

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 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 4:35 p.m. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Grambley, Kroger, Montague, Schuyler, Scoville, Mayor Pro Tem Lakin and Mayor Clark in attendance.

WORK SESSION

Presentation and direction on the Draft 2026 Fiscal Year Budget and Five- and Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plans

The Town Manager presented an overview of the budget adoption process; financial overview of the draft budget; operational reserves; personnel and pay movements; revenue projections and trends and project lists.

The Town Clerk/Treasurer reviewed the draft budget document with the Council; presented line item location of expenditures; presented and reviewed the five and ten year capital improvement plans.

Manager Neill noted sales tax has decreased 22.64% from 2024 actual receipts; personnel is 36.7% of the total budget in 2026; pay movements are proposed at 2.4% and the total expenditure is lower than in the 2025 adopted budget.

The Council requested additional expenditures to the general fund and a change to the ten year capital improvement plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney requested the Council enter into a closed session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on a specific legal question under Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) Section 24-6-402(4)(b) and determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) concerning MTN Lodge Ridgway.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved to enter into a closed session, Mayor Pro Tem Lakin seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

The Council entered into closed session at 5:35 p.m. with the Town Attorney, Town Manager, Town Clerk and Town Planner.

The Council convened from the closed session at 6:05 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mayor asked the Council and audience to join in observing a moment of silence to honor the memory of Jennifer Nelson, a valued member of the Planning Commission and wife of a Town staff member.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 10, 2025.
2. Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 1, 2025.
3. Minutes of Budget Workshop and Special Meeting of October 4, 2025.
4. Register of Demands for November 2025.
5. Renewal of Restaurant Liquor License for Bella Vino.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

6. Presentation of annual report from the Ridgway Community Garden

Letter dated 11-3-25 from Christine Lance presenting an annual report from the Ridgway Community Garden.

Chris Lance address the Council regarding the Ridgway Community Garden annual report and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. She noted next year will be the eighth year of operating in Green Street Park under a Town lease. She explained the year “focused on connection with our collaborators” including the Voyager Youth Program, Ouray County Food Bank, Ridgway Library and Ridgway Apiary. Infrastructure projects for the year included completing construction of the extension of the storage shed and building three new planting beds; garden participants included 113 adults and 26 children and all 54 garden plots were used.

7. Interviews of Youth Advisory Council candidates and appointment of members

Staff Report dated 11-3-25 from the Town Manager presenting five applications received to serve on the Youth Advisory Council for the current school year.

Applicants Sunny Wick, Masen Barker, Orion Krois, Thea Mahlin and Sloan Patton introduced themselves, explained why they wish to be involved in the Youth Council and answered questions from the Council.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved to appoint all five members to the Youth Advisory Council. Mayor Pro Tem Lakin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Annual presentation from EcoAction Partners regarding programs, projects and initiatives

Emma Gerona, Executive Director and Siobhan Montoya Lavender, Development Director with EcoAction Partners, displayed a PowerPoint presentation of an Annual Program Update. The presentation included the mission of EcoAction Partners and regional collaboration; economic impacts; reduction of emissions; data collection and analysis for Ouray and San Miguel Counties; programming; Sneffels Energy Board and the workplan and priorities for next year; student and outreach programming; Colorado Affordable Residential Energy Program; regional grants; energy workforce development; regional community values.

9. Annual presentation from San Miguel Power Association regarding programs, projects and initiatives

Alex Shelley with San Miguel Power Association, displayed a PowerPoint presentation pertaining to the 2025 update which included operations update; beneficial electrification and energy for the future; Tri-State policies regarding energy generation and renewable energy; ten year average annual growth rate comparison; 2026 rate outlooks; new programs.

There was discussion with, and questions from, the Council.

POLICY MATTERS

10. Resolution No. 25-10 Establishing Expedited Review Policies for Affordable Housing Projects in the Town of Ridgway

Staff Report from Planner Angie Kemp dated 11-4-25 presenting a resolution expediting review policies for affordable housing projects.

Planner Kemp explained the Town has made a commitment to provide affordable housing units under State Proposition 123 and entered into a regional intergovernmental agreement to address an increase of affordable housing units by 3% annually over a three year compliance period. In an attempt to notify developers of the Towns commitment to support this type of development, an expedition in the review process "can offer a sense of certainty" and staff has prepared an resolution establishing an expedited review process. Additionally if adopted prior to the end of the year, the Department of Local Affairs is offering a financial incentive which can be utilized under the local planning capacity grant.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Schuyler, seconded by Councilor Kroger and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution 25-10 Establishing Expedited Review Policies for Affordable Housing Projects in the Town of Ridgway.

11. Notice of Award for Marketing and Tourism Promotion Services

Staff Report from the Community Initiatives Facilitator dated 11-12-25 presenting a recommendation on the award of contract for marketing and tourism promotion.

Community Initiatives Facilitator Tera Wick explained requests for proposal for marketing and tourism promotion was solicited seeking a qualified consultant to develop and implement a comprehensive tourism marketing strategy. At the end of September eleven proposals were received and reviewed by a seven member evaluation committee. Based on interviews and the quality of the proposal the selection committee recommends awarding the contract to

Destination by Design LLC from Boone, North Carolina. The companies track record working with communities to align with their values, and listening to the community and residents stood out, along with an integrated in-house approach which combines planners, strategists, designers and videographers.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Lakin to authorize staff to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Destination by Design for Tourism and Marketing Promotion Services in the amount of \$60,000 seconded by Councilor Grambley, the motion carried unanimously on a call for the vote.

12. Appointment of new member to Ridgway FUSE Creative Main Street Committee

The Community Initiatives Facilitator presented a request from Anna Strauss to join the FUSE Committee.

ACTION:

Councilor Scoville moved, Councilor Kroger seconded, and carried unanimously to appoint Anna Strauss as a Ridgway FUSE member.

13. Introduction of Ordinance No. 04-2025 Amending Chapter 15 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning Vehicle Idling Restrictions

Staff Report dated 11-3-25 from the Town Manager presenting an ordinance related to vehicle idling restrictions.

Manager Neill explained the Sustainability Advisory Board has recommended adoption of regulations to mitigate the idling of vehicles in Town.

There was discussion and comments by the Council.

There were comments by Marshal Schmaltz pertaining to enforcement.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Kroger, second by Councilor Schuyler to introduce Ordinance 4-2025 Amending Chapter 15 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning Vehicle Idling Restrictions. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Introduction of Ordinance No. 05-2025 Amending Chapter 2 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning Compensation of Town Council

The Town Manager presented an ordinance concerning compensation for the Town Council. He explained the ordinance is in follow up to discussion at the previous meeting regarding increasing the stipend paid to the Mayor and members of the Council. He noted the increase will not benefit the members currently seated, but only newly elected members.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Lakin with a second by Councilor Kroger, to introduce Ordinance 5-2025 Amending Chapter 2 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning Compensation of Town Council. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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

Councilor Schuyler reported on the Sustainability Advisory Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk