

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BUDGET RETREAT
AND SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 29, 2022

The Town Council convened for a budget retreat at 9:10 a.m. in the Ridgway Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street. The meeting was held both in person and via a virtual meeting portal, Zoom Meeting, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy.

The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Enoch, Grambley, Lakin, Schuyler, Thomas, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark in attendance.

Town Clerk's Notice of Retreat and Special Meeting dated October 17, 2022.

The Council received a draft Fiscal Year Budget for 2023; Memorandum from the Town Clerk listing line item locations by funds, for expenditures and revenues in the draft budget; Worksheets of Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Projects for each of the three funds; Strategic Plan; Memorandum regarding changes within the classification and compensation plan; information on the Famili Program.

Through a PowerPoint presentation Town Manager Preston Neill explained the meeting goals, and an overview of the budget adoption process as it relates to the Town Charter, timelines and budget approach.

There was discussion and questions from the Town Council pertaining to grant availability from the Department of Local Affairs for projects in the next fiscal year.

The Town Clerk presented the draft 2023 Fiscal Year Budget and reviewed with Council the revenue projections and operational expenditures by each fund. It was noted revenues were projected conservatively.

There was discussion between the Council and staff. Council discussed ways to inform citizens of capital projects, and receipts of grant funding.

The Town Manager presented Statewide revenue projections and trends. He reported 2022-2023 is projected to fail to keep pace with inflation, and 2023-2024 is narrowly expected to exceed, as economic growth continues to slow. Manager Neill presented slides of Town sales tax revenues over the years, versus original budgeted amounts.

The Town Manager presented a pay movement recommendation from Logic Compensation, to keep current the classification and compensation study they performed on behalf of the Town last year. The recommendation contains a step structure adjustment of 3.3% aligned with the market average, to ensure the Town maintains a competitive position in attracting and retaining employees.

Manager Neill presented the State initiated Family and Medical Leave Insurance Policy (FAMILI) and presented background on the program. He reported staff is recommending the Town opt out of the program, noting other local jurisdictions, along with a recommendation from the Colorado Municipal League support the choice.

There was discussion by the Council.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin and seconded by Councilmember Grambley to decline all participation in the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Policy. The motion carried with Councilor Schuyler abstaining.

The Council took a recess for lunch between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk presented draft worksheets of the Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Projects by each fund, and discussed them with the Council.

Councilor Schuyler presented slides and information on a photovoltaic plan for the Space to Create Building, and construction of an Agrivoltaic Community Solar Garden.

There was discussion by the Council. Items were added to the Five Year Capital Projects sheets, including moving an item from the Ten Year Plan.

It was agreed to discuss the 2022 Strategic Plan at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk