

**RIDGWAY PLANNING COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesday, January 21st, 2026

5:30 pm

*Pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy, the meeting will be conducted both in person and via a virtual meeting portal. Members of the public may attend in person at the Community Center, located at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado 81432, or virtually using the meeting information below.*

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81246613262?pwd=DTNiMoalDyJZAHjbnKwgiwe8dOUjnM.1>

Meeting ID: 812 4661 3262

Passcode: 879787

*Written comments can be submitted before the meeting to [akemp@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:akemp@town.ridgway.co.us) or delivered to Town Hall Attn: Planning Commission*

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioners: Pam Foyster, Bill Liske, Russ Meyer, and Jack Petruccelli, Terese Seal, Councilmember Michelle Montague acting as Chairperson, Mayor John Clark

**INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER SEAL:**

1. Announcing the Mayoral Appointment of Terese Seal to serve the remainder of the Planning Commission term expiring on November 1, 2028.

**WORKSESSION:**

2. Workplan 2026:
  - a. Updates related to 2026 Budget and 2026 Strategic Plan
  - b. Community Planning Strategies Targeted Code Updates

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

3. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 19th, 2025

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

4. Updates from Planning staff
5. Updates from Planning Commission members

**ADJOURNMENT**

## AGENDA ITEM #1

**Terese Seal** 709 N Laura St Ridgway, CO 81432 970-596-3836 | [joshterese@yahoo.com](mailto:joshterese@yahoo.com)

12/31/2025

**To Mayor John Clark, the Ridgway Town Council, and the Ridgway Planning Commission,**

I am writing to formally express my interest in joining the **Ridgway Planning Commission**. Having lived in the area for 29 years—primarily in Ouray County before moving into the Town of Ridgway this past June—I have a deep-rooted commitment to this community and its future.

As a co-owner of **Green Seal LLC** for over a decade, I bring the unique perspective of a builder and small developer. My husband and I are strong advocates for affordable housing, and we take pride in having added to Ridgway's inventory of starter homes. I believe increasing our local housing stock is essential to maintaining a healthy community, and I am particularly concerned about the impact of outside investors. I would like to work collaboratively with the Commission to find creative ways to prioritize "missing middle" housing for the real people who live and work here.

In addition to my construction background, my 15 years managing **Orvis Hot Springs** gave me a clear understanding of the "trials and tribulations" of local business. I am especially passionate about addressing the critical need for workforce and employee housing, which I believe is vital to our town's economic health.

Our community is in a vulnerable place right now, and I believe my experience allows me to think outside the box to help us achieve healthy, managed growth. I am a collaborative person who values creative solutions, and I look forward to the possibility of discussing how I can contribute to the Commission's efforts.

Sincerely,

**Terese Seal**

## AGENDA ITEM #2

# TOWN OF RIDGWAY

## 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

### COMMUNITY VISION

*Ridgway is a vibrant, welcoming, and community-minded small town situated in a beautiful mountain valley. We are diverse in age, background, and economic means. We share a deep connection to the outdoors, the lifelong pursuit of learning, and our railroad, ranching, and creative cultures. We are committed to being economically and ecologically sustainable.*

### COMMUNITY VALUES & GOALS

Achieving our vision will require us to strive to maintain certain aspects of Ridgway that the community values today, while recognizing that we will need to adapt in the face of a certain amount of growth and change over the next ten to twenty years. Our ability to adapt successfully will require a continual focus on—and balance between—five community values: healthy natural environment, sense of community and inclusivity, small town character and identity, vibrant and balanced economy, and well-managed growth.

## Community Value 1

## Healthy Natural Environment

From the Uncompahgre River to the Sneffels and Cimarron mountain ranges, Ridgway's incredible natural surroundings, and the recreational opportunities they provide, are some of the top reasons residents choose to live in our community. Protecting both the scenic values and ecological functions of natural areas in and surrounding Ridgway through responsible environmental practices is something the community values strongly. Ridgway must grow in a way that is attuned to its natural environment to protect these valuable resources. Ridgway residents must also be aware of the changes to our local environment that could arise as a result of climate change.

### Goals:

**ENV-1: Preserve, protect, and restore natural habitats, including for wildlife and ecosystems.**

**ENV-2: Strengthen the Uncompahgre River corridor as a community asset and environmental resource.**

**ENV-3: Proactively manage and protect Ridgway's water resources.**

**ENV-4: Advocate for the efficient use of resources and sustainable practices that work to eliminate harmful impacts to the health of the community or natural environment.**

**ENV-5: Maintain a healthy and resilient community forest.**



|   | Healthy Natural Environment: 2026 Strategies  | Responsible Party     |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Pursuant to the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, annually notify consumers of their service line material if it is determined to be lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown.  | Manager/PW            |
| 2 | Advance goals of the Town's Source Water Protection Plan including working with Ouray County on setbacks to the Town's water supplies in the unincorporated areas of Ouray County.  | PW/Manager            |
| 3 | Review and modify the Water and Sewer regulations found in RMC 9 -1.  | Manager/Eng.          |
| 4 | Ensure the cost of water is understood and user fees are in line with costs; assess the rate structure in 2026.   | Manager/Eng.          |
| 5 | Pursue appropriate actions to change the recently acquired water rights to municipal and augmentation purposes.   | Attorney/Eng./Manager |
| 6 | Make available educational materials on radon mitigation, and water and energy conservation, and periodically communicate this information via the Town website and other communication channels.   | Building              |
| 7 | Participate on the Sneffels Energy Board and work with the Board and EcoAction Partners to implement the objectives and supporting actions detailed in the <i>San Miguel &amp; Ouray County Regional Climate Action Plan</i> in order to help our community continue to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions from our 2010 GHG emissions baseline.   | Manager               |
| 8 | Continue working with Ouray County Vegetation Management on implementation of the Town's Integrated Weed Management Plan and to manage weeds in Ridgway more aggressively. Continue following the policy set forth in Resolution No. 22-01, Amending the Policy Relative to Noxious Weed Management. The policy now allows for the application of chemical-based herbicides when deemed necessary by Town staff and Ouray County Vegetation Management personnel, as long as the application falls in line with the Chemical Application and Protocol Recommendations found in the Integrated Weed Management Plan.                             | Manager/PW            |
| 9 | Support and promote the Sustainability Advisory Board as members work to, among many other things, advance and encourage environmentally sustainable practices and ideas within the Town. Some of the priorities and work plan items for 2026 may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist the Town with evaluating, planning and implementing projects intended to advance the Town's commitment and goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions for all municipal operations by 2030.</li> <li>Assist the Town, as needed, with planning and implementing the tasks in the Local IMPACT Accelerator Grant, if awarded.</li> </ul> | Manager               |

|    |  |                  |
|----|--|------------------|
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Encourage the Town to adopt a requirement for all new construction to be all-electric and assist with public outreach and education associated with that initiative.</i></li> <li>• <i>Develop and propose a “zero waste” policy to be adopted by the Town that would apply to all events and festivals, and work with organizers and vendors to ensure that they adhere to the requirements and guidelines in said policy to maximize composting and recycling.</i></li> <li>• <i>Sponsor or co-sponsor events to educate the local community on sustainability issues including electrification, composting, and water conservation.</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage residential composting through outreach, education, and community-wide composting solutions.</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage landscape water conservation and work to improve community soil health through outreach and incentives.</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage the Town and community to install innovative solar options that add artistic, inspirational and sculptural accents.</i></li> <li>• <i>Provide quarterly progress updates to the Town Council.</i></li> </ul> |                  |
| 10 | Identify a consultant to develop construction-level documents for the improvements identified in the Green Street Sustainability Park Master Plan.   | Manager          |
| 11 | Make available educational materials on tree species recommendations and the Town’s landscape regulations to encourage water conservation and require low water usage landscaping or xeriscaping.  | Planner/Building |
| 12 | Perform state-mandated requirements for backflow prevention and cross-connection control outreach, reporting and tracking.   | Manager/PW       |
| 13 | Research and develop regulations or a policy specific to grease traps.   | Manager/PW       |
| 14 | Develop a Preliminary Needs Assessment that makes recommendations for improvements to the current wastewater treatment system and identifies future needs.   | Eng.             |
| 15 | Remove gravel from Uncompahgre River in Rollans Park and continually improve the area.   | PW               |
| 16 | Evaluate results of <i>Uncompahgre River Corridor Ecological Assessment and Technical Report</i> and explore implementation of the recommended restoration opportunities and river management actions.   | Manager/PW       |
| 17 | Ensure the Town’s responsibilities, as described in <i>Resolution No. 21-09 Rights of Nature</i> , are met, and ensure good stewardship of the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries, and its watershed.  | Manager          |
| 18 | Participate in the Leave No Trace Spotlight campaign for the Uncompahgre River through Ridgway that will be led by the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership. Spotlights are designed to energize local Leave No Trace efforts by rallying the community, connecting partners, and inspiring continued action. This free program provides opportunities for Leave No Trace training, community outreach, and volunteer stewardship. Selected areas receive up to 3 days of Leave No Trace on-the-ground programs for staff, partners, and the local community.   | Manager/PW       |
| 19 | Participate in the community listening sessions that will result in identified priorities and proposed plans and funding sources for improvements on the Uncompahgre River Corridor through Ridgway. The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership will lead this initiative and will use funding they’ve secured to spearhead outreach, meeting facilitation and preliminary reports.   | Manager/PW       |
| 20 | Evaluate ways to modify and improve the Town’s Water Conservation and Management Plan.   | Manager          |
| 21 | Decide whether to allow graywater systems in the Town of Ridgway. If allowed, develop and implement a regulatory framework and local standards that meet the requirements laid out in Regulation 86 of the Water Quality Control Commission, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.   | Manager/Eng.     |
| 22 | Host annual Town Cleanup Day event and Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup events.   | Manager/PW       |

## Community Value 2

### Sense of Community & Inclusivity

Another aspect of living in Ridgway that residents highly value is the community, its inclusivity, and its diversity. Ridgway’s residents represent a range of age groups, income levels, cultures, lifestyles, and political persuasions, and describe each other as friendly, welcoming, and close-knit. Residents also value how the community comes together in times of crisis or need to help one another. This strong sense of community is also demonstrated in how engaged residents are with Town affairs. Trends like increasing housing costs and a lack of affordable childcare make it difficult for many people to live in

Ridgway. Looking to the future, residents would like to see Ridgway remain a diverse and inclusive community, not one that is homogeneous and unwelcoming of “others.” Residents want to avoid the kinds of changes that have occurred in other small mountain towns, such as an influx of second homeowners.



#### Goals:

**COM-1: Maintain Ridgway as a community that is accessible to a range of income levels, ages, and households.**

**COM-2: Encourage a diversity of housing options that meet the needs of residents.**

**COM-3: Encourage citizen participation and dialogue with elected and appointed officials and town administration in order to foster broad-based representation and input for local government decisions.**

**COM-4: Strive to be a model for transparency, efficiency, and good governance.**

**COM-5: Encourage a range of health, human, youth, senior, and other community services in Ridgway.**

**COM-6: Support education and lifelong learning in our community.**

**COM-7: Provide public safety and emergency response services to engage and protect the community.**



|   | <b>Sense of Community and Inclusivity: 2026 Strategies</b>  | <b>Responsible Party</b>      |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Continue the process of equipping the Decker Community Room to increase versatility and for use by a variety of user groups.  | Community Initiatives/Manager |
| 2 | Pursue website accessibility remediation strategies in an effort to identify and fix barriers that prevent people with disabilities from fully accessing or using the Town’s digital content. Ensure digital assets, such as the Town’s website and online documents, comply with established standards and compliance parameters of Colorado’s digital accessibility laws.   | Manager                       |
| 3 | Now that the Housing Needs Assessment has been completed, retain a consultant to prepare a Housing Action Plan that meets the guidance issued by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.  | Planner/Manager               |
| 4 | Secure a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to apply toward the development of pre-approved ADU building plans.  | Planner/Building              |
| 5 | Complete the next series of planning projects for 2026, as recommended by the Planning Commission. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish public outreach/community engagement efforts related to the proposed regulations for Section 7-7 of the Ridgway Municipal Code titled, “Affordable Housing” and the associated Guidelines, and pursue codification.</li> <li>Various updates to the Zoning Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical updates and Code clean up</li> <li>Streets, Alleys, and Blocks</li> <li>Lodging provisions</li> <li>Design Standards</li> <li>Wildfire Resiliency Code</li> <li>Analysis of zoning districts, patterns of development, and land use table allowances</li> <li>Analysis of Employee Housing, Attainable, Affordable, and Workforce Housing</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | Planner/Manager               |
| 6 | Continue efforts on workforce housing. Now that the Town has determined its baseline amount of affordable housing units and has formally filed a commitment with the Division of Housing to opt in to Proposition 123, the Town should explore and potentially pursue funding programs that will help increase the affordable housing stock above the baseline amount. Continue regular communication with regional partners.   | Manager                       |
| 7 | Organize and facilitate one regional law enforcement training opportunity.  | Marshal                       |



|    |   |                 |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 8  | Complete training with the Ouray County Sheriff's Office and City of Ouray Police Department to improve skills and foster good relations across the jurisdictional departments.   | Marshal         |
| 9  | Support the Ouray County Victim Services Program to grow and promote the Program/victim advocacy and victim's rights.   | Marshal         |
| 10 | Research and develop a law enforcement-specific wellness program focused on physical, mental, and emotional health of officers, encompassing services like counseling, peer support, and resilience training.   | Marshal         |
| 11 | Promote the Athletic Park Pavilion as a Town facility and community amenity that is available for rent; utilize the Parks, Trails & Open Space Committee to garner input from various user groups about priorities to advance in the Athletic Park in future years. | Manager         |
| 12 | Work with Ouray County Plaindealer staff to continue monthly newspaper advertisements to showcase what's going on at the Town of Ridgway and opportunities for citizens to get more involved.   | Manager         |
| 13 | Finish the process of acquiring a recreational trail path between Ridgway Secondary School and River Park Subdivision.  | Manager         |
| 14 | Evaluate implementing shorter terms for members of the Planning Commission.   | Planner/Manager |
| 15 | Consider next steps, including surveying, for potentially vacating an undeveloped section of N Elizabeth St. right-of-way.  | Manager         |
| 16 | Explore options for acquiring or assisting the Home Trust of Ouray County to acquire the Alpenglow Cohousing property in an effort to further the initiative to address offset side streets (i.e., Railroad St.).   | Manager/Eng.    |

### Community Value 3

## Small Town Character & Identity

Although they may differ on how to define “small town character,” residents feel strongly that it’s a key part of Ridgway’s identity. This small town character is evident in the size of the community, the slower and more laid back pace of life, the unpaved streets, the surrounding ranch land and associated activities, the ability of residents to easily walk from one end of town to the other, and the many activities and businesses that are geared toward locals. Although these characteristics are common among many small towns across Colorado, Ridgway stands out from other tourism-dependent communities as a town that relies on tourism to some degree—but retains its commitment to locals and still feels very much like a “real” community. Beyond small town character, this feeling is derived from a blend of Ridgway’s historic past as a western railroad town, its ranching and agricultural community, its proximity to the mountains and outdoor recreation, and its Creatives and innovative entrepreneurs.

#### Goals:

**CHR-1: Support vibrant, diverse, safe, and well-connected neighborhoods.**

**CHR-2: Protect and preserve Ridgway’s historic assets.**

**CHR-3: Promote Ridgway’s identity as a ranching and agricultural community and preserve the rural character of landscapes surrounding Ridgway.**

**CHR-4: Promote Ridgway’s identity as a creative and innovative community where creative individuals and enterprises thrive.**

**CHR-5: Promote a range of opportunities and spaces for community gatherings and interactions.**

**CHR-6: Maintain and enhance Ridgway’s gateways, entry-corridors, and scenic vistas.**

**CHR-7: Develop an interconnected system of parks, trails, open space, and recreational facilities that meets the needs of Ridgway’s residents and visitors.**



|   | Small Town Character and Identity: 2026 Strategies  | Responsible Party                 |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Expand community outreach and information sharing efforts.  | Manager/Community Initiatives/PIO |
| 2 | Explore ways to partner with GOCO on a Youth Corps project.   | PW/Manager                        |
| 3 | Lead <i>Ridgway FUSE, A Colorado Creative Main Street Program</i> in implementing priority Council initiatives and supporting the Ridgway Creative District and Ridgway Main Street programs. Continue efforts to advance the agreed upon work plan (i.e., the Ridgway FUSE Creative Main Street Plan 2025-2028). | Community Initiatives             |
| 4 | Generate promotional pieces that communicate the Ridgway Creative District's and Main Street Program's value to the community, objectives, and invite potential partnerships and collaboration. Continue efforts to bolster and enhance the Ridgway FUSE website and its functionality.                           | Community Initiatives             |
| 5 | Support and promote the Youth Advisory Council and provide its membership opportunities for input on Town projects, programs, and events.   | Manager                           |
| 6 | Make efforts to educate and inspire residents and visitors about Ridgway's ranching heritage; provide information about ranching activities that periodically occur in and around Town, such as cattle drives.  | Community Initiatives             |
| 7 | Create and maintain succession plans for all Town staff and standard operating procedures.  | All Departments                   |
| 8 | Evaluate ways and funding opportunities to advance the various phases of the Ridgway Athletic Park Master Plan; resurface the tennis courts   | Manager/PW                        |

#### Community Value 4

## Vibrant & Balanced Economy

Ouray County's economy is largely centered on service industries oriented towards tourism, particularly industries such as food services and accommodation. While Ridgway's reliance on tourism is somewhat less than the County, it is still subject to seasonal fluctuations in business activity. These service jobs tend to pay low wages that make it even more difficult for those who work in Ridgway to live here as well. Residents expressed a strong desire to diversify the local economy and to create well-paying, full-time, year-round jobs. Through its participation in the Main Street and Creative District programs, the Town has been active in promoting community and economic development in recent years. While a number of businesses and Creatives have chosen to base their operations in Ridgway for quality of life reasons, many employers struggle to hire qualified employees, find space as they grow, market their creations, and face other challenges. Larger shifts in the national economy towards telecommuting mean that workers no longer need to physically commute to an office. With fast internet speed, residents will increasingly be able to pursue job opportunities and careers in industries not currently located in Ridgway. Alternatively, home-based entrepreneurs will be able to access customers or clients located around the globe.



#### Goals:

**ECO-1: Create a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable year-round local economy that reflects Ridgway's social fabric, values, and character.**

**ECO-2: Support the retention and expansion of local businesses.**

**ECO-3: Balance the need to preserve the quality of life for residents with business needs.**

|   | Vibrant and Balanced Economy: 2026 Strategies   | Responsible Party |
|---|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Continue participation in local and regional broadband initiatives, including connecting local government and anchor institution buildings. | Manager           |
| 2 | Plan, organize, and manage Summer Concert Series and Love Your Valley event.  | Clerk             |

|   |   |                               |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 3 | Plan, organize, and manage Ridgway Independent Film Festival and other Ridgway FUSE events.   | Community Initiatives         |
| 4 | Partner with Colorado Creative Industries to further develop and grow the Ridgway Creative District, including consideration of feedback and recommendations from Ridgway FUSE; provide training and educational opportunities for members of Ridgway FUSE; implement the Ridgway FUSE Creative Main Street Plan 2025-2028. | Community Initiatives         |
| 5 | Partner with the Department of Local Affairs on the Main Street Program and implement priority recommendations from the Main Street Downtown Assessment focused on economic restructuring, design, organization, and promotions.  | Community Initiatives         |
| 6 | Oversee and manage downtown streetscape maintenance and landscaping; maintain and replace trees as needed; maintain landscaping at Heritage Park; maintain planter boxes and landscaping around Town Hall and Hartwell Park.  | PW                            |
| 7 | Establish policy to govern how Lodging Tax revenues intended to support affordable and workforce housing and childhood care and education efforts are distributed. This may include the development of an application process with criteria and reporting requirements.   | Manager                       |
| 8 | Expand efforts to improve wayfinding around Town. Revisit and evaluate updates to the Town's Signage & Wayfinding Plan. Install banner structure over SH62.   | Manager                       |
| 9 | Onboard the new contractor that will spearhead marketing and tourism promotion services (i.e., marketing strategist) and ensure the scope of work is successfully completed.  | Community Initiatives/Manager |

## Community Value 5

### Well-Managed Growth

Based on projections in the Community Profile, Ridgway is expected to add between 150 and 700 new residents by 2050. In addition, growth in the surrounding region—which includes Ouray, Montrose, and San Miguel counties—will continue to have direct and indirect impacts on Ridgway's housing, transportation system, environment, and quality of life. Growth limitations in the City of Ouray and Ouray County will further amplify growth pressures on the Town of Ridgway. Uncertainty regarding the extent of and potential impacts of future growth are of critical concern to the community. However, Ridgway has the ability through its policies and regulations, intergovernmental agreements, and other tools to help inform where and how growth will occur in the future, the types of growth the community would like to see, and guide the character and form of future development.

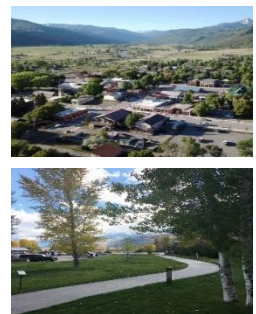
#### Goals:

**GRO-1: Manage growth and development in order to maintain Ridgway's small town character, support a diverse community, and create employment opportunities.**

**GRO-2: Ensure public infrastructure, utilities, facilities, and services are sufficient to meet the needs of residents and businesses as the town grows.**

**GRO-3: Proactively mitigate natural and human-made hazards.**

**GRO-4: Develop a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system, balancing needs of all users.**



|   | Well-Managed Growth: 2026 Strategies   | Responsible Party             |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Participate in regional transportation initiatives including the Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region (GVTPR) and the Ouray County Transit Advisory Council, as appropriate. | Manager                       |
| 2 | Continue working with the City of Ouray, Ouray County, and All Points Transit to continue and improve upon the OurWay commuter route that connects Montrose, Ridgway and Ouray.        | Manager                       |
| 3 | Work with the Home Trust of Ouray County as the newly contracted Affordable Housing Services Administrator to complete the agreed upon scope of services.                              | Manager                       |
| 4 | Develop and organize volunteer efforts, focused on procedural rules, expectations, purpose, etc. for Council appointed commissions, boards, committees and task forces.                | Manager/Community Initiatives |

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 5  | Implement measures to address deficiencies and ensure Wastewater Treatment Plant consistently meets permit limitations and other terms and conditions of its permits.  | Manager/PW/Eng.    |
| 6  | Expand efforts on official record and electronic file organization.  | Manager/Clerk      |
| 7  | Implement Asset Management Plan for all departments  | Clerk              |
| 8  | Address access to Ridgway Ditch and adjacent development, including building and septic setbacks, Ditch access, and land use opportunities with Ouray County to protect the Ditch.   | Eng./Manager/PW    |
| 9  | Finish the remaining work on the Ductile Iron Pipe Replacement Project (i.e., replacement of water line segment from Sabeta Dr. to Moffat St.).  | Eng./Manager/PW    |
| 10 | Finish the remaining work on the Beaver Creek Diversion Restoration Project.   | Manager/Eng./PW    |
| 11 | Explore grant funding opportunities that would provide for major improvements to the Ridgway Ditch and Lake O in ways that would allow the Town to receive additional water and mitigate system loss (i.e., piping portions of the Ridgway Ditch). Repair and install additional flow measuring devices along Ridgway Ditch and at Lake O. | Manager/Eng.       |
| 12 | Investigate how to access potential funding opportunities for water-related projects (i.e., monitoring and improvements to the Town's water supply system) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or through state funding options such as Colorado Water Plan grants or Gunnison Basin Roundtable grants.                       | Manager            |
| 13 | Replace hydrants and valves, as needed, on water distribution system.  | PW                 |
| 14 | Make improvements to the restrooms in Hartwell Park.   | PW/Manager         |
| 15 | Complete sewer line camera and root abatement work; remove contact chamber sludge.   | PW                 |
| 16 | Employ methods to better manage traffic flow and safe speeds; further explore additional advisory signage, temporary pedestrian signage, and street devices to mitigate speeding vehicles on westbound and eastbound Hwy 62 and other areas of town. Complete construction of the SH62 Banner Structure Project.                           | Marshal/PW/Manager |



**To:** Town of Ridgway Planning Commission

**Cc:** Angie Kemp, *Ridgway Sr. Planner*  
Preston Neill, *Ridgway Town Manager*

**From:** TJ Dlubac, AICP, CPS, *Contracted Town Planner*  
Max Garcia, AICP, CPS, *Contracted Town Planner*

**Date:** January 16, 2026

**Subject:** 2026 Targeted Code Updates

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The Town Council adopted the 2026 Strategic Plan which included various recommended updates to Chapter 7, Land Use Regulations (LUR), of the Ridgway Municipal Code. Many of these were identified in the 2023 list of future updates. The strategic plan specifically identifies the following:

1. Technical updates and code clean up
2. Wildfire Resiliency Code (WRC)
3. Streets, Alleys, and Blocks
4. Lodging Provisions
5. Design Standards
6. Analysis of zoning districts, patterns of development, and land use table allowances
7. Analysis of employee housing, attainable, affordable, and workforce housing

In addition to these seven tasks associated with updates to the LUR, Town Staff will continue working on Community Housing provisions. As these are ready for discussion and review, they will be added to a Planning Commission work session as well.

The intent of this memo, and our discussion on January 21<sup>st</sup>, is to kick off these projects by refining the scope of each and developing project timelines for them. We will all discuss the project objectives and key considerations of each. Based on our initial assessment, it appears that a large part of this project is technical in nature and shouldn't necessitate extensive work sessions or community engagement. However, there will be a small amount of this project that may require additional discussion with the Planning Commission, Town Council, and/or the community at large. This memo presents CPS and Staff's recommended approach to complete these tasks while staying within budgetary constraints.

As we evaluate these updates, we'll classify them into three categories:

➤ *Technical Updates:*

These are updates that are technical, grammatical, or otherwise minor in nature. Maybe these are simple clarifications or even legal requirements where there isn't flexibility in their existence. These items, in general, will be presented to the Planning Commission in redline format so all changes can be seen, but these would not include extensive discussion or community engagement.

➤ *Major Updates:*

A major update is a change that is shifting a typical approach or interpretation. These type of changes might be a specific topic discussed at a Planning Commission work session to verify the change is acceptable and ensure we're all on the same page. These do not, however, rise to the level of requiring extensive community input and involvement.

➤ *Policy Updates:*

A shift in policy is the most significant and impactful update. These are ones that would generally be brought to the community through open houses, surveys, town hall meetings, etc. to solicit input



and feedback on the new or revised policy direction. These would also benefit from a discussion with the Town Council at a work session as well before the updates are finalized and ready for adoption hearings.

Following the meeting, CPS will work with Town Staff to refine the approach, scope, and timeline that will be followed over the next year pertaining to the six tasks identified.

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### **1. TECHNICAL UPDATES AND CODE CLEAN UP**

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Since the initial restructuring effort was completed in 2023, there have been areas of the code which, after interpreting and applying them to projects and requests, we want to update to increase clarity and remove unnecessary ambiguity or confusion. The original list included clarification of approval criteria, a rewrite of the adequate water supply section, updating references to fines, and public notice requirements. Other technical updates and code clean ups have been identified since adopting the code in 2023.

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### **2. WILDFIRE RESILIENCY CODE (WRC)**

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As many of you are aware, the State of Colorado is requiring all municipalities to adopt a state wildfire resilience code by April 2026 and enforce it beginning in June of 2026. Because of the urgency of this, and the breadth of this task, Angie is going to lead this task and this will be a separate task from the rest of these tasks. While CPS is reviewing and redlining the LUR for the other Tasks, Angie will be updating, presenting, and discussing these requirements with the Planning Commission on a track for adoption in April.

This is a Major update, but is required by the state, so no community engagement is necessary. The intent of this process is to educate and inform the Commission and Council about these standards.

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### **3. STREETS, ALLEYS, AND BLOCKS**

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This was an original grouping identified with the 2023 updates, however, parking standards were updated in 2024. While we anticipate much of this task will consist of technical updates related to clarifying the relationship between application types, required public improvements, level of submittal requirements, and clarifying the applicability of Standard Specification and Typical Drawings for Infrastructure Construction and other engineering and design requirements.

This task would generally follow the same timeline and schedule as Task 1, but major updates may warrant additional conversation with the Planning Commission, if any amendments raise to that level.

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### **4. LODGING PROVISIONS**

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During the 2023 review, it was identified that there should be clarification between the various types of housing and lodging uses included in the LUR to ensure that there is no duplication or gap in lodging types. This task will evaluate lodging types ranging from Bed and Breakfasts to Hotels and Motels, and everything in between to ensure that all areas of the spectrum are offered and there are no duplicate terms. This will generally include a review of the definitions and the land use table. While these will most likely fall in technical updates since we anticipate focusing on clarification, a presentation and discussion on the final recommendations and the methodology used to reach them, is also likely.

This task may occur after the technical updates in Task 1 are completed and include at least one specific discussion with the Planning Commission.

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### **5. DESIGN STANDARDS**

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This task will include a comprehensive review of the residential, commercial and industrial architectural design standards which were incorporated into the new code structure in 2023 but not



updated. Furthermore, this will evaluate the opportunity to develop unique architectural design standards to the Historic Business District to reflect the historic character of the district.

We anticipate this being at least a major update, and probably even a policy level update which would benefit from community input during the summer concert series. This task, while the initial evaluation and assessment will be completed in tandem with out initial drafting, most of this task will be completed after the technical updates are adopted to allow both our team, Planning Commission, and the community to focus their energy on this important topic.

#### ***6. ANALYSIS OF ZONING DISTRICTS, PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT, AND LAND USE TABLE ALLOWANCES***

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This task will begin along with the rest of the code updates, however, these amendments will most likely raise to major updates, and some may even be policy if there is a significant shift in development patterns, zoning districts, or uses which are permissible in each zone district.

This task will generally include an analysis of the spectrum of land uses and ensure that we have the appropriate uses in the appropriate zone districts and that any new or emerging trends or industry norms are being addressed as well. A few such examples that were called out in the 2023 update include evaluating and clarifying microbrewery, brewery, distillery, and brewpub and what zone districts they are and are not appropriate in, for example.

This task will be included in the initial drafting phase early in the process to understand how edits here may impact other sections of the LUR but will require additional discussions with Planning Commission and/or Town Council. Depending on the scope of amendments, some portions of this task may be brought to the public for input along the way.

#### ***7. ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYEE HOUSING, ATTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND WORKFORCE HOUSING***

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This task, much like Task 4, will be primarily focused on clarifying the differences between these terms and others, ensuring there isn't a gap in definitions, and the full spectrum of housing types are addressed somehow in the LUR.

While our teams This task may occur after the technical updates in Task 1 are completed and include at least one specific discussion with the Planning Commission.

### **PROJECT TIMELINE:**

Based on our current understanding of these projects, we generally believe they can generally run concurrently.

- Since the WRC has a requirement to be adopted by April 2026, this task will be prioritized and discussed at a workshop in February with hearings scheduled in March and April.
- We would anticipate that the "Technical" updates could be identified and drafted by May of 2026 for review with the Planning Commission.
- Based on the evaluation and redline updates, the rest of the tasks will be further classified, prioritized, and scheduled at a work session with the Planning Commission in May or June. By this time, we'll fully understand what topics will need public input, Town Council input, or additional discussion with the Planning Commission.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

The anticipated project schedule below illustrates the anticipated relationship between tasks and when we anticipate discussing certain topics with the Planning Commission along the way. Of note, we are anticipating on using the summer concert series as a key opportunity to discuss the necessary concepts with the community.





|                            |          | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| General Updates (Clean Up) | Drafting |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Workshop |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Adoption |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| WUI (AK)                   | Drafting |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Workshop |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Adoption |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Streets, Alleys, Blocks    | Drafting |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Workshop |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Adoption |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Lodging Provisions         | Drafting |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Workshop |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Adoption |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Site Design                | Drafting |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Workshop |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Adoption |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Zoning & Land Use          | Drafting |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Workshop |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Adoption |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Community Housing (AK)     | Drafting |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Workshop |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|                            | Adoption |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |

## AGENDA ITEM #3

# RIDGWAY PLANNING COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

### CALL TO ORDER

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

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioners Petrucelli, Liske, Meyer, Foyster, Mayor Clark, and Chairperson Montague were in attendance. Commissioner Nelson was absent.

### MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF JENNIFER NELSON

Chairperson Montague asked for a moment of silence to honor the service and friendship of Commissioner Nelson who passed away in late October.

### SELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### 1. Appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

The chair opened the hearing for public comment. There was no public comment, and the Chairperson closed the hearing for public comment.

#### ACTION:

Commissioner Petrucelli nominated Commissioner Montague to continue to serve as Chairperson, Commissioner Foyster seconded the nomination, and Mayor Clark moved to accept the nomination by acclamation. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chairperson Montague nominated Commissioner Meyer to serve as Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Petrucelli seconded the nomination, and Commissioner Liske moved to accept the nomination by acclamation. The motion was carried unanimously.

### WORKSESSIONS

#### 2. Housing Updates: A November 10, 2025, memo from Planner Kemp to the Planning Commission provided background on the following agenda items.

##### A. 2025 Regional Housing Needs Assessment

Planner Kemp provided an update on the remaining dates and deliverables with the next one occurring Thursday, November 20 at the Decker Room where Points Consulting will share their updates to members of the Town Council, Board of County Commissioners, Town and County Planning Commissions, and the public. The target date for Council adoption is December 10.

##### B. Prop 123 Updates

Planner Kemp explained that the November 12 passage of *Resolution 2025-10 Establishing Expedited Review Policies for Affordable Housing Projects in the Town of Ridgway* is intended to further Town compliance with Prop 123 to support projects that supply below market-rate housing options in our community, even if the Town is not seeing the type of development that would trigger the fast-track requirement.

C. Introduction of Eva Henson, Regional Housing Services Administrator

Eva joined via zoom and explained that she lives in Durango and began work with the Home Trust of Ouray County on October 14. She has been working on an analysis of the below market housing inventory in Ouray County with the goal of expanding access to affordable housing and managing deed restricted housing.

D. Affordable Housing Regulations RMC 7-7 and Guidelines Update

The hiring of a Regional Housing Administrator and the anticipated wrap-up of the Housing Needs assessment by the end of 2025, has prompted staff to revisit the drafted Affordable Housing Regulation and Guidelines. A revised timeline for outreach and adoption consideration in 2026 was shared by Planner Kemp as well as standard and alternative compliance requirements for developers.

2. Western Slope Planning Conference: From Peaks to Plains Recapitulation

The commissioners who attended the conference shared that it was a valuable experience with many relevant sessions. They split up which allowed them to have a Ridgway representative at all the relevant sessions, including presentations by Glenwood, Silverton, Fruita and Grand Junction.

3. Long-Range Planning: A November 12, 2025 memo entitled "Long-Range Planning" from Planner Kemp to the Planning Commission provided background on the following agenda items:

A. Colorado Statewide Strategic Growth Report Overview (CSSGP)

Planner Kemp gave an overview of the dedicated strategic growth element, a new requirement for Master Plans in larger communities. She emphasized the importance of the document as a tool for preparing the 2026 Master Plan Update.

B. 2026 Master Plan Update

Planner Kemp reviewed the March through June progress on the 2026 Master Plan Review and a timeline for next phase of community outreach.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of October 15, 2025

ACTION:

Planner Kemp noted that there was one error in the minutes. Commissioner Foyster was noted to be absent, but she was present. Mayor Clark moved to approve the October 15, 2025 Minutes

with the change, Commissioner Liske seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously with Commissioner Petrucelli abstaining.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

##### 4. Updates from Planning Staff

Planner Kemp shared that she was asked about the norm for Planning Commission terms on the Western Slope and that three years is the norm. Any changes to term length or appointment procedures are up to the Town Council. The vacancy on the Commission will be posted.

##### 5. Updates from Planning Commission Members

There were no updates from the Planning Commission members.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Huun  
Administrative Assistant

## AGENDA ITEM #4

## AGENDA ITEM #5