



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: June 10, 2024
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

This monthly report serves as an update to the Town Council on key projects, activities, and community issues.

DUCTILE IRON PIPE REPLACEMENT PROJECT LOAN AWARD

I attended the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority Board Meeting on Friday, June 7th. The Town of Ridgway's application for a \$650,000 base direct loan from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund was considered by the board and approved via Resolution No. 24-18! The loan, together with the \$600,000 grant from the Department of Local Affairs' EIAF program, will make it possible for the Town to take on the Ductile Iron Pipe Replacement Project later this year.

UPDATE RE GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON WATER TREATMENT PROJECT

In 2020, working with Filter Tech Systems, Inc. (Filter Tech), Town staff undertook a pilot testing process to explore the benefits of transitioning from chlorine dioxide treatment to Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) at the Town's water treatment plant. Initial tests and cost estimates favored GAC. GAC improved treated water's taste and odor, reduced disinfection byproducts, had a lower long-term cost and has less stringent licensing requirements. Based on these factors, Town staff submitted an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistant Grant (EIAF) application to the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in an effort to receive grant funds for a potential upgrade to GAC from the current chlorine dioxide machine. In late 2020, the Town was awarded \$100,000 through DOLA's EIAF program.



The Town issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the GAC Water Treatment Project in February 2023. The RFP sought qualified and experienced companies to furnish all labor, equipment, materials, and incidentals for a granular activated carbon water treatment unit process to



remove color, taste and odor, with related appurtenances. As a result of that solicitation, Filter Tech was awarded the contract. Filter Tech is based out of Grand Junction, CO, and has designed and manufactured water treatment systems for over fifty years.

The GAC Water Treatment Project was budgeted for in the Capital Project Fund of the FY2024 Budget. The expenditure anticipates offsets of \$100,000 from DOLA's EIAF grant, as well as \$261,152 from the Town's allotment of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

GAC equipment is starting to be delivered to the Water Treatment Plant and will be assembled over the next few months!

RIDGWAY COMMUNITY PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the Ridgway Youth Advisory Council (Riley Burr, Keira DeLuccio, Hannah Freed, Lauren Mahlin, and Patrick Megahee) for all their hard work in organizing this community pickleball tournament! A huge shoutout goes out to the Ridgway Pickleball Club for all their guidance and assistance with this event.

The event made a total of \$402.86, 50% of which (\$201.43) was donated to the Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center in Montrose, and the other 50% was donated to the Ridgway Pickleball Club.





COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE DISTRICT MEETING

Mayor Clark and I attended the Colorado Municipal League (CML) District 10 meeting in Montrose on May 23rd. The District 10 meetings are a great way to network with colleagues in our area, discuss challenges facing our community, and receive an update from CML staff about advocacy and upcoming training opportunities.

I'm happy to report that Ridgway will serve as the host of the next District 10 meeting this fall!

2024 COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

I will attend the CML Annual Conference next week (June 18-21) in Loveland. This conference is the premier educational event for municipal officials in Colorado and draws over 1,200 leaders throughout the state to share the latest information on accomplishments, growth, legislation, and policies that impact our municipalities.

MESSAGE FROM RIDGWAY SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD RE GREEN STREET SUSTAINABILITY PARK

From Dave Jones, Chairperson of the Sustainability Advisory Board:

At our Sustainability Advisory Board meeting on 1 May, our members discussed the question of what sized solar array would be preferred for the Green Street Park. This prompted another question: "Is this a Town Solar/Sustainability Park with other park amenities or another Town Park with some added solar?" The consensus was that we would like to see a Town Solar/Sustainability Park and would prefer the full 425 kW array that is currently proposed. There was also agreement that if an affordable option allowed some of the proposed solar to be moved onto one-or-more covered parking structures in the park, that would be ideal and preferred. This option could shrink the size of the tracking array on the south side of the park proportionally, allowing more space for other park amenities proposed by town residents and stakeholders. The northern fixed array could remain as currently designed and include pollinating plants to support the adjacent apiary.

If we are faced with significant community push-back during this Green Street Park planning process, we had a further discussion of what we feel would be the minimum acceptable amount of solar targeted, given our Town's prior commitments, consistent with two of our town guiding documents (Town Master Plan and Regional Climate Action Plan). The consensus was that we would want the installed solar to be at least 80% of the current proposed size. (Such a system would generate enough solar to offset all current Town municipal electrical use but unfortunately would not meet anticipated future demands.)

In sum, we would prefer to see one or more scenarios incorporating 425 kW solar arrays and hope the anticipated additional cost would not preclude allowing some of these panels to be



built into one or more covered parking structure arrays. If faced with significant community concerns, it would be nice to also have one or more scenarios incorporating roughly 340 kW of solar. Finally, we want to express our sincere thanks for your planning work throughout this sometimes difficult and contentious process.

REQUEST FOR BIDS – DUCTILE IRON PIPE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Notice is given that the Town of Ridgway, Colorado will receive sealed bids from qualified contractors to furnish all labor, equipment, and materials for the Ductile Iron Pipe Replacement Project for approximately 2,500 lineal feet of water line replacement.

Two paper copies and one electronic copy of the proposal in a sealed envelope clearly marked “Ductile Iron Pipe Replacement Project” and the name, address and phone number of the bidder must be received by the Pam Kraft, Town Clerk at Town Hall, 201 N. Railroad Street, or PO Box 10, Ridgway, CO 81432 by 4:00 pm on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

Plans and specifications may be obtained by clicking [HERE](#).

The project is funded in part by a State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) loan. Bidder’s attention is called to the SRF requirements in the bid package. Davis Bacon wages and compliance with American Iron and Steel (AIS) are required. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements and goals are included. Also certified DBE’s or a consortium of certified DBE’s are encouraged to bid. See bidding documents for a full list of SRF Requirements.

A meeting and site visit will be held at the Ridgway Town Hall on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm for interested bidders. Questions regarding the contract documents should be submitted by 5:00 pm on Friday, June 21, 2024.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any and all informalities in bidding and to negotiate contract terms with the successful bidder, or to make award in such a manner as it may deem right for the best interest of the Town.

RED MOUNTAIN ELECTRICAL RELIABILITY AND BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

From Jeremy Fox, SMPA Chief Operating Officer:

It is our commitment to keep you, as representatives of mountain communities, informed of the latest developments in the Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement Project. As you may know, this project comprises several stages of re-construction of the aged 44kV transmission line that crosses Red Mountain Pass and serves backup power to Ouray County.



In the summer of 2024, our contractor is planning to rebuild 4.5 miles of the line between the Idarado and Red Mountain electrical substations. This will include the replacement of existing line / structures in this zone. Toward the end of July and into early August, the work will necessitate short-duration closures on Highway 550 as equipment and conductor are brought across the road. These closures may be single-lane or full-road, depending on the task. The holds are likely to affect visitors on their way into and out of the mountain communities.

Over the past few years, you have emphasized to us how important scheduling is with regard to road closures and summertime economic activity. We are planning to operate between Memorial Day and Labor Day. There's no scheduled work on the weekends, nor over the 4th of July holiday, so economic activity during these periods should be unimpeded.

As always, we invite you to communicate with us about any concerns you may have. Remember, this project is designed to enhance power reliability in an area prone to rockfalls, avalanches and other natural interruptions. It will also contribute to the overall expansion of fiber-optic cable, adding high-speed communications options throughout the region.

We appreciate the partnership of our member communities and we commit to open and proactive communication as we continually endeavor to improve service to all our members. Thank you.

TRANSFORMATIVE LANDSCAPE CHANGE CHALLENGE APPLICATION

On the heels of the Town's application to the Sonoran Institute's Growing Water Smart Program for \$10,000 in technical assistance to support the Ridgway Turf Replacement Project, the Town submitted an application to Resource Central's Transformative Landscape Change (TLC) Challenge Program. The TLC Challenge is a grant program designed to inspire communities to embrace waterwise landscapes and reimagine a publicly owned and highly visible space to showcase what life after turf can look like by replacing up to 2,500 square feet of turf with low-maintenance plants.

As a reminder, the Ridgway Turf Replacement Project is a pilot project and a first step in helping the Town to achieve the goal of reducing landscape water usage on municipal turf with the outcome of widespread municipal turf replacement. The project was identified in the Town of





Ridgway Growing Water Smart Action Plan and the hope is that this will help encourage residential property owners to modify their landscapes with the ultimate goal of reducing residential water usage.

The Town has not yet determined who the third-party service provider/consultant will be to complete the scope of work for the Ridgway Turf Replacement Project. To make this project happen, the Town intends to issue a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) inviting qualified service providers (i.e., local landscaping companies) to submit a proposal for completing the Ridgway Turf Replacement Project. The project will generally consist of delivery, set-up and general construction for all labor, materials and services for creating hardscape and landscape, and all other necessary work. Because the Town does not have construction-level documents to guide the landscaping renovation or even a project scope beyond a high-level vision to begin replacing turf on public property and establishing an area to showcase plants and design concepts that use less water than the traditional landscape, as part of the RFP, the Town will ask local landscaping companies to submit a proposal that meets that general vision.

While the Town has a specific section of Hartwell Park in mind for the Ridgway Turf Replacement Project, the Town is flexible and will seek suggestions from local landscaping companies regarding the scope of work and ideal area for turf replacement/landscaping renovation in Hartwell Park. The Town anticipates the project scope costing \$25,000. However, the Town won't have a firm understanding of the cost until proposals are received. If the Town's application to the Transformative Landscape Change Challenge Program is successful, the Town anticipates that proposals from landscaping companies will be reduced significantly as a result of them not having to remove and haul away the turf.

It's worth noting that the total square footage of the area we intend to include in the Ridgway Turf Replacement Project exceeds 2,500 sf. The total area probably hovers around 8,000 sf. In a meeting with Resource Central representatives on May 29th, it was explained that there may be potential, upon a successful application, for the removal area to go beyond 2,500 sf.



TRI-AGENCY DINNER

The Town of Ridgway invites you to the

Tri-Agency Dinner

Thursday, June 27, 2024 | 5:30 p.m.
The Decker Room
675 Clinton Street, Ridgway, CO 81432

Social | 5:30 p.m.
Introductions, Dinner and Presentations | 6:00 p.m.

RSVP to Becky
bschmitz@town.ridgway.co.us

JOINT WORK SESSION WITH OURAY COUNTY AND CITY OF OURAY

A joint work session between the Ridgway Town Council, the Ouray City Council, and the Board of Ouray County Commissioners is scheduled for June 25th at 3:30 p.m. at the Ouray County 4H Events Center. There is also a virtual attendance option, and the Zoom information can be found below. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the establishment of a regional housing committee and other items related to affordable housing in our region. A work session packet will be distributed to all elected officials in the next several days.

Video and audio: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81690044328>
Meeting ID: 816 9004 4328



GREEN STREET PARK MASTER PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 11TH

The Town of Ridgway and Superbloom will hold a second public meeting for the Green Street Park master planning process on Tuesday, June 11th at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall, located at 201 N. Railroad St.

The purpose of the meeting is for members of the public and various stakeholder groups to view and provide feedback on the park layout concepts that have been developed by Superbloom. Superbloom was selected by the Town, after a competitive solicitation process, to provide a plan, process, and approach for the public engagement and master planning for the Green Street Park.



For more information, please contact Preston Neill, Town Manager, at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us or 970- 626-5308, ext. 212.

MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

Calls for Service

As of June 5, 2024, we are at 2,483 calls for service and self-initiated activity. In 2023 we were at 2023 calls for service and self-initiated activity, an increase of 460 dispatch entries. I am waiting for stats from our regional data specialist with a breakdown by type of call and self-initiated versus calls for service. We should have that report in July.

Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police Conference

On 06-02-2024 to 06-05-2024 I attended the annual Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Estes Park, CO. During the three days we covered new legislation and case studies. We also met with the Attorney General, Head of CDPS, State Patrol, and other State Officials. The Conference is a great opportunity to network with other chiefs from across the state. The conference also has vendors and that give us a chance to check out the latest technology utilized in law enforcement operations.

New Deputy

On August 11th of last year after the Council approved the new deputy position, we started an exhaustive search. This search was challenging. With some help of a coincidental meeting outside our dispatch center we have made an offer to Brannon Hasler who had worked 8 years with the



Montrose County Sheriff's Office and most recently with UPS. Brannon has met all of the requirements other than he has to do a one-day test-out with Colorado Police Officers Standards and Training in Denver, to renew his certification. Brannon will be a great addition to our department with his experience in law enforcement and extensive knowledge. He has experience serving as a School Resources Officer with the Sheriff's Office in the Olathe, Colorado Schools.

Stats from Radar Trailer

Click [HERE](#) to check out a survey summary from the new radar trailer from 4/30/2024 to 5/8/2024.

CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Town Treasurer:

Concert Series

The 17th Annual Concert Series begins on Thursday July 4th with DeVotchka as headliner on the stage. The series will run throughout the month, on every Thursday starting at 6:00 pm. Questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at 970-626-5308 Ext. 211.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Green Street Sustainability Park Master Plan Public Meeting** – June 11, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – June 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – June 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Decker Community Room and virtually via Zoom
- **Joint Work Session with Ouray County and the City of Ouray re housing services** – June 25, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. at the Ouray County 4H Events Center and virtually via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – June 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Tri-Agency Dinner** – June 27, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Decker Community Room
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – July 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **First Concert of Ridgway Concert Series!** – July 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Hartwell Park



TOWN HALL PO Box 10 | 201 N. Railroad Street | Ridgway, Colorado 81432 | 970.626.5308 | www.town.ridgway.co.us

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – July 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Second Concert of Ridgway Concert Series!** – July 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Hartwell Park

JOKE OF THE DAY

From Polly Kroger, Council member:

If you have coffee with soy milk and vanilla, is it three bean soup?