

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JULY 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The Town Council convened both in-person at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado and 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. In attendance Councilors Beck, Ferrelli, Grambley, Schuyler, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark. Councilmember Lakin was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2021.
2. Register of Demands for July 2021.
3. Renewal of restaurant liquor license for Eatery 66.
4. Renewal of hotel/restaurant liquor license for Star Saloon.
5. Modification of premises for Star Saloon LLC, to add an adjacent lot to south of lawn area.
6. Renewal of restaurant liquor license for El Agave Azul.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilmember Grambley and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve the consent agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Nowak inquired into the timing for preparation of the water supply analysis, and if when it is received, the Town will consider revisiting the IGA with Ouray County which agreed to accept the growth for the County. He noted recently the Town installed "new sod and is watering it during the heat of the afternoon" at Heritage Park. He questioned the placement of grass instead of "xeriscape" landscaping, noting watering the area of 4,754 square feet would use 2,947 gallons of water a day. He asked, "is it the right message we want to send to people" during a time of drought.

Val Swartz reported the dark sky program will be participating in the upcoming Top of the Pines celebration and events.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7. Proclamation Supporting the Inaugural Ouray County Pride Celebration

Tera Wick explained the Voyager Youth Program is "taking the lead on organizing" the first annual pride celebration, and asked the Council to adopt a proclamation in support of the event to be held on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor read the proclamation. Two participants from the Voyager Program addressed the importance of the event, and the need to address acceptance of “cultural differences and diversity”.

**ACTION:**

Councilor Schuyler moved to adopt the Proclamation Supporting the Inaugural Ouray County Pride Celebration. Councilor Ferrelli seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. Recognition of members of the Ridgway Youth Advisory Council

Staff Report dated 7-8-21 from the Town Manager presenting a background on the formation of the Youth Advisory Council.

Manager Neill explained last July the Council formed a Youth Advisory Committee to offer students the opportunity to present input on projects, programs and events. In October Anna Bartschi, Emma Berwanger, Christian Lindler, Nerea McKnitt and Emmalee Taylor were appointed to the inaugural board. The group met monthly during the school year, and the meetings are posted on the Town’s YouTube Channel.

The Council heard from members of the board on their individual experiences.

Mayor Clark noted the first year “was a huge success” and thanked the members for their service.

9. Presentation from Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce

Hilary Lewkowitz, with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce, presented a report dated 7-8-21 outlining activities and submitting financial reports for the past six months.

Ms. Lewkowitz reported on staffing and board of directors; regional and local partnerships; online media and visitors guide; infrastructure investments; visitor center, messaging and marketing; and financial reporting organized around the Town approved marketing plan. She stated the Chamber strategies include improving year round economic opportunities for local businesses, while considering sustainability for the Town and surrounding natural resources.

Val Swartz with the Dark Skies Committee, and Danielle Norman with Voyager Youth Program, thanked the organization.

10. Request to close N. Cora Street between Roundhouse and Railroad Streets for block party

The Town Clerk presented a request to close N. Cora Street between Roundhouse and Railroad from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. on August 26, 2021 for a block party for business owners in the Industrial Park.

There was discussion by the Council.

**ACTION:**

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to approve the application for use of N. Cora Street for a block party between Roundhouse and Railroad Streets on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm, Councilor Grambley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### 11. Request for extension to meet conditions of approval for Replat of Block 12, Lots 1-3

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 7-9-21 presenting a letter from applicant Ellen Hunter requesting an extension to meet the conditions for replat of Lots 1-3, Block 12, currently 953 Moffat Street.

The Town Manager explained some of the conditions placed by the Planning Commission and approved by the Council last July have been met, remaining conditions include placement of survey monuments, revising the plat map for easements and installing electrical service.

Applicant Ellen Hunter addressed the Council and explained she has scheduled with the area electric provider to place conduit across the street to reach the proposed property line.

#### ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Grambley to approve a three month extension for the Hunter Replat for Block 12, Lots 1 - 3, for owner Ellen Hunter, with the conditions assigned at the July 8, 2020 Council meeting to be met before the final plat can be recorded, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

## POLICY MATTERS

### 12. Professional Services Agreement with LRE Water for preparation of a Water Supply Assessment

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 7-13-21 presenting a request to enter into an agreement with LRE Water for preparation of a water supply assessment.

The Town Manager reported the Town solicited requests for proposals to prepare a water supply assessment to assess current water rights and supplies; to determine the Town's total projected water supplies available during normal, single dry and multiple dry water years over a 30 year projection to determine if it will meet the projected water demand of future growth and changes in usage in the Town's service area. Two proposals were received and after interviews and review, staff is recommending hiring LRE Water. He noted the project is budgeted at \$40,000 and the proposal is \$53,893. Though the project cost is over the amount budgeted, he stated staff is comfortable with the expenditure.

There were questions from the Council.

#### ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Grambley, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to authorize Mayor Clark to execute the Professional Services Agreement between the Town and LRE Water for the preparation of a Water Supply Assessment.

### 13. Professional Services Agreement with DHM Design for preparation of a River Corridor Assessment

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 7-12-21 presenting a request to enter into an agreement with DHM Design for preparation of a river corridor assessment.

The Town Manager reported requests for proposals were solicited, and four bids received, to prepare an assessment of the river corridor to address riparian and river restoration. The companies were interviewed and the recommendation is to hire DHM Design. He noted the project was budgeted at \$20,000 and the proposal is \$31,933. Though the project cost is over the amount budgeted, staff is recommending moving forward with the project.

There were comments from the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Schuyler and carried unanimously on a roll call vote to authorize Mayor Clark to execute the Professional Services Agreement between the Town and DHM Design for the preparation of a River Corridor Assessment,

14. Mandatory Water Restrictions

Staff Report dated 7-8-21 from the Town Manager presenting background on the water restrictions promulgated by the Mayor on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Manager Neill noted based on triggers in the Water Conservation and Water Management Plan the Mayor promulgated water restrictions outside of a meeting, and Council is being asked to ratify the action.

ACTION:

Councilor Ferrelli moved to confirm mandatory water restrictions for the Town of Ridgway, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

15. Emergency restrictions on burning and fires within the Town

Town Manager staff report dated 7-8-21 reporting on June 17<sup>th</sup> the Town Manager followed Ouray County and implemented Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.

Manager Neill requested the Council ratify the fire restrictions.

Mayor Clark left the meeting, and Mayor Pro Tem Meyer received the gavel.

ACTION:

Councilmember Schuyler moved to confirm the emergency restrictions on burning and fires within the Town of Ridgway, seconded by Councilor Ferrelli the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

16. Resolution No. 21-06 Supporting the June 2021 Updates to the Colorado Communities for Climate Action Policy Statement

Mayor Clark returned to sit with the Council, and resumed chairing the meeting.

Staff Report dated 7-8-21 from the Town Manager presenting a request from Colorado Communities for Climate Action.

The Town Manager explained the Town is a member of Colorado Communities for Climate Action and at a recent meeting the policy statement was updated. Council is being asked to adopt a resolution ratifying the updated statement.

**ACTION:**

Councilor Schuyler moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-06 Supporting the June 2021 Updates to the Colorado Communities for Climate Action Policy Statement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Grambley and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**17. Letter of support for the addition of lands to the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative**

Mayor Clark reported a request has been received to support inclusion of a public land initiative into the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative.

Jennifer Cram presented a letter of support addressed to Senator Michael Bennet to add three new parcels, the Turret Ridge, Little Cimarron and Failes and Solider Creek additions, into the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative.

**ACTION:**

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Schuyler and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve Mayor Clark signing the letter to Senator Michael Bennett to include the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative.

**MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

The Town Manager presented a calendar of meeting dates for discussions regarding preparation of the 2022 budget. Manager Neill highlighted some of the items contained in the monthly managers report.

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer presented a recap from the Land and Water Committee meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk