

Bluff Town Council
Tuesday, April 2, 2019
Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.m.
190 N 3rd East
P. O. Box 324
Bluff UT 84512

Regular meetings are held every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted to Ann Leppanen at least 4 days before the meeting.

Minutes

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Brant Murray, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2019

The minutes had several modifications and an addition so we will revisit at our next meeting

Approval of Work Session Minutes for March 27, 2019

Murray motioned to approve with one modification, Sayers seconded and all voted in favor

Introduction of Becky Hinchcliff, DHS, Grand and San Juan County Regional Advisory Council

Becky Hinchcliff of the Utah Department of Human Resources presented her program to the Council. It is a system of care approach that keeps families together by offering services and resources to help at risk families and children. She explained many of the components of her program and asked that we keep her in mind for referrals. The Council suggested checking with the schools for referrals. Murray suggested that the Council write a letter of in support of her program.

Old Business

9. Update on Planning and Zoning, Roads, Water

Marx Powell reported on the March Water Conservancy meeting. Broken water lines at the golf course will be fixed, snowmelt, Blue Stakes, and Green River water rights were covered. Leppanen suggested if something important to Bluff comes up he could report at a Council meeting or send the minutes. He offered to take questions that we might have to the meetings. Leppanen thanked him.

1. Update on Planning and Zoning Meeting on 3/28/2019 and Mary Gilliam (Sayers/Leppanen)

Sayers and Leppanen attended the March 28th meeting and spoke briefly at the start. Sayers reminded them the importance of civility at meetings as a binary issue, it is either there or not. The Council is completely committed to following the Utah State Code, also binary. And, people are scrutinizing what we say and do state wide, not just locally. Leppanen reported that Kristen Bushnell of Planning and Zoning met with Mary Gilliam and they have consensus about what is needed in terms of maps. In their very productive meeting they came up with what we need without spending a lot of money and completion by May.

Amanda Podmore is now taking minutes.

2. Copper Cliffs II road and status (Leppanen/Sayers)

Leppanen mentioned that Haviken brought up the unresolved issue of the Copper Cliffs road. He had not seen an application. and there has been no action at Planning and Zoning. Leppanen said that no action is an action and we need to adopt procedures for the application process. This should be a work session. Murray will research applications from other towns.

3. Meeting with David Ure, Director of SITLA (All)

This unexpected visit lead to a good conversation about the solar farm. Ure spoke at the work session and then Hook and Murray took him out to the site with Mary Gilliam's drainage map to point out the Councils concerns about the geologic hazards caused by blading the soil. They showed him the relationship to possible drainage during a large storm and how it could impact Bluff Dwellings and Cow Canyon Trading Post The lease has been approved but we still don't know the lessee. It needs to be near a transformer.

The County mistakenly told SITLA that half of the land is in Bluff; all of the land is in Bluff. Sayers said that when the 2,000-acre parcel is bladed drainage would be disrupted. Hook suggested a riparian catchment for drainage. Ure said at every step the lessee is required to work with Bluff. This project has three years to be completed but some projects never happen. Leppanen directed that we monitor the project and ask Bryan Torgerson to walk the land. Murray will contact him.

4. Meeting with Stephne Hanson of Utah Department of Alcoholic Beverages and Jared Berrett (All)

Hanson was not able to meet with us because of illness. Leppanen has emailed her twice over two weeks to reschedule and has not received a response. We need to start researching this if we do not hear from her soon. Sayers asked what the average turn around time for this kind of application is with the State. We were not aware of this until March 5th and it is unrealistic for a new town to have everything in place for permitting. Businesses in town selling and serving alcoholic beverages cannot be stopped simply because Bluff Dwellings does not have permits yet, as Berrett asked. Leppanen said we will continue to collect information and move forward.

5. Wildland Fires and Discussion with Chief Anthony Lott (Leppanen)

Since incorporation the Town is now responsible for fires except those on public lands. Anthony Lott, the fire chief, is now responsible for emergency preparedness. Jason Johnson, Utah Dept. of Natural Resources SE Area Manager, would like to meet with us to discuss responsibility and obligations and Leppanen suggested that we meet in Monticello. Lott is willing to work with us on emergency planning. Sayers suggested that it could be a bad fire year because of the fuel load of vegetation. Wes Shook would like the town boundaries marked, water hydrants tested, and said that there are funds available to help. Leppanen said this came up at her Rural Mayors Meeting, the lack of emergency preparedness plans in rural towns and we need to address it and start working on it.

6. Update on Pelorus Installation and Use (Sosa/Hook)

Hook reported the training went great and the program has great potential. Leppanen said it will be simplistic at first while we are learning to do budgets and reports.

7. Status of tax applications (Hook)

The State has accepted the Municipal TRT Tax and the Resort Tax applications. Collection starts July 1st and disbursement September 25th. These go into the General Fund.

8. Old School Funding (Sayers)

Sayers has \$150,000 for repairs for the old school accepted on the CIB list. He contacted Kyle Hostler at the District Office who said there are no plans for the old school building to be torn down. The USDA does not have grant money left but has \$300,000 at 3.5% interest in loan money; perhaps we should consider buying the old school.

9. Update on Planning and Zoning, Roads, Water

Water was addressed earlier. UDOT has started work on the turn lane at Bluff Dwellings. No information was given to the Council even though Council members met with them last week. Hook attended a Land Use training about new legislative bills that covered how applications work and gravel pit information. Gravel pits are no longer considered a nuisance and not considered abandoned if not in use. We have four in our town boundary; one is in a residential area at the end 7th West.

10. Update on CDBG and Salt Lake City training on 4/23/19 (Leppanen)

Leppanen will be attending this training since she is project manager for water project.

New Business

11. Community Meeting 3/23/19 at White Mesa re: Fiber Optic (Hook/Leppanen)

The State representative of this meeting thanked Leppanen and Hook for attending and talking to stakeholders about how beneficial this is for families. This fiber optic project is coming from Blanding, hooking up to the library on White Mesa, and continuing to the schools and medical clinic in Bluff and Montezuma Creek. It has been stalled at White Mesa because several families do not want surveyors on their property. Leppanen and Hook encouraged them that this was the first step and then there would be more information.

12. 2020 Census Participation (Leppanen)

The Kem Institute has already worked on population data for our sales tax so Leppanen expects we will have limited involvement.

13. Meeting on 3/25/19 with Monte Perkins, San Juan County Weed Eradication, Galen Headley, and Steve Helgerson (Leppanen/Murray)

Before incorporation the County sprayed chemicals on the edge of streets and supplied chemicals to locals once a year for noxious weed control. Under our Interlocal Agreement they will no longer spray the weeds along streets and the Town is responsible for weed control. The State requires killing knapweed and camelthorn, which is prevalent along the river bottom.

Hook suggested an ordinance for homeowner weed control along streets. Leppanen suggested there would be people who follow the ordinance, those who ignore it, and those who may not be capable of mowing. Murray said absentee owners could be charged for having their land mowed. Leppanen suggested that we keep having conversations with Perkins and figure out what works this year. Perkins has given Blanding a contract with pricing and will send us a copy. Murray will write a letter to the County encouraging weed control programs and grants.

14. Enterprise Fund (Leppanen)

Natalie Randall sent this information; we may consider it in a work session.

15. Food Pantry Meeting with Ginny Burns and Robbin Bond (Leppanen)

The Food Pantry will be in Office 3 of the Community Center starting in May and will be allowed to use the Utah Food Bank nonprofit EIN numbers.

Other Business

Wes Shook is concerned about the amount of use that the Copper Cliff road is getting and felt that there should be a stop sign at the highway. The Town does not own that road but when Michael Haviken is back he could check with UDOT about a sign.

Adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer