

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 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 October 12, 2022.
2. Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of October 26, 2022.
3. Minutes of the Budget Retreat and Special Meeting on October 29, 2022.
4. Register of Demands for November 2022.
5. Renewal of restaurant liquor license for Taco Del Gnar.
6. Water Leak Adjustment for Account #5170.3/Williams.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7. Request to close a portion of Clinton Street for Noel Night event

Tanya Ishikawa with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce addressed the Council and requested the closure of Clinton Street, between Cora and Laura Streets, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday December 2nd. She noted the event will be similar to last year with businesses open late, and some businesses and non-profits selling from tables on sidewalks.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and seconded by Councilor Enochs to approve the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce application for use of public rights-of-ways for Noel Night and approve the closure of Clinton Street between Cora and Laura Streets on December 2nd between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. Presentation of annual report from the Ridgway Community Garden

Agnieszka Przeszlowska Ridgway Community Garden Board President, presented a written report dated 9-29-22 and addressed the Council in person to display a film of the garden taken on September 17th. She explained during the year the garden had full membership

and served 76 adults and 20 children; made donations of produce to the local food pantry; presented educational interactive activities to the Voyager Youth Program, along with participating in a children's communal garden bed. She explained in 2023 four garden beds will be constructed at an easier height for access by older members; more flower species which attract pollinators will be planted; and the shed extended to provide a storage area for large items like wheelbarrows.

Ms. Przeszlowska requested Town support in the spring to level and gravel the parking area, and grade the ground for installation of the new shed.

The Mayor explained the Council will consider the request during budget discussions.

POLICY MATTERS

9. Candidates and appointment of members to the Youth Advisory Council

Staff Report dated 11-4-22 from the Town Manager presenting candidates for the 2022-2023 Youth Advisory Council.

Manager Neill reported two applications have been received to serve on the Youth Advisory Council during the 2022-2023 school year, from students River Randolph and Jonathan Rytlewski. He noted the number of applicants is not enough for a meeting quorum and asked how the Council wished to proceed.

There was discussion and comments by the Council regarding ways to encourage participation during the next school year. Consensus was to continue the program with the Town Manager and Mayor working with the two students.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to appoint River Randolph and Jonathan Rytlewski to the 2022-2023 Youth Advisory Council. Councilor Thomas seconded, and the motion unanimously carried on a roll call vote.

10. Appointment of member to the Ridgway FUSE Committee

Councilmember Grambley reported the FUSE Committee is recommending the Council appoint a new member to the board, Donna Jaffee.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Grambley, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to appoint Donna Jaffee as a Ridgway Fuse Committee member.

11. Amended Development Agreement with Ridgway Homes, LLC

Town Attorney Nerlin presented an amended Development Agreement with Ridgway Homes, LLC for Wetterhorn Townhomes. He explained the document is an update to the agreement previously approved by Council, which was never executed due to requested changes by the developers. Document changes include completion of items by the developers before December 8th and amendments to the affordable housing guidelines as they relate to administering the program.

Town Engineer Joanne Fagan noted November 15th is the last day the Town allows construction in rights-of-ways, and the developer will be unable to meet the time frame to finish roads and sidewalks which meet Town standards.

There were questions to staff, and discussion by the Council. It was noted by the Town Manager that staff has gone to great lengths to accommodate the developer over the past year and half. Staff suggested development and backfilling of the roads be discontinued until March 15th when construction in the rights-of-ways is allowed again. The Council agreed and asked the Town Attorney to relay the information to the developers.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin to approve the amendment to the Development Agreement with Ridgway Homes, LLC as presented in the agenda packet. Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

12. Presentation of the Draft 2023 Fiscal Year Budget

The Town Clerk/Treasurer presented a draft of the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget and Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans. She explained changes to the capital improvement plans requested by Council during the Budget Retreat on October 29 are included in the documents, and will be further discussed at the Budget Workshop scheduled for November 16th.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Pat Willits inquired into capital improvement planning for improvements to Ridgway Ditch. He stated in relation to the findings in the recent water study, "I think it is the most important thing the Town could do" and "the only way to get more water" is to pipe Ridgway Ditch from the headgate to Lake Ottonawanda.

Mr. Willits stated "the study says that 60% of the water that enters the headgate does not make it into Lake O", "that is why is so important to capture most of that water in a line then we can substantiate the Town has water to 2050".

The Town Manager noted the recommendations from the study are contained in the five and ten year capital improvement plans.

There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed to move the piping of Ridgway Ditch from the headgate to the lake, from the Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan to the Five Year plan. Staff was directed to look into grant funding opportunities for the project.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

13. Rights of Nature Annual Report

Staff Report dated 11-4-22 from the Town Manager noting in November of 2021 the Council adopted a resolution supporting protection of the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries and watershed by recognizing the "rights of nature".

The Town Manager explained the staff report contains a report from the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership entitled "The Health and State of the Uncompahgre River, its Tributaries and its Watershed" dated October 2022.

Tanya Ishikawa with the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership addressed the Council regarding the report.

14. Monthly Managers Report

Manager Neill highlighted some items in the monthly staff report.

Councilmember Thomas reported on a meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Council enter into a closed session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding the possible purchase and/or condemnation of 539 Marion Overlook, Ridgway, CO; and Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding the possible purchase and/or condemnation of TBD Laura Street, Ridgway, CO.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved to enter into closed session. Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Council entered into closed session with the Town Attorney, Town Manager and Town Clerk at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding the possible purchase and/or condemnation of 539 Marion Overlook.

The Council entered into a closed session with the Town Attorney, Town Manager and Town Clerk at 7:50 p.m. for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions regarding the possible purchase and/or condemnation of TBD Laura Street.

The Council reconvened into open session at 8.10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk