

Bluff Town Council
Bluff Community Center
190 N 3rd East Street
Bluff, Utah 84512

Minutes

The council met Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in a public meeting.
Present were: Mayor: Ann Leppanen, Brant Murray, Jim Sayers, Luanne Hook, and Linda Sosa

The meeting started at 6:04 p.m.

Leppanen started the meeting by encouraging the Council to hold meetings to one and a half hours. Because these are business meeting the public is invited but there is limited public interaction with the Council. Public hearings are for public interaction. She suggested that council members could be available after meetings and later in the week for more in depth conversations.

Minutes from Tuesday, September 18, 2018 were unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business

1. Report on Meeting with School Superintendent (Sayers).
Sayers scheduled a meeting for Leppanen, Superintendent Nielson, possibly the district business manger and himself for October 4, 2018. This will be the follow up of Sayers' initial letter to the district. Murray reminded the Council that our topics were local input into the new school, the site plan, and disposal of the current school property
2. Report on Response to Letter to San Juan County Commissioners for a meeting (Leppanen).
Leppanen will let them know that we are happy to meet with them and ask for an agenda, possible dates and times. Whether this is a public meeting or work session, we will need to post it.
3. Report on Bank Account (Murray).
Murray and Hook talked to Zions Bank and received a packet of information. Murray said they have better backing, services and advisors that could help us. Hook said they were more experienced with municipalities. Vectra Bank in Cortez and Colorado is an extension of Zions and we can also bank there. Murray motioned that we make Zions our bank and Leppanen seconded. The vote was unanimous. Murray suggested that it would be easy to move our Zions Incorporation account into a town account. Sosa mentioned that Bob Springmeyer recently made the remark to her that Zions was a good choice for banking.

4. Acknowledgement of Indigenous People (Sayers).
Sayers read his paragraph acknowledging peoples who inhabited our land before us, a common practice in many countries. Leppanen's concern was it could be considered a type of prayer. It was suggested that it could be turned into a mission statement and placed in our General Plan. The Council liked the idea and Leppanen suggested giving it more thought and voting on it next week.
5. Rules and Policy and Procedures (Hook).
Hook created a bound copy of her updated Rules and Procedures for our meeting and a copy for the mayor. Murray motioned that it replace the original document that we voted on and Sayers seconded. The vote was unanimous. Sosa said that she would need a pdf copy to be able to place it on our website.
6. Committee Update (Sosa).
The Planning and Zoning Committee will do a brief presentation at our October 2, 2018 meeting and General Plan at October 9, 2018.
7. Report on Meeting with UDOT (Murray).
Murray and Haviken have been working together on Roads and Murray will take the lead for the next six weeks while Haviken prepares for the Art Festival. He explained that we are working with two different entities, UDOT and the County. Leppanen asked him to get possible dates for a meeting in Moab with two council members, UDOT and the District 4 Roads Engineer and bring those dates to the next meeting.
8. Cost of Office in Community Center (Leppanen).
Leppanen sent the Bluff Service Area a request to be on the next agenda to discuss rent and fees for the office space we are using.
9. Letter to San Juan County on TRT (All).
Leppanen will check with Diana Davidson to see if modifications to the letter to the County about fairness in policy for County Transient Room Tax (TRT) are acceptable. Leppanen motioned and Murray seconded that if the modifications are acceptable Leppanen sign the letter and send it at the end of the month. The vote was unanimous.
10. Liability Insurance also How it Ties in With the BSA Insurance (Sayers).
Leppanen has reviewed the Interlocal insurance agreement. It will cost \$4,000 as compared to the BSA cost of \$3,200; the Council has more power and responsibilities. It will also be signed by David Church, attorney for the League of Cities and Towns (ULCT), meaning we will be under their umbrella.

Sayers motioned and Hook seconded that Leppanen sign it and mail it. The vote was unanimous.

11. Calf Canyon and Vote on Action (Leppanen).

It was motioned by Sayers and seconded by Murray that we stay out of this BSA and County issue. The vote was unanimous. Leppanen stated we could revisit it in the future.

12. Letterhead (Hook).

The letterhead is ready to use on Google Docs. Leppanen thanked Hook for her work.

13. Make a Board Statement about the Transfer Station Exchange (Murray).

Wes Shook (BSA), Sayers, and Sosa attended the Commission hearing to discuss the fate of our transfer station September 25, 2018 at 11:30 in Monticello. The Hole in the Rock Foundation wants to trade a piece of land on the dump road for the Bluff transfer station land. Bluff would not get this land, the County would. Lynn Stevens, speaking for HiRF, said the transfer station could stay open until February, when they will start dismantling it to make more campground space. Sayers said why fix something that isn't broken, how does this benefit the southern county, and this group of people do not live in Bluff and some live out of county. Sosa presented a letter from Leppanen to the Commissioners. Sosa asked, are you going to take away our transfer station and give us nothing. The response from Bruce Adams, yes, Bluff chose to be incorporated and we will treat you like Blanding and Monticello. The Council discussed the Interlocal Agreement for County services vs addressing the transfer station issue. It was decided that negotiation should cover all services in the Interlocal Agreement and not separate this issue from it. Leppanen will fine tune the letter given to the Commissioners and send it to council members for input. We will vote on it at our next meeting. We need to consider how we can negotiate to our best advantage.

New Business

1. Report on Women Mayors of America Conference on September 20, 2018 (Leppanen).

This was a worthwhile trip. Leppanen made many helpful contacts including mayors, the Intergovernmental Affairs Agency. and possible revenue sources which she will compile into a packet. She is emailing various contacts to reconnect with them. She was grateful that several town members offered to give her air miles, although she had already made arrangements.

2. Procurement Policy (Leppanen).

Leppanen presented the Council Procurement Policy and Quote Sheet. She

used the LeGrand Bitter model. The Council discussed changing: All expenditures made by the purchasing agent be reviewed and approved, to just reviewed. Sayers motioned to accept with the change and Murray seconded. The vote was unanimous.

3. Email from Natalie Randal to Leppanen about the Economic Development Partnership (Leppanen).

Randal invited someone from the council to be part of this partnership. Sosa volunteered.

4. Interview with BuzzFeed (Leppanen).

Leppanen was not available to talk to this reporter. Sayers spoke with the reporter very briefly.

5. Offer of support and guidance from Cameron Diehl (Leppanen).

Diel, of ULCT, and Leppanen have been in contact and he will be sending materials to her that will help support and guide us as we move forward as an incorporated town. We are town number 248.

Other Business

Hook suggested having a roadmap or checklist of our previous path and objectives. Leppanen stated that we have met all deadlines, are following code, and are moving forward. She expects the material we get from Diel to be very helpful and there is much information and tutorials on the ULCT website.

Murray asked about pursuing the Resort Tax before the November ballot but we do not have time to do the steps needed, including a public hearing.

Adjourned at 7:30.

Linda Sosa, Clerk

