

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 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. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Enochs, Grambley, Lakin, Schuyler, Thomas, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 14, 2022.
2. Register of Demands for October 2022.
3. Renewal of restaurant liquor license for Land Ocean Restaurant.
4. Renewal of tavern liquor license for Ouray County Fairgrounds.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Lakin and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation of the 2021 Fiscal Year Audit and Financial Statements

Brian Blair with Blair and Associates, PC presented the annual 2021 audit prepared by the firm. He reviewed items from the Management Report, a synopsis of the full audit, and reported "all funds went up". The General and Sewer Funds "were well over revenues to those budgeted" within the fiscal year. He noted all funds "came in well below budgeted expenditures".

6. Presentation from the Ridgway Fire Protection District pertaining to Ballot Issue 6A

Ridgway Fire Protection District Board Member Adam Johnson, asked for Council support of a November ballot initiative to increase the districts mill levy, which has not increased since 2000. He reported the proposed funding would be used to hire professional fire fighters to be on call at the station for first response. He explained over the past 22 years the number of residences and businesses in the 80 square mile service area have increased substantially; the number of volunteers have decreased; available volunteers to respond to calls, and response times, have been severally reduced.

There were questions and comments from the Council, and questions from the audience.

7. Update from Ouray County Public Health Agency

County Public Health Director, Tanner Kingery, presented an update to the Council regarding county health statistics. He noted this summer the reported cases of West Nile Virus in Montrose and Delta Counties encompassed 93% of the cases within the State.

There were questions from the Council and audience.

8. Presentation regarding preparation of a county-wide Evacuation Plan

Glenn Boyd, Ouray County Emergency Manager, reported the County is in the process of receiving quotes to prepare a county-wide Evacuation Plan. Cost estimates are \$16,000 to \$19,000 and the City of Ouray and Town are being asked to participate and pay a third of the cost for the preparation. He explained the County has applied for a grant to prepare a Wildfire Plan which would encompass the entire county.

9. Presentation regarding dedicated pickleball courts

Gilbert Clark, President of the Ridgway Pickleball Club expressed the clubs desire for construction of an eight court complex on the east side of the Athletic Park. He explained pickleball is the “fastest growing sport”, and the “club has experienced a 60% growth in membership over the past two years”, now at a hundred members. He presented a cost estimate of \$488,931 for the construction, with sources of funding including the Town participating by providing grading, engineering and construction management. He noted a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado will be sought by the group in the next grant funding cycle.

There were questions from the Council; and comments from the audience.

The Mayor encouraged the Club to continue working with the Parks and Open Space Committee, and noted master planning for the Athletic Park needs to be addressed first.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Application for Final Plat; Block 20, Lots 16-18; Address: 377 N. Laura St; Applicant: Beth Lakin

Councilmember Lakin stepped down from the Council due to a conflict of interest.

Contracted Planner TJ Dlubac, presented an application for amended plat to separate one single interest into two lots in the historic residential zoning district, on Lots 16-18 within Block 20. The applicant was required to extend the sewer line to serve the newly created lot; and access for the existing lot needed to be changed. He reported the Planning Commission approved the application with conditions at the August 30th meeting.

The applicant, Beth Lakin, addressed the Council and explained the lot split will provide a new building lot for a local resident.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to approve the Lakin-Arnold Amended Plat with the condition the sewer line extension shall be completed and accepted by the Town prior to a building permit being issued for Lot 2. Councilmember Schuyler seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Councilor Lakin returned to sit with the Council.

POLICY MATTERS

11. Discussion regarding furnishing the Space to Create Community Room

Community Initiatives Facilitator Tera Wick addressed the Council regarding furnishing the newly constructed Space to Create Community Room. She presented potential furnishings designs for the commercial space, from a “basic level to a high level”, and suggested Council consider budgeting funds in the next fiscal year. It was noted by Guthrie Castle, member of the Creative District Committee, the 2000 square foot room can be used by the public for “classes, performances, art exhibitions, meeting, events and celebrations”, and should be designed to meet “as many needs as possible”.

There was discussion by the Council. Consensus was to furnish the space with items designed for commercial uses, which are moveable; the process should be accomplished incrementally, including addressing acoustics and audio/visual equipment.

12. Presentation of the Draft 2023 Fiscal Year Budget

The Town Clerk/Treasurer presented a draft of the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget, noting time frame of the presentation meets requirements of State Statute. The 2023 priorities and goals will be discussed with Council during a Budget Retreat on October 29 and will be presented to the public at the November regular meeting and a budget meeting in late November, before being presented for adoption at the December regular meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

13. Appointment of member to the Planning Commission

Mayor Clark announced after the resignation of Thomas Emilson from the Planning Commission, a request for letters of interest was published. Three citizens applied for the position and the appointment was awarded to Jack Petruccelli, a former member and chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

14. Monthly Managers Report

Manager Neill highlighted some items in the monthly staff report.

Councilmember Thomas reported on meetings of the Ouray County Water Users and Sustainability Advisory Boards.

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. Councilmember Schuyler seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Council entered into closed session with the Town Attorney, Town Manager and Town Clerk at 8:25 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