

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP  
NOVEMBER 17, 2022

The Town Council convened for a budget workshop meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street. The meeting was held both in person and via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting portal, 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 Budget Workshop Meeting dated October 10, 2022.

The Council received a draft Fiscal Year Budget for 2023, Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans for each of the three funds and 2023 draft Strategic Plan.

Through a PowerPoint presentation the Town Manager presented an overview of the budget adoption process as it relates to State Statutes and projected ending fund balances. He explained staff has a conservative budget approach and philosophy, to ensure long term fiscal stability and reserves to meet known and unknown obligations. The projected ending fund balance for the general fund is currently 3.2 million, 1.4 for water fund, and 1.2 million in the sewer fund. Over all the funds payroll is 29.7%; down from 37% in the previous year. The budget contains two new positions, moving a seasonal public works employee to full time status, and a planner position.

The Town Clerk/Treasurer presented the draft 2023 Fiscal Year Budget and reviewed with Council changes made at the previous meeting to the capital improvement plans, and items from the Five Year Plan slated to be funded in 2023.

There was discussion by the Council and a modification and addition made to the five year plan for funding in 2023.

The Council reviewed individually the funding requests from organizations. Prior to the discussion regarding the request from the Sherbino Theater, the Mayor stepped down due to a conflict of interest, and turned the gavel over to the Mayor Pro Tem. Councilor Grambley also recused himself from the discussion. After reaching consensus on the funding request, both the Mayor and Councilor returned to sit with the Council.

There was discussion pertaining to ways to allocate requests in the future, and the interplay with economic development.

The Town Clerk noted at a previous meeting, the Council asked that the funding request from the Ouray County Home Trust be allocated from the affordable housing line item, and confirmed the action with the Council. She also noted at the last meeting the Ridgway Community Garden requested in-kind support from staff of equipment and gravel, and the Council agreed to the request.

The Town Manager presented the proposed 2023 Strategic Plan, noting the document is organized by community values from the Master Plan. He highlighted some of the items in the document, there were questions from Council and discussion between Council and staff.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk