

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held both in person and via virtual meeting portal Zoom Meeting, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance Councilors Grambley, Kroger, Lakin, Scoville, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark. Councilmember Schuyler was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 13, 2024.
2. Minutes of the Budget Workshop of November 21, 2024.
3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 11, 2024.
4. Register of Demands for January 2025.
5. Per State Statute designate the Town Hall bulletin board as the official posting place.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

6. Presentation of Life Saving Award to Deputy Marshal Brannon Hasler

Marshal Schmalz explained on October 15th a call was received from the dispatch center regarding a traffic accident on Highway 550 between Mall Road and Terrace Drive. Deputy Marshal Brannon Hasler responded to the two vehicle accident, involving a passenger vehicle and cement mixing truck. After arriving at the scene he and a member of the Ridgway Fire Department addressed the passenger vehicle, with the fire department responder focusing on the driver of the vehicle who was pinned due to the force of the collision. Deputy Hasler attempted to open the doors of the passenger side, which were both locked or jammed due to the impact, and tried to break the glass with a knife. When this was unsuccessful he asked the driver of the truck for a hammer, and used it to break the back window and then alerted the other responder the vehicle was on fire. He then broke the front passenger window and saw a passenger in the front seat, and removed her from the vehicle and carried her to a safe location. The fire department responder was continuing to extricate the driver, and Deputy Hasler used a fire hose to attempt to extinguish the fire in the vehicle. During the process he was breathing in the smoke and chemicals of the burning vehicle, and suffered from smoke inhalation. Emergency Medical Services personnel arrived on the scene and Deputy Hasler was transported to Montrose Hospital and was treated and released that night.

Marshal Schmalz stated "after reviewing body camera footage, and on scene investigation, I believe without Brannon's swift action the female would have succumbed to her injuries and

the fire of the vehicle". He awarded Deputy Hasler the Life Saving Award, and stated "it is with great appreciation that the Ridgway Marshal's Department bestow this life saving award on Deputy Brannon Hasler for his exemplary service to the citizens of this community and the State of Colorado".

POLICY MATTERS

7. Adoption of the Ouray County Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan

Glenn Boyd, Ouray County Emergency Manager, presented the Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan, which covers all jurisdictions in the the county, along with regional agencies, and provides protocols for decisions making. He explained in 2023 the Town and City of Ouray chose to consolidate their existing emergency plans into a Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Plan, "since all agencies respond together" during emergency situations. He noted there were "not a lot of changes from your original plan in 2019".

There were comments from the Council .

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Grambley to approve the Ouray County Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Presentation of Rights of Nature Annual Report

Town Manager Neill explained in 2021 the Council adopted a resolution to support the protection of the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries and watershed by recognizing the rights of nature. This requires an annual report regarding the health and safety of the river, which has been prepared by Tanya Ishikawa with the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, was presented to the Council.

There were questions from the Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. Adoption of Ordinance Amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units

Staff report dated 1-3-25 from Community Planning Strategies presenting the background on the proposed ordinance amending zoning regulations regarding accessory dwelling units.

Max Garcia, Contract Planner with Community Planning Strategies, reported the ordinance being presented which amends the accessory dwelling unit regulations, had originally been presented to Town Council on September 11th and was sent back to the Planning Commission for further discussion. The Commission reviewed the document at subsequent meetings and amendments to the document were made. The Council reviewed the proposed ordinance at the previous meeting and introduced the ordinance at first reading.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Lakin the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 03-2024 Amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" of the Ridgway Municipal Code Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS (continued)

10. Resolution Amending the Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area Fee Schedule

Staff Report dated 1-2-25 from the Town Manager presenting a resolution to amend fees for the Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area.

Manager Neill noted the amendment to the fee schedule was requested by the Council at a previous meeting.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved to approve Resolution No. 25-01 Amending the Athletic Park Pavilion Concession Area Fee Schedule. Councilmember Scoville seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Resolution approving joining Mountain Towns 2030

The Mayor asked the Council to join Mountain Towns 2030 as a “foundation community” with an annual membership fee of \$3,000.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-02 to Join Mountain Towns 2030 Councilor Lakin seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

12. Request to expend budgeted funds and enter into a contract to purchase a 2024 John Deere 320 P-Tier Backhoe Loader for the Public Works Department

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 1-3-25.

Manager Neill presented a request to expend budgeted funds, and enter into a contract to purchase a 2024 John Deere 320 P-Tier Backhoe Loader for the Public Works Department. He explained funds were placed in the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget for a new backhoe, and the Town has been quoted \$135,500, which is below the \$170,000 budgeted amount.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Kroger to authorize staff to expend budgeted funds and enter into a contract to purchase a 2024 John Deere 320 P-Tier Backhoe Loader for the Public Works Department. After a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

13. Ratification of appointment to the Home Trust of Ouray County Board of Directors

Manager Neill explained he is currently the Town representative on the Home Trust of Ouray County Board of Directors. The term is expiring and he asked the Council to ratify his appointment for another term on the board.

ACTION:

Councilmember Scoville moved to ratify appointment of Preston Neill to the Home Trust of Ouray County Board of Directors. Councilmember Lakin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Order Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway related to the Beaver Creek Diversion

The Town Manager reported financing is now in place for the Beaver Creek Diversion emergency, to rebuild the diversion. He noted the Council can rescind the Declaration of Local Disaster, or carry it forward month by month.

Speaking from the audience, Bobbie Lazero with the Office of Emergency Management, recommended instead of rescinding, transitioning the disaster to a recovery and rebuilding phase. She explained the Council can declare and extend the order to the end of December 2025, and then reanalyze, and if needed amend or rescind at that time.

The Town Attorney agreed this would be an appropriate action. Consensus of the Council was to continue the order for another month, and direct staff to prepare an order for the next meeting that would meet the concepts presented by Ms. Lazero.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved to extend the Declaration of Local Disaster in and for the Town of Ridgway related to the Beaver Creek Diversion. Councilmember Lakin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

The Town Clerk presented an update on the 2025 Annual Election to be held on April 1st. Three council seats will become vacant. These are the seats currently held by Polly Kroger, Beth Lakin and Russ Meyer. The nomination period begins on January 27th and closes on February 14th.

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

The Council discussed ridership in the Ourway transit, and developing a hub or center for transit within the center of Town.

The Mayor noted the need to stress in social media that Town leash regulations require an unleashed dog to be leashed when approaching a leashed dog.

Councilor Scoville reported on the Chamber Board meeting; Councilmember Lakin on the Weed Board and Mayor Clark on the Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC

Town Clerk