

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 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.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance Councilors Ferrelli, Grambley, Lakin, Schuyler, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark. Councilor Beck was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 10, 2021.
2. Minutes of the Budget Workshop Meeting of November 18, 2021.
3. Register of Demands for December 2021.
4. Restaurant liquor license renewal for Thai Paradise.
5. Renewal of tavern liquor license for the Ouray County Fairgrounds.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

6. Presentation of gift from Public Art Ridgway Colorado of the winning painting from the annual Plein Air event

Rick Weaver representing Public Art Ridgway Colorado (PARC) presented the Town with the winning painting from the 9th annual PARC Plein Air event, for addition to the collection at Town Hall. He introduced the winning artist Barbara Kendrick, who received a \$500 prize.

7. Recognition of employee Diedra Silbert for service to the Town

The Town Manager announced Diedra Silbert is retiring after eight years of service to the Town, and recognized her efforts representing the Town as the Community Initiatives Facilitator. The Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Silbert for overseeing the Creative District and Main Street programs.

8. Request to host the annual San Juan Rural Philanthropy Days

Manager Preston Neill explained the Town has been approached by Community Resource Center to serve as the host community for the Rural Philanthropy Days Conference June 7-9, 2022.

Nellie Stagg, Senior Program Director for Community Resource Center, explained the non-profit organization supports local governments and non-profit groups to “bring communities together”. She reported a local steering committee is planning the annual regional event for Rural Philanthropy Days. The annual conference rotates within eight regions throughout the State, and this year will be held in the San Juan Region. The committee is considering the event to be held in Ridgway, she explained. The conference brings together the non-profit sector with state wide funding agencies to discuss grant funding opportunities to “help bring grant funding to rural communities”. She noted in the “early 90’s three percent of funding went to rural regions, now 21% of statewide funding to non-profits goes to rural areas”. The conference also provides training, workshops and panel discussions, and encourages non-profit organizations to “engage with”, and “build relationships and network” with local governments.

Ms. Stagg added, the three day conference will bring 300 individuals from non-profit organizations and funding foundations together into the community, which will “boost the local economy” and “highlight local non-profits”.

There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed staff can assist with facilitating needs for the conference.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to approve the Mayor signing the letter of intent to host the Rural Philanthropy Days, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded and on a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to use the Town parking lot adjacent to the library during Skijoring event

The Town Clerk reported the Skijoring event to be held on January 8th and 9th, has requested use of the Town parking lot to the south of the library. Event goers will be shuttled from the parking lot to the fairgrounds, she noted.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilmember Lakin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve the request to use the Town parking lot adjacent to the library for parking during the Skijoring event on January 8 and 9, 2022.

10. Presentation of the Uncompahgre River Corridor Ecological Assessment

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 12-3-21 presenting the Uncompahgre River Corridor Ecological Assessment and Recommendations Report and the River Channel Characteristics Technical Report.

The Town Manager explained the Town retained DHM Design to prepare a River Corridor Assessment with a comprehensive analysis of the existing ecological communities and the current condition within the Uncompahgre River corridor. DHM’s Ecological Services staff completed a comprehensive site analysis to evaluate existing conditions, opportunities and constraints as they relate to current and future management of the river corridor through Town.

Representatives from DHM Design and Lotic Hydrological presented the reports completed this fall which assessed the river corridor to the south, north, and through Town, including a 200 foot buffer along the assessment area. The reports determined existing river conditions,

ecological conditions to the corridor riparian, hydrology relative to the head waters and change types in the river area. It was reported “what is seen as sediment from a confined river channel” “due to a braided upstream river transition” “may appear unsightly” “is not an unnatural river channel” and “is not out of balance with itself”. In relation to the “structures placed in the mid 2000’s” “some are still functioning” with “erosion activity taking place”. After evaluating the individual structures it was determined they can be reused or relocated “to make the river more effective” and utilized to protect the riparian habitat. The ecological assessment addressed the riparian corridor and wetland habitats, along with a vegetative analysis, and it was noted “there is good diversity of habitat types for wildlife and a wide buffer along the river corridor”. The report identified areas of noxious weeds which “need control” and the recommendation was made for “future planning to control it before it starts to spread”. The reports include recommendations on wetland creation, habitat preservation, identified areas for bank and slope stabilization, hydraulic restoration opportunities, riparian planting and benchmarks, and also identifies grant funding opportunities for the recommended project types and general cost information.

There were questions from the Council. After discussion the Council agreed to address some of the items in the report in the next fiscal year, highlighting the removal of noxious weeds.

11. Presentation regarding the Amelia Street Paving Project relative to the climate crisis

The Mayor explained to the audience the Council recently received an engineering report on a project to pave and install sidewalks along Lena Street, but Council has not earmarked any funding for the project in 2022.

Dana Ivers explained she has concerns regarding the “character and sustainability of Town” as it relates to “climate change and growth impacts”. She presented environmental concerns regarding paving of streets, noting the emission of greenhouse gases and use of fossil fuel to produce pavement. She asked the Council to consider “tabling all paving until carbon sequestrant materials are available”. She noted the placement of “speed bumps will help slow traffic”, along with the use of “planters”; and agrees pedestrian walkways should be placed, and suggested the use of “decarbonized granite products which percolate down, and do not have run off”. She encouraged the “retention and replacement of trees to bring down heat”, and spoke in support of a “climate action plan for Town”, including “creation of a local environmental board to focus on issues in Town” and “use of solar power in developments”. She also asked the Council to place a “moratorium on building until we see what the drought is doing”.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Beth Hight noted items presented were “some great concepts for the future” noting “pavement doesn’t have to be the only way to go”. She expressed concerns with rain which “drains off Amelia Street” and the lack of sidewalks for students to access the elementary school.

Alice Billings expressed concerns with the number of vehicles which “speed down County Road 5” and “ignore the stop sign” and stated “paving that road will be a disaster”.

Vicki Hawse spoke in “support of efforts to plant more trees” and “consideration of a moratorium on building”.

The Mayor stated the Town, through a memorandum of understanding with the County, should be taking on growth for the County.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

12. Adoption of the 2022 Fiscal Year Budget and setting of Property Tax Levies for 2022

Staff Report from the Town Clerk/Treasurer dated 12-3-21 presenting the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and Mill Levy.

The Clerk/Treasurer reported the notice of adoption of the fiscal year budget was published on October 14th after presentation of the draft document to the Council. Numerous meetings and hearings were held to discuss the draft budget and capital improvement plans, and the Council is being asked to approve the budget and set the mill levy for the 2022 fiscal year through adoption of a series of resolutions.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer to adopt Resolution No. 21-10 of the Town of Ridgway, Adopting a Budget for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January 2022, and Ending on the Last Day of December 2022. After a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-11 of the Town of Ridgway, Appropriating Sums of Money to the Various Funds in the Amount and for the Purpose as Set Forth Below for the 2022 Budget Year. Councilor Lakin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Schuyler to adopt Resolution No. 21-12 of the Town of Ridgway, Adopting the Property Tax Levy for the Year 2022 for Certification to the Ouray County Commissioners, seconded by Councilor Grambley, and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

POLICY MATTERS

13. Adoption of the 2022 Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans

The Town Clerk/Treasurer presented the 2022 Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved, with Councilor Ferrelli seconding to adopt the Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

14. Adoption of the 2022 Strategic Plan

The Town Manager presented the final draft of the 2022 Strategic Plan.

There was discussion by Council and one change was made to the document.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Lakin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and approved by a roll call vote to adopt the 2022 Strategic Plan with the amendment as given.

15. Revocable Encroachment Permit for use of Town property relative to the Old Ridgway Firehouse Project

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 12-3-21 presenting a revocable encroachment permit for use of the Town sidewalk on N. Lena Street in front of the Old Firehouse.

Manager Neill reported the item was continued from the previous meeting and staff has confirmed there is no State requirement relative to barriers to delineate liquor licensed premises with railing or fencing from public sidewalks, as barriers are “up to the local jurisdiction”.

Applicant Patrick O’Leary, speaking on behalf of the Old Ridgway Firehouse Project stated “we need to have a strong outdoor dining presence in front of the Firehouse” noting “to the south” there are use constraints and “we don’t have the same limitations because of the sidewalk” and are “requesting 11 feet and that leaves 7 feet” of sidewalk for pedestrian traffic. He noted it is “our intent to define the area with planters” and “as of now are not planning to have a railing”.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to approve the encroachment permit for use of Town property related to the Old Ridgway Firehouse Project. With the motion on the floor there was discussion. Councilmember Schuyler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

16. Agreement for Legal Services with Bo James Nerlin, P.C.

Manager Neill introduced an agreement for 2022 legal services with Bo Nerlin, noting it mirrors the agreement currently in place.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer to approve the agreement for legal services with Bo James Nerlin P.C. Seconded by Councilor Grambley the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Manager Neill highlighted some of the items contained in the monthly managers report.

The Mayor Pro Tem gave an update on the water committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk