

Ridgway Town Council
Regular Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Due to COVID-19, and pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy,
the meeting will be conducted via a virtual meeting portal

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032900865?pwd=UnpjWnlBR2FsOG05RUhvNWMyNVpydz09>

Meeting ID: 850 3290 0865
Passcode: 611097

Dial by your location
+1 346 248 7799 US
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5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL Councilors Angela Ferrelli, Kevin Grambley, Beth Lakin, Russ Meyer, Terry Schuyler, Mayor Pro Tem Eric Johnson and Mayor John Clark.

EXECUTIVE SESSION The Council will enter into a closed session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(f) for discussion of a personnel matter concerning the Town Manager's annual performance evaluation.

6:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR All matters listed under the consent calendar are considered to be routine by the Town Council and enacted by one motion. The Council has received and considered reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent calendar designations. Copies of the reports are on file in the Town Clerk's Office and are available to the public. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is requested, that item will be removed from the consent calendar and considered separately.

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2020.
2. Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of December 10, 2020.
3. Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of December 23, 2020.
4. Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of January 7, 202.
5. Pursuant to State statute designate the Town Hall bulletin board as the official posting place.
6. Register of Demands for January 2021.
7. Request for water leak adjustment for Account #2470.0/Martinez.
8. Renewal of liquor store license San Juan Liquors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Established time for the public to address the Council regarding any item not otherwise listed on the agenda. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person.

PUBLIC HEARINGS Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; hearings may be limited to 20 minutes.

9. Adoption of Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map by Rezoning a Portion of Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1, Lot 4R, Block 2 from I-1 to I-2 and a Portion of Lot 2, Block 8 from I-2 to I-1 - Town Planner.

POLICY MATTERS Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; overall discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

10. Release of Subdivision Improvements Agreement for Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1 - Town Planner.
11. Review and action on revocable permit application for use of Town property - Town Manager.
12. Update, discussion and direction on Granular Activated Carbon Water Treatment Upgrade Project - Town Manager.
13. Approval of contract for purchase of water truck, as budgeted in the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget - Town Clerk/Treasurer.
14. Discussion and direction on idea of merging Ridgway Main Street Program with Ridgway Creative District - Community Initiatives Facilitator.
15. Review and action pertaining to Order Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway related to the COVID-19 pandemic - Town Manager.
16. Emergency Ordinance extending temporary amendments to the zoning regulations related to temporary signage - Town Manager.
17. Resolution supporting the 30x30 Campaign to protect 30 percent of lands and ocean by 2030 - Mayor Clark.
18. Consideration of signing on to The Mountain Pact's letter to the Biden Administration and 117th Congress - Mayor Clark.
19. Authorization for Mayor Clark to sign letter of support for expanding the Impact Development Fund's Down Payment Assistance Program to Ouray County - Town Manager.

WRITTEN REPORTS Written reports may be provided for informational purposes prior to the meeting updating Council on various matters that may or may not warrant discussion and action.

20. Town Manager's Report.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS Informational verbal reports from Councilors pertaining to the following committees, commissions and organizations:

Committees & Commissions:

Ridgway Planning Commission - Councilor Meyer and Mayor Clark

Ridgway Parks, Trails & Open Space Committee - Mayor Pro Tem Johnson
Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team - Councilor Grambley
Ridgway Scholarship Committee - Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark

Board Appointments:

Ouray County Weed Board - Councilor Lakin; alternate - Town Engineer
Ouray County Joint Planning Board - Councilor Meyer, citizens Rod Fitzhugh & Tom McKenney;
alternate - Mayor Pro Tem Johnson
Sneffels Energy Board - Councilor Lakin and Public Works Services Administrator; alternate -
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson
Region 10 Board - Mayor Clark
WestCO Dispatch Board - Town Marshal; alternate - Town Manager
Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region - Town Manager; alternate - Public Works
Services Administrator
Ouray County Transit Committee - Public Works Services Administrator; alternate - Town Manager
Ouray County Water Users Association - Councilor Meyer

Liaisons:

Chamber of Commerce - Councilmember Lakin
Communities That Care Coalition - Mayor Clark
Ouray County Fairgrounds - Councilor Schuyler

ADJOURNMENT

Deadline for agenda items for next regular meeting, Wednesday, February 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.,
Town Clerk's Office, 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

Consent Agenda

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The Town Council convened via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting platform, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. via Zoom Meeting. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Grambley, Lakin, Meyer, Schuyler, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 11, 2020.
2. Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of November 10, 2020.
3. Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 19, 2020.
4. Minutes of Joint Workshop held on November 25, 2020.
5. Register of Demands for December 2020.
6. Letter of support for Joint Dark Sky Community Designation.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Meyer and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve the consent calendar.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7. Acknowledgement of donation to construct pavilion in the Athletic Park

The Town Planner thanked the anonymous donor who funded construction of the pavilion in the Athletic Park and presented a video documenting the various building stages by Stryker Construction. The Mayor displayed the dedication plaque which will be installed at the facility which was designed by Reynolds, Ash and Associates.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Adoption of the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget and setting of Property Tax Levies for 2021

Staff Report from the Town Clerk dated 12-2-20 presenting resolutions to adopt the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget and set the Property Tax Mill Levy.

The Town Clerk/Treasurer reported the Council was presented with the draft budget at the regular meeting of October 14th; discussed the draft document and five and ten year capital improvement plans at the budget retreat on October 17th; held a public hearing and discussed the documents at the regular meeting of November 11th and reviewed all documents at a workshop meeting held on November 19th. She noted the Council is being presented with

three resolutions to appropriate expenditures; adopt the budget; and adopt the property tax mill levy for certification to Ouray County. A number of other documents affiliated with adoption of the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget will be presented later in the agenda, the Capital Projects and Five Year Capital Improvement Plan; Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan; and the 2021 Strategic Plan.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson to adopt Resolution No. 20-11 of the Town of Ridgway, Appropriating Sums of Money to the Various Funds in the Amount and for the Purpose as Set Forth Below for the 2021 Budget Year. Councilor Lakin seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

ACTION:

Councilmember Meyer moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-12 of the Town of Ridgway, Adopting a Budget for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January 2021, and Ending on the Last Day of December 2021, Councilor Grambley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Schuyler, seconded by Councilor Meyer and approved by a unanimous roll call vote to adopt Resolution No. 20-13 of the Town of Ridgway, Adopting the Property Tax Levy for the Year 2021 for Certification to the Ouray County Commissioners.

9. Extension request to meet conditions for Replat of Block 12, Lots 1-3; Address: 953 Moffat Street; Zone: Historic Residential; Applicant and Owner: Ellen Hunter

Staff Report dated 12-9-20 from the Town Planner presenting a request for extension to replat 953 Moffat Street.

The Town Planner explained Council has received a request for extension for the replat approved 7-8-20 with 180 days to meet the requirements. On 11-27-20 the applicant, Ellen Hunter, submitted a letter of request to extend the deadline due to inability to provide needed electrical service to the newly created lot. Town regulations do not allow use of the Town right of way for excavation after November, which is necessary for installation of the service lines. The request is to extend the 1-4-21 deadline to expire on 7-4-21.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved to approve a six month extension for the Hunter Replat for Block 12, Lots 1 - 3 with the conditions assigned at the July 8, 2020 Council meeting to be met before the final plat can be recorded. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

10. Adoption of Ordinance Amending Section 8-4-2 of the Ridgway Municipal Code to enact an expiration date for use of Medical and Retail Marijuana Licenses

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 12-1-20 presenting an ordinance for second reading which will require marijuana facilities to place licenses to use within 90 days of the issuance date, or the license would be forfeited. He noted this would apply to all existing, new or renewed licenses.

ACTION:

Councilor Schuyler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 07-2020 amending Section 8-4-2 of the Ridgway Municipal Code to Enact an Expiration Date for use of Medical and Retail Marijuana Licenses, seconded by Councilor Meyer the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

POLICY MATTERS

11. Adoption of the 2021 Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans

The Town Clerk/Treasurer presented the 2021 Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans.

Based on a question from Council, there was discussion between the Council and staff regarding improvements to the alley pan between the Rio Grande Building and Mountain Market.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Grambley to adopt the 2021 Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans, seconded by Councilor Schuyler the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

12. Adoption of the 2021 Strategic Plan

Staff Report from the Town Manager presenting the 2021 Strategic Plan.

Manager Neill explained the Strategic Plan provides a policy document and tool to implement the Master Plan, other adopted plans, and special projects. After adoption the plan will inform the community of directive actions and investments planned by the Council, and provides direction to staff in budget preparation and developing work plans.

The Council discussed the goal of implementing more renewable energy and generation sources, and it was agreed to hold a workshop to formulate ideas to begin implementation.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin, seconded by Councilor Meyer and unanimously carried on a roll call vote to adopt the 2021 Strategic Plan.

13. Introduction of Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map by Rezoning a Portion of Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1, Lot 4R, Block 2 from I-1 to I-2 and a Portion of Lot 2, Block 8 from I-2 to I-1

Staff Report dated 12-9-20 from the Town Planner presenting an ordinance to amend the official zoning map.

Planner Coburn explained at the Council meeting of 11-14-18 the Council conditionally approved a replat for River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1. The owner has requested a rezone to align newly adjusted lot lines created due to the replat. The request will change two portions of the property lines from an angle to straight lines, and rezone the areas from Industrial 1 and 2. She noted all rezoning must be approved through adoption of an ordinance.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to introduce the Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map by Rezoning a Portion of Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1, Lot 4R, Block 2 from I-1 to I-2 and a Portion of Lot 2, Block 8 from I-2 to I-1. Councilor Schuyler seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

14. Lease Agreement with the Chamber of Commerce for the Visitor's Center building and adjacent property

The Town Manager presented a draft agreement with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce to take effect January 1st, for a twenty year lease of the visitor center building. He explained a subcommittee of Council and Chamber representatives will be meeting to prepare a plan for the building and Heritage Park, which will be presented to the Council within the next few months.

Hilary Lewkowitz representing the Chamber, explained staff has met to review basic maintenance which needs to be performed on the building. Manager Neill noted repairs to the premises are addressed in the lease agreement.

ACTION:

Councilor Meyer moved to approve the lease between the Town and Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce to begin January 2, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Grambley. On a call for the roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

15. Follow up discussion pertaining to relocation of the historic jail

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 12-4-20 presenting a background and follow up to discussion held at the prior meeting regarding relocating the historic jail.

Based on direction from Council at the previous meeting, the Town Manager reported staff is recommending not to relocate the structure to Town property. He noted due to historic preservation of the structure, it should be placed at the Ranch History or Railroad Museums.

Joan Chismire representing the museums noted the organizations are committed to preserving the "non habitable structure". Patrick O'Leary who is donating the structure agreed with the recommendation.

There was discussion by the Council with those involved in the relocation. Consensus of the Council was the historic jail should be placed at the museum.

16. Agreement for Legal Services with Bo James Nerlin, P.C.

Town Attorney Bo Nerlin explained he transitioned to a new firm in August, and Council agreed to continue the existing agreement to the end of 2020. With the new year, he noted, any renewal of services will be with the new firm, and will continue to be on a yearly basis, with termination by either party with thirty day notice.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Meyer, seconded by Councilor Schuyler to approve the professional services agreement between the Town and Bo James Nerlin, P.C. for the year of 2021. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

17. Letters of interest to fill the vacancy on the Town Council

Town Clerk's Notice of Vacancy on the Town Council and Manager's Staff Report dated 12-3-20 presenting letters of interest to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Councilmember Tessa Cheek, and serve the remaining term of three months.

Manager Neill noted letters of interest were received from six applicants, and Roger Sagal has withdrawn his name from consideration.

The Mayor suggested each candidate be given an opportunity to address the Council. The applicants Robb Austin, Dan Bartashius, Angela Ferrelli and Michelle Montague were interviewed by the Council. Applicant Robert Collins was not present at the meeting.

There was discussion and comments by the Council.

ACTION:

Councilmember Schuyler moved, with Councilor Grambley seconding to appoint Angela Ferrelli to fill the seat on the Town Council until the next election. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

18. Reallocation of CARES Act funding from the Department of Local Affairs

The Town Manager explained the Council approved at the previous meeting a reallocation of a portion of the CARES Act funding to the City of Ouray. The Department of Local Affairs is requesting a letter from the Council to reappropriate the funds.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to approve submission of a letter reallocating a portion of Ridgway's CARE Act funding to the City of Ouray. The motion was seconded by Councilor Meyer and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

19. Appointment of member to the Economic Resiliency Plan policy group

The Town Manager explained EPS is developing an economic resiliency plan for the Town, City and County and are requesting an elected official from each entity serve on a policy group to provide input and participate in the preparation.

The Council agreed Councilor Meyer will serve as the Council representative.

20. Reappointments to the Planning Commission

Letter from Mayor Clark reaffirming Planning Commission appointments for 2021.

STAFF REPORTS

The Town Manager presented a written monthly report and reviewed some of the items. He announced the Town has been awarded grant funding from the Department of Local Affairs for a granular activated system at the water plant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Town Council enter into an executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding enforcement of the Municipal Code and uses within the Residential Zone District.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Meyer, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and unanimously carried on a roll call vote to enter into closed session.

The Council entered into executive session at 8:35 p.m. with the Town Attorney, Town Manager, and Town Clerk.

The Council reconvened to open session at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk

MINUTES OF JOINT WORKSHOP
RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL,
OURAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
OURAY CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 10, 2020

The Town Council convened at 6:00 p.m. for a Joint Workshop with the Ouray County Commissioners and Ouray City Council via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting platform, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy, due to COVID-19. In attendance from the Council Councilors Grambley, Lakin, Meyer, Schuyler and Mayor Clark. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson was absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Joint Workshop dated December 4, 2020.

The purpose of the meeting was to allow the policymakers an opportunity to discuss and strategize about planning, recovery and economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk

MINUTES OF JOINT WORKSHOP
RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL,
OURAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
OURAY CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 23, 2020

The Town Council convened at 6:00 p.m. for a Joint Workshop with the Ouray County Commissioners and Ouray City Council via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting platform, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy, due to COVID-19. In attendance from the Council Councilors Ferrelli, Lakin, Meyer, Schuyler and Mayor Clark. Councilmember Grambley and Mayor Pro Tem Johnson were absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Joint Workshop dated December 17, 2020.

The purpose of the meeting was to allow the policymakers an opportunity to discuss and strategize about planning, recovery and economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk

MINUTES OF JOINT WORKSHOP
RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL,
OURAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
OURAY CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 7, 2021

The Town Council convened at 6:00 p.m. for a Joint Workshop with the Ouray County Commissioners and Ouray City Council via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting platform, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy, due to COVID-19. In attendance from the Council Councilors Ferrelli, Grambley, Lakin, Meyer, Schuyler and Mayor Clark. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson was absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Joint Workshop dated January 6, 2021.

The purpose of the meeting was to allow the policymakers an opportunity to discuss and strategize about planning, recovery and economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk

Town of Ridgway
Register of Demands
January 2021

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
Fishbone Graphics & Screen Pr...		Alpine-Operating Account	
	denim shirts (winter)	734POO · Safety Equipment	-75.06
	denim shirts (winter)	634GO2 · Safety Equipment	-75.07
	denim shirts (winter)	934WOO · Safety Equipment	-75.07
	denim shirts (winter)	934SOO · Safety Equipment	-75.06
TOTAL			-300.26
Verizon Wireless		Alpine-Operating Account	
		741POO · Telephone	-40.50
		943SOO · Telephone	-64.44
		943WOO · Telephone	-113.44
		843GO3 · Telephone	-162.00
		543GOO · Telephone	-91.00
		643GO2 · Telephone	-40.50
		552GOO · GIS Mapping - admin	-10.00
		952SOO · GIS Mapping - sewer	-10.01
		952WOO · GIS Mapping - water	-50.02
		830GO3 · Computer	-160.04
TOTAL			-741.95
Pinnacol Assurance		Alpine-Operating Account	
		804GO3 · Workers Compensation Insur...	-2,375.00
TOTAL			-2,375.00
CML		Alpine-Operating Account	
	2021 CML	522GOO · Dues & Memberships	-1,281.00
TOTAL			-1,281.00
Blue360 Media		Alpine-Operating Account	
	peace officer's handbooks (5)	884GO3 · Traffic & Investigations	-336.35
TOTAL			-336.35

Town of Ridgway
Register of Demands
January 2021

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
Caselle Inc		Alpine-Operating Account	
	Jan 2021	914SOO · Consulting & Engineering Servs	-159.50
	Jan 2021	914WOO · Consulting & Engineering Ser...	-159.50
	Feb 2021	914SOO · Consulting & Engineering Servs	-159.50
	Feb 2021	914WOO · Consulting & Engineering Ser...	-159.50
TOTAL			-638.00
Colorado Code Consulting, LLC		Alpine-Operating Account	
	plan review - S2C	519GOO · Contractual Services	-472.50
TOTAL			-472.50
SESAC		Alpine-Operating Account	
	use of music @ public events	533GOO · Economic Development	-483.00
TOTAL			-483.00
Pro Velocity		Alpine-Operating Account	
		820GO3 · IT Services	-21.25
		556GOO · IT Services	-21.25
		556GOO · IT Services	-552.50
		820GO3 · IT Services	-106.25
	Feb 2021 maintenance	556GOO · IT Services	-166.67
	Feb 2021 maintenance	615GO2 · IT Services	-166.66
	Feb 2021 maintenance	729POO · IT	-166.66
	Feb 2021 maintenance	820GO3 · IT Services	-166.67
	Feb 2021 maintenance	917WOO · IT Services	-166.67
	Feb 2021 maintenance	917SOO · IT Services	-166.67
	Jan 2021 maintenance	556GOO · IT Services	-166.67
	Jan 2021 maintenance	615GO2 · IT Services	-166.66
	Jan 2021 maintenance	729POO · IT	-166.66
	Jan 2021 maintenance	820GO3 · IT Services	-166.67
	Jan 2021 maintenance	917WOO · IT Services	-166.67
	Jan 2021 maintenance	917SOO · IT Services	-166.67
	computer - Christian	571GOO · Office Equipment Purchase	-1,045.00
TOTAL			-3,746.25

Town of Ridgway
Register of Demands
January 2021

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
Western Paper Distributors		Alpine-Operating Account	
		732PO1 · Supplies - community center	-75.10
		732POO · Supplies & Materials	-75.10
TOTAL			-150.20
USABlueBook		Alpine-Operating Account	
	hydrant flags	632GO2 · Supplies & Materials	-214.13
TOTAL			-214.13
Honnen Equipment Company		Alpine-Operating Account	
	cutting edge - grader	661GO2 · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-485.72
	cutting edge - grader	961WOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-161.90
	12/7-1/3 loader	662GO2 · SnowRemoval Equip&Services	-2,450.00
	return freight - loader	662GO2 · SnowRemoval Equip&Services	-675.00
TOTAL			-3,772.62
PARC		Alpine-Operating Account	
		5100GO1 · Public Art Ridgway Colorado	-3,000.00
TOTAL			-3,000.00
Colorado Avalanche Informatio...		Alpine-Operating Account	
		5138GO1 · Friends CO Avalance Info	-2,500.00
TOTAL			-2,500.00
CIRSA		Alpine-Operating Account	
	equip breakdown	920WOO · Insurance (Property/Casualty)	-223.00
	equip breakdown	920SOO · Insurance (Property/Casulty)	-223.00
TOTAL			-446.00

Town of Ridgway
Register of Demands
January 2021

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
CIRSA		Alpine-Operating Account	
		920SOO · Insurance (Property/Casulty)	-7,905.56
TOTAL			-7,905.56
ASCAP		Alpine-Operating Account	
	use of music @ public events	533GOO · Economic Development	-367.00
TOTAL			-367.00
Hartman Brothers Inc		Alpine-Operating Account	
		661GO2 · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-2.28
		961SOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-2.27
		961WOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-2.27
TOTAL			-6.82
UNCC		Alpine-Operating Account	
		915WOO · Dues & memberships	-10.43
		915SOO · Dues & Memberships	-10.43
TOTAL			-20.86
National Main Street CTR		Alpine-Operating Account	
	2021 Main St. membership	533GOO · Economic Development	-375.00
TOTAL			-375.00
Ouray County Road & Bridge		Alpine-Operating Account	
	Dec 2020	560GOO · Gas & Oil	-63.80
	Dec 2020	660GO2 · Gas & Oil	-604.85
	Dec 2020	760POO · Gas & Oil	-115.52
	Dec 2020	960WOO · Gas & Oil	-252.03
	Dec 2020	960SOO · Gas & Oil	-327.68
	Dec 2020	860GO3 · Gas & Oil	-520.64
TOTAL			-1,884.52

Town of Ridgway
Register of Demands
January 2021

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
True Value		Alpine-Operating Account	
		632GO2 · Supplies & Materials	-44.85
		732POO · Supplies & Materials	-29.99
		732PO1 · Supplies - community center	-46.97
		832GO3 · Equipment & Supplies	-41.94
		932SOO · Supplies & Materials	-20.87
		932WOO · Supplies & Materials	-103.55
	shelving units	CP1901 · Construction	-251.97
TOTAL			-540.14
The Paper Clip LLC		Alpine-Operating Account	
		541GOO · Office Supplies	-146.21
		541GOO · Office Supplies	-119.96
		941WOO · Office Supplies	-24.96
		941SOO · Office Supplies	-24.96
TOTAL			-316.09
Mesa County HDR Laboratory		Alpine-Operating Account	
		990WOO · Testing - water	-20.00
TOTAL			-20.00

STAFF REPORT

Subject: Request for water leak adjustment - Account #2470.0/Martinez
Initiated By: Pam Kraft, MMC, Town Clerk
Date: December 15, 2020

BACKGROUND:

Attached is a water leak adjustment request from Claire Martinez. A pipe burst on the property at 854 Charles Street and was repaired as soon as it was discovered.

ANALYSIS:

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 9-1-23 the Council has the authority to authorize water leak adjustments. The language is as follows:

9-1-23:WATER BREAK ADJUSTMENTS.

(A) The Town Council shall have authority to make an equitable adjustment to a water bill when the bill is extraordinarily high due to an undiscovered break downstream of the customer's meter if the break was not caused by the customer's negligence and the customer did not have a reasonable opportunity to discover the break more quickly than it was discovered.

(B) No adjustment shall be allowed unless the customer submits a written request for the adjustment within fifteen days of the mailing of the bill in question and unless the leak has been repaired.

(C) The adjustment shall not reduce the customer's bill below the cost to the Town of producing the water supplied through the meter.

The customer used 54,100 gallons in November and was billed \$752.50. This calculates to 49,100 gallons over the base allotment; based on the leak adjustment rate of \$11.00 for each 1,000 gallons between 5,000 and 10,000 gallons; \$13.00 between 10,000 and 18,000 gallons; and \$15.00 over 18,000 gallons, the customer can be awarded a water leak adjustment credit of \$184.95.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is a loss in revenue when the water rate is decreased.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the water leak adjustment credit of \$184.95 for Account #2470.0/Martinez

ATTACHMENT: Email dated December 4, 2020.

Pam Kraft

From: LARA MARTINEZ <~~laramartinez@uol.com~~>
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2020 3:32 PM
To: Pam Kraft
Cc: Mom
Subject: Request Forgiveness of November 2020 Water Bill

Hi Pam,

I sending this email on behalf of my mom, Claire Martinez who lives at 293 N Charlotte Street in Ridgway. Her account number is 2460 and we recently had a massive water leak which has now been resolved. Calire has paid the bill \$900.27 in full but she is asking for a forgiveness of the overage of \$787.50 of normal bill of \$112.77.

Thank you for your time and help in this matter. If you have any questions please feel free to call my mom, Claire at ~~925-556-8035~~.

Sincerely,

Lara Martinez ~~925-556-8135~~
Daughter of Claire Martinez

AGENDA ITEM #9

Staff Report

Request: Adoption of Ordinance 01-2021 for Rezone
Legal: Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1, Lots 4R Block 2 and Lot 2 Block 8
Address: 687 N Cora and TBD N Cora Street
Parcel #: 430516202006 and 430516223069
Zone: Light Industrial 1 (I-1) and Light Industrial 2 (I-2)
Applicant: Town of Ridgway for Ridgway Light Industrial LLC
Owners: Chad Baillie and Ridgway Light Industrial, LLC
Initiated By: Shay Coburn, Town Planner
Date: January 13, 2021

BACKGROUND

Attached for second reading and adoption is an ordinance that would amend the Town's zoning map. This ordinance was introduced by Council during the December 9, 2020 Council meeting.

The Town is requesting to rezone two small portion of Lots 4R Block 2 and Lot 2 Block 8 of the Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1. This rezone request is to align zoning with the newly adjusted lot lines. This request meets the criteria within the Municipal Code for a rezone.

The property and public hearing have been noticed in compliance with the Town Municipal Code.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

I move to adopt Ordinance 01-2021 Amending the Official Zoning Map By Rezoning a Portion of Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1, Lot 4R, Block 2 From "I-1" Light Industrial 1 to "I-2" Light Industrial 2 and a Portion of Lot 2, Block 8 From "I-2" Light Industrial 2 to "I-1" Light Industrial 1."

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance 01-2021

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2021

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BY REZONING A PORTION OF REPLAT OF BLOCKS 2, 8 AND ALLEY "A" OF THE RIVER PARK RIDGWAY BUSINESS PARK FILING 1, LOT 4R, BLOCK 2 FROM "I-1" LIGHT INDUSTRIAL 1 TO "I-2" LIGHT INDUSTRIAL 2 AND A PORTION OF LOT 2, BLOCK 8 FROM "I-2" LIGHT INDUSTRIAL 2 TO "I-1" LIGHT INDUSTRIAL 1

WHEREAS, The Town Council, following notice and hearing, pursuant to Section 7-3-22 of the Ridgway Municipal Code, hereby finds that rezoning the following tract of land located within the Town of Ridgway, from "I-1" Light Industrial 1 to "I-2" Light Industrial 2 is not adverse to the public health, safety and welfare, and is in substantial conformity with the Master Plan:

A portion of Lot 4R, Block 2 of the Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1 within the Town of Ridgway, Ouray County, Colorado, as further described in Exhibit 1.

WHEREAS, The Town Council, following notice and hearing, pursuant to Section 7-3-22 of the Ridgway Municipal Code, hereby finds that rezoning the following tract of land located within the Town of Ridgway, from "I-2" Light Industrial 2 to "I-1" Light Industrial 1 is not adverse to the public health, safety and welfare, and is in substantial conformity with the Master Plan:

A portion of Lot 2, Block 8 of the Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1 within the Town of Ridgway, Ouray County, Colorado, as further described in Exhibit 1.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.

The Official Zoning Map is hereby amended to designate the first described tract of land as "I-2" Light Industrial 2 and to designate the second described tract of land as "I-1" Light Industrial 1.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEARING on December 9, 2020 and setting such public hearing for January 13, 2021 at Ridgway Town Hall, located at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

BY:

ATTEST:

John Clark, Mayor

Pam Kraft, MMC, Town Clerk

ADOPTED by the Ridgway Town Council on January 13, 2021.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO

By _____
John Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Kraft, MMC, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bo James Nerlin, Town Attorney

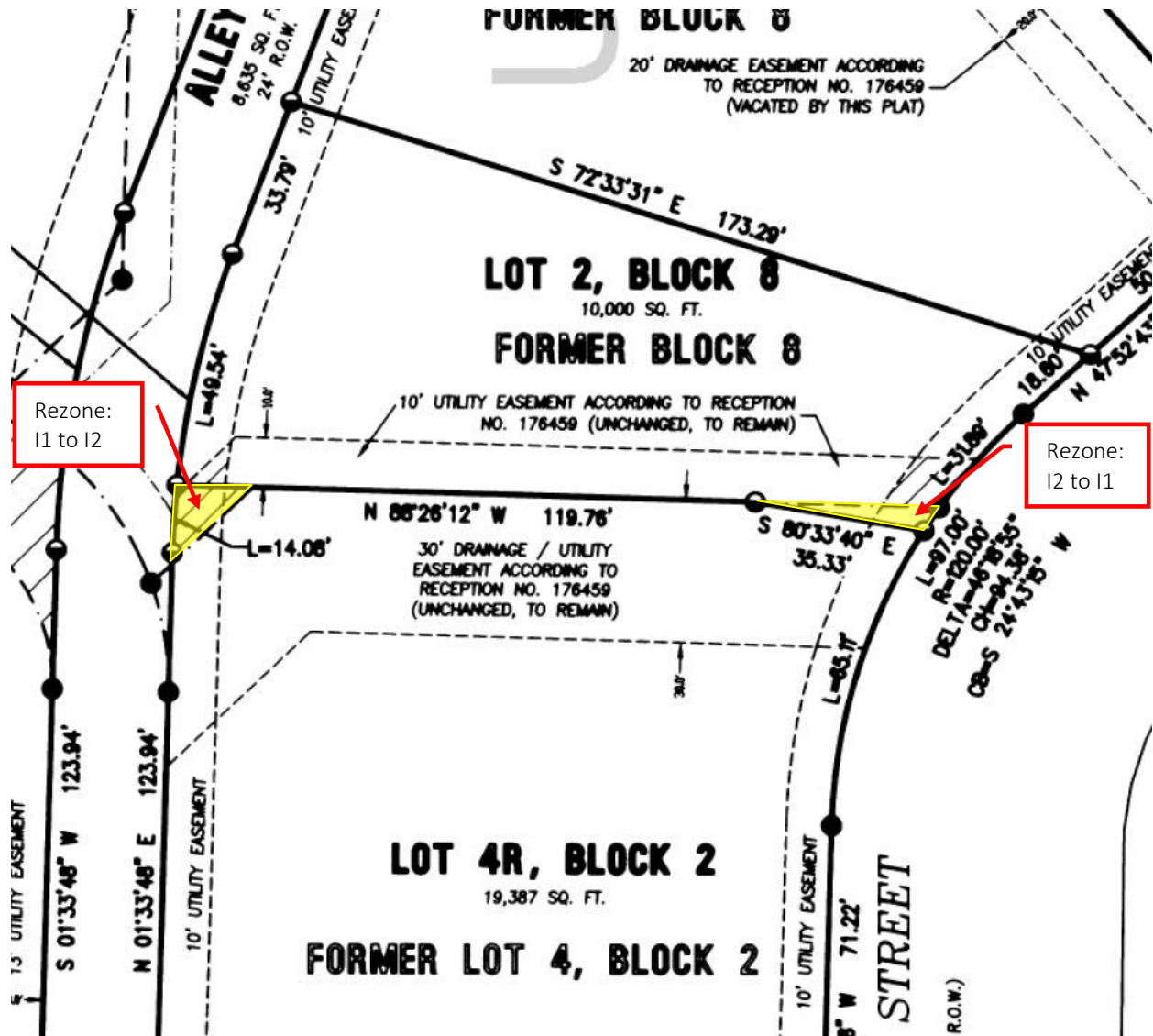
CERTIFICATE OF TOWN CLERK

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced at a meeting of the Ridgway Town Council on December 9, 2020, published by title and posted thereafter, and adopted by the Town Council on January 13, 2021.

(SEAL)

Pam Kraft, MMC, Town Clerk

Exhibit 1



AGENDA ITEM #10



To: Town Council
From: Shay Coburn, Town Planner
Date: January 13, 2021
Re: Release of Subdivision Improvements Agreement for Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1

ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL

Review and release of the Subdivisions Improvements Agreement for Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1.

PROPOSED MOTION

"I move to release the Subdivision Improvements Agreement for Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1 recorded in Ouray County records at reception No. 226970 on November 12, 2020 as terms of the Agreement have been met with the conditions that the final as-built documents are approved by the Town Engineer then submitted to Town Hall as required and that final invoices are paid before the release is finalized."

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

The Ridgway Town Council entered into a Subdivision Improvements Agreement for this replat (see attached) at the regular November 11, 2020 meeting. Release of this Agreement is now before Council. If approved, the bond will be returned.

While most all of the terms of the Agreement have been met, there are a few things to note:

1. The final as-built document was just sent to the Town Engineer for final review and is pending final approval. Once approved, the Applicant will need to submit documents and files to Town Hall as required by Town's Standard Specification.
2. Final invoices for Town Engineer and/or Town Attorney services should be paid before the release is finalized and recorded with the county.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Subdivision Improvements Agreement recorded on November 12, 2020 in Ouray County records at Reception No. 226970
2. Release of Subdivision Improvements Agreement

**SUBDIVISION IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into between, Ridgway Light Industrial, LLC, a Colorado Limited Liability Company (hereinafter sometimes referred to a Subdivider) and the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, (hereinafter sometimes referred to as Town) pursuant to the Subdivision Regulations of the Town.

WITNESSETH:

The Subdivider agrees that in consideration of recording the plat map for the Subdivision known as Replat of Blocks 2, 8 and Alley "A" of the River Park Ridgway Business Park Filing 1 as follows:

1. The Subdivider agrees to cause the below listed improvements to be constructed and completed in accordance with the replat other plans and documents, as approved by the Town, and in accordance with the applicable design and construction standards of the Town's Subdivision Regulations, including the Town's Road Specifications, and shall cause such improvements to be completed by the date specified below. Power, gas, and telephone facilities shall be constructed in compliance with the requirements of the affected public utility and Town specifications. "As built" plans and drawings shall be submitted upon completion. All improvements shall be designed and constructed in accordance with good engineering practices.

Improvements	Completion Date
Remove Century Link pedestals from west side of property	December 31, 2020
Install Century Link lines in newly established easement on west side of Alley A	December 31, 2020
Replace the ADA ramp on N Railroad, near N Laura and fill/seed the area around it	December 31, 2020
As built drawings	December 1, 2020
Total Cost	\$5,000.00

2. As security to guarantee the proper construction and acceptance of the above improvements by the completion date specified, Subdivider hereby has deposited a cash escrow with the Town in the amount of \$5,000.00. Such escrow may be used by the Town to recover all its costs and reasonable attorney's fees if such improvements are not installed, constructed and accepted, as required. The Town may also enforce compliance by certifying the costs estimated to complete the improvements together with costs of collection including attorney's fees, to the County Treasurer, as a delinquent water, sewer or other charge to be collected against the above described property similarly as delinquent taxes are collected.

3. When Subdivider has completed any or all of the required improvements, Subdivider shall submit, when required, "as built" drawings and request the Town or affected utility to inspect such improvements for proper completion. If the Town or affected utility determines that the improvement or improvements have been completed in accordance with the requirements of this Agreement and the Town's Subdivision Regulations, it shall certify such, in writing, and the applicable portion of the security for the completed improvements may be released. Subdivider shall repair or replace any improvement which is defective or fails within 2 years of the Town's certificate of acceptance. Private improvements shall be properly maintained thereafter by the lot owners and owner's association.
4. This Agreement shall be binding upon the heirs, successors and assigns of the Subdivider or the Town, provided that Subdivider may not assign this Agreement without express written consent of the Town. This Agreement shall be a covenant running with the land as described above.
5. This Agreement may be enforced by the Town in any lawful manner, and the Town may compel the Subdivider to adhere to the agreement by an action for specific performance or an injunction in any court of competent jurisdiction. Subdivider understands that no water or sewer taps or building or occupancy permits shall be granted or issued and no sale of any lot may occur if Subdivider is in breach of any provision of this Agreement at any time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the 11TH day of NOVEMBER, 2020.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO

By


Mayor

ATTEST:


Town Clerk

Ridgway Light Industrial, LLC

By


Glenn D. Pauls, Manager

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF OURAY)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 12th day of November, 2020, by John Clark Mayor and Pam Krutz Town Clerk of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado.

Witness my hand and official seal.
My commission expires:



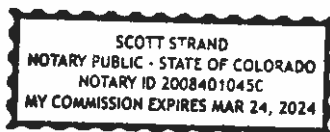
Karen R Christian
Notary
PO Box 523
Ridgway, CO 81432
Address

STATE OF Colorado)
) ss.
COUNTY OF La Plata)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 29 day of October, 2020, by Glenn D. Pauls, Manager of Ridgway Light Industrial, LLC.

Witness my hand and official seal.
My commission expires: 3-24-2024

(SEAL)



[Signature]
Notary
302 Adams Ranch Rd #2
Address Telluride CO 81435

RELEASE OF SUBDIVISION IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado and Ridgway Light Industrial, LLC entered into a Subdivision Improvements Agreement recorded on November 12, 2020 in Ouray County records at Reception Number 226970; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, received \$5,000.00 in escrow as a security to guarantee the proper construction of the improvements specified in the Subdivision Improvements Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Ridgway Light Industrial, LLC has constructed and completed the improvements listed in the recorded Subdivision Improvements Agreement in accordance with the terms of such Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO, HEREBY RELEASES THIS SUBDIVISION IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT FOR THE REPLAT OF BLOCK 2, 8 AND ALLEY “A” OF THE RIVER PARK RIDGWAY BUSINESS PARK FILING 1 according to the official plat thereof on file in the Ouray County Records.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this document has been executed this _____ day of _____, 2021.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO

By: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF OURAY)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 2021, by _____, Mayor and _____, Town Clerk of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado

Witness my hand and official seal.

My commission expires

(SEAL)

Notary

Address

AGENDA ITEM #11



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 8, 2021
Agenda Topic: Review and action on revocable permit application for use of Town property

SUMMARY:

Attached is an Encroachment Permit Application that has been submitted by Kevin and Cheryl O'Brien who reside at 1015 Clinton Street. They are requesting use of a portion of undeveloped N. Elizabeth Street for designated parking spaces associated with a home occupation business at 1015 Clinton Street (O'Brien's Custom Welding).

ANALYSIS:

The use of the Encroachment Permit Application is generally envisioned to be short-term use. Staff is interpreting the request as exclusive use of this portion of the Town right-of-way for their home/home occupation. Section 14-3-1 of the Ridgway Municipal Code states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to use public property or rights of way including, but not limited to that portion of any street right of way outside of the roadway, for private purposes except as permitted by ordinance, franchise, public right, lease, Council permits, or otherwise in accordance with law. prohibits occupation of the Town streets, such as North Elizabeth. The Town allows for parties to submit an encroachment application for use and/or occupation of the Town right of way." Moreover, in the Home Occupation section of the Ridgway Municipal Code, 7-3-18(A)(5) states, "No business activity or storage of property involved in the business may take place outside of enclosed structures, except for horticultural activities." Staff opines that if they require designated parking on Town right-of-way in order to operate their home occupation, it would no longer qualify as a home occupation as business activity would be taking place outside of the enclosed structure.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

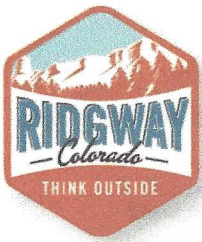
Based on all of the information above, staff does not recommend approval of this Encroachment Permit Application based on the precedents it would set.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

"I move to deny the Revocable Encroachment Permit for use of Town right-of-way for Cheryl and Kevin O'Brien."

ATTACHMENT:

Encroachment Permit Application



Required Attachments for the Application

- ☒ Map of encroachment area showing the proposed location of the encroachment or excavation and location of work, depth of utilities & tie-ins
- ☐ Workman's Compensation for applicant and contractor (refer to RMC §14.5.8)
- ☐ Liability Insurance for applicant and contractor (refer to RMC §14.5.8)
- ☐ Plan showing protection of subject and adjacent property, if applicable
- ☐ Engineered drawings (CAD format), if applicable

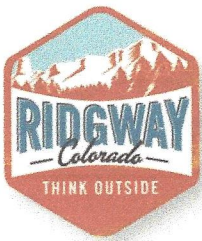
Applicable Costs (to be calculated by Town staff and paid at the time of permit issuance)

- Permit Fee (Non-refundable \$100.00-minor or \$250.00-major)
- Administration Costs Deposit (Resolution 07-07 and 12-08/RMC 7-3-20)
- Administrative Costs – Final
- Performance Security – cash or irrevocable LOC (\$2 per sq. ft. non-road; \$5 per sq. ft. gravel; \$10 per sq. ft. for asphalt/hard surface)
- Rental fee per Resolution 19-06

[Signature] Cheryl O'Brien 12-15-20
Applicant Signature* Date

Contractor Signature* Date

*Note that the Applicant and Contractor will also need to sign the permit once issued.



Official Use Only

Permit No.: _____

Date Received: _____

Initials: _____

Encroachment and Excavation Application

Applicant Information

Name **Kevin and Cheryl O'Brien**

Application Date **12/14/2020**

Phone **970-316-1629**

Email **kobrien_welding@yahoo.com**

Project Information

Street Address for Encroachment Area **1015 Clinton**

Subdivision

Filing

Lot

Block

Contractor **na**

Phone

Email

Estimated Start Date **12/14/2020**

Estimated Completion Date **none**

Type of Encroachment (check all that apply)

☐ Parallel (along alley or street)

☐ Water

☐ Sewer

☐ Utility Installation (residential)

☐ Power

☐ Installation of Communications Utilities

☐ Utility Installation (commercial)

☐ Phone

☐ Natural Gas

☐ Driveway cut/curb cut (residential/commercial)

☐ Landscaping

☒ Other **Parking along N. Elizabeth St**

Town Infrastructure Affected by Work (check all that apply)

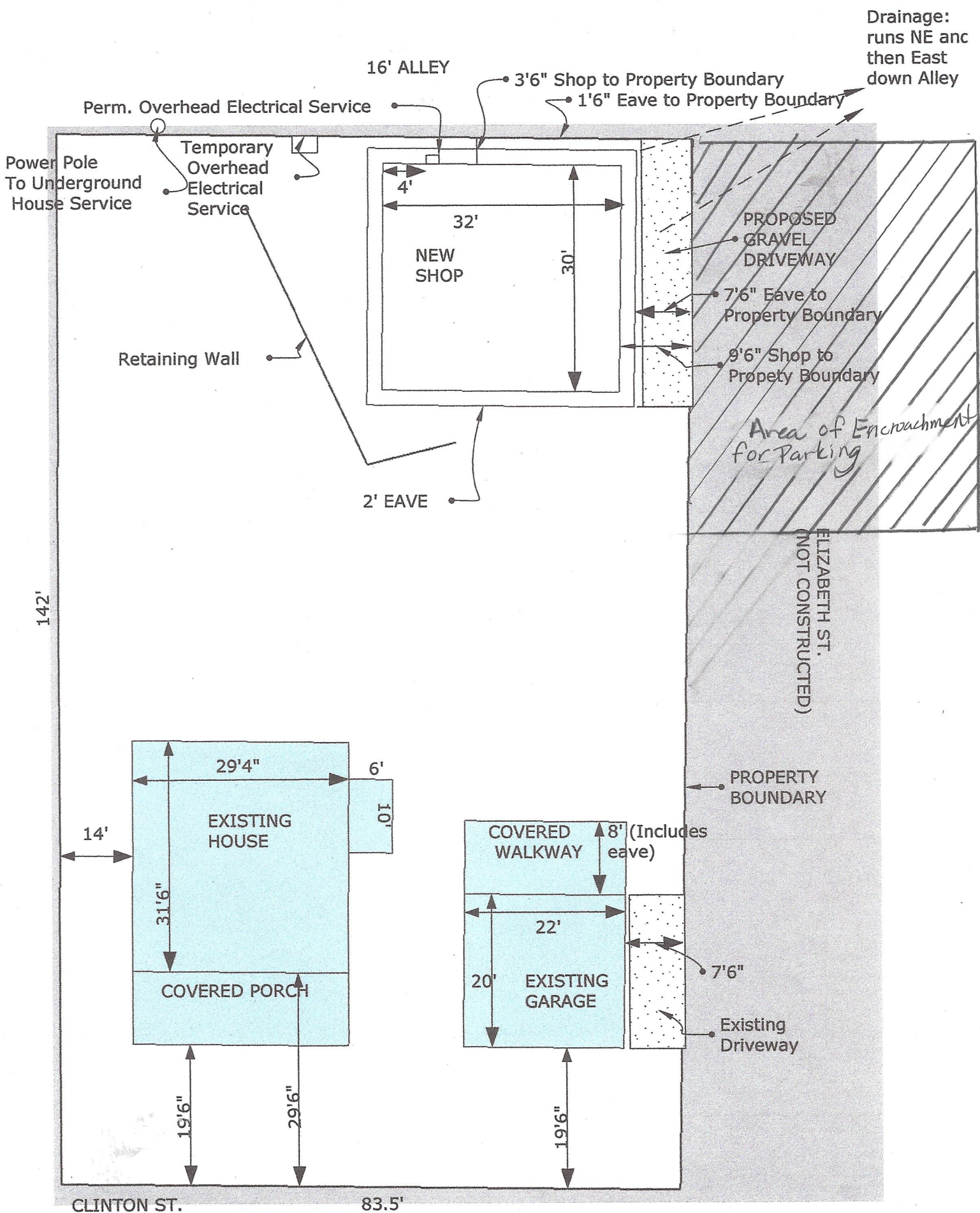
☒ Street ☐ Alley ☐ Sidewalk ☐ Landscape Area ☐ Other _____

Description of encroachment, including estimated square footage of encroachments into Town property:

Parking along N. Elizabeth Street, so that neighbors are not affected and alleyway is not blocked by friends and customers for O'Brien's Custom Welding

Is traffic control or erosion protection required? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain: _____



AGENDA ITEM #12



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Chase Jones, Public Works
Date: January 5, 2021
Agenda Topic: Granular Activated Carbon Grant and Process

BACKGROUND:

Town staff undertook a pilot testing process to explore the benefits of transitioning from chlorine dioxide treatment to Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) at the Town's water treatment plant. The initiative evolved in late summer and early fall 2020 with initial tests and cost estimates favoring GAC. GAC improved treated water's Taste and Odor, reduced disinfection byproducts, had a lower long-term cost and has less stringent licensing requirements. Based on these factors, Ridgway Town Staff submitted an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistant Grant (EIAF) application to the Department of Local Affairs (DoLA) in an effort to receive grant funds for a potential upgrade to GAC from the current chlorine dioxide machine.

In early December 2020 the Town was awarded \$100,000 through DoLA's EIAF grant. Staff has since been in discussions with our local DoLA representative regarding next steps.

Shortly after receiving the EIAF grant, Staff received updated cost estimates from a potential GAC supplier. Initial estimates resulted in a total capital cost of \$215,000 with the media needing replacement every 3-5 years. The most recent estimate has a total capital cost closer to \$280,000 with the media needing to be replaced every year or more. Media replacement was quoted to cost \$46,700 for new media or \$40,000 for reactivated media.

DISCUSSION:

The Town was fortunate to be awarded an EIAF grant to assist with upgrading the current chlorine dioxide machine to GAC. However, the upfront and yearly costs are now much higher than initially believed. The increased estimate brings the cost of GAC to roughly that of chlorine dioxide, requiring a higher level of scrutiny. Projected long-term costs for various GAC scenarios versus chlorine dioxide can be seen in the table on the following page.



	GAC – Media lasting 1yr	GAC – Media lasting 2yrs	Chlorine Dioxide 48-month lease
1st year total cost*	\$ 179,600	\$ 179,600	\$ 73,615
5 year total cost*	\$ 351,600	\$ 251,600	\$ 326,602
Total yearly cost for first 4 years	\$ 43,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 70,615
Total yearly cost after 4 years	\$ 43,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 44,143

*The GAC 1st and 5-year totals have DoLA's \$100,000 grant already taken out.

Noteworthy Assumptions and Notes:

- The GAC cost does not include staff time to plumb in the new system
- Assuming O+M of both systems will be similar with the exception of 1hr/day to perform the chlorine dioxide test
- Continuing to utilize chlorine dioxide will require an "A" licensed operator and without the plant would be a "B" license.

Items that are difficult to quantify:

- Chemical handling by employees
- Public Perception
- Taste Preferences
- Disinfection-by-products
- Unknown future regulations
- Unknown future chemical and service costs for ClO₂, previous agreements have gone up considerably each time the lease is renewed.

At \$40,000 to \$46,700 each media replacement, the ongoing operational cost of GAC is primarily dependent on the media's longevity. Replacement frequency is based on the carbon's available loading and the incoming water quality. The Town has limited Total Organic Carbon (TOC) data on which media lifespan can be estimated with. TOC samples taken in late summer and early fall suggest a lifespan of a year or less for the media; however, ecologically this period is likely to contain the highest TOC concentrations of the year. Staff is waiting on results from winter sampling and will continue to test TOC concentrations periodically for the foreseeable future. If TOC concentration drops during the winter and spring, allowing the media to be utilized for multiple years, GAC will be a cheaper long-term alternative than chlorine dioxide. If the TOC does not decrease and similar concentrations are present year-round, then GAC will turn out to be more expensive using the assumptions above.



Overall, the recent estimated cost increase coupled with a potentially drastically shorter media life brings the cost of GAC near or above the cost of a new chlorine dioxide machine. To ensure GAC is a fiscally viable solution for secondary taste and odor, further sampling is needed.

Town Staff explained the situation to our DOLA representatives and they highlighted two options for the Town:

Return the Grant: Reapply during the next cycle with the increased costs and further testing written into the grant's scope of work and timeline. This would allow for the Town to request more funding; however, there is no guarantee that the grant will be awarded.

Accept the Grant: Ask for a longer time to complete the project and continue testing. If the additional testing leads toward the GAC then proceed with it. If CIO₂ looks better, notify DOLA and return the money. The Town will have to absorb the additional capital costs of the project.

Based on the discussions with DOLA and the limited EIAF funding in the next year or so, staff recommends accepting the grant and asking for the longer time to complete the project. We have been told that extending the grant an additional 6 months or so from the proposed termination date should not be an issue. While the Town may have to pay more than originally anticipated, there is no guarantee that we will receive any funding in the next round. Noting that even our successful grant request was not fully funded.

Staff will continue to update council with test results and project developments as they occur.

AGENDA ITEM #13

STAFF REPORT

Subject: Purchase of Used Water Truck
Initiated By: Pam Kraft, MMC, Town Clerk
Date: January 7, 2021

BACKGROUND:

The 2021 Fiscal Year Budget contains \$50,000 in line item 670GO2 for purchase of a water truck. The purchase would replacement a 1976 MAC truck which is rusting through the tank, and was identified by staff in 2019 as needing to be replaced.

The Town's Procurement Policy contains a provision which allows the Town Manager to waive the formal request process for purchases in excess of \$25,000 when a request for quotes yields a better value and cost for the Town, and/or a formal bid process will not result in a competitive bidding process. The policy further identifies examples of deviation includes situations where the solicitation of competitive bids is impractical and unlikely to result in competitive purchasing, involves specialized equipment purchases, or only one vendor exists that can successfully furnish the equipment.

Staff has located a used 2005 International Water Truck, with a rebuilt engine and a new tank and spray heads, for \$37,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the deviation from procurement procedures and waive the formal request process for acquisition of equipment, and approve the purchase of a 2005 International Water Truck from Richie Trucking LLC in the amount of \$37,000 and authorize staff to enter into a purchase agreement for said equipment.

AGENDA ITEM #14



To: Ridgway Town Council
From: Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator
Date: January 7, 2021
RE: Proposed Merging of Volunteer Group under Creative Main Street

Direction Requested

This memo details a proposal to the Town Council to further merge the structure of citizen involvement for Ridgway Main Street and Ridgway Creative District, collectively known as Ridgway Creative Main Street. The Town Council serves as the authorized leadership body for both Town initiatives. The citizen committee of the Ridgway Creative District (RCD), currently called the RCD Creative Advocacy Team (C.A.T), and formerly named the Ridgway Creative District Committee, is a standing committee of the Town Council. Its members are formally approved by the Town Council with recommendation from the C.A.T. Due to this formal relationship, I am making this proposal to you and seeking your direction.

Background

The Town applied and became a prospective creative district in 2012, as a result of a strong grassroots process, and was certified as a creative district in 2013. It was recertified in 2018, upon application to Colorado Creative Industries, the State certifying body. Similarly, the Town became a Candidate Main Street community in 2012, a Designated Main Street in 2014, and achieved Graduate community status in 2020. Both of these State programs require strong citizen participation and encourage broad representation from community sectors to maintain appropriate community buy-in and programmatic actions for the community's benefit.

Originally, the Town maintained 5 citizen committees for the Main Street program and one committee for the RCD, often with additional active subcommittees. The management of so many small groups became inefficient and unsustainable for one part-time staff person. Since then, over the years, volunteers for Main Street have engaged on a project-by-project basis while the RCD maintained a standing committee of 7-11 volunteers. There is significant and intentional overlap between work plans for the two programs, known to and supported by both State agencies.

For the past few years, as I have worked to more consistently merge the two initiatives into Creative Main Street, I've regularly reported on and introduced concepts from Main Street to the RCD C.A.T. Some RCD objectives achieved Main Street objectives too. At this current juncture, with the number of volunteers decreasing since the pandemic, questions have arisen about how best to structure citizen engagement for Creative Main Street.

Current Situation

Betsy Baier recently resigned as the RCD C.A.T Chairperson and is also leaving the C.A.T. after 3 years of strong leadership. She and outgoing Vice-





Chair Brenda Ratcliff suggested that the C.A.T. be restructured to bring in Main Street representation (especially businesses) and to have one standing committee for both initiatives focused on continued efforts to strengthen a thriving and vibrant downtown. Many of Ridgway's businesses are creative enterprises. This would also include those that don't fit that label, as well as continuing to serve the creative community at large. The RCD C.A.T. discussed this concept at its meeting on December 15, 2020, and all agreed that this idea has merit and should be explored. Most expressed surprise that it hadn't happened previously because of the close association of the two programs.

Pros

- Streamlining Creative Main Street citizen engagement and structure
- Better representation of community sectors – more inclusive process
- Could attract new energy and interest
- Increased visibility of the Main Street portion of Creative Main Street
- Standing volunteer support for both programs
- Further incorporating the methodology of Main Street into the RCD process
- Opportunity to respond to pandemic-associated impacts and recovery with volunteer efforts

Cons

- Could be expecting too much of one volunteer group
- A steep learning curve for new volunteers to understand both initiatives
- A risk that increased focus on the whole downtown could reduce focus on Creatives
- Rebranding to Creative Main Street might be confusing to community
- Additional staff time required

Transition Process

If the Town Council should direct staff to move forward with this change, a small group could meet over the next 2 months, including some interested C.A.T. members, to propose structure, sector representation, and brainstorm members to invite with a clear purpose statement for the new group. This might involve an application process and direct outreach. Recommendations would be made to Town Council of new members for official start of the new Creative Main Street group. The group would meet regularly, likely continuing some CAT activities, such as First Fridays (when feasible), Space to Create support, assistance with Heritage Park development, and following through with identified objectives of Colorado Main Street mini-grant, Colorado Creative Industries grants, and other sources of funding. Additional objectives would also be identified for volunteer involvement.

AGENDA ITEM #15



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 7, 2021
Agenda Topic: Review and action on Order Extending the Declaration of a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway

ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL:

Due to the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, Council is asked to consider approving the attached Order that would extend the Declaration of a Local Disaster to June 10, 2021.

PROPOSED MOTION:

"I move to approve the Order Extending the Declaration of a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway."

SUMMARY:

On March 17, 2020, the Town Manager issued an Order Declaring a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway. The Order was issued pursuant to the authority granted to the Town Manager and issued with the approval and support of the Mayor. Subsequently, the Town Council has extended the Declaration several times and it is now set to expire on January 14, 2021. With the Town of Ridgway and Ouray County continuing to navigate the response to COVID-19, as well as the subsequent phases of vaccine distribution, reopening and economic recovery, staff is recommending that the Declaration be extended to June 10, 2021.

ATTACHMENT:

Order Extending the Declaration of a Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
ORDER EXTENDING THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER IN AND FOR
THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY

WHEREAS, the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, et. seq. (the “Act”), provides procedures for statewide and local prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, a local disaster emergency may be declared unilaterally by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision; for the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (the “Town”), the principal executive officer is the Town Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager issued an Order Declaring a Local Disaster (the “Order”) on March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Order was issued pursuant to the authority granted to the Town Manager, and issued with the approval and support of the Mayor for the Town; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to May 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2020, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to June 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2020, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to July 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2020, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to August 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2020, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to September 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2020, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to January 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to extend the Declaration of a Local Disaster; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, an "emergency" is an unexpected event that places life or property in danger and requires an immediate response through the use of state and community resources and procedures, and an "emergency epidemic" is cases of an illness or condition, communicable or noncommunicable, caused by bioterrorism, pandemic influenza, or novel and highly fatal infectious agents or biological toxins; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, this Declaration activates the response and recovery aspects of any applicable disaster emergency plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), the declaration of a local emergency shall not be continued beyond a period of seven (7) days or removed except by action of the governing board of the political subdivision for the Town, the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1), any order declaring, continuing, or terminating a local disaster "shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the county clerk and recorder, the [Town] clerk ... and with the office of emergency management"; and

WHEREAS, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was recognized by the Governor of the State of Colorado on March 10, 2020, the Town is suffering and has suffered a disaster emergency as defined in the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED on this 13th day of January, 2021, that the disaster emergency that was declared in and for the Town of Ridgway beginning on March 17, 2020, is extended to June 10, 2021, unless further extended or amended by action of the Town Council for the Town.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity, filed immediately with the office of the Ouray County Emergency Manager and a copy filed with the Ouray County Clerk and Recorder, as well as to the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THIS 13th DAY OF JANUARY, 2021

John Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

AGENDA ITEM #16



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 7, 2021
Agenda Topic: Emergency Ordinance No. 02-2021 an Emergency Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado Extending Temporary Amendments to the Sign Regulations

SUMMARY:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on May 13, 2020, Council adopted temporary amendments to the Town's Sign Regulations by way of Emergency Ordinance No. 02-2020. More specifically, that emergency ordinance relaxed certain signage requirements for lawfully operating businesses for a four-month period until September 13, 2020. Normally a business must apply for a sign permit before installing a portable sign within the Town right-of-way. In recognition of the difficult business environment created by the COVID-19 pandemic and orders related to business operations, that emergency ordinance waived the need for a portable sign on Town right-of-way proposal/sign permit application to be submitted to the Town with applicable fee and be reviewed and approved by Town staff.

On September 9, 2020, Council adopted Emergency Ordinance No. 05-2020, extending the temporary amendments to the Town's sign regulations to January 14, 2021. With the expiration date quickly approaching, staff has prepared the attached emergency ordinance extending the temporary amendments to the Town's Sign Regulations in the event that Council has an interest in extending the deadline.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve Emergency Ordinance No. 02-2021 extending temporary amendments to the Town's Sign Regulations, as written. This would extend the temporary amendments to June 10, 2021.
2. Modify the temporary amendments to the Town's Sign Regulations for a shorter or longer period of time.
3. Take no action. This would mean that Emergency Ordinance No. 02-2020 will expire on January 14, 2021, reinstating the enforcement of Section 7-3-12(G)(2)(c) and (d).

MOTION:

"I move to approve [with or without modifications] Emergency Ordinance No. 02-2021 an Emergency Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado Extending Temporary Amendments to the Sign Regulations."

ATTACHMENT:

Emergency Ordinance No. 02-2021

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 02-2021**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
EXTENDING TEMPORARY AMENDMENTS TO THE SIGN REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2020, the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway passed Emergency Ordinance No. 02-2020 adopting temporary amendments to the sign regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Ordinance of May 13, 2020, adopting temporary amendments to the sign regulations was extended by way of Emergency Ordinance No. 05-2020 on September 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Ordinance of May 13, 2020, adopting temporary amendments to the sign regulations is set to expire on January 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to have a severe economic impact on local business that may threaten the continued existence of many those businesses with locations within the Town. It is the intent of the Town Council to temporarily extend amendments to the Town's Sign Regulations in Section 7-3-12 of the Ridgway Municipal Code in order to relax certain signage requirements for lawfully operating businesses who may want additional signs during the time the Emergency Declaration is in effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO,

1. Extension of Temporary Amendments to the Sign Regulations. *Emergency Ordinance No. 02-2020 an Emergency Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado Adopting Temporary Amendments to the Sign Regulations*, attached and incorporated in its entirety, be and hereby is extended for a period of five months or until June 10, 2021.

EFFECTIVE THIS 13TH DAY OF JANUARY 2021

BY:

ATTEST:

John Clark, Mayor

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bo James Nerlin, Town Attorney

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2020-02**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
ADOPTING TEMPORARY AMENDMENTS TO THE SIGN REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (“Town”) is a home rule municipality existing pursuant to the laws of the Colorado Constitution, the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Town's Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, Article 3-8 of the Ridgway Charter allows for the adoption of an emergency ordinance when the Town Council determines that the ordinance is necessary to the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and includes such a declaration within the ordinance and is adopted by the affirmative vote of six members of the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager issued an Order Declaring a Local Disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Town Council ratified and extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to May 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2020, the Town Council extended the Declaration of a Local Disaster to June 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Governor Jared Polis issued a statewide “Safer-At-Home” order on April 27, 2020 and the month prior, the Governor ordered the closure of in-person dining at restaurants and bars and closures of other establishments to limit large gathering places. These orders have created a significant economic impact to the operation of businesses within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the health crisis has and will continue to have a severe economic impact on local business that may threaten the continued existence of many those businesses with locations within the Town. It is the intent of this emergency ordinance to temporarily adopt amendments to the Town’s Sign Regulations in Section 7-3-12 of the Ridgway Municipal Code in order to relax certain signage requirements for lawfully operating businesses who may want additional signs during the time the Emergency Declaration is in effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO the following:

Section 1. Recitals Incorporated. The above and foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference and adopted as findings and determinations of the Town Council.

Section 2. Amendment to the Code. Section 7-3-12(G)(2)(c) and (d) are hereby placed in abeyance for a period of four months or until September 13, 2020. Accordingly, the installation of a portable sign within the Town right-of-way does not require a sign permit. All other provisions of the sign code regulating signs and portable signs shall apply.

Section 3. No signage is allowed to cause any type of public safety hazard by restricting visibility, creating trip hazards, or impacting traffic safety.

Section 4. This temporary amendment to the Town's Sign Regulations in Section 7-3-12 of the Ridgway Municipal Code applies only to lawfully operating businesses.

Section 5. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. The Town Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each provision thereof, even though any one of the provisions might be declared unconstitutional or invalid. As used in this Section, the term "provision" means and includes any part, division, subdivision, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase; the term "application" means and includes an application of an ordinance or any part thereof, whether considered or construed alone or together with another ordinance or ordinances, or part thereof, of the Town.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Emergency Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Town Council in accordance with Article 3-8 of the Ridgway Charter.

Section 7. Safety Clause. The Town Council hereby finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is promulgated under the general police power of the Town of Ridgway, that it is promulgated for the health, safety and welfare of the public, and that this Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of health and safety and for the protection of public convenience and welfare. The Town Council further determines that the Ordinance bears a rational relation to the proper legislative object sought to be obtained.

Section 8. No Existing Violation Affected. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to release, extinguish, alter, modify, or change in whole or in part any penalty, liability or right or affect any audit, suit, or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing which may have been incurred or obtained under any ordinance or provision hereby repealed or amended by this Ordinance. Any such ordinance or provision thereof so amended, repealed, or superseded by this Ordinance shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proper actions, suits, proceedings and prosecutions, for the enforcement of such penalty, liability, or right, and for the purpose of sustaining any judgment, decree or order which can or may be rendered, entered, or made in such actions, suits or proceedings, or prosecutions imposing, inflicting, or declaring such penalty or liability or enforcing such right, and shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proceedings, actions, hearings, and appeals pending before any court or administrative tribunal.

Section 9. Repeal. This Ordinance shall expire on September 13, 2020 reinstating the enforcement of Section 7-3-12(G)(2)(c) and (d).

Section 10. Publication. The Town Clerk is ordered to publish this Ordinance in accordance with Article 3-8 of the Ridgway Charter.

[Execution Page follows]

**INTRODUCED, READ, HEARD AND FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO, THIS 13TH DAY OF MAY, 2020.**

BY:

ATTEST:

John Clark, Mayor

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bo James Nerlin, Town Attorney

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 05-2020**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
EXTENDING TEMPORARY AMENDMENTS TO THE SIGN REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2020, the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway passed an Emergency Ordinance adopting temporary amendments to the sign regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Ordinance of May 13, 2020, adopting temporary amendments to the sign regulations is set to expire on September 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to have a severe economic impact on local business that may threaten the continued existence of many those businesses with locations within the Town. It is the intent of the Town Council to temporarily extend amendments to the Town's Sign Regulations in Section 7-3-12 of the Ridgway Municipal Code in order to relax certain signage requirements for lawfully operating businesses who may want additional signs during the time the Emergency Declaration is in effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO,

1. Extension of Temporary Amendments to the Sign Regulations. *Emergency Ordinance No. 02-2020 an Emergency Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado Adopting Temporary Amendments to the Sign Regulations*, attached and incorporated in its entirety, be and hereby is extended for a period of four months or until January 14, 2021.

EFFECTIVE THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020

BY:

ATTEST:

John Clark, Mayor

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bo James Nerlin, Town Attorney

AGENDA ITEM #17



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 8, 2021
Agenda Topic: Resolution No. 21-01 Supporting the 30x30 Campaign to Protect 30 Percent of Lands and Ocean by 2030

SUMMARY:

Council is asked to review and consider adopting a resolution supporting the 30x30 Campaign to protect 30 percent of lands and ocean by 2030. The resolution is appended to this memo as Attachment 1. The 30x30 campaign is a worldwide, science-based initiative to conserve at least 30 percent of the Earth's lands and ocean by the year 2030. It was launched to address the climate crisis and reverse the destruction of wildlife, waters and natural places. The goal acknowledges that a tipping point has been reached with regard to damage done to the natural world, and that bold, decisive action is necessary to reverse climate change. More information about this goal and some suggested policy solutions can be found in Attachment 2.

PROPOSED MOTION:

"I move to adopt Resolution No. 21-01 Supporting the 30x30 Campaign to Protect 30 Percent of Lands and Ocean by 2030."

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1 – Resolution No. 21-01
Attachment 2 – Colorado Pathways to 30x30

RESOLUTION NO. 21-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY,
COLORADO, SUPPORTING THE 30X30 CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT 30
PERCENT OF LAND AND OCEAN BY 2030**

WHEREAS, the 30x30 campaign is a worldwide, science-based initiative to conserve at least 30 percent of the Earth's lands and ocean by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, this campaign was launched to address our climate crisis and reverse the destruction of our wildlife, waters and natural places; and

WHEREAS, science-based research has found that conserving and restoring lands and waters is necessary to preserving the Earth's biodiversity and ecosystems and mitigating the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, biodiversity loss and human encroachment upon wildlife habitat is increasing the risk of infectious diseases such as COVID-19, Lyme disease and SARS; and

WHEREAS, our natural places provide us with food supplies and clean drinking water, boost our economies, and offer us a wide range of health benefits; and

WHEREAS, wilderness, wildlife refuges, national conservation lands, monuments and other conserved places provide access for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, camping and other outdoor recreation pursuits; and

WHEREAS, permanently conserved private lands, including working ranches and farms, protect open spaces, preserve threatened wildlife and help maintain our Colorado way of life; and

WHEREAS, every person, regardless of race, background or economic status, should have access to safe, clean and close-to-home opportunities to get outside in nature; and

WHEREAS, scientists are warning that protecting at least 30 percent of lands and water is the bare minimum we must achieve if we hope to stabilize the climate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway, establish our support for the 30x30 initiative and science-based, locally led efforts to conserve and restore at least 30 percent of lands and water by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support efforts by Congress to champion this goal, such as the Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature, led by Senators Tom Udall and Michael Bennet, and Representatives Deb Haaland, Joe Neguse, Ted Lieu, Ruben Gallego and Ed Case; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon Congress to advance its own initiatives as well as support and assist state and local efforts to achieve 30x30 goals.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this _____ day of January 2021.

John Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk



Conservation **Colorado**



**WESTERN
RESOURCE
ADVOCATES**

COLORADO PATHWAYS TO 30X30



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a state known for its scenic beauty, the slow but persistent loss of nature threatens life as we know it. Since 2001, Colorado has lost over a half-million acres of natural lands to development,¹ driven primarily by an expansion of extractive industries and sprawling housing development.

Thankfully, there is an emerging, science-based international goal — the “Global Deal for Nature” — that humanity should strive to conserve half of the lands, waters, and oceans of Earth by 2050 to address the climate and nature crises, slow the rate of extinction, and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. To deliver on this deal, we must accelerate the pace and scale of conservation by protecting at least 30 percent of the planet by 2030.²

This report provides attainable and realistic policy solutions — a pathway to help Colorado conserve 30 percent of its lands, or 20 million total acres, by 2030. With 10 percent of land, or about 6 million acres, already in protected status, Colorado should seek to protect and restore at least 14 million more acres of lands and the waterways that pass through them by 2030.

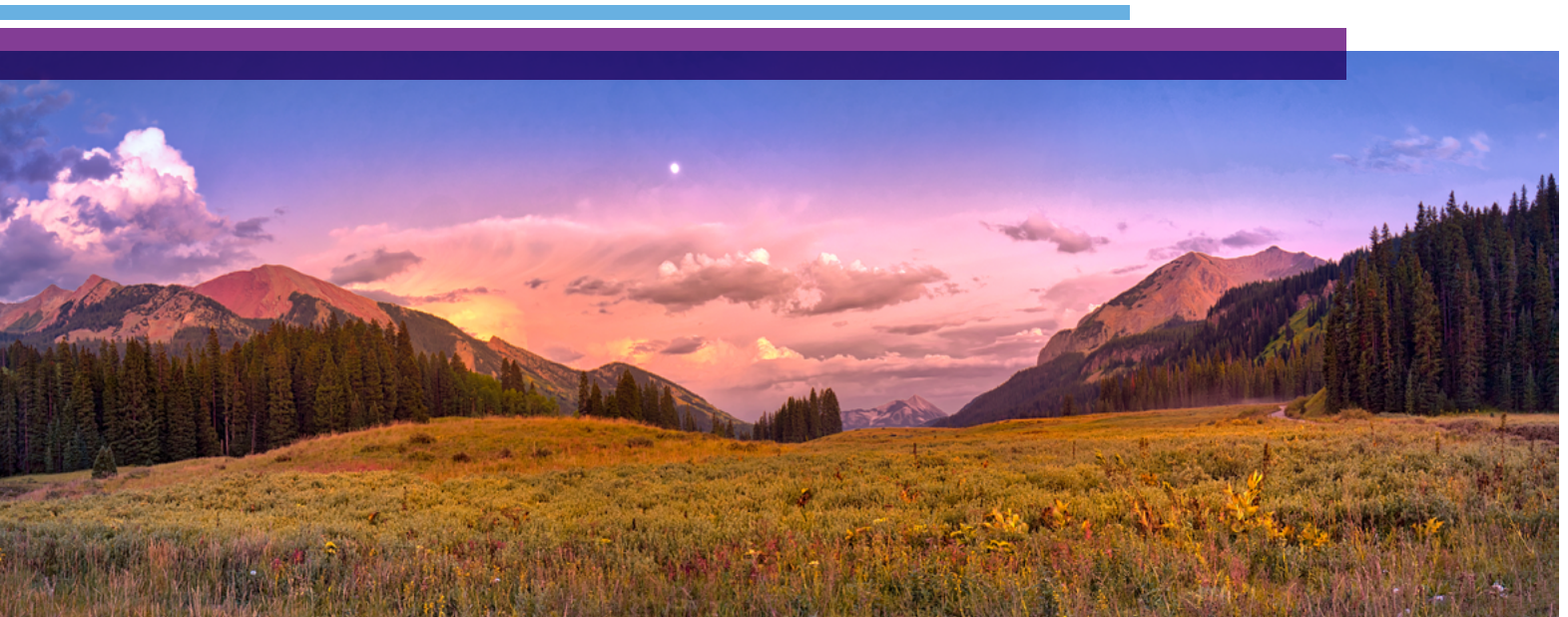
This is an ambitious goal, but it is one that nearly three-quarters of Coloradans support.³ Achieving it will conserve nature and wildlife, connect people, mitigate the impacts of climate change, protect our economy, increase our food and water security, and safeguard Coloradans’ quality of life for generations to come.

As a state that has historically led the way on innovative environmental policies, we must lead the way to end the loss of nature, close the “nature gap” by ensuring access to nature for all, and build a movement to meet the vision of protecting 30 percent of our lands here at home.

1. Matt Lee-Ashley, “The Green Squeeze”, Center for American Progress, 2019

2. www.campaignfornature.org/home

3. Colorado College - State of the Rockies 2020 Conservation in the West Poll



INTRODUCTION

Colorado is losing its most iconic asset: nature.

In a state known for its mountains, rivers, and scenic beauty, the slow but persistent loss of nature threatens life as we know it in the Centennial State. **Since 2001, Colorado has lost over a half-million acres of natural lands to development**, driven primarily by a huge expansion of the energy industry and sprawling housing development throughout the state.⁴ Sometimes these are lands that haven't been developed significantly and where the natural ecosystem is still largely intact, but they are lost an acre at a time — a new drilling facility here, a new subdivision there — and the cumulative impact is vast and destructive. The United States as a whole loses natural lands at a rate of about one football field every 30 seconds, or about 1.5 million acres per year.⁵

Globally, nature is in a state of collapse. We are facing a mass extinction of the plants, animals, and microorganisms that keep our air clean, our water pure, and our food supplies plentiful; in other words, support human existence. The documented losses are staggering:

- Almost a million species are at risk of extinction around the world;⁶
- Half of the rainforests are gone;⁷
- 68 percent of the world's wildlife have been lost since 1970;⁸
- Three-quarters of the planet's lands and two-thirds of its oceans have been significantly altered by human activities;⁹ and,
- In North America, there are nearly 3 billion fewer birds than there were just fifty years before.¹⁰

These losses are terrible on their face, but are associated with incalculable detrimental costs to human well-being, including threatening clean water supplies, food security, medicines, clean air, and so many other ways in which we rely on the natural world. How can we respond to this loss? Can we slow the trend line or turn it around? What kind of world can our future generations look forward to? *What's at stake if we fail to act?*

There is an emerging, science-based international goal—the “Global Deal for Nature” —that humanity should strive to conserve half of the lands, waters, and oceans of Earth by 2050. The Global Deal for Nature was developed by scientists and policymakers to address the climate and nature crises, slow the rate of extinction, and ameliorate the worst impacts of climate change. To deliver on this deal, nations and subnational entities must accelerate the pace and scale of conservation by protecting at least 30 percent of the planet by 2030.¹¹

4. Jenny Rowland-Shea, “The Nature Gap”, Center for American Progress, 2020

5. See Footnote 1

6. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), “Nature’s Dangerous Decline ‘Unprecedented’ Species Extinction Rates ‘Accelerating’”

7. John Vidal, “We are destroying rainforests so quickly they may be gone in 100 years”, The Guardian, January 23, 2017

8. World Wildlife Fund, Living Planet Report 2020

9. See Footnote 2

10. Jonathan Baillie and Ya-Ping Zhang, “Space for nature,” Science 361 (6407) (2018): 1051, available at <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/361/6407/1051.full.pdf>

11. See Footnote 2

In the United States, the movement to protect and restore 30 percent of our nation's waters and lands is gaining momentum. The benefit to Americans of achieving this goal would span the economy, climate, wildlife, public health, food and water security, and more. In the United States Senate, Colorado Senator Michael Bennet has joined New Mexico Senator Tom Udall to sponsor a resolution committing the nation to the "30x30" goal.¹²

**WE MUST HELP TO MOBILIZE THIS NATIONAL MOVEMENT, AND PLAN FOR HOW TO
ACHIEVE IT HERE IN COLORADO. DOING SO HAS THE POWER TO UNITE OUR STATE'S
EFFORTS TO PROTECT NATURAL LANDS FROM DEVELOPMENT, ADVANCE RACIAL
JUSTICE, AND SAFEGUARD OUR CLIMATE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

Protecting our environment, communities, lands, waters, and wildlife is a critical part of how our nation and state can "rebuild better" from the COVID-19, economic, climate, and other crises that we have collectively faced over the course of 2020.

This report provides an attainable and realistic suite of policy solutions that will help Colorado conserve 30 percent of its lands, but only if we can summon the collective will to get there. Moreover, this report shows that the "30x30" goal is not only possible for Colorado, but is deeply within our collective self-interest as a state. We show that achieving the goal can be accomplished through large-scale land conservation, restoration, and management policies that are equitable and inclusive for all, and a bold political vision.

We must acknowledge that like many facets of our society, land preservation has racist and white supremacist roots and a history built upon displacing native people to "protect" a place. Historically, environmentalism has too often excluded people of color and Indigenous communities from the movement. The 30x30 effort presents an opportunity to ensure that future efforts to conserve nature involve partnerships with communities and tribes who have tremendous knowledge and expertise on the issue, but have been excluded from policy and decision making.

There are nearly 67 million acres of land in the state of Colorado. This includes all types of lands: private property, federal public lands, tribal lands, and state and municipally owned lands. While each type of land has readily available, time-tested conservation methods, it is the scale and pace of that conservation that must be accelerated to meet the 30x30 goal. At the same time, it is the stark reality that communities of color in Colorado are more than 20 percent more likely to experience nature deprivation than white communities.¹³ We must work to close this "nature gap."

In short, we can meet the ambitious 30x30 goal and close the nature gap by scaling up our existing conservation tools alongside new community-driven policies that protect and restore nature at the federal, state, and local levels.

12. S.Res.372, A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Federal Government should establish a national goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and ocean of the United States by 2030, 116th Congress.

13. See Footnote 4



WHY PROTECT 30 PERCENT OF COLORADO'S LANDS AND WATERS BY 2030?

From 2001-2017, Colorado lost over 1,000 square miles of natural lands to development.¹⁴ At this point, about 28 percent of Colorado, an area roughly the size of South Carolina, has been developed for human purposes such as residential areas, energy development, and transportation.¹⁵

In Colorado, not only is this loss of nature dramatic and devastating, we are also experiencing the impacts of climate change in the forms of increased catastrophic wildfires, decline of wildlife, increased drought, and tree disease. If we continue on the same path of nature loss compounded with climate change, we will experience ever-larger consequences that will ultimately collapse entire ecosystems, create dramatic water and food scarcity, and diminish our economy and our quality of life.

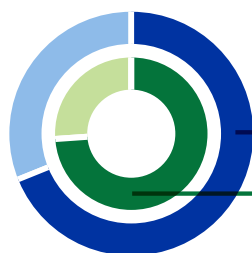
Data from the United States Geological Survey shows that about 10 percent of Colorado is already conserved with permanent or otherwise durable land protections managed for biodiversity.¹⁶

Increasing the share of protected areas in our state to 30 percent will take the collective efforts of all Coloradans, who must work together to identify lands and waters in our own backyards and across the state deserving of protections, and working with leaders to fulfill conservation goals.

FOR COLORADO, A GOAL OF 30 PERCENT PROTECTED LANDS EQUALS ABOUT 20 MILLION ACRES. WITH 10 PERCENT OF LAND ALREADY IN PROTECTED STATUS, OR ABOUT 6 MILLION ACRES, COLORADO SHOULD SEEK TO PROTECT AND RESTORE AT LEAST 14 MILLION MORE ACRES OF LANDS, AND THE WATERWAYS THAT PASS THROUGH THEM, BY 2030 TO MEET THE 30X30 GOAL.

The threats to our lands, waters, wildlife, and communities are intertwined. Thankfully, so are the benefits of protecting them — and Coloradans know it.

Polling suggests that Coloradans instinctively support an ambitious conservation goal. The 2020 “Conservation in the West” poll from Colorado College found that 69 percent of Coloradans consider themselves to be a “conservationist.”¹⁷ And, fully 74 percent of Colorado respondents support a national goal of 30x30.¹⁸



PERCENT OF COLORADANS WHO:

69% consider themselves to be a “conservationist.”

74% support a national goal of 30x30.

14. See Footnote 1

15. See Footnote 1

16. United States Geological Survey, Gap Analysis Project, Protected Area Database of the United States 2.1 (2020)

17. See Footnote 3

18. See Footnote 3

In addition to their intrinsic values, intact and functioning ecosystems provide quantifiable economic benefits to Colorado — termed “ecosystem services” — which diminish with the loss of nature. Wildlife habitat and migration corridors give wildlife room to move and thrive, especially as habitat is forced to shift with climate change. Intact spaces also protect our snowpack and safeguard the water supplies of Colorado and the 30 million people dependent on water from Colorado’s headwaters high in the Rocky Mountains.

Additionally, conserving natural places is a valuable strategy for combating climate change. Intact nature and ecosystems make Colorado a more resilient place in the face of a warming climate, creating more connections for wildlife to adapt to changes in habitat conditions. Natural lands can help offset or soften the impacts of climate change on a variety of fronts including drought, extinction, food and water security, and wildlife migration. By managing lands to be net neutral or net negative in their carbon emissions, land managers and land management policies can play a powerful role in helping keep global temperatures from rising over 1.5 degrees Celsius, the recommended threshold of climate scientists to prevent the worst effects of climate change. Thankfully, one of the most cost-effective strategies for mitigating climate change is to protect more connected and resilient land and water.¹⁹

Conserving our lands is also good for our economy and quality of life. At the local level, conserved spaces often make communities more desirable places to live and establish businesses.²⁰ Proximity to trailheads, national parks, and public lands improve property values and are associated with higher tax receipts. People want to live in beautiful places where there is recreational access to nature.²¹

Statewide, outdoor recreation has emerged as a major economic sector, contributing \$62 billion to Colorado’s economy and creating over 500,000 jobs in 2018.²² Sustainable outdoor recreation can be a leading job creator as Colorado recovers from the economic devastation unleashed by the COVID-19 crisis, but conserved open spaces and public lands are the engines of this economic sector. Conservation that thoughtfully considers the role of sustainable outdoor recreation can be a win-win for jobs and the environment.

And recreation is not the only way to boost rural economies. Agriculture is an important industry in Colorado, and incentivizing sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices — in tandem with protected lands — can help ensure that farms and working landscapes are both protected from development and supportive of local economies.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, conservation of nature is an opportunity to include those communities who suffer greater impacts from air and water pollution, climate change, and a lack of access to nature. We must recognize and reckon with the fact that even our modern definition of wilderness is predicated on the false perception that these lands were vacant prior to white settlement. Instead, we must ensure that tribal voices guide and inform an inclusive dialogue on a conservation vision that confronts and rectifies historical injustices. Communities of color from across the state of Colorado have been historically excluded from decisions of access, land use, and conservation; and the 30x30 effort must be built on a more equitable and inclusive approach.

Humanity is at a tipping point on answering the interconnected challenges of climate change and loss of habitat, all while grappling with the fallout of a global pandemic. As we begin to rebuild, Colorado can and must play an important role in protecting our water, scenery, wildlife, and quality of life.

19. Waldron, et. al., Protecting 30% of the Planet for Nature: Costs, Benefits, and Economic Implications (2020)

20. Headwaters Economics, Recreation Counties Attracting New Residents and Higher Incomes (2019)

21. Casey, et. al., “Grand Valley Public Trail Systems Socio-Economic Study” (2018)

22. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2019)

DEFINING PROTECTED LAND

How should we define protected land and water to reach the goal of 30 percent of lands protected by 2030? It is clear that permanent designations such as wilderness or national parks should be considered protected. But what about long-term protections by federal agencies that are achieved through a land use plan or a federal rule-making? What about conservation easements on private lands? What about state parks and wildlife areas, or county parks and open spaces?

One way to calculate existing protected lands is to follow the classification system developed by the U.S. Geological Survey's Protected Area Database (PAD-US) and its Gap Analysis Project (GAP).²³ This report treats GAP status codes of 1 and 2 as protected, because they both denote a management that either prohibits or minimizes disturbances to natural systems. This is the methodology employed to estimate that 10 percent of lands in Colorado are already protected.

This estimate of protected lands has limitations. One limitation with USGS definitions is that some exceptions ought to be made to include lands that are protectively managed, but not always reflected as such in the PAD-US data, such as state wildlife areas, and some parks and open spaces.

Additionally, there are many policy-level tools that would help protect nature, but would be more difficult to quantify in terms of acres protected. These include, for example, state-level reforms of oil and gas drilling regulations, as well as national tools such as creating a carbon budget for public lands management. Some protections will be bestowed by legislative bodies, and some by agencies or executive actions, and some by private landowners and NGOs. And some will be in perpetuity, while others may be durable for the life of a land use plan.

Protecting 30 percent of Colorado's lands by 2030 will require a variety of approaches and creative solutions. But this expansive view of conservation will help engage more people and build support at all levels of government through community-driven and ground-up efforts. While national and state-level tools get the most attention, community buy-in and grassroots support assures the right set of policies and protections are applied and have political durability. It bears repeating the inclusion of people of color and tribal nations is critical to achieving an equitable and just 30x30 conservation goal.

23. See Footnote 16



COLORADO'S BLUEPRINT TO 30X30

Vision Statement:

Colorado will be a leading state in the national movement to protect 30 percent of lands by 2030, building an inclusive coalition to get there. By 2030, Colorado will have secured protections for at least an additional 14 million acres of lands by enacting lasting reforms and policy changes that protect nature, address the climate crisis, and ensure equitable and inclusive access to nature for communities of color. Achieving the 30x30 goal will conserve nature and wildlife, connect people, mitigate the impacts of climate change, protect our economy, increase our food and water security, and secure the quality of life for Coloradans for generations to come.

	Colorado	% of total
Total Land Area (in acres) ²⁴	66.5 million	
Federal Lands	23.8 million	36
Tribal Lands	770 thousand	1
State Lands	3.2 million	5
Private Lands	37.8 million	57

24. Acreage sources: USGS, BLM and CMap



A NOTE ABOUT PATHWAYS TO 30X30

There are many pathways to achieve the 30x30 goal, crossing local, state, and federal laws and policies. The following sections provide an overview of the major land ownership and management structures in Colorado in order to explore how those entities currently do and do not protect and restore lands and waters. Following each section, we present a number of options for how stakeholders can work with these entities to achieve new protections. The pathways are not meant to be comprehensive. They are examples. Identifying and determining the appropriate pathways should be undertaken in collaboration with stakeholders, including communities of color, tribes, conservation and environmental organizations, organizations that provide outdoor access and education opportunities for people of color, wildlife, hunting and angling organizations, and outdoor recreation groups.

In the following sections, we outline ways various entities can protect more lands, as well as “other policy pathways” that would protect nature and also help us achieve our 30x30 goals.

COLORADO STATE LANDS

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis wrote that states are the “laboratories of democracy” to describe how states can lead the way under the system of federalism in the United States. Colorado has a proven track record of pioneering concepts that have grown to other states and the national government. Colorado was the first state to impose a methane capture regulation on the oil and gas industry, which was copied by other states and the federal government before being scrapped by the Trump Administration. Renewable energy standards, leadership in partnering with the outdoor recreation industry, and novel climate policies that center the voices of frontline communities are additional examples where Colorado has been a policy innovator. We can and must be a policy innovator on achieving the 30x30 goal as well.

Colorado State Trust Lands

The state of Colorado owns 2.7 million acres of trust lands, ceded to Colorado by the U.S. government at statehood in 1876, and managed by the State Land Board (SLB). State trust lands are common in Western states and are a “fiduciary trust obligation” between the states and federal government to generate revenue for public schools. The legal mandate obligates these lands to be managed for long-term stewardship and revenue for education, and is enshrined in the state constitution. State trust lands are not “public lands” in the traditional sense, in that access is limited to most trust lands. Currently there are nearly a half-million acres available for some public access, mostly for licensed hunting and fishing, though the agency is committed to doubling the acres available for public access.²⁵

In 1996, Colorado voters approved Initiative 16, which amended the state constitution to elevate stewardship of natural resources as an additional mandate for state trust lands along with the fiduciary mandate for education funding. The resulting “Stewardship Trust” program can protect up to a maximum of 10 percent of trust lands, though it is a revolving registry, so protections are not permanent.

25. CPW, Hunting Acreage Soars for 2020 as Colorado Parks and Wildlife again expands Public Access Program, (2020)

Opportunities for tightening conservation protections on trust lands beyond the 10 percent in the Stewardship Trust are limited by constitutional constraints. The lands must be managed to provide “long term benefits” in the form of revenue for education. This has generally meant agricultural and energy leasing. However, the SLB could develop new long term conservation or recreation lease types that produce revenue for education while protecting wildlife, natural resources, and recreational opportunities while limiting extractive uses. Additionally, non-governmental organizations or Colorado Parks and Wildlife could hold these leases and focus on protecting the most high-priority conservation parcels.

Pathways to 30x30:

- The State Land Board should develop a long-term “conservation and recreation” lease for State Trust Lands that allows these lands to be managed for conservation of wildlife and natural resources while meeting the fiduciary obligation to education. This will allow for larger scale conservation than the capped 300,000-acre Stewardship Trust program.
- The State Land Board and the federal government should look for opportunities for land exchanges that help conserve larger, unbroken tracts of lands and increase access to the public. Currently, there are scattered and isolated parcels of state trusts lands that produce little revenue and complicate management of surrounding federal lands that may be managed differently. Exchange of isolated trust parcels with federal parcels that may be nearer to communities can benefit both the revenues for education and simplify management.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) under the state Department of Natural Resources manages a system of 42 state parks and recreation areas, encompassing 205,407 acres. CPW also administers 350 state wildlife areas totalling 684,000 acres of lands protected for wildlife and wildlife habitat. With the recent addition of the 20,000 acre Fishers Peak State Park near Trinidad, CPW is adding a large natural area to its state parks portfolio that links together parks and wildlife areas in both Colorado and New Mexico.

CPW is overseen by the 13-member CPW Commission which has broad authority. The CPW Commission has the power to acquire lands; execute leases, easements, and other conservation and access instruments; establish rules and regulations to manage wildlife; create new state parks and wildlife areas; and manage uses in all CPW-owned or managed lands.

CPW’s ability to conserve wildlife habitat and increase recreational opportunities is significantly boosted by the lottery-funded Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Half of GOCO’s funding supports CPW, and CPW also directly receives 10 percent of lottery proceeds. Together, GOCO and the lottery account for around 15 percent of CPW’s annual budget. Funding for conservation is critical to CPW’s ability to establish newly protected areas, such as state parks and wildlife areas.

Finally, CPW is the largest single holder of conservation easements on private lands in the state through its Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program. CPW has invested over \$164 million dollars into the program and has protected over 300,000 acres with this program and other easements.

Pathways to 30x30:

- CPW should set an ambitious vision and numeric goal for the designation of new parks and wildlife areas and work with lawmakers to identify opportunities to create additional state parks and state wildlife areas. The agency should also work with Colorado's congressional delegation to identify lands for federal protections.
- CPW should play a leadership role for the facilitation of a state conservation and recreation plan, analogous to the Colorado Water Plan. Such a guide can help establish a complementary vision for sustainable outdoor recreation, protection of wildlife, and conservation of lands. These efforts must be inclusive and, in particular, engage and position Native American communities, communities of color, and other communities historically underrepresented in such processes, as coalition leaders with decision making power to ensure that their communities equitably benefit from conservation and recreation policies.
- CPW should look at its land management, land acquisition, and other practices to ensure that it is using all of its authorities in a manner that achieves a 30x30 goal.

Broader Conservation Policy Tools & Pathways to 30x30 for State Lands

The state of Colorado has significant authority over recreation, wildlife, and state lands, as well as powers to regulate pollution and other activities that cause the loss of nature. Policies and regulations to protect nature can be created by the state legislature, the governor, and through promulgation of agency regulations. Here are some major opportunities for Colorado to act to protect nature:

- Commit Colorado to the 30x30 goal through an executive order or other executive action or a bill at the state legislature.
- Expand and improve state conservation funding and investment for lands, water, wildlife, and equitable access — including leveraging the recent fourfold increase in Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars available to the state — in order to help increase the number of state-level protected areas and to address the nature gap.
- Complete oil and gas regulatory reforms initiated by SB 19-181 to ensure the protection of lands, wildlife, riparian areas, and other parts of nature. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission should also ensure there are appropriate setbacks from areas of concern, the cumulative impacts of oil and gas drilling on habitat and communities are analyzed and avoided, and communities are protected with strong environmental justice policies.
- Implement Colorado's "Climate Action Plan" as laid forth in HB 19-1261, which sets ambitious but achievable science-based emission reduction targets for carbon over the coming years.



- Create a robust state wildlife corridor designation program informed by Executive Order 2019-011.
- Require state agencies to provide formal comment on federal land management plans to advance 30x30 priorities.
- Implement “just transition” funding and policies for rural areas with economies that are diversifying and moving beyond their traditional reliance on fossil fuels.
- Continue to elevate the goal that everyone in Colorado has access to parks and open spaces in their communities.
- Ensure that public lands are safe and restorative spaces for everyone by removing harmful policing practices, removing and changing historically inaccurate interpretive sites, and changing the names of landmarks named for racist individuals.

FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

The federal government manages the largest percentage of public lands in Colorado: over 24 million acres, or about 36 percent of the state’s land area. Various federal agencies have differing conservation-related priorities and existing protections, and conservation tools vary widely by agency.

Federal public land conservation is accomplished through administrative action — i.e. action under agencies’ legal authorities — and Congressional action. State and local governments can work to influence the decisions of federal agencies and members of Congress but do not have any direct authority over federal public lands. Federal land managers frequently use land use plans or “resource management plans” to govern management of public lands. These documents can guide decisions and determine the operational level of conservation management for up to several decades. Colorado’s public lands have seen several high profile land use plans completed in recent years.

U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is the largest federal public lands agency in Colorado, with eleven national forests encompassing over 14 million acres. Colorado is home to the White River and Pike National Forests, which are among the most visited and oldest in the U.S., both established in the early 1890s. The USFS is the oldest of the four federal public lands agencies and carries a legal mandate to manage national forests for multiple uses including forestry, watershed protection, fish and wildlife management, wilderness preservation, and outdoor recreation — all while guaranteeing that the nation’s forest resources would be stewarded in perpetuity for the American people.

Wilderness designation and the Colorado Roadless Rule are the two main conservation designations on USFS lands. Wilderness is both permanent and the most protective designation, bestowed by Congress. Colorado Roadless Areas are a durable administrative designation that have a high level of political investment by the state of Colorado. The Colorado Roadless Rule covers 4.1 million acres in 363 separate areas and, with some exceptions, imposes restrictions on logging, road-building, and other human disturbances. A unique feature of Colorado’s rule is a higher tier of protection on 1.2 million acres that is more restrictive than the national 2001 Roadless Rule. Importantly, lands protected under the Roadless Rule are not wilderness. They allow for some limited energy development and motorized recreation, including the possibility of motorized trail construction. Congress should legislate a higher and more permanent level of protection for these areas.

Finally, the USFS is in the process of revising “forest management plans” for several Colorado forests. These planning documents will govern management of the forests for decades, and the state should ensure the federal plans incorporate conservation measures consistent with the 30x30 vision. Additionally, these forest plans determine which lands the USFS will recommend to Congress for wilderness and “wild and scenic river” designations.

Pathways to 30x30:

- Congress should increase wilderness and other protective designations on USFS lands, beginning with the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act. In addition, Congress should work to protect areas that the agency has recommended for wilderness and evaluate Colorado Roadless Areas for short-term protections.
- The USFS should provide Colorado Roadless Areas with the highest level of administrative protections, at a minimum ensuring consistency with the Colorado Roadless Rule, but work to exceed baseline provisions established in the rule.
- The agency’s forest plans and project-level decisions should prioritize management for conservation — including, and especially, at the landscape scale — to maximize the resiliency of our national forests.

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the custodian of 8.3 million acres of public lands in Colorado, mostly on the Western Slope. In 1976, with the passage of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, the agency received a coherent mission: management of lands for multiple uses including energy extraction, recreation, and conservation. Importantly, this law also made BLM lands eligible for wilderness designation.

In 2009, the BLM added a “conservation lands” program to manage lands that were worthy of high levels of protections. These lands include BLM-administered national monuments, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, and national conservation areas. Though BLM’s original mission omitted consideration for protections, up until recently, the agency had made a significant evolution towards conservation and non-extractive uses.

The BLM also manages a vast amount of oil, coal, and natural gas, often below lands that are either privately owned or managed by another agency like the USFS. This means that leasing for oil and gas and coal mining is done through the BLM with huge impacts to both public and private land conservation and the climate. Managing our public lands to mitigate, not accelerate, climate change will require special attention to the 27 million acres of federal mineral estate in Colorado managed by the BLM.

Similar to the USFS, the BLM uses “resource management plans” to govern management of public lands, including decisions on where leasing and drilling can occur, how to manage outdoor recreation, and special designations like “Areas of Critical Environmental Concern” and “Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.” Recently, resource management plans completed by the Trump administration lack conservation protections and broadly favor the interests of the extractive industry. Fixing these deficient plans and reorienting management plans towards conservation and climate mitigation must be a high priority for subsequent federal administrations.

Pathways to 30x30:

- Congress and the BLM should increase conservation designations on Colorado's BLM lands and expand the Conservation Lands System by passing legislation like the Colorado Wilderness Act, in addition to evaluating Wilderness Study Areas and agency-identified "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics" for near-term legislative protections.
- The BLM should proactively manage a decline of fossil fuel production on our public lands, consistent with global climate targets and just transition principles.
- The BLM should revise its deficient resource management plans to protect wildlands and limit extraction and surface-disturbing activities. It must also ensure that, moving forward, resource management plans and project-level decisions prioritize conservation-oriented management, including designating new Wilderness Study Areas.

National Park Service

In 1916, the Organic Act formally created the National Park Service charged with the mission to *"conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."*

While national parks and monuments have been hailed as "America's best idea," the parks have a problematic history, especially in the early 19th century when establishment of parks often was accompanied with seizure, exclusion, or expulsion of Native Americans.

In its more recent history, NPS has added units to tell a more inclusive story of America such as designation of Stonewall Inn in New York City as a national monument pivotal in LGBTQ history or the Medgar Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi, honoring the murdered civil rights era organizer. In Colorado, the National Park Service is currently undergoing a Special Resource Study process to determine whether Amache, a WWII Japanese internment camp, can be designated an official National Park Site, which would be a step forward toward telling a more inclusive story of our nation.

The NPS manages over a half million acres in our state that includes Colorado's four national parks, five NPS-managed national monuments (other national monuments in Colorado are managed by the BLM and USFS), two national historical sites, and one national recreation area. NPS parks and monuments are protected public lands by default, and while about half of these lands have the additional overlay of wilderness protection, many of the lands surrounding parks and monuments face considerable threats from the extractive industry, including air pollution from coal, oil, and gas production.

Pathways to 30x30:

- Congress should permanently protect recommended wilderness areas within all NPS units in Colorado.
- Congress and the next administration should consider designation of more national park sites in Colorado to help conserve public lands and cultural resources, and tell a more inclusive story of our nation.
- Congress should fund a professionalized workforce within the NPS to manage, interpret, and care for cultural resources management and historic interpretation.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages about 175,000 acres of wildlife refuges and hatcheries across Colorado, and holds conservation easements for over 200,000 acres. The mission of the agency is to conserve plant and animal species, but other multiple uses are permitted insofar as they do not hinder the primary purpose of the refuge. USFWS properties conserve some exceptional lands in Colorado, from bird refuges in the San Luis Valley that protect critical stopovers for migratory birds, to the bison refuge at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in urban Denver, to protecting part of a 14,000-foot peak and managing designated wilderness at the Mt. Massive National Fish Hatchery near Leadville. The USFWS also manages plants and animals listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Pathways to 30x30:

- Congress and the next administration should consider the designation of new or expansion of existing wildlife refuges in order to close the nature gap and expand access for nature-deprived communities, safeguard wildlife corridors, and to expand access to hunting and fishing where appropriate.
- The USFWS should proactively manage wildlife refuges for climate adaptation and mitigation to ensure resiliency of our plant and animal species.

Broader Conservation Policy Tools & Pathways to 30x30 for Federal Lands

Since federal lands comprise the bulk of targeted acres for conservation, it is not surprising that the federal government has many other policy levers that are important to conservation of nature and can support Colorado in achieving 30x30. The various policy tools available to Congress and the executive branch are vast, but could begin with:

- Congress should pass the “Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature.”
- Congress should pass public lands, waters, and wildlife protection legislation, beginning with the “Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act” and the “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.”
- Congress should pass federal oil and gas leasing reform and a moratorium should be placed on new oil and gas leasing and federal coal leasing should be permanently ended.



TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT

What is now the state of Colorado is the historic homeland for many native American people, including the Utes, Shoshone, Cheyenne, Pueblo peoples, Arapaho, Apache, and other tribal communities.

According to 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data, there are over 100,000 residents of Colorado who identify as American Indian, Alaska Native, or some combination with one or more races.²⁶ While Colorado's Native American population is spread across the state, Colorado is also home to two federally recognized tribes — the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute — both with reservations in Southwest Colorado. These reservations total approximately one million acres.

Any discussion of conservation of our public lands, including tribal lands and historic tribal lands, must be in partnership with and respect tribal sovereignty. Early and consistent outreach to tribes should be a cornerstone to Colorado's 30x30 commitment. Given Colorado's violent history of oppression and expulsion of native people, there is a restorative justice element to inclusion of tribes in future conservation planning.

Models of including tribes in land protection and land management are slowly becoming more common, but must be even more so. Successful tribal-led conservation efforts have included the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition in Southeast Utah and the Badger-Two Medicine campaign in Montana. In Colorado, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe manages a 125,000 acre tribal park immediately to the south of Mesa Verde National Park along the Mancos River where the emphasis is on conservation and stewardship of Ancestral Puebloan cultural sites.

Pathways to 30x30:

- Engagement with tribes should be a long-term partnership built on respect for tribal sovereignty and the right to tribal self-determination so that Colorado's tribal communities and those tribal communities with ancestral lands located in Colorado can fulfill what each views as priorities for the stewardship of the natural, cultural, and historic resources in pursuit of the 30x30 goal.
- Political leaders should respect tribal sovereignty and the government-to-government relationship between the state, Congress, and the tribes by recognizing the right of tribes to self-govern. Any conservation goals should be designed and implemented in partnership with tribes and in the spirit of collaboration.
- Conservation tools and management structures should be inclusive of and responsive to tribal interests, such as establishing co-management areas, providing for sustainable and traditional land uses to occur, and acknowledging ancestral homelands in establishing or updating place names.

26. Urban Indian Population, Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs



PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION

Private lands are the most prevalent form of land ownership in Colorado, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the state's land area. This includes everything from single family homes in the suburbs to population-dense urban cores and larger agricultural holdings.

The main tool for long-term protection of nature on private lands is called a “conservation easement.” Through a conservation easement, landowners voluntarily agree to forgo certain property rights in order to protect a set of defined conservation values unique to their land. Landowners must work with a land trust or government agency which purchases and holds the conservation easement and is responsible for the enforcement of its terms and conditions. This permanent deed restriction, which covers the land in perpetuity, has been critical to protecting both ranches and other agricultural lands from development pressures and has successfully protected 2.3 million acres in Colorado. The majority of conservation easements are held by non-profit organizations such as land trusts, but local open space programs, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and GOCO make large investments in conservation easements to protect habitat and increase recreational access.

The statewide coalition of land trusts called “Keep It Colorado” is preparing a conservation plan to guide the work of private land conservation in Colorado over the next decade. This is a helpful resource for maximizing the potential for protecting natural lands in private ownership, and will go a long way toward supporting Colorado's overall 30x30 goals.

Pathways to 30x30:

- Conservation and political leaders should support more voluntary land conservation through implementation of the “Keep It Colorado” conservation plan.
- The private land conservation financial valuation processes should incentivize protection of lands with the highest biodiversity and wildlife habitat values, rather than just the market values of the lands if otherwise developed.
- Conservation easement agreements should encourage and incentivize soil health best practices, water conservation, and other sustainable agricultural practices.



GETTING TO 30X30

As this report demonstrates, the 30x30 goal is ambitious but achievable in Colorado. As a state that has historically led the way on innovative environmental policies, we must lead the way to end the loss of nature and close the “nature gap.”

We have to organize our communities around the 30x30 goal and build a movement to achieve this necessary and ambitious task. We must make the 30x30 effort just, inclusive, and equitable, building a coalition that includes and benefits those who have been marginalized not just by polluters and developers, but by the conservation community, too.

The 30x30 goal has been endorsed by Colorado’s Senator Michael Bennet and Congressman Joe Neguse as original cosponsors of the “30x30 resolution” in Congress. We must expand the support and commitment by others in Colorado’s political leadership class, including the governor, other members of the federal congressional delegation, state legislators, and elected and appointed officials at county, local, and tribal government-levels across the state. We have to activate the voices of thought leaders, academics and experts, community leaders and wildlife advocates. We will need to activate community groups of all stripes across the state to build a groundswell that the vision of 30x30 is a necessity to preserve nature, combat climate change, and make sure the beauty of Colorado that so many of us have been privileged to enjoy will remain accessible to all for future generations.

Conservation Colorado and Western Resource Advocates thank the following people and organizations for advising us on this report:

Scott Braden, *Western Slope Conservation Center* | *Lodore Consulting* | *Colorado Wildlands Project*

Tracy Coppola, *National Parks Conservation Association*

Nada Culver, *Audubon of the Rockies*

Melissa Daruna, *Keep it Colorado*

Ernest House Jr., *Enrolled member, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe* | *Conservation Colorado Board Member*

Kate Kelly, Nicole Gentile, and Ryan Richards, *Center for American Progress*

Andrea Kurth, *Continental Divide Trail Coalition*

Mark Pearson, *San Juan Citizens Alliance*

Juan Perez Saez and Jim Ramey, *The Wilderness Society*

Kim Pope, *Colorado Sierra Club*

Juli Slivka, *Wilderness Workshop*

Alex Taurel, *League of Conservation Voters*

Greg Zimmerman, *American Campaign for Nature*



Conservation Colorado



**WESTERN
RESOURCE
ADVOCATES**

AGENDA ITEM #18



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 7, 2021
Agenda Topic: Consideration of signing on to The Mountain Pact's letter to the Biden Administration and 117th Congress

ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL:

Council is asked to consider signing on to The Mountain Pact's letter to the Biden Administration and 117th Congress.

SUMMARY:

Attached is a letter from The Mountain Pact that requests the Biden administration to 1) Fight the Climate Crisis with bold action, 2) Help the Western communities, and 3) Protect Public Lands. The sign on deadline is January 13, 2021.

Founded in 2014, The Mountain Pact mobilizes local elected officials in over 75 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation-based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.

PROPOSED MOTION:

"I move to sign on to The Mountain Pact's letter to the Biden Administration and 117th Congress."

ATTACHMENT:

Sign-on letter



SIGN-ON LETTER: Transition priorities for Biden Administration (Please sign on with your information below and share with your fellow council members/commissioners)

January 13, 2021

Dear President-elect Biden and Secretary-nominee Deb Haaland,
CC: U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives

Thank you for your work over the transition period to bring together a team of diverse leaders, scientists, and experts who will help us all build back better during these unprecedented times. We look forward to your nominees being confirmed quickly so the work may begin.

While the catastrophic COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for our Western mountain communities, our public lands have also been a bright spot, providing a refuge from the pandemic with our residents and visitors finding solace in the outdoors more than ever. Public lands are the backbone of our mountain communities and vital for our way of life. As local elected officials tasked with helping our regions' economies recuperate, we know that protecting our public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities, along with taking bold climate action, will boost the economy as we recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Over the last four years, we've watched as there has been an increase in antiquated fossil fuel development on public lands, weakened environmental regulations, and fast tracking or eliminating environmental reviews for proposed projects. This "energy dominance" agenda has jeopardized both our public lands and public health while contributing to the climate crisis by causing the release of vast amounts of potent greenhouse gas emissions. The emissions associated with oil, gas, and coal from public lands accounts for over 20% of total U.S. emissions. These emissions directly affect our Western mountain communities as we deal with dire, long-term, and costly health and climate impacts like the release of harmful methane gas; heat, drought, floods, and wildfire; and dust on snow.

Our communities are shouldering the burden of increased unemployment, added public lands infrastructure needs, and costly climate impacts. To address this untenable situation, the Biden administration and the new Congress should prioritize adopting reforms that will reverse the devastating impacts that the "energy dominance" agenda has had on Western mountain communities over the past four years. Public lands should no longer be given away for pennies on the dollar, financial support should be provided to local governments amidst the pandemic, and meaningful actions should be taken to both address the climate crisis and protect our public lands.

The below listed local elected officials urge the Biden administration and 117th Congress to:

1. Fight the Climate Crisis with bold action.
 - a. Halt new oil and gas leases on public lands and waters.
 - b. Reject any royalty relief and lease suspension provisions for the oil and gas industry in future COVID relief packages.
 - c. Support state and local clean energy building requirements and initiatives, emissions reduction programs, and utilities with renewable energy goals.
2. Help our Western communities.
 - a. Include conservation-friendly financial support for local governments in future COVID relief packages.
 - b. Modernize the country's antiquated public lands royalty system and ensure that those who profit from them provide a fair return to the taxpayers.
 - c. Ensure the outdoors is a place for all by prioritizing environmental justice.
 - d. Restore environmental and public health safeguards.
3. Protect our Public Lands.
 - a. Restore protections for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments.
 - b. Reverse the last-minute oil and gas lease sale in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
 - c. Work to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030.

Sincerely,

AGENDA ITEM #19



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 8, 2021
Agenda Topic: Authorization for Mayor Clark to sign letter of support for expanding the Impact Development Fund's Down Payment Assistance Program to Ouray County

SUMMARY:

The Impact Development Fund (IDF) is a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution that serves low-moderate income communities with housing resources. IDF currently has an allocation from the Colorado Division of Housing for a Down Payment Assistance Program serving eligible households in Northern Colorado. Given their statewide presence and partnerships with nonprofit partners on the Western Slope, they are seeking support from communities in our area for expanding this down payment assistance program to Ouray, Montrose and San Miguel counties. The support does not require any financial commitment from the Town. All that is being requested is the submittal of a written support letter for bringing this resource to our community. IDF is planning to request additional Division of Housing dollars for this program during the 2021 application/2022 funding cycle to support this effort.

PROPOSED MOTION:

"I move to authorize Mayor Clark to sign the letter of support for Impact Development Fund's application that requests an amendment to the Division of Housing for expanded geographic eligibility under their single family down payment assistance program."

ATTACHMENT:

Support Letter



January 13, 2021

Christina McKasy
Asset Manager
Colorado Division of Housing
1313 Sherman Street, Room 320
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Ms. McKasy,

This purpose of this letter is to provide our support for Impact Development Fund's application that requests an amendment to the Division of Housing for expanded geographic eligibility under their single family down payment assistance program serving low-to-moderate income residents.

We believe that supporting housing opportunities that benefit low-to-moderate households to be important for our community, and therefore will actively support our community partners who are developing innovative and effective programs for increasing housing options. Impact Development Fund is an ideal community partner to apply for this funding based on their proven track record and expertise in serving other areas in the state of Colorado. We encourage the Division of Housing to support Impact Development Fund's request for additional service areas, specifically Ouray County.

Sincerely,

John I. Clark
Mayor
On behalf of the Ridgway Town Council

AGENDA ITEM #20