

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 10, 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 5:45 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 12, 2024.
2. Minutes of Workshop Meeting held on June 25, 2024.
3. Register of Demands for July 2024.
4. Renewal of Beer and Wine Liquor License for Ridgway Shell.
5. Renewal of Beer and Wine Liquor License for Ridgway Conoco.
6. Renewal of Restaurant Liquor License for Greenwoods.

**ACTION:**

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Andy Michelich noted last year he placed a temporary speed limit sign on Chipeta Drive, and asked for permission to place the sign in the street again. He stated placement of the 6 foot tall, 12 inch wide sign "reduced speeding last year". He noted "it is a temporary sign only up in the summer"; "shown to be effective"; "until we find a permanent solution to this matter".

There was discussion and Council directed staff to work with the residents.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

7. Request to close off parking spaces for Colorado Grand Auto Rally on September 10<sup>th</sup>

The Town Clerk reported the Sherbino Theater is requesting closure of parking spaces along N. Cora and Clinton Street on September 10<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:30 p.m. for participants in The Colorado Grand Auto Rally.

There was discussion by the Council.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer to approve the closure of parking spaces on N. Cora and Clinton Street for the Colorado Grand Auto Rally on September 10<sup>th</sup> with the condition the applicant notify residents and businesses of the closures. Councilor Kroger seconded and the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. Request to close N. Cora Street between Railroad and Roundhouse for annual Block Party

The Town Clerk presented an application for closure of street right-of-way of N. Cora Street between Railroad and Roundhouse on August 29<sup>th</sup> for the annual Block Party.

ACTION:

Councilmember Kroger moved, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded, to approve the closure of N. Cora Street for the Block Party on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The motion was unanimously carried on a roll call vote.

POLICY MATTERS

9. Presentation of preferred concept for Green Street Park Master Plan

Staff Report dated 7-3-24 from the Town Manager addressing the preferred concept for the Green Street Park Master Planning Project.

Manager Neill asked the Council to review the most recent concept for a master plan for Green Street Park, identified as concept number three. Council is being asked for direction on the last phase of the concept, and not being asked for action or adoption of the plan. The discussion is to assist in informing the consultants for the next phase, and for cost estimates for future budgeting, he noted.

Stacy Passmore with Superbloom, consultant hired for master planning the park, presented "Draft Preferred Concept of the Green Street Sustainability Park". She noted concepts were developed from public meetings, and goals for the project were prioritizing health, wellness, accessibility and play, and looking at the possibility of including a solar microgrid into the plan.

The Mayor presented a history of the concept of a solar microgrid. He explained the solar would provide the Town with back up power for four hours during an outage.

Ms. Passmore reported visits were conducted on April 8<sup>th</sup> with the Community Garden, Apiary, School and Sustainability Advisory Committee. Public meetings were held on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and 84 responses were received to an on-line survey at which time three concepts were presented; June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and 109 responses to an on-line survey along with letters and other communications assisted in forming concept number three. The concept includes "half the site preserved for park use, consolidating solar and solar shade canopies and keeping the apiary and garden on the north end". She presented the "preferred final draft" design concept dated July 10, 2024.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Sheelagh Williams stated she is in favor of solar, but feels the park should be used for park type uses, and another location for the solar should be considered.

Angela Hawse spoke in favor of the solar microgrid and keeping the remaining area open for “wildlife habitat”.

Agnieszka Przeszlowska with Ridgway Community Garden noted the garden has a lease with the Town, and the board would like the land between the apiary and garden to be left open for a “pavilion structure for multi-use” and are “open to amending the lease for the unused space”. She noted the board is “open to some small solar canopies to cover the children’s area”.

Jack Petruccelli stated he has spoken with a “over a dozen neighbors in favor of solar, but not in this location”.

Scott Williams suggested other possible locations for solar panel placement.

Dianne Eschman stated “growth is going to happen on the north side of Town” and “it may be the only place with open green space is that park”. She spoke in favor of keeping the “six acres as park”, and the solar being located “somewhere else”.

Jim Nowak suggested the unused ballfield on Clinton Street be considered for a location for placement of the solar microgrid.

Therese Seal noted “this is a solar project, not a park”. She stated she “does not support solar in this location” and asked the Council to consider other options for location of the solar.

Chantal Unfug explained the RiverPark Homeowners Association discussed the concept of solar at the park and agree the solar should not be located in the park. She suggested the Planning Commission address the concept during future growth discussions.

Doug Unfug noted the 2015 Master Plan addresses connectivity from the south to the north sides of Town, and a solar micro-grid would “cut off” that concept. He stated a “town is as good as the master plan document”. He supported relocation of the proposed solar grid.

Dana Ivers questions the “designated use of the property.”

Fred Bowl spoke from the Apiary committee and noted grooming the area as a park would create habitat loss as the area provides “significant winter habitat for deer and elk”.

Terra Malmstrom noted the “soil is poor for a park” and stated “the Town having it’s own power source would be great”, it could also “provide teaching for students”.

Tom McKenney agreed a solar microgrid should not be located in the park. He noted with growth “a microgrid will be right in the middle of Town”.

Jake Niece asked “do we need another park”, “we need back up power from solar”, noting “it’s one of the last places we have left”.

Michelle Montague stated “a park should not have opposition” and agreed “this will someday be the center of Town”, and “then we have a microgrid in the middle of that part of the community”.

Pam Foyster supported “it as a solar project and not a park”.

Dana Ivers stated “solar panels should be considered beautiful”.

Dave Jones stated “I’m excited about a sustainability park”, “it makes sense to include solar”, “maybe we down-size it in the park, but I hope we include it for our sustainability”.

There were comments from the Council. The Town Manager asked for specific direction for the consultants. Council comments were: set story poles to see elevated view of height of the raised panels; reduce the number of panels; shift the panels to the south end of the park, closer to the industrial park; include a climbing boulder and shaded spaces; split the two shade structures, one at the north end, the other at the south; include a restroom in the plan.

10. Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce update presentation

Ashley Perkins and Catherine Johnson with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce presented bi-annual reports; highlights of hosted events; visitation at the visitors center; and online assets.

11. Appointment of new members to Ridgway FUSE

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 7-5-24 presenting a recommendation from the FUSE Committee to appoint Pam Kraft and Tia Mihelarakas as new members.

ACTION:

Councilmember Kroger moved to appoint Pam Kraft and Tia Mihelarakas to the FUSE Committee. Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

12. Hiring of a third-party housing services provider and creation of intergovernmental agreement between the Town, City of Ouray and Ouray County

Staff Report dated 7-5-24 from the Town Manager requesting direction regarding housing services to be performed by a third-party housing services provider, which can inform the development of an intergovernmental agreement between the Town, City of Ouray and Ouray County.

Manager Neill reported on June 25<sup>th</sup> the Council meet with elected officials from the City of Ouray and Ouray County to discuss potential establishment of a regional housing committee and determine needs for each entity relative to housing services. Consensus at the meeting was to further explore retaining a joint housing administrator with each entity sharing in the cost; each entity identifying respective needs related to housing services to inform development of an intergovernmental agreement (IGA); upon approval of a IGA prepare joint solicitation for housing services administration services beginning in 2025. He presented proposed items which would address Town needs, which included deed restriction management, maintain records of available units, provide homebuyer education, prepare grant writing and provide administration and oversight of same.

There was discussion by the Council. Consensus was to support all four recommendations made by the Town Manager.

13. Water restrictions

There was discussion regarding the current voluntary water restrictions. It was agreed to prepare communications for the website and social channels with information on good water practices.

14. Proposed schedule for preparation of the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget

The Town Manager presented a proposed preparation schedule for the 2025 budget. The Council agreed to hold the annual budget retreat on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Manager Neill highlighted some items contained in the monthly Managers Report.

Councilor Scoville reported on the recent Chamber of Commerce meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Council enter into a closed session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding the Town's water rights and facilities.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Meyer moved with Councilor Schuyler seconding, to enter into closed session. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

The Council entered into a closed session at 8:50 p.m. with the Town Attorney, Town Manager, Town Engineer and Town Clerk.

The Council reconvened from closed session at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk