

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2024

OATH OF OFFICE

The Town Clerk administered the oath of office to recently elected Councilors Kevin Grambley, Terry Schuyler, Josey Scoville and Mayor John Clark.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 13, 2024.
2. Register of Demands for March 2024.
3. Renewal of restaurant liquor license for True Grit Café.
4. Change of location on retail liquor license for High Spirits Liquor.
5. Renew tavern liquor license for Steps.
6. Renewal of tavern liquor license for The Patio at Steps.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carl Romemus commented on what a "great town Ridgway is", and stated the Council and staff "are doing a great job and are all very competent". The "parks and trails are so well maintained" and "the Athletic Park is a true gem". He explained he is part of a dog group that meets at the Park, and made a donation towards the dog clean up bags that are provided at the site.

Mayor Clark stated he wished to acknowledge the passing of community member Patrick O'Leary "who did so much for this Town". He asked everyone to take a few moments of silence in honor of Patrick O'Leary.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

### 7. Introduction of two new administrative employees in the Clerks Office

The Town Clerk introduced two new employees in the Clerks Department, Administrative Assistant Becky Schmitz and Customer Service Clerk Lori Patton, noting they will be an excellent addition to Town Hall.

### 8. Presentation regarding planning for celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Colorado statehood

Edward Bovy, Treasurer of the Ridgway Western Heritage Society addressed the Council regarding local planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Colorado statehood in 2025. He reported in 2022 the state legislature began the planning process for the state centennial and divided the state into eight planning regions. Ouray County is in the Mountain Mesa Region, and the coordinator for the County is Caroline Snowbarger. He stated planning at the County level has begun, and presented a few ideas.

There were questions from the Council. The Mayor suggested formation of a committee comprised of a few members of Council to meet with the planning committee and discuss ideas.

### 9. Proclamation declaring April as National Donate Life Month

Jessi Rochel, Executive Director of the Chris Klug Foundation encouraged the Council to proclaim April as National Donate Life Month. She explained the non-profit organization hopes to bring awareness to “lifesaving organ transplants”, and noted 95% of the Americans support donation, yet only 48% are registered. She encouraged residents to talk with friends and family regarding participation in the donor registry program.

#### ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved with Councilor Kroger seconding, to proclaim April 2024 as National Donate Life Month. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

### 10. Application for special event permit to close Hyde Street, between Elizabeth and alley, for a private party on May 11<sup>th</sup>

Saran and Tomas Volstad requested closure of Hyde Street, between Elizabeth Street and the alley on May 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm for a neighborhood private party. They explained a number of young children are expected to attend and expressed safety concerns, and noted the need for additional space.

The Mayor stated this is a unique request as it is a private party, and the Council needs to be concerned about setting a precedence. He asked the applicants if the street could remain open for pedestrians.

The applicants agreed the street would remain open for pedestrians to walk and stand, but the yard and driveway would be for invited guests only. There were questions from the Council. The applicants agreed placement of a porta-pottie would be a good idea.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer to approve the application for use of Town right-of-way to close Hyde Street, between Elizabeth Street and the alley for a private party on May 11<sup>th</sup>, with the conditions there will be public access on the street and a porta pottie will be placed. Councilor Grambley seconded and the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

11. Presentation of the Gravel Adventure Guide

Representing the Ridgway Chamber of Commerce, Tanya Ishikawa, presented the Gravel Adventure Guide which will be released on April 26th. She explained the pocket size guide is 58 pages of gravel biking routes on roads and trails within the San Juan Mountains and Uncompaghre Plateau, and includes rider safety and responsibilities. The Chamber received a \$34,500 grant from the State Department of Economic Develop to produce the guide. 9,000 copies will be printed and distributed from the Chamber Visitor Center, businesses and bike shops.

12. Presentation regarding the Cimarron Athletic Field Project at Ridgway Secondary School

Shawn Roe with Ridgway School District, presented a history of the athletic field at the secondary school, noting it has been “unplayable since 2020” “after the irrigation system broke”. The district is proposing to construct a turf soccer field and track area. He reported 40% of the middle and high school students play soccer, and the track team currently has 31 students. There is not a track, so the team drives 40 minutes each way on a weekly basis to practice. The proposal is to construct a “turf field on top of the original field” and install a track, which will both create the ability to “host” games and track meets. Completion cost of the project is estimated at 3 million, and “30% has already been pledged from agencies and grants”. The district would like to begin construction in the spring, and have the first game scheduled for August of 2025 with construction done in two phases. He stated “we want to complement the Athletic Park soccer fields” and “not compete” with them. He requested a letter of support from the Council to use when applying for grant funds, and a \$5,000 donation “to show your partnership”.

There were comments in support of the request from members of the School Board and students.

There were comments and questions from the Council.

ACTION:

Councilmember Scoville moved, Councilor Kroger seconded, to provide a letter of support showing the Town is behind the proposed field, and discuss the request for funding separately. The motion was unanimously carried on a roll call vote.

POLICY MATTERS

13. Memorandum of Understanding with San Miguel Power Association, Inc. pertaining to a Microgrid for Community Resilience Construction Grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Town Manager Staff Report dated 4-5-24 regarding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pertaining to a microgrid grant from the Department of Local Affairs.

Manager Neill reported San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) has applied for a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Microgrids for Community Resiliency Program. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$46,900 to install a microgrid to power the Decker Community Room in the event of a power outage. A proposed Memorandum of Understanding with SMPA will establish specifics of the relationship with the Town and allow DOLA to finalize the contract.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved, with Mayor Pro Tem Meyer seconding to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding by and between San Miguel Power Association, Inc. and the Town of Ridgway concerning a Microgrid for Community Resilience Construction Grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. The motion carried on a roll call vote with Councilor Schuyler abstaining.

14. Establishment of the Community Grant Program

Staff Report dated 4-4-24 from the Town Manager presenting a proposed Community Grant Program.

The Town Manager reported the 2024 Strategic Plan contains a goal to develop procedures for solicitation, evaluation and funding for community grant requests during the annual budget process. He presented a program which includes application requirements and submittal guidelines, eligibility criteria, review process for items such as impact the program has on the local economy and the number of persons served, formation of an ad hoc review committee, setting a maximum amount of money for funding recommendations by the committee, and procedure for Council review and award.

There were comments from the Council and discussion with staff. Consensus of the Council was the program should be offered only to organizations with non-profit status and Council should strive to allocate 2% of the general fund to community grants.

15. Special Event Permit Application from Youth Advisory Council for a Pickleball Tournament

Staff Report from the Town Manager dated 4-5-24 presenting a request from the Youth Advisory Council to hold a Pickleball Tournament on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Athletic Park.

Manager Neill explained the 2023-2024 Youth Advisory Council has chosen for their “cap stone project” to partner with the Pickleball Association and hold a tournament on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Athletic Park, with an entry fee of \$5. All proceeds will be given to the Pickleball Club and a woman’s shelter.

Speaking from the audience The Ridgway Pickle Ball Club spoke in support.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Meyer to approve the Application for Special Event Permit and provide authority to staff to approve event details once impacts are better understood. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kroger and carried on a roll call vote with Councilmember Schuyler not participating in the vote.

16. Annual appointment of Mayor Pro Tem and review of Council representation on commissions, committees and boards

Staff Report from the Town Clerk dated 3-25-24 presenting a list of Council representation on boards, committees, commissions and organizations.

Mayor Clark noted after the annual election a Mayor Pro Tem is chosen, and asked if Mayor Pro Tem Meyer wished to continue to serve.

ACTION:

Councilmember Kroger moved to reappoint Russ Meyer as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilor Grambley seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

The Council reviewed the list of representation on boards, committees, commissions and organizations. It was agreed changes to representation would include Councilor Schuyler will serve on the Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board and Lakin the alternate; the Town Manager will serve as the alternate on the County Weed Board; Councilmember Schuyler will be the representative on the Sneffels Energy Board; Councilor Lakin will become the alternate to the Ouray County Water Users Association; Councilmember Scoville will serve as liaison to the Chamber of Commerce.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk