

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 12, 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 5:35 p.m. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Grambley, Kroger, Lakin, Scoville, Schuyler, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Register of Demands for March 2025.
2. Renew restaurant liquor license for Taco Del Gnar.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Lakin, seconded by Councilor Kroger and unanimously carried on a roll call vote to approve the consent agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Krista Meyer suggesting acknowledging the passing of Wanda Taylor by naming a site in Town in her honor, and including her remembrance at the annual Love Your Valley Festival.

The Mayor noted an acknowledgement is currently being explored, and asked staff to investigate inclusion at the annual festival.

INTRODUCTIONS

3. Introduction of new Administrative Assistant Julie Huun

The Mayor introduced Julie Huun, new Administrative Assistant in the Clerks Department.

POLICY MATTERS

4. Approval of Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Evacuation Plan

Ouray County Emergency Manager Glenn Boyd, presented the final version of the Multijurisdictional Emergency Evacuation Plan, and requested Council approval.

Manager Boyd explained the plan, which took a year and half to develop, will serve all of the County including the Town and City of Ouray. The plan addresses response to disasters and hazards through creation of evacuation routes; shelter and re-entry procedures; communication and public notification; and identifies the at risk population. He explained a "full scale exercise to test the plan" will be conducted on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There were questions from the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilmember Kroger to approve the Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Evacuation Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation regarding the Cimarron Athletic Field Project

Susan Lacy, Ridgway School District Superintendent, and Secondary School Principal Russell Randolph, addressed the Council regarding the school project to install the Cimarron Athletic Field. Permitting is being done through the State, and the process requires a letter of support from the Town. Construction should begin by the end of August, and a synthetic turf will be utilized after placement of varying types of gravel. The turf will be topped with a sand and calcium carbonite material "to keep temperatures down on the field by 20-30 degrees". A vertical drainage system will reduce the need for the rubber product by half, it was noted. On the north east side of the field a retention pond will be constructed, which "will remain dry most of the time".

There were questions from the Council.

6. Presentation regarding Homegrown Pathways Spark Lab Youth Accelerator Program

Taylor Poyner Director of Operations and Communications with Homegrown Pathways 'Empowering Colorado Talent', an organization founded in Ridgway, explained the new program is geared toward "providing youth with entrepreneurial ventures". The mission of the organization is to "drive economic mobility by connecting rural Colorado youth and young adults to quality career and entrepreneurial pathways in their home region". She explained Homegrown Pathways is collaborating with Start-up Colorado to provide support and financial resources for "rural entrepreneurs". Using a model called 'The Idea Factory,' and gearing it to a youth specific audience, a new program called 'Spark Lab' has been created. The program is designed for young entrepreneurs aged 14-24 with active businesses, and those with a new business concept.

Ms. Poyner further explained the model focuses on refining business concepts and preparing "a pitch" to be presented at a "pitch event". The six week course includes 15 hours of engagement with other young entrepreneurs, and provides stipends for "launch packages". Participants in the winter program ranged in age from 15 to 19; five with existing businesses; from six different Towns, within four different counties, including three from Ridgway. \$10,000 in funding was awarded at a "pitch event", with sixty people in attendance. She noted "entrepreneurship is an essential pathway to drive economic mobility, especially in rural Colorado".

7. Request for permanent access into the Ouray County Ranch History Museum and Ridgway Railroad Museum

Joan Chismire, Board President for the Ouray County Ranch History Museum and Hall Hawtz with the Ridgway Railroad Museum, addressed access to the 16 acre parcel the two organizations share off of North Railroad Street.

Ms. Chismire explained the organizations desire to receive "permanent access" from the Town. She stated "since 2019 only annual temporary permits" have been granted, "prohibiting us from expansion plans and fundraising for projects". She stated "we have met over the past five years" with staff and the landowners attorney and "the issue has not been resolved".

The Mayor noted the issue is related to re-establishing the trail easement across the east side of the property, along the river trail system.

Town Attorney Nerlin stated staff has met numerous times with representatives of the museums and the landowner, and have been "very supportive of the projects". A condition for granting permanent access on to the property has been re-establishing an easement to allow trail connectivity on the north side of the property, and the property owner has not been willing to consent. When a development agreement is submitted a component of the application would be review of the access, he noted.

Ms. Chismire stated "we cannot force the landowner, we are leasees". Mr. Hawtz noted "we are in the process of developing the site plan" which will be submitted in "the near future".

8. Proclamation acknowledging International Dark Sky Week

Mayor Clark asked the Council to adopt the proclamation declaring April 21-28 as International Dark Sky Week.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Schyler, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, the motion to adopt the official proclaiming the week of April 21-28, 2025 as International Dark Sky Week carried unanimously.

9. National Donate Life Month Proclamation

The Mayor noted the importance of recognizing the value of being an organ donor, and asked the Council to acknowledge the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Donate to Life Month, and declare April 2025 as National Donate Life Month.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved to proclaim April 2025 as National Donate to Life Month. Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS (Continued)

10. Appointment of member to the Sustainability Advisory Board

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 3-4-25 presenting a letter received expressing interest in serving to fill the vacancy on the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Manager Neill presented a letter of interest from Kristina Lemon to serve on the Sustainability Advisory Board.

ACTION:

Councilor Schuyler moved to appoint Kristina Lemon to the Sustainability Advisory Board for a three-year term. Councilor Scoville seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

11. Introduction of Ordinance No. 01-2025 Amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" and Section 8-5 "Short-Term Rentals" of the Ridgway Municipal Code

Staff Report dated 3-4-25 from the Town Planner presenting proposed code amendments to Short Term Rental regulations.

Planner Kemp explained revisions made to accessory dwelling unit provisions promulgated the need for changes to the short term rental regulations contained within the Municipal Code. She reviewed the proposed changes with the Council.

There were questions from the Council.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to approve the first reading and introduction of Ordinance No. 01-2025 Amending Section 7-4-6 (N) Short Term Rental Regulations, 8-5 Short Term Rentals of the Ridgway Municipal Code. Councilmember Grambley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Introduction of Ordinance No. 02-2025 Amending Chapter 11 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning the Sale of Dogs and Cats Born or Raised in Inhumane Commercial Breeding Facilities

Staff Report dated 3-7-25 from the Town Manager presenting an ordinance concerning the sale of dogs and cats born or raised in commercial breeding facilities.

Manager Neill reported at the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting staff was directed to prepare an ordinance enacting regulations to ban the sale of dogs and cats raised in inhumane commercial breeding facilities. He presented the Council with a draft ordinance.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilmember Schuyler, seconded by Councilor Scoville to introduce on first reading, Ordinance No. 02-2025, an Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway Colorado Amending Chapter 11 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning the Sale of Dogs and Cats Born or Raised in Inhumane Commercial Breeding Facilities. After a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

13. Resolution No. 25-05 Canceling the April Regular Election

The Town Clerk explained the annual April election has been cancelled. On the legal filing deadline of February 14<sup>th</sup> three nomination petitions were received for three Councilor positions. She presented the Council with a resolution accepting the Clerks cancellation of the regular election slated for April 1, 2025, acknowledging the Clerk has published and posted notice of the cancellation and deemed the candidates elected.

ACTION:

Councilor Schuyler moved to approve Resolution No. 25-05 Canceling the April Regular Election. Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

14. Setting date for a special meeting the week of April 28<sup>th</sup>

The Town Manager reported the firm hired to provide design services for the Beaver Creek Diversion project, is hoping the Town has a construction contractor hired by the time the design is at thirty percent to help inform the remainder of the design. Staff is compiling a request for proposals which will be due on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and he asked the Council to set a special meeting the week of April 28<sup>th</sup> to issue a notice of award, to allow construction to begin by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally staff should also have a notice of award for the design of the baseball field and pickleball courts at the Athletic Park, he noted.

He asked Council to set a date for a special meeting during the week of April 28<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed to meet on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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

Councilor Schuyler addressed the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk