

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BUDGET RETREAT

OCTOBER 21, 2023

The Town Council convened for a budget retreat workshop meeting at 9:15 a.m. in the Ridgway Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street. The meeting was held both in person and via Zoom Meeting, a virtual meeting portal, pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy.

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

Town Clerk's Notice of Budget Workshop Meeting dated August 29, 2023.

The Council received a packet of information including an overview of the budget adoption process; the draft 2024 Fiscal Year Budget; listing of location of expenditures within the draft budget; draft Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Plans; update to the 2023 Strategic Plan

Through a PowerPoint presentation the Town Manager presented the retreat goals; an overview of the budget adoption process as it relates to the Town Charter; adoption timelines; budget approach and operation reserves.

Members of the Council presented items they wished to discuss for inclusion in the capital improvement planning and budgeting. Items included increasing Council stipend; code revisions for EV ready incentives and rebates; micro-grid solar array; grant writing; funds for sustainability incentives; sustainability committee collaboration with EcoAction Partners; piping the Ridgway Ditch; grants for affordable housing; updating the housing section of the Municipal Code; collaborating with local contractors for affordable housing and design for accessory dwelling units; creating an entertainment district on Clinton Street; education process on the refuse and recycling program.

There was discussion regarding grant opportunities to match funding for capital projects.

The Town Clerk presented the draft 2024 Fiscal Year Budget and reviewed with Council the revenue projections and operational expenditures by each fund. It was noted revenues were projected conservatively.

The Town Clerk presented information on waiver of fees given to affordable housing projects, and inquired into repayment from the general fund for water and sewer tap waivers. There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed an accounting of waivers should be tracked.

There was a recess from 11:05 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.

The Town Manager presented Statewide revenue projections and trends, inflation and economic growth. He presented a pay movement recommendation from Logic Compensation, to keep current the classification and compensation study performed two years ago. The recommendation contains a step structure adjustment of 3.1% closely aligned with the market average of pay, to ensure the Town maintains a competitive position in attracting and retaining employees.

The Town Clerk presented draft worksheets of the Five and Ten Year Capital Improvement Projects by each fund, and reviewed them with the Council.

The Council took a recess for lunch between 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.

There was continued discussion of the Capital Improvement Plans and items were added to the Five Year Capital Projects sheets, including items moved from the Ten Year Plan.

There was discussion regarding placement of a “solar garden microgrid” at Green Street Park and preparing an update to the Master Plan for public input.

The Town Manager noted priority direction given by the Council will be used to draft the 2024 Strategic Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk