

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 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 called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance Councilors Enochs, Grambley, Lakin, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark. Councilors Schuyler and Thomas were absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2022.
2. Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 7, 2022.
- 3.. Register of Demands for September 2022.
4. Remove employee Debra Overton from probational status and move to permanent employment status.
5. Renewal of restaurant liquor license for Panny's Pizza.
6. Renewal of tavern liquor license for The Sherbino Theater.
7. Use of street right-of-ways around secondary school and Weaver Park for Ridgway Secondary School Cross Country Program 5K fundraiser, October 8th, 8:00 to 9:00 am.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

8. Invitation to community education event on tobacco use, nicotine and vaping

Carolyn Dresler MD, presented an upcoming free event to address detrimental health effects from the use of tobacco, nicotine and vaping. The two day event will be open to all ages on Friday and youth only on Saturday. She reported the "Western Slope has the highest use of electric cigarettes in all the country", and invited the Council to attend the event to become educated on the prevention and consequences of tobacco use.

9. Presentation from Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership

Letter dated 9-2-22 from Tanya Ishikawa, Communications Director with the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) presenting projects and initiatives, and submitting a request for funding in 2023.

Dennis Murphy, Board President of the UWP, addressed the Council and presented an update on the organizations restoration project at a mine site in Governor Basin. The Mayor

noted the funding request will be addressed by the Council next month during budget discussions.

10. Presentation from EcoAction Partners regarding programs, projects and initiatives

Report dated September 2022, entitled Ridgway Program Updates and 2023 Funding Request from Emma Gerona, Executive Director with EcoAction Partners.

Ms. Gerona and Kim Wheels addressed the Council and presented the “missions across the region” for EcoAction Partners and Sneffels Energy Board, along with upcoming events; community composting; and partnership with San Miquel Power Association.

There were questions from the Council. The Mayor noted the request for funding will be addressed during budget meetings in the upcoming weeks.

11. Presentation of 2022 Annual Report from San Miguel Power Association

Alex Shelley, Communications Executive with San Miguel Power Association, presented slides related to the annual update to “provide reliable and clean energy” to members. The topics covered included rebate programs; net metering updates; the green fund; all electric housing projects; power supply mix; community solar partnering in microgrid project; electrical reliability project and new rate structure exploration.

There were questions from the Council, and from Dana Ivers speaking from the audience.

12. Proclamation declaring September 2022 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness and Recovery Month

The Mayor presented a proclamation from Tri-County Health Network declaring September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Enochs, with a second by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer to adopt the proclamation declaring September 2022 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness and Recovery Month. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. Transfer ownership of Chipeta Sun Lodge Hotel/Restaurant Liquor License

Staff Report dated 8-18-22 from the Town Clerk presenting a request to transfer the hotel/restaurant liquor license for the Chipeta Sun Lodge.

The Town Clerk reported the application for transfer of the Chipeta Sun Lodge Hotel/Restaurant Liquor License from Chipeta Sun Lodge LLLP, members Patsy and Jack Young to applicant and new owner Chipeta Lodge LLC, owned by Mezrah Acquisition LLC, sole member Todd M. Mezrah includes an Optional Premises to serve to other areas on the property, outside of the restaurant. She explained state liquor law allows the transferee to request issuance of a temporary permit from the local jurisdiction to continue to conduct business and sell alcohol under the existing license until transfer approval is issued by the state licensing authority.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to approve the application for transfer of Hotel/Restaurant Liquor License for Chipeta Sun Lodge, to Chipeta Lodge LLC, owned by Mezrah Acquisition, sole member Todd M. Mezrah, seconded by Councilor Lakin, the motion unanimously carried.

POLICY MATTERS

14. Presentation of weed management activities on Town owned properties

Julie Kolb Manager of Ouray County Vegetation Management presented a report dated September 2022, and reviewed the document with the Council. She noted reasons for treating invasive weeds is to combat the altering of nesting and foraging for wildlife, increase productivity of agricultural and wild lands and reduce biodiversity. She addressed the use of horticultural vinegar for weed management, and noted only a herbicide will penetrate the root systems of the noxious weeds; and reported all eleven invasive species were treated with application of a herbicide classified in the 'Caution Category'. Areas treated between May 5th and August 22nd were South Amelia Street for Leafy Spurge; the Happy Hollow Intake on County Road 5 for Leafy Spurge; Rollans Park for Canada Thistle, Mullein, Spotted and Diffused Knap Weeds and Chinese Clematis; south side of Athletic Park for Canada Thistle, Hounds Tongue, Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Kochia and Burdock; Town Public Works Yard for Spotted Knapweed, Burdock, Canada Thistle, Horary Cress, Kochia, Mullein and Musk; and the BMX Track for Hoary Cress and Russian Knapweed.

Ms. Kolb reported on all sites Leafy Spurge showed a minimum of 70% kill, and was not found after the initial treatment at the Happy Hollow intake. Spotted Knapweed showed an approximate kill rate of 50%. She stated the area to the south of the Athletic Park is "three acres filled with noxious weeds" and "I got about fifty percent of it", the area will need additional treatment in 2023.

15. Presentation of updated Ridgway Visitor Center & Heritage Park Master Plan

Community Initiatives Facilitator Tera Wick presented the updated Master Plan for the Visitor Center and Heritage Park developed by DHM Design Group. The document includes the purpose of the project; site base map; master site design; final site plan; native plant types; phasing and prioritizing; signage; use of railroad ties for aesthetic design; play features, site furnishings and planting elements; cost estimates and funding options. She noted the committee "ideally would like to start construction in 2025".

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved, with a second by Councilor Grambley to approve the updated Ridgway Visitor Center and Heritage Park Master Plan, the motion carried unanimously.

16. Requests from the Preserve PUD development team

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 9-1-22 presenting requests from the development team for the Preserve PUD.

Manager Neill explained the Preserve PUD Preliminary Plat was approved on 3-14-18 and subsequently extended 3-20-20 and 1-12-22. Conditions 10, 11 and 13 of the Preliminary Plat require approval from the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners and the applicants approached the Commission in June of this year. The Commission considered access approval for the south end of the subdivision which is located outside of the Town

boundary; the dedication of County Road 23 from Preserve Drive to the Town boundary; dedication of an easement for Preserve Drive and recreation path easement on the Dalwhinnie property; and process for County approval of the paved road design from the south end of Preserve Drive to the Town boundary. He reported the Commission stated the Town should annex the Dalwhinnie Property and County Road 23 “so the County does not need to be involved”. If annexation is unsupported by the Town, the Commission indicated it may consider a “universal, three party right-of-way easement with Dalwhinnie, Ouray County and the Town” to provide a right-of-way easement to the Town for County Road 23 from the south side of Preserve Drive to the Town boundary; public right-of-way easement for Preserve Drive and the recreation path on Dalwhinnie property; easement to the Town for the relocated lift station and associated sewer line utilities; require Town oversight of all County Road 23 improvements and Town acceptance of County Road 23 maintenance.

The Town Manager asked the Council if annexation or a right-of-way easement agreement is the preferred option to address the County’s responses; and reported the applicant is requesting the Town consider relocation of the lift station to Dalwhinnie property, outside of Town boundaries, to meet new Colorado Department of Public Health setbacks. He stated staff remains unsupportive of the annexation option, and has concerns with the lift station being located outside of the Town boundary, as it would not conform to the Town’s standard specifications for a sewer system.

Chris Hawkins with Alpine Planning stated the Preserve PUD development team agrees with the staff regarding the annexation request, and asked Council to discuss the options.

There were question from Council to staff. Consensus of the Council was to direct staff to research annexation options and report back at the next regular meeting.

17. Resolution No. 22-08 Amending the Town of Ridgway Standard Specification and Typical Drawings for Infrastructure Construction

The Town Manager presented a resolution of documents prepared by the Town Engineer updating standard specification and typical drawings for construction of infrastructure.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer to approve Resolution No. 22-08, Amending the Town of Ridgway Standard Specification and Typical Drawings for Infrastructure Construction. Councilmember Grambley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

18. Employment agreement for municipal court judge services with Lane Thomasson

The Town Attorney presented a proposed employment agreement with Lane Thomasson to serve as the Ridgway Municipal Court Judge, as part of duties serving as the Ouray County Court Judge in the 7th Judicial District.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to approve the employment agreement for municipal court judge services with Lane Thomasson. Councilmember Enochs seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

19. Compensation adjustment for Town Manager

Mayor Clark reported at a special meeting on September 7th the Council entered into an executive session to present a performance evaluation to the Town Manager. As part of the meeting Council discussed a compensation adjustment, and agreed to move the Manager to Step 2 in the Town of Ridgway Step Salary Structure, at an annual salary of \$120,347 and also to pay retroactively to January 1st.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Lakin to place the Town Manager at Step 2 of the Town Manager pay schedule and pay retroactively to January 1, 2022. Councilor Grambley seconded the motion, and on a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Manager Neill highlighted some items in the monthly staff report. Councilmember Enochs reported on the Parks Committee; and the Town Manager on the first meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Council enter into a closed session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding the possible condemnation of 539 Marion Overlook, Ridgway, CO 81432.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved to enter into closed session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding the possible condemnation of 539 Marion Overlook. Councilmember Enochs seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The Council entered into closed session with the Town Attorney, Town Manager and Town Clerk at 8:40 p.m.

The Council reconvened into open session at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk