

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 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 5:35 p.m. in the Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Councilors Grambley, Kroger, Lakin, Thomas, Mayor Pro Tem Meyer and Mayor Clark were present for the roll call. Councilor Schuyler was late.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2023.
2. Register of Demands for January 2024.
3. Per State Statute Designate the Town Hall Bulletin Board as the Official Posting Place.
4. Renewal of Restaurant Liquor License for Bella Vino.
5. Renewal of Brew Pub Liquor License for Colorado Boy Depot LLC.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin and seconded by Councilor Thomas to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. Kuno Vollenweider suggested the Town Council consider closing one block of Charolette, or Moffat Streets; North Mary or North Charles Streets for sledding noting there are no steep-sloped streets in Town, and the sledding hill near the Post Office is inadequate. He explained the Town could experiment with the concept by encouraging evening sledding and aligning the area with safety signs and hay bales. The Council suggested Staff investigate the possibility of a sledding street.
7. Jake Niece, Board Director for the Ouray County Home Trust (OCHT) requested a Councilmember attend proposed work sessions that will occur in 2024. He explained OCHT is also requesting board member representation at the work sessions from Ouray County and the City of Ouray to formalize expectations of the 3 entities and determine what the entities might pay for affordable home provider services. Niece asked the Council to advise him of their decision by the end of June. The Town Council will consider the suggestion and advise Mr. Niece of the representative before June.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

8. Community Health Assessment

Power Point presentation prepared by Tanner Kingery, Ouray County Health Director

Tanner Kingery reported on the community health process for the West Central Public Health Partnership and provided statistics for county demographics. The partnership includes public health directors from Delta, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, Gunnison and San Miguel Counties. Kingery explained health equity and prevention are the primary public health goals. The goals are achieved through advocacy, defining policy, coordinating inter-agency efforts, creating organizational environments that enable change; data collection monitoring and surveillance; population-based interventions, and community engagement capacity building. The Public Health Director explained the agencies are collecting data on vulnerable populations, behavioral health, healthcare access, childcare, COVID-19, aging in place, food insecurity, barriers to receive care, healthy housing and affordable housing. Kingery noted the 2024 Public Health Improvement Action Plan is posted on the Ouray County Health website.

The Council asked questions and provided feedback.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. Adoption of the 2024 Fiscal Year Budget, Appropriation of Funds and Setting of Property Tax Levies for 2024

Staff Report dated December 27, 2023, providing background, analysis, considerations and recommendations prepared by Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Resolution No. 24-01 with 2023 proposed Budget, Resolution No. 24-02, Resolution No. 24-03.

Town Manager Preston Neill reviewed the 2024 adoption timelines and process. He noted that the budget is normally approved by December 15th of the previous fiscal year, and due to State legislative changes under SB22-238 the adoption date was moved to January of the current fiscal year. The Town Manager requested approval of the 2024 Budget.

Mayor Clark opened the hearing for public comment and there was none.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Kroger, seconded by Councilor Lakin to adopt Resolution No. 24-01 of the Town of Ridgway, Adopting a Budget for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January 2024, and Ending on the Last Day of December 2024. After a roll call vote the motion was carried unanimously.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-02 of the Town of Ridgway, Appropriating Sums of Money to the Various Funds in the Amount and for the Purpose as Set Forth Below for the 2024 Budget Year. Councilor Lakin seconded the motion which was carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Schuyler to adopt Resolution 24-03 of the Town of Ridgway, Adopting the property Tax Levy for the Year 2024 for Certification to the Ouray County Commissioners, seconded by Councilor Lakin, and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

10. Approval of Ordinance No. 08-2023 Increasing the Rate of Lodging Tax and Revising the Use of the Proceeds Thereof and Other Provisions in Accordance with the Voter Approval Ballot Issue.

Staff Report dated January 4, 2024, prepared by the Town Manager; Ordinance No. 08-2023.

Town Manager Neill presented the draft Ordinance and noted this is the second reading in a public meeting and if approved it would amend the Ridgway Municipal Code Chapter 3-Finance.

Mayor Clark opened the hearing for public comment and there was none.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro-Tem Meyer moved to approve, on the second reading, Ordinance No. 08-2023 Increasing the Rate of the Lodging Tax and Revising the Use of Proceeds Thereof and Other Provisions in Accordance with the Voter Approved Ballot Issue. Councilor Kroger seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

POLICY MATTERS

11. Adoption of the 2024 Five-Year and Ten-Year Capital Improvements Plans

Staff Report dated January 4, 2024, presenting background, analysis and staff recommendation, prepared by Town Manager Preston Neill; 2024 Five-Year and Ten- Year Capital Improvement Project Budgets.

The Mayor opened the hearing for public comments and there were none.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Lakin to adopt the 2024 Five and Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plans, seconded by Councilor Kroger and unanimously carried on a roll call vote.

12. Adoption of the 2024 Strategic Plan

Staff Report dated January 4, 2024, prepared by the Town Manager; Town of Ridgway 2024 Strategic Plan.

The Mayor opened the hearing for public comments and there were none.

ACTION:

Councilor Kroger moved to adopt the 2024 Strategic Plan. Councilor Schuyler seconded the motion, and it carried on a roll call vote.

13. Approval of the Professional Services Agreement for Tourism Promotion Services Between the Town of Ridgway and the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce

Staff Report dated January 4, 2024, providing background prepared by Town Manager Neill; 2024 Professional Services Agreement between the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Ridgway; 2023 Professional Services Agreement: Ridgway Marketing and Promotions Between the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Ridgway.

Community Initiatives Facilitator, Tera Wick explained the staff was directed by Town Council to develop a more defined scope of work with the 2024 agreement. She collaborated

with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town Manager to achieve the document submitted to the Councilors for approval. Wick explained the agreement better clarifies expectations and noted the funds the Chamber receives from the Town will not be member exclusively administered.

The Council noted sustainability practices for hiking, biking, and rafting must be explicit with social media and other forms of communication.

ACTION:

Councilor Grambley moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement for Tourism Promotion Services with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce. Seconded by Councilor Kroger, the motion was carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

14. Authorization of Annexation Application and Process Related to Preserve PUD Property.

Staff Report Dated January 4, 2024, providing background from Town Manager Preston Neill.

Town Manager Neill explained the annexation is for a small sliver of property that is part of the Athletic Park parcel, and currently outside of the town boundary, and was not included in the original annexation application.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin, seconded by Councilor Grambley, to authorize inclusion of the small piece of Town-owned property in the annexation application from Dalwhinne Group, LLC and authorize Mayor Clark to sign a letter consenting to the submission of the application. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

15. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Ouray County and Town of Ridgway Regarding 2024 Operational Funding Requests, Road and Bridge Appointment from County to Town, and Future Goals

Staff Report dated January 4, 2024, from Manager Neill providing summary; the 2023 & 2024 Memorandum of Understanding Between Ouray County and Town of Ridgway Regarding Operational Funding Requests, Road and Bridge Appointment from County to Town and Future Goals.

The Town Manager presented the MOU and noted the development of an evacuation plan did not get completed in 2023 and is proposed to be completed in 2024. Participation in the Multi-Hazard Plan, and the Community Wildflower Protection Plan have been added for 2024 he continued. The agreement also provides courtesy agenda notifications and packet items for information and packet-sharing topics or land use proposals of mutual interest; as well as collaboration on balancing recreation and conservation; and management of vehicle traffic that passes through Ouray County Manager Neill concluded.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Lakin, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Meyer to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Ouray County and Town of Ridgway Regarding 2024 Operational Funding Requests, Road and Bridge Appointment from County to Town, and Future Goals.

16. Approval of Resolution No. 24-04 Amending the Town of Ridgway Standard Specification and Typical Drawings for Infrastructure Construction.

Staff Report dated January 10, 2024, providing background and proposed updates, prepared by Town Manager Preston Neill; Resolution No. 24-04

Town Engineer Joanne Fagan explained it has been almost thirty years since the specifications for non-water and sewer standards have been updated. Fagan noted specification standards for the cross-load on the highway, interfacing with existing infrastructure, cold weather road standards, road testing requirements, concrete specifications, definitions, disinfecting and flushing, and re-vegetation were updated. Fagan further explained the stormwater standards were updated due to changing weather conditions.

The Council asked that requirements for power wheelchairs be included in the update.

ACTION:

Councilor Schuyler moved to approve Resolution No. 24-04, a Resolution of the Town Council of Ridgway, Colorado, Amending the Town of Ridgway Standard Specification and Typical Drawings for Infrastructure Construction. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kroger and passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

17. Authorization of Great Outdoors Colorado's (GOCO) Community Impact Program for the Hartwell Park Playground Project

Staff Report dated January 4, 2024, providing background and analysis from the Town Manger.

Manager Neill said the project does not apply to the entire playground area in Hartwell Park. Rather, it is to replace the jungle gym structure which is over 25 years old and to replace the wood chips on the ground lining jungle gym zone with a different surface. He requested authorization from the Town Council to submit a concept and grant application to GOCO.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro-Tem Meyer moved to authorize submittal of a concept paper to the third cycle of GOCO's Community Impact Program for the Hartwell Park Playground project. Councilor Kroger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

18. Authorization of the State Revolving Loan Funds Application; and Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program Grant Application

Manager Neill explained a Needs Assessment projecting revenues and expenses for the next twenty years is required as part of the loan application. He further explained a rate increase will be required if it is determined there will not be enough revenue generated to cover operating costs and maintain the solvency of the Water Fund. Neill provided two options to project the solvency of the Water Fund in the Needs Assessment. One option would be an annual rate increase of 3% with an occasional larger increase to cover debt service for projects: the other option being a much larger increase every 5 years. Manager Niell asked the Council which model they preferred to be submitted with the applications.

The Council discussed the options and agreed smaller rate increases over 3-5 years should be used for the application model.

WRITTEN AND VERBAL REPORTS

19. 2024 Annual Election Update

Staff Report dated January 2, 2024, providing details for the election from the Town Clerk.

The Council noted 3 councilors' seats and the Mayor's seat will become vacant for this election.

20. Town Manger's Report

The Town Manager provided an update regarding the Granular Activated Carbon Project application and on the discussions regarding the Ouray and Ridgway Commuter Route.

21. Town Attorney's Report

Town Attorney Bo Nerlin said the representatives for Echo Mountain Properties and the Ranch History Museum have requested a work session regarding access issues to the parcel. The Council tentatively agreed to a work session in late February or early March.

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Grambley reported FUSE will have an open house event on Tuesday, January 23rd.

Councilor Schuyler reported the Skijoring Event is January 12-14.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Christian
Deputy Clerk