

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2021

OATH OF OFFICE

The Town Clerk administered the oath of office to newly elected Councilmembers Angela Ferrelli, Beth Lakin and Russ Meyer.

CALL TO ORDER

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.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2021.
2. Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of April 1, 2021.
3. Register of Demands for April 2021.
4. Renewal of Tavern Liquor License for Steps Tavern.
5. Renewal of Tavern Liquor License for The Patio at Steps Tavern.
6. Proclamation Declaring May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Lakin, seconded by Councilor Schuyler and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve the consent calendar.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7. Proclamation honoring Eric Johnson for service on the Town Council

A proclamation was presented, and a plaque displayed, honoring Eric Johnson for service on the Town Council. The Mayor read the proclamation which declared April 15<sup>th</sup> Eric Johnson Day and urged citizens to acknowledge and thank him for 18 years of service.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Application for restaurant liquor license for Lazy Dog Saloon

Staff Report dated 3-16-21 from the Town Clerk presenting an application for restaurant license for Lazy Dog Saloon; Applicant: Lazy Dog LLC; to operate at 153 N. Highway 550, Unit 1.

The Town Clerk reported an application for restaurant liquor license was received from Buddy Young, owner of Lazy Dog Saloon LLC to license the premises at 153 N. Highway 550, Unit 1 to operate an establishment called Lazy Dog Saloon. The request before the Council, she explained, is to license the facility, existing patio to the south side of the building, and new patio on the west side. She reported a notice of hearing was posted and published; the premises posted; and all requirements for licensing have been met by the applicant.

**ACTION:**

Moved by Councilor Meyer to approve the restaurant liquor license for Lazy Dog Saloon. Councilor Lakin seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**POLICY MATTERS**

**9. Award of bid for the Heritage Park Improvements Project**

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 4-9-21 presenting bids received for Phases 1 and 2 of the Heritage Park Improvements Project.

Town Manager Neill reported in early March a request for bids was solicited to complete Phases 1 and 2 of the improvements project at Heritage Park. The project includes irrigation and landscaping around the Visitors Center and along Highway 62. The lowest bid received was from Clarke and Company Inc. References have been checked and staff is recommending award of the bid which should be completed by early July. He noted the bid of \$88,707.80 is over the budgeted amount by \$14,000, and staff is certain the general fund can accommodate the overage.

**ACTION:**

It was moved by Councilor Meyer, seconded by Councilmember Ferrelli and approved by a unanimous roll call vote to issue notice of award for the Heritage Park Improvements Project to Clarke and Co. Inc. as presented.

**10. Report and findings on the design for the Amelia Street Project**

Joanne Fagan and Ron Alexander with Consolidated Consulting Services gave a PowerPoint presentation displaying findings on proposed design for alignment and improvements to Amelia Street. They explained the design is based on supplying curb, gutter and sidewalk, if practical, and is based on a topographic survey to local utilities, improvements and private property. A preliminary model and alignments were created to see encroachments and existing "challenges". It was reported encroachments on North Amelia Street are created by the department of transportation facility and elementary school, where the property is higher than the street and to correct, would require constructing retaining walls. It was noted on South Amelia, encroachments of fences, shrubbery and landscaping on private property, and the cottonwood culvert exiting on to the right of way, would force moving the road for accommodation. Another problem is drainage on the east side of the street would flow to private property, and "the design can not improve these existing problems". Additionally sidewalk would require ADA access, and there are "existing constraints to provide enough access". One development model would be twelve foot drive lanes with two, two foot curb with a five foot sidewalk on the west side of the street. "Ball park costs" to pave between the existing improvements \$500,000-\$600,000; adding curb & gutter an additional \$200,000; sidewalks & ADA improvements another \$200,000; lower the street for drainage \$1 to \$1.5 million; add width to the road for on street parking an additional \$1 million.

There were questions from the Council, and discussion between the Council and consultants. Direction of the Council was to proceed with preliminary design with sidewalk on one side of the street, attentive to drainage issues and present options and construction costs at another meeting.

11. Resolution Amending the Hartwell Park Performing Arts Stage Fee Schedule

Staff Report dated 4-8-21 from the Town Manager presenting a resolution changing the fee schedule for use of the performing arts stage in Hartwell Park.

Manager Neill explained in 2014 Council adopted a fee schedule for use of parks and facilities, including the performing arts stage. During fee discussions at the last regular meeting, staff was directed to change fees for stage use by eliminating the preparation and breakdown fees, and also to allow staff at the administrative level to reduce the use fee for local non-profit organizations. The proposed resolution would implement the changes, he noted.

ACTION:

Councilor Meyer moved to approve Resolution No. 21-05 Amending the Hartwell Park Performing Arts Stage Fee Schedule, seconded by Councilor Grambley the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

12. Purchase of used street sweeper

Staff report from the Town Clerk/Treasurer dated 3-15-21 presenting a recommendation to purchase a used 2012 Challenger/Elgin Badger Street Sweeper.

The Town Clerk/Treasurer reported at the March meeting the Council authorized staff to research and receive quotes on the purchase of a used street sweeper with the remaining funds of \$95,000 in the fiscal year budget. Staff has located a used 2012 model, similar to the one that has been leased the past few years for \$94,000. The Challenger/Elgin Badger Sweeper has been rebuilt to the frame, which is a 2010 Isuzu Chassis, and has new side and rear sweepers. The cost includes delivery, a 90 day warranty and 30 day money back guarantee. The Town Treasurer noted the Town's procurement policy allows for waiving the formal bid process when only one vendor exists that can successfully furnish the equipment. She requested the Council waive the competitive bid process and authorize the purchase of the street sweeper.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved to approve the deviation from procurement procedures waive the formal request process for acquisition of equipment, and purchase a 2012 Challenger/Elgin Badger Sweeper from Sinclair Equipment Finance LLC in the amount of \$94,000 and authorize staff to enter into a purchase agreement. Councilor Meyer seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

13. Review of letters of interest to fill vacancy on the Town Council

Staff Report from the Town Manager presenting the Town Clerk's Notice of Vacancy on the Town Council, and four letters of interest.

Manager Neill noted letters of interest to fill the vacant seat on the Council for the remaining year were received from Adam Beck, Rodney Fitzhugh, Michelle Montague and Jay Tunnicliff.

The Council interviewed each of the candidates. There was discussion by the Council.

**ACTION:**

Moved by Councilor Meyer to appoint Adam Beck to fill the vacancy and serve the one year term on the Town Council. Councilor Lakin seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**14. Discussion regarding the annual concert series**

The Town Manager reported at the last policy group meeting regarding COVID regulations the hosting of outdoor events was discussed, as statewide measures no longer contain restrictions on outdoor events. He asked for Council directions regarding the Town's annual concert series which is held every Thursday in July.

There was discussion by the Council, and questions to the Ouray County Health Director Tanner Kingery. Speaking from the audience Jake Niece, Josey Scoville, Autumn Lettau and Sue Husch.

Consensus of the Council was to pursue holding the series in July, but no decision can be made until further guidance is received from the State. It was agreed to revisit the item at the next regular meeting.

**15. Cost of living and merit increase for Town Manager**

Mayor Clark announced at the previous meeting the Council presented the Town Manager with an annual performance evaluation. Based on the evaluation Council is issuing a 3% cost of living increase, and a 2% merit increase.

**ACTION:**

Councilor Lakin moved to award Preston Neill a five percent merit and cost of living increase based on the most recent performance review, seconded by Councilor Meyer the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**17. Letter regarding Ouray County Landmark designation for the structure located at 540 Clinton Street**

The Town Manager presented a letter signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council, requested by the Board of County Commissions, to include in a grant for landmark designation of the historic structure located at 540 Clinton Street.

**ACTION:**

Moved by Councilor Meyer to ratify the letter to the County Administrator endorsing a Ouray County Landmark, seconded by Councilmember Lakin, and carried on a roll call vote.

18. Annual appointment of Mayor Pro Tem and review of Council representation on boards, committees, and commissions

Staff Report from the Town Clerk dated 4-9-21 presenting a complete listing of Council representation on boards, committees and commissions and noting the annual appointment of the Mayor Pro Tem.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Schuyler to appoint Russ Meyer as Mayor Pro Tem for the next term seconded by Councilor Ferrelli and unanimously carried on a roll call vote.

The Council reviewed representation on boards, committees and commissions. Councilor Ferrelli will serve on the Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee; Councilor Lakin on the Scholarship Committee; Councilor Beck as the alternate to the Ouray County Joint Planning Board; and Mayor Clark alternate on the Sneffels Energy Board.

19. Return to in-person Council meetings

In lieu of lessening COVID restrictions, the Town Manager asked if the Council wished to begin meeting in person.

There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed the Council would meet in person wearing masks, with public participation to continue virtually through the Zoom meeting platform.

STAFF REPORTS

The Town Manager presented a written monthly report and reviewed some of the items.

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer presented an update on the Land and Water Commission. Councilor Schuyler reported on an earth day event at the secondary school.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Town Council enter into an executive session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators, concerning the Riverfront Village PUD.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Schuyler, seconded by Councilmember Lakin and unanimously carried on a roll call vote to enter into closed session.

The Council entered into executive session at 8:35 p.m. with the Town Attorney and Town Manager.

The Council reconvened to open session at 9:15 p.m.

The Council discussed other approaches to vacancy appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk