

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held both in person and via 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 Grambley, Kroger, Montague, Schuyler, Scoville, Mayor Pro Tem Lakin and Mayor Clark in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2025.
2. Minutes of Special Meeting on July 24, 2025.
3. Minutes of the Workforce and Affordability Housing Committee Meeting of July 9, 2025.
4. Register of Demands for August 2025.
5. Renewal of tavern liquor license for The Million Roadhouse.
6. Renewal of restaurant liquor license for Eatery 66.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Kroger, seconded by Councilor Grambley and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7. Report from Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce on activities and financial status

Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Jon Hill, presented the 2025 Biannual Report addressing operations; website deliverables; social media; four season marketing campaigns; visitor center; achievements; financials. He reported the board of directors currently has three vacant seats; there have been 60,000 annual website sessions; visitors at the center as of the end of June, increased from 1500 in 2024 to 1700 in 2025; award of a Colorado Tourism Marketing matching grant. Mr. Hill played a marketing video which will be displayed at the Montrose Airport.

8. Presentation on the Telluride Foundation Down Payment Assistance Programs

Elaine Demas, Vice President of Operations with the Telluride Foundation, presented a request for financial participation in the Telluride Foundation Down Payment Assistance programs. She reported the foundation has been offering forgivable loans up to \$5,000 to help regional workforce members, "already part of the community", purchase homes since 2019 and have helped 200 people across the region. In April a new pilot program was launched after 18 months of research and raising 1.3 million dollars. The program offers shared equity loans up to twenty percent of the cost of a home, with zero percent interest

loans for the life of the purchase. When an owner sells or refinances, the full principal plus ten percent of the appreciation must be repaid. Guidelines for qualification in Ouray County cap at \$50,000 and in San Miguel County at \$100,000. Ms. Demas noted this is a two year pilot program and applicants must have lived in the region for one year prior to application. Since starting the program in April three loans have been made. She requested the Council support the program at \$100,000, noting the funds can be limited to use only within the Town.

There were questions from the Council and audience to Ms. Demas. The Mayor noted the request will be discussed during budget meetings in the upcoming months.

POLICY MATTERS

9. Discussion regarding Request for Proposal for Marketing and Tourism Promotion Services

Staff Report dated 8-8-25 from the Town Manager and Community Initiatives Facilitator presenting a request for proposal for marketing and tourism promotion services.

The Town Manager explained earlier in the year the Council gave direction to prepare a competitive request for proposal (RFP) for marketing and tourism services. Staff has prepared the document as a “hybrid delivery model” that would require third-party contracting for specialized marketing services while keeping coordination and strategic oversight with Town staff. The framework and scope of services include coordination and oversight; marketing strategist; visitor touchpoints and business engagement; and county-wide event calendar. Funding will be provided from lodging tax receipts, except for the event calendar which will be funded through a regional partnership. He noted staff is seeking direction on proceeding with the RFP as the Town moves into the budgeting process.

There were questions to staff, and comments by the Council. The Council agreed to the proposal as it was presented.

10. Presentation of Ridgway Economic Development Review

Community Initiatives Facilitator Tera Wick presented the Ridgway Economic Development Review prepared by Downtown Colorado Inc. and sponsored by the Colorado Tourism Office. She explained meetings with the Town, FUSE Committee, and Chamber of Commerce, provided input for the comprehensive report. Recommendations in the report are presented in short and mid terms and address education and training; human capital; social capital; culture; regulation; financial capital.

There were comments and questions from the Council and audience.

11. Proposed county-wide community calendar for public events

The Community Initiatives Facilitator presented a memorandum from the Ouray County Community Calendar Working Group, comprised of members from the City of Ouray, Ridgway Chamber and Town.

Facilitator Wick explained the committee collaborated to find a web based platform to support a calendar which can list all public events within the county. Kailey Rhoten with the City of Ouray, and Jon Hill with the Chamber also addressed the Council and explained the key features for selection consideration was centralized; easy; sharable; filterable; sustainable; visually appealing and ADA compliant. Eight platforms were researched, three were chosen for further review, and the one found to contain all the desired features was ‘Localist’.

There were questions and comments from the Council. On a question from the Council it was noted funding would be shared, and the Town would be asked to contribute \$5,192 in 2026; \$4,751 in 2027; and \$4,978 in 2028.

The Council agreed to move forward with the proposal and deploy the calendar in 2026.

12. Biosolid removal services at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 8-8-25 requesting expenditure of budgeted funds, and entering into an agreement for biosolid removal from the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Town Manager requested entering into a contract with TerraGenesis, LLC for dredging and dewatering targeted biosolids in the sewer lagoon at a cost of 17 cents per gallon, including mobilization, sampling and lab analyses. He noted the fiscal year budget contains \$150,000 for the project.

ACTION:

Councilor Montague moved to approve the deviation from procurement procedures, waive the formal request for bid process for acquisition of services, and authorize staff to enter into a contract for biosolid removal services with TerraGenesis, LLC at a price not to exceed the budgeted amount. Councilmember Schuyler seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

13. License Agreement with Wolf Land Company for access to Beaver Creek Diversion

The Town Manager presented a License Agreement with Wolf Land Company, LP granting access to the Beaver Creek diversion structure which is located on Wolf Land property. The agreement grants a temporary access over the Ranch Road and Wolf Land Property for construction of temporary road improvements, maintenance of improvements and use of the Ranch Road for the construction project.

There were questions from the Council.

ACTION:

Councilor Montague moved to approve the License Agreement between Wolf Land Company, LP and the Town of Ridgway as presented, Mayor Pro Tem Lakin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Ratify letter of support for the conveyance of Full Moon Dam and Crystal Reservoir

The Mayor presented a letter to Senator Bennet supporting federal legislation authorizing the the conveyance of Full Moon Dam and Crystal Reservoir to the City of Ouray, and asked for Council ratification.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Lakin, seconded by Councilmember Kroger to ratify the letter of support for the conveyance of Full Moon Dam and Crystal Reservoir to the City of Ouray. After a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

15. Ratify support letter for Region 10 Enterprise Zone Redesignation Application

Mayor Clark reported Region 10 is re-applying for the state enterprise zone designation. He asked the Council to approve a letter to the Colorado Economic Development Commission supporting the application.

ACTION:

Councilmember Scoville moved, Councilor Kroger seconded, to ratify the letter of support for the Region 10 Enterprise Zone Redesignation Application, the motion carried unanimously.

16. Ratification of Stage 2 Fire Restrictions

It was noted the County has declared Stage 2 Fire Restrictions, and the Town followed. The Mayor asked the Council to ratify the fire restrictions.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Lakin, seconded by Councilmember Kroger, the motion to ratify Stage 2 Fire Restrictions carried unanimously.

17. Consideration of urging the Colorado Department of Transportation to make safety improvements on Highway 550 at Billy Creek

Councilor Kroger suggested the Council consider urging the department of transportation to prioritize widening Highway 550 and creating safety improvements at the area near Billy Creek, due to numerous accidents and fatalities within that part of the highway.

There was conversation by the Council, and comments from the audience. It was agreed to direct the Town Manager to prepare an item for discussion at another meeting to formally urge the highway department to ensure proposed construction upgrades are completed next year.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

The Manager presented a proposed schedule of meetings for preparation of the 2026 Fiscal Year Budget, and asked for a date change for the budget retreat. It was agreed to hold the retreat on October 4th.

The Town Manager presented an overview of the written monthly Managers Report.

Councilor Schuyler addressed the recent Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilmember Montague reported on the Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk