

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2024

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. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Grambley, Kroger, Lakin, Schuyler, Scoville, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark in attendance.

At 5:30 p.m. the Council convened to a meeting of the Ridgway Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee.

The Council reconvened into the regular meeting at 5:55 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mayor acknowledged the recent loss of three members of the community Michael Gardner, Priscillia Peters and David Wade.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Register of Demands for October 2024.
2. Renew of Liquor Store Liquor License for High Spirits Liquors, Liquor Library.
3. Renewal of Restaurant Liquor License for Thai Paradise.
4. Renewal of Restaurant Liquor License for Land and Ocean.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. Proclamation declaring October 2024 as Bullying Prevention Month

Gregory Meadows, Executive Director of PEER Kindness presented a proclamation declaring October as Bullying Prevention Month and asked the Council to adopt it.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to adopt the Proclamation declaring October 2024 as Bullying Prevention Month in the Town of Ridgway. Councilor Kroger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to close Clinton Street between Cora and Laura Streets on October 19th

The Town Clerk reported the Town has received an application for use of public right-of-way on October 19th, to block Lena Street between Cora and Laura Streets from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a memorial celebrating the life of Wanda Taylor.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Scoville to approve the application to block the public right-of-way on Clinton Street, between Laura and Cora from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. on October 19th. On a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to close Clinton Street on November 15th from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

The Town Clerk explained the Town has received an application for use of public right-of-way to block Lena Street between Cora and Laura Streets on November 15th from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the Ridgway Independent Film Festival.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilmember Kroger, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer to approve the application for use of public right-of-way and block Clinton Street, between Laura and Cora from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on November 15th. On a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to close North Railroad and Otto Streets as part of the Laura Street Extension Project

Letter dated 10-14-24 from contractual engineering firm Swiftwater Solutions, presenting findings related to a request to close North Railroad and Otto Streets for construction of the Laura Street Extension Project.

Contractor Skip Houston requested closure of North Railroad and Otto Streets for installation of a gas line at the intersection of Otto Street and N. Laura Street on October 14th and 15th; and October 21, 22, 23rd for placement of stormwater and sewer pipes across Railroad Street. He noted this would be a full road closure, and staff would be present to re-route traffic.

There were questions from the Council.

Joyce Huang with Swiftwater Solutions, recommended requiring full time flaggers and dedicated staff at all detour areas before 9:00 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m. for one hour to assist with traffic flow to the school. The Council agreed, and Mr. Houston was asked to communicate the closures with the school.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilmember Scoville to approve the request from Skip Houston Construction to close North Railroad and Otto Streets as part of the Laura Street Extension Project. Councilmember Lakin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Adoption of Ordinance No. 04-2024 Amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" of the Ridgway Municipal Code Relating to Parking Standards

Staff Report dated 10-4-24 from TJ Dlubac and Max Garcia, contractual planners with Community Planning Strategies, presenting an ordinance amending parking standards.

Planner TJ Dlubac explained at the beginning of the year the Planning Commission began addressing changes to the parking standards using four guiding concepts - the desire for parking to occur in one place to access a variety of establishments; increased use of bicycling, walking and multi-modal transportation; providing off-street parking areas reduces the amount of land available for revenue generating square footage in commercial zones; requiring excess off-street parking unnecessarily increased the costs of developing all types of uses. He noted the proposed document reduces by half all current parking requirements. The Commission held a hearing on August 29th and recommended the ordinance as presented for adoption by the Council.

Planner Dlubac noted the proposed changes include adding stacking, EV ready spaces, and bicycle parking spaces. He reported at the last meeting Council directed staff to look at areas which may be adversely affected by the proposed changes, and determine any potential impacts if the regulations are approved; he reviewed the findings with Council.

There was discussion regarding parking in the industrial area, and comments by the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, seconded by Councilor Scoville the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 04-2024, an Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, Amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" of the Ridgway Municipal Code Regarding Parking Standards on second reading, finding that the criteria set forth in Municipal Code Section 7-4-3(D)(3) have been met carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS

11. Ad Hoc Review Committee recommendation for artist and art concept for mural installation on Artspace Ridgway Space to Create Building

Manager Neill reported 17 proposals were received for mural installation on the Space to Create Building, and were reviewed by an Ad Hoc Committee which met numerous times, including interviewing artists. The project will take place in late May or early June, and will be funded by \$20,000 in Main Street Mini-Grant funds, and a contribution from Art Space owners of the building.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to confirm the Ad Hoc Review Committee final selection of Yulia Avgustinovich; direct staff to reflect an expenditure in the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget and a work plan item in the 2025 Strategic Plan to complete the Artspace Ridgway Space to Create Building Public Art Component Project, upon successful appropriation for the project in 2025, enter into an agreement with Yulia Avgustinovich. Councilor Scoville seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Town Manager, Preston Neill, noted the local disaster originally declared on August 14th will be expiring, and asked the Council to extend for another thirty days the declaration under the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act.

Manager Neill presented an update on funding for the Beaver Creek Diversion project. Through technical assistance from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Wright Water Engineers Inc. was retained to provide a report summarizing a conceptual plan, cost estimates and assumptions for design and construction of repairs to the intake structure and transmission system that were damaged by a debris flow which occurred on August 12th. The report will provide a basis for the effort to secure funding from the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and US Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services Watershed Protection program for design and repairs to the damaged structure.

ACTION:

Councilmember Schuyler moved to approve the Emergency Declaration for the Town of Ridgway. Councilor Kroger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Interview of Youth Advisory Council candidates and appointment of members

The Town Manager reported during a solicitation period from August 19th to October 1st four applications were received to serve on the 2024-2025 Youth Advisory Council.

Applicants Keira DeLuccio, Lauren Mahlin, Patrick Megahee and Sophia Scranton addressed the Council regarding their desire to serve on the Youth Advisory Council, and answered questions from members of the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer to appoint Keira DeLuccio, Lauren Mahlin, Patrick Megahee and Sophia Scranton to the 2024-2025 Youth Advisory Committee with terms to expire on June 30, 2025. Councilor Kroger seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a call for the vote.

The Council took a recess at 7:00 p.m. and convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

14. Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Ridgway, City of Ouray and Ouray County Establishing an Affordable Housing Services Administrator

Manager Neill presented a draft Intergovernmental Agreement sharing in the cost of services for an Affordable Housing Services Administrator with the City and County of Ouray. He noted there a few non-substantive changes that need to be discussed, and asked for approval along with direction to staff to meet with the City and County attorneys to discuss the changes.

There were comments from County Commissioner Jake Niece.

ACTION:

Councilmember Lakin moved to approve the IGA between the Town of Ridgway, City of Ouray and Ouray County Establishing an Affordable Housing Services Administrator. Councilor Kroger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilmember Kroger to direct staff to meet with the City and County to clean up any non-substantive changes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and carried unanimously.

15. Presentation of Draft 2025 Fiscal Year Budget

The Town Clerk/Treasurer presented a draft of the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget, noting the Town is meeting statutory requirements with the first document review. She reviewed the document with the Council, and answered questions.

16. Establishment of funding amount for 2025 Community Grant Program

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 10-2-24 presenting a request to establish a funding target amount for the 2025 Community Grant Program.

The Town Manager reported applications for the community grant program were solicited on August 1st with a deadline of September 16th. The Ad Hoc Committee, comprised of community members, business owners and representation from non-profit organizations, will be reviewing the applications to prepare funding recommendations to the Council, and a target funding amount is need to work within. He noted staff is recommending two percent of the general fund, or \$82,000.

There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed to use 2.25% of the general fund budget, which would equate to \$92,200.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved to target up to 2.5% of the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget for the Community Grant Program funding which the Ad Hoc Review Committee funding recommendation shall not exceed, seconded by Councilor Scoville the motion carried unanimously.

17. Update on State and Federal Legislation

The Town Attorney presented a verbal update on State and Federal laws which will impact municipalities next year.

The voter approved Natural Medicine regulations do not allow municipalities and counties to opt out, but do allow setting zoning boundaries where the sale can take place. There was discussion by the Council and staff was directed to prepare an overlay map displaying 1000 feet from all schools, including day care facilities.

18. Resolution No. 24-10 Appointing Members to the Board of Adjustment

The Town Manager presented a resolution appointing members of the Planning Commission to the Board of Adjustment as defined in Municipal Code Section 7-3-1(C). The Board would hear any appeals of staff decisions regarding building code or land use regulations.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer, with a second by Councilor Kroger, the motion to approve Resolution No. 24-10 Appointing Members to the Board of Adjustment carried unanimously.

19. Letter from Mayor Clark regarding appointment to the Planning Commission

The Mayor presented a letter reappointing Jack Petrucelli to the Planning Commission.

There was discussion by the Council regarding revisiting term lengths, vacancies and the application process.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

The Town Manager presented the 2024 Mosquito Management Report from the Public Works Department and the 2024 Noxious Weed Management Report from Julie Kolb, Ouray County Vegetation Management.

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

Councilor Kroger presented an update from the Parks and Trails Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Council enter into a closed session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(f) for discussion of a personnel matter concerning the Town Managers annual performance evaluation.

ACTION:

Councilor Grambley moved with Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconding, to enter into closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council entered into a closed session with the Town Manager at 8:20 p.m.

The Council reconvened from closed session at 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk