

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held both in person and via a virtual meeting portal, Zoom Meeting, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 11, 2022.
2. Register of Demands for June 2022.
3. Renewal of restaurant liquor license for El Agave Azul.
4. Renewal of brew pub liquor license for Colorado Boy Brewing Company.
5. Renewal of liquor store license for Ridgway Liquors.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

6. Update on Ridgway Elementary School Renovation Project

Susan Lacy and Heidi Hanssen from Ridgway School District presented plans for renovation of the elementary school. The original building was constructed for all grades, and in 2006 a secondary facility for middle and high school students was opened. There are two existing buildings on the site, one constructed in 1972 and the other in 1996. Construction will begin the end of summer and should be completed in August of 2023.

There were questions from the Council and the audience.

Ms. Lacy noted there will be no impacts from the construction to Town streets.

7. Proclamation declaring June as Immigrant Heritage Month

Robyn Cascade presented and read a proclamation declaring June 2022 as Immigrant Heritage Month, and introduced Margaret Emerson who spoke regarding her families experiences immigrating to the US after seeking political asylum.

ACTION:

Councilor Enochs moved to approve declaring June as Immigrant Heritage Month in Ridgway, seconded by Councilor Schuyler the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to use Hartwell Park for the second annual Ouray County Pride Celebration

Tera Wick, volunteer with Voyager Youth Program, presented a request to use Hartwell Park for the second consecutive year to hold the Ouray County Pride Celebration. There were members of the Pride Committee present who spoke in support of the event.

ACTION:

Councilor Schuyler moved to approve the application for special event for the second annual Ouray County Pride event. Councilmember Enochs seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

9. Proclamation supporting the second annual Ouray County Pride Celebration

The Mayor Pro Tem read the proclamation supporting the second annual Ouray County Pride Celebration.

ACTION:

Councilmember Grambley moved, with a second by Councilor Enochs to pass the proclamation supporting the second annual Ouray County Pride Celebration, and the motion carried unanimously.

Members of the audience expressed why they feel it is important to hold a pride event.

10. Request to use streets and sidewalk rights-of-ways for March for Our Lives event

Vicky Green requested to use public sidewalks and possibly streets on June 11th to hold a March for Our Lives event under the umbrella of a federal organization of the same name. She explained the intent of the rally is to draw awareness to gun violence; and participants would assemble in Hartwell Park before positioning themselves along Sherman Street and hold signs.

There were questions from the Council.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Schuyler to approve the application for a special event permit for the March for Our Lives event. Councilor Grambley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

11. Request for relief on past due water charges and share in the cost of repairs to water line

Staff Report from the Town Clerk dated 6-1-22 presenting requests from Patrick and Marti O'Leary for relief on past due water charges and costs of repairs for a water line break at the Old Firehouse commercial building, 185 North Lena Street.

Ms. O'Leary explained to the Council in November of 2020 after water usage was high, she asked the public works department to turn off water to the building, and subsequently requested the service be resumed in the spring. She noted, at that time staff determined there was a water leak on the property owners side of the meter. The area was excavated in the summer of 2021 and the leak was "nine inches from the meter box" and she feels it

was due to “pressure from the sidewalk install in 2018”. The cost of the repair was \$3600 and she requested the Town share in the cost of the repair, and waive past due amounts on water of \$1500.

The Town Clerk reported the Council approved issuance of a water leak adjustment in November of 2020; and pursuant to Code Section 9-1-2(A), the O’Leary’s were told by staff repairs to a leak on the property owners side of a meter is the property owners responsibility. The Town Manager noted varying from this regulation would set a precedence, as sharing in the cost of private property repairs have not been previously approved.

There were comments and discussion by the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Schuyler and seconded by Councilor Thomas to deny the request for compensation for repairs and past due water for Account 3300.1. The motion carried with Councilor Grambley voting no.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

12. Transfer of stock holder for Star Saloon tavern liquor license

Staff Report dated 6-3-22 from the Town Clerk presenting an application requesting change of corporate structure for the tavern liquor license for Star Saloon LLC.

The Town Clerk reported the premises at 373 Palomino Trail, will continue to hold the trade name of Star Saloon, but a change of corporate structure will transfer one hundred percent of the stockholder and membership from Adam Dubroff to Benjamin Jackson IV. She noted there are no changes in the license other than how the corporation is being held, and final approval must be made by the Colorado Department of Revenue Liquor Enforcement Division.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Grambley, second by Councilor Schuyler and unanimously carried to approve the change of corporate structure for Star Saloon LLC.

POLICY MATTERS

13. Presentation of Strategic Master Plan for Ridgway Visitor Center & Heritage Park

Community Initiatives Facilitator Tera Wick presented the Council with an updated master plan for Heritage Park and the Visitor Center.

Walker Christianson with DHM Design presented the plan and explained the original master plan was prepared in May of 2019 and since this time the railroad train cars and museum have been moved from the site, which left the park without a central focus. In February 2021, through funding from Colorado Main Street, DHM Design began preparation of an updated site plan and worked with a local committee for ideas. He presented an overview of the proposed new plan to the Council.

Facilitator Wick noted incorporated into the new site plan is inclusion of recognizing the Ute heritage.

There were questions and comments from the Council.

Sue Husch and Robyn Cascade spoke from the audience in support of the plan; and a letter was read into the record from the Board of the Chamber of Commerce supporting the plan.

There was discussion by the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilmember Schuyler to approve without modifications the updated Heritage Park Site Plan for the Strategic Master Plan for Ridgway Visitor Center and Heritage Park; direct staff to update the Long Term Implementation Plan and Strategy based on the updated site plan, for Council review and consideration; authorize Mayor Clark to sign on behalf of the Council a letter to the three Ute Tribal Chairs requesting a consultation relationship to begin the process of researching and developing cultural interpretive information and art installations that tell the story of Ridgway's Ute heritage from the perspective of the Ute people, seconded by Councilor Grambley, the motion carried unanimously.

14. Presentation of branding proposal for Ridgway Creative Main Street

The Community Initiatives Facilitator explained the Town has designations for two State programs, Creative District and Main Street, and last year the local programs were merged. The Town recently received technical assistance from the State Main Street Program to provide consultants to work with the committee to "refresh" the branding for the new committee name. She presented the process which was undertaken, and reported the committee is recommending the name "Ridgway Fuse, a Colorado Creative and Main Street".

Sue Husch spoke in support of the proposal.

There were comments by the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Schuyler, seconded by Council Enochs and approved unanimously to approve the new branding system for Ridgway Creative Main Street Program.

15. Authorization for Mayor to sign letter of support for the Governor Basin Restoration Project

The Town Manager reported the Uncomphagre Water Partnership (UWP) is requesting a letter of support for a proposed project to reclaim a tributary into the river from Governor Basin, which is impacting water quality due to abandoned mines and acidic waste dumps and tailings.

Speaking from UWP Tanya Ishikawa and Scott Williams expressed the need for the reclamation project, and presented the names of other local agencies which have written letters of support.

ACTION:

Councilor Enochs moved to approve the letter as written to support the Governor Basin Restoration Project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grambley and then carried unanimously.

16. Revocable Encroachment Permit for use of Town property to install a Post Office drop box

Staff Report from Manager Neill dated 6-3-22 presenting an application for a revocable encroachment permit to install a mail drop box on the landscaped island located in the right of way, at the intersection of N. Lena and Clinton Streets, across from the US Post Office. He noted the purpose for the new drop box would be to afford patrons the ability to drive up and drop mail without needing to leave the vehicle.

There were comments by the Council noting the need to paint curbs, sign the area accordingly, and provide an area for snow storage.

Speaking from the audience Sue Husch spoke in support of the proposal.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Thomas, seconded by Councilor Schuyler to approve the revocable encroachment permit to install a Post Office drop box. On a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

17. Purchase of dissolved oxygen monitoring equipment for Wastewater Treatment Plant

As outlined in a Staff Report dated 6-1-22 the Town Manager explained in 2021 the Town committed to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to implement a sub-surface system and data logging equipment to continuously monitor dissolved oxygen in each of the cells at the wastewater treatment plant. Funds have been budgeted to purchase dissolved oxygen monitoring equipment for this important project, he noted, and the amount budgeted is below the cost to acquire the equipment. He stated staff feels the Sewer Fund can accommodate the increase, and noted per the Procurement Policy, Council is required to approve expenditures over \$25,000.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Thomas to approve the deviation from procurement procedures, waive the formal request for bid process for acquisition of equipment, authorize the purchase of a dissolved oxygen monitoring system from Mountain Peak Controls in the amount of \$31,760 and authorize staff to enter into a purchase agreement for said equipment. Councilmember Enochs seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

18. Promulgating volunteer water restrictions

Staff report from the Town Manager dated 6-7-22 presenting the Water Conservation and Management Plan adopted in 2018.

Manager Neill suggested implementing voluntary water restrictions pursuant to the water conservation plan statement, noting the US Drought Portal has placed Ouray County in extreme drought conditions.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Enochs, seconded by Councilor Schuyler to promulgate Stage I Voluntary Water Restrictions. The motion carried unanimously.

19. Extend approval of road closure on N. Laura Street for construction of Space to Create project

Manager Neill noted on June 14th the approval to close a portion of N. Laura Street for construction of the Space to Create project will expire. He asked the Council to consider extending the closure to facilitate the construction process and safety on the street.

There were comments and discussion by the Council.

ACTION:

Councilor Thomas moved to extend to August 11th the street closure, and review possible extension at the August 10th meeting, Councilor Schuyler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk