway businesses by August 1st. With the small amount of funds remaining, the Town purchased bulk sanitizer from sister creative district Carbondale. A number of retail businesses had their sanitizer bottles refilled on September 26th by RCD Creative Advocacy Team volunteers. More bulk sanitizer remains for future giveaways.
- On May 13th, Council approved a deferment of sales tax remittance and waiver of penalty and interest for qualifying businesses for the month of April. Businesses with tax filings for the month of April of \$2,000 or less were qualified to request to participate in the deferral program.
- On May 27th, Council approved a resolution that 1) streamlined the process for restaurants to apply for a permit to expand their outdoor dining offerings onto sidewalks, parking areas, streets and other areas adjacent to their properties, and 2) streamlined the process for restaurants to request a temporary modification of their premises for on-premises sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- As directed by the Policy Group, the Town is in the process of working with Ouray County to purchase \$20,000 to \$25,000 worth of PPE to make available to the business community in advance of the winter months.



YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The first meeting of the newly established Youth Advisory Council will take place on Monday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

From Chase Jones, Public Works Services Administrator:

Water Leak on Sherman St.

A water leak on Sherman St. caused the Town to excavate Sherman St. near Railroad St. on November 3rd. This resulted in multiple properties having limited or no water on the east end of Town for a few hours. The repair went smoothly, and the leak has been resolved. No further outages are expected due to this work. The asphalt surface will be repaired to CDOT specifications in the coming weeks. The Town is waiting for hot-mix asphalt to be available.



Trees

The Town arborist has removed numerous trees within Cottonwood park. All trees were either standing dead and/or an identified public safety hazard. Old base wounds appear to be a common culprit in tree health declines along the creek.

Snow Removal

The Town would like to remind residences, businesses and property owners that they are responsible to clear abutting sidewalks within 24 hours of a storm. Parking off the street when snow is predicted will help to facilitate plowing and clearing of the roadway. The Town is not responsible for clearing windrows or plowed in vehicles. Driveway and other snow on private property is not to be put into the public roadway.



PLANNING UPDATE

From Shay Coburn, Town Planner:

Athletic Park Pavilion

Almost finished! Staff will do a final walk through with the contractor on Wednesday, November 11th to address any last items. A few details may be left for the spring including finishing painting the restroom structure and ensuring the new grass germinates. This winter, staff will work with organizations to get them moved into the storage areas and create some standards for use by larger groups. We would like to plan an opening celebration but due to recent changes in group gathering restrictions with COVID, we will likely hold off until a safer time,



hopefully the spring. A huge thank you to the main donor and all of you who contributed to this beautiful addition to the park!

Encroachment Permits

The “No Dig” date is quickly approaching. The Town does not allow digging to occur in Town property, like streets and alleys, after November 15th and before March 15th, unless there is an emergency of course. Staff reviewed 32 encroachment permits this year which requires coordination with almost all staff. All of the work around town should be wrapping up in the next week unless on private property.

Landscaping Regulations Update

The Planning Commission held an initial meeting to discuss updating the Town’s landscaping regulations. The big picture goals of the update are to promote water conservation, ensure the costs of landscaping are not a barrier to affordability, align the two sections that regulate landscaping (RMC 6-1-11 and 6-6), and generally allow for flexibility. A recommendation from the Commission will be forwarded to the Council when ready, likely early next year after a few additional meetings can be held.

Habitat for Humanity Triplex

Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans has opened a housing application for two homes in Ridgway. If you know someone who may qualify, please pass along this information: <https://mailchi.mp/30bdd7f2ffd0/do-you-know-a-future-habitat-homeowner>.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Community-Wide COVID-19 Testing Event** – November 11, 2020 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Ouray County 4H Events Center Parking Lot
- **Regular Town Council Meeting** – November 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Special Joint Policy Group Work Session** – November 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – November 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Town Council Budget Workshop** – November 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – December 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

Why did the wolf meditate?

To become aware wolf

Courtesy of Jess Nunn