

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 14, 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 5:50 p.m. In attendance Councilors Kroger, Montague, Scoville, Schuyler, Mayor Pro Tem Lakin and Mayor Clark. Councilor Grambley was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2025.
2. Minutes of Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee from April 9, 2025.
3. Minutes of the Special Meeting on April 29, 2025.
4. Register of Demands for May 2025.
5. Renewal of liquor store license for Ridgway Liquors.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ruth Stewart spoke in opposition to expending tax dollars on eminent domain proceedings in River Park Subdivision to provide access to the high school. She noted for students to walk "an additional three blocks" to access the school, versus using "eminent domain to take from a property owner is government over reach". She noted an access should have been addressed during the subdivision process.

Charlie Scott agreed with the comments made by Ms. Stewart.

POLICY MATTERS

6. Presentation of the Ouray County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Ouray County Emergency Manager, Glenn Boyd, presented an update to the Ouray County Community Wildfire Protection Plan noting it was last updated in June of 2011. He explained a contractor was retained through federal grant funds, to write the plan which was prepared as a multi-agency collaboration with the Town, County and City of Ouray along with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and state and local partners. Mr. Boyd presented an overview of the plan; the planning process; reviewed the goals, which took into account the watershed; fuel treatment and action planning.

There were questions and comments from the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Schuyler to adopt the Ouray County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. After a second by Councilor Montague, a call for the vote carried unanimously.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7. Request to use public streets and rights-of-ways for the Fete de-la Musique on June 29<sup>th</sup> and Rally Thru the Alley on October 5<sup>th</sup>

The Town Clerk reported the Sherbino and Weehawken Creative Arts are requesting use of alley rights-of-ways for the annual Rally Thru the Alley event which will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> to follow the set path from Amelia Street to Town Park. The non-profit organizations are also requesting closures of public streets for the annual Fete d'la Musique on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved to approve the closure of rights-of-ways for the Rally Thru the Alley on October 5<sup>th</sup> and Fete de-la Musique on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Pro Tem Lakin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to close Clinton Street between Cora and Laura on August 16<sup>th</sup> for the annual Ouray County Pride event

The Town Clerk reported the Town has received an application to close Clinton Street between Cora and Laura Streets, from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. on August 16<sup>th</sup>, for the annual Ouray County Pride event.

There were comments by the Council and it was asked if it would be possible to not close the area in front of the entrance into the Space to Create building.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved, Mayor Pro Tem Lakin seconded, to approve the closure of rights-of-way on August 16<sup>th</sup> for the annual Ouray County Pride Event. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to permanently fly the Flag of Planet Earth on the Town flagpole in Hartwell Park

Hansa Devi explained the International Flag of Planet Earth is a global initiative with its headquarters in Ridgway. She is a resident, and the Executive Director of the non-profit organization. Since inception in 2015 the flag has been "placed around the world and continues to gain momentum spreading placement around the planet". It is "non-political and represents the astronomical planet of earth". The appearance of the flag design represents "the interconnectedness of life on the planet, and the blue of our oceans", the message is to "look beyond politics and nationalities and demonstrate our common ground". She asked the Council to consider permanently flying the Flag of Planet Earth in Hartwell Park.

On a question from the Council the Town Attorney noted as a governmental agency the Town flies the US and Colorado flags. All requests to fly another flag would need to be reviewed "based on their own merit, and based on the values of the Town".

The Mayor asked the Council if the request represents the Towns goals and values, and there were comments from the Council.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Howard Greene spoke in support of displaying the flag noting it is “universal not controversial” “it represents a value and an attitude”, stating “it was the beauty of the concept that struck me”.

Charlie Scott spoke in opposition expressing concerns it would “set a precedence” and feels the Town “should not fly anything other than the State and Federal flags”.

Ellen Hunter spoke in opposition and agreed only the State and Federal flag should be placed on the flag pole, and suggested the earth flag be could be “flown on certain situations, but not as a permanent installation”.

Keira DeLuccio spoke in support and stated “it is important that the Town shows commitment to the planet”; it is “not political, religious or has any other affiliation”.

Joanna Mularz spoke in support noting it is important since “the planet is in trouble”.

Tom Griffith spoke in support noting “some people will interpret it as political”, but “I think it is the right thing to do”.

Josh Jacobs spoke in support noting the flag has been “recommended for many awards” and “in a few years” it “will be more universally known” noting “the Town should be able to say we were one of the first”.

Torben spoke in support and stated he thinks “it is absolutely beautiful”.

Lauren Mahlin spoke in support and stated “it aligns with everything the Town already stands for, and it aligns with the Town I live in”.

There were comments from the Council.

ACTION:

Councilor Montague moved to approve the request to permanently fly the Flag of Planet Earth on the Town flagpole in Hartwell Park, Councilmember Schuyler seconded and the motion carried with Councilor Scoville voting no.

10. Proclamation Recognizing and Raising the Flag of Planet Earth

Mayor Clark reported after appearance of an article in the local newspaper regarding the request to fly the Flag of Planet Earth, there were requests to formalize with a proclamation. The Mayor read a proclamation recognizing the raising of the Flag of Planet Earth.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilmember Schuyler, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lakin to approve the Proclamation Recognizing and Raising the Flag of Planet Earth. After a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

11. Proclamation Declaring May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month

Mayor Clark noted mental health is as important as physical health, and asked the Council to adopt the annual proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month. A

representative from Tri-County Health explained the agency is holding a workplace challenge this year and invited the Town to participate.

There were comments by Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Kroger, seconded by Councilmember Scoville, the motion to approve the proclamation declaring May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month carried unanimously.

12. Proclamation Recognizing Public Lands Day

Mayor Clark noted the third Saturday in May is recognized as Public Lands Day and read the proclamation.

ACTION:

Councilor Montague moved to approve the Proclamation Recognizing Public Lands Day. Mayor Pro Tem Lakin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. Application for Restaurant Liquor License at 618 Clinton Street for Tacos and Beer Ridgway

Staff Report from the Town Clerk dated 4-8-25 presenting an application for a restaurant liquor license.

The Town Clerk explained the Town has received an application for a restaurant liquor license from Tacos and Beer Montrose LLC, member and shareholder Adauto M. Jimenez for the premises at 618 Clinton Street. The trade name of the business is Tacos and Beer Ridgway. The applicant is leasing the premises and assuming an existing four year lease from Kismet Cafe. The approval would include licensing the patio areas on the north and south sides of the building for outdoor consumption of alcohol. Additionally the applicant is requesting an encroachment from the Town to serve alcohol on the public sidewalk.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Lakin, seconded by Councilmember Kroger to approve the liquor license for Tacos and Beer Montrose, LLC doing business as Tacos and Beer Ridgway. The motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS (Continued)

14. Issuance of Revocable Encroachment Permit to Tacos and Beer Ridgway to serve food and beverages, including alcoholic beverages, on the sidewalk adjacent to 618 Clinton Street

The Town Clerk reported applicant Adauto M. Jimenez is seeking an encroachment on the sidewalk to serve alcohol on the public right-of-way in front of 618 Clinton Street, adjacent to Tacos and Beer Ridgway. Approval from the Town to serve alcoholic beverages on the sidewalk will be submitted with the application for outdoor service along with the liquor license application being sent to the State.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Lakin moved to approve the issuance of a revocable encroachment permit to Tacos and Beer Ridgway to serve food and beverages, including alcoholic beverages, on the sidewalk adjacent to 618 Clinton Street. Councilor Scoville seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

15. Annual presentation from the Ridgway Youth Advisory Council

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 5-9-25 presenting the Ridgway Youth Advisory Council.

Town Manager Neill introduced the 2024-2025 Youth Advisory members Keira DeLuccio, Lauren Mahlin, Patrick Megahee and Sophia Scranton, three members are seniors and will be graduating this month, he noted. Members of the Advisory Council presented a summary of the main meeting items which were discussed, and their capstone fundraising project.

There were questions from the Council, and discussion with members of the Youth Council.

16. Notice of award for regional Housing Needs Assessment project

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 5-9-25 presenting background on the Housing Needs Assessment project.

The Town Manager explained in March a request for proposals was issued for a consultant to conduct a Regional Housing Needs Assessment for the Town and Ouray County. Four bids proposals were received and an evaluation committee reviewed the criteria and proposals, and elected to interview two firms. Based on the interviews and reference checking process, the evaluation committee is recommending entering into a Professional Services Agreement with Points Consulting LLC to conduct the project.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Lakin to authorize staff to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Points Consulting, LLC to develop a housing needs assessment. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kroger and carried unanimously.

17. Enactment of Voluntary Water Restrictions

Staff Report dated 5-9-25 from the Town Manager presenting an update from the US Drought Portal, noting Ouray County is experiencing drought conditions.

The Town Manager suggested enacting Stage 1 voluntary water restrictions pursuant to the Town's Water and Conservation Management Plan. He noted the water plant is currently distributing 168,000 gallons of water a day, which "is on par with prior years".

There were comments by the Council.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved to promogate Stage 1 Voluntary Water Restrictions in the Town, Councilor Schuyler seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

18. Electric vehicle charging stations in Hartwell Park parking lot

The Town Manager reported over the past few years there have been outages and problems with the electric vehicle charging stations in the Hartwell Park parking lot. The equipment was installed in 2017 and is “aging and outdated” and is no longer being serviced. The Town has been paying for the electricity used at the stations, and as staff has been researching new equipment the question came up if the Town should now switch to pay models and discontinue underwriting the electrical charges.

Speaking from the audience Ellen Hunter agreed with charging for the use.

There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed pay models should be installed.

19. Issuance of annual scholarship to a high school senior at Ridgway Secondary School

Mayor Clark announced this years scholarship was presented at a ceremony to high school senior Lauren Mahlin.

20. Establish special meeting date to review design concepts for the Beaver Creek Diversion project

Manager Neill asked the Council to set a date to conduct a special meeting to review design concepts for the Beaver Creek Diversion. It was agreed to meet on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

The Mayor announced the appointment of Russ Meyer to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission.

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

Councilor Schuyler addressed the recent Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilor Montague presented an update on the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Scoville presented an update on the Chamber of Commerce.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney asked the Council to enter into a closed session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding Town access to the Beaver Creek Diversion and Ridgway Ditch.

**ACTION:**

Moved by Councilor Montague, seconded by Councilmember Schuyler to enter into closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council entered into an executive session at 8:00 p.m. with the Town Attorney, Town Manager, Town Clerk and Town Engineer.

The Council reconvened from closed session at 8:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk