

**Minutes** from Work Session with Sue Sanger, Retired St. Louis Park, Minnesota Council Member and the Bluff Town Council

Friday, September 20, 2019, 12:30 p.m.  
Comb Ridge Eat and Drink, 680 West Main, Bluff Utah 84512

Present: Luanne Hook, Brant Murray, Linda Sosa, Jim Sayers (Council Members), Ann K. Leppanen (Mayor), Skip Meier, Michael Haviken, Lottie Sosa, Sue Sanger (Retired Council Member from Minnesota)

The work session began at 12:35 p.m. and adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The council members and mayor paid for their own meal and beverage. No public money was expended.

Sanger described how St. Louis Park Minnesota (SLP) structured their town: the council of 6 members and a mayor supervised the city manager who supervised the other 260 employees. The only exception was that the city attorney reported to the council who provided that supervision. The council meets 2 times a month for its regular meetings and 2 times per month for “study sessions” which are similar to Bluff’s “work sessions.”

An interesting concept is that the work sessions are used to discuss issues and try to move an issue to a consensus. Those items discussed in a study session that are routine, administrative and non-controversial, may be moved to the regular meeting agenda as “consent” items and those items are grouped together at the beginning of the meeting. Any council member retains the right at the meeting to pull an item off the consent agenda and move it to the regular agenda; however, those items on on the consent agenda are voted on with one motion including all items.

No votes are taken at study session and no public comment is allowed. This affords the council plenty of time to debate issues and attempt to reach consensus. Public comment is allowed in the regular public meeting.

SLP has 8 volunteer community boards with each having its separate expertise. Each board has a chair and a meeting schedule with the exception of the Board of Zoning Appeals who hears variances as needed. If a variance is not granted, it goes to the full city council for determination.

One topic that was discussed was how SLP handles bars/restaurant consents. SLP has no bars as SLP wants to retain a requirement that 50% or more of revenue are from food. Murray asked what the biggest challenge had been for Sanger during her tenure and she said this was not so much as a challenge as something that required time. And that was the changing diversity of the community and how to be sure everyone was heard.

Community Development Block Grants were also discussed as SLP would partner with different non-profits and distribute grant money. Sangers suggestion is that the town create its priorities well before debating whether or not to partner with a particular non-profit. SLP has a policy that the non-profit entity directly benefit the low income population.

Sanger described what recently happened with SLP over a decision to stop saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of a council meeting. That decision resulted in the VFW and other veteran groups getting involved; the head of the Minnesota Republican party getting involved; and ultimately the President of the United States getting involved.

It was the conclusion of the council that this was a very helpful work session which is how the council felt when it engaged in a work session with Kermit.

Ann K. Leppanen  
Mayor