

Bluff Town Council Special Meeting
February 6, 2020
Bluff Community Center at 8:00 a.m.
190 N 3rd East P.O. Box 324
Bluff UT 84512
435-672-9990

Regular meetings are held the first three Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted in writing to Ann Leppanen (ann@townofbluff.org) at least 4 days before the meeting. Agendas and minutes are posted at:

townofbluff.org and audio, in addition, at the Utah Public Notice Website

Minutes

The meeting started at 8:09 a.m.

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

1. Discuss and Vote on Public Comment Letter to the Bureau of Land

Leppanen stated the purpose of this Special Meeting was to decide on the content of the Council letter to the BLM. Sayers wrote the first draft.

Leppanen felt she couldn't support drilling with our growing town; if we don't have water we don't have anything. She is opposed to the location.

Murray felt geologically the wells would be safe but no one should drill through our aquifer and stressed the importance of asking for protections.

Hook said the demand for oil is low now so drilling might not happen but our water is worth protecting.

Leppanen reported that Commissioner Maryboy called her and they discussed what is more important, good water for us and our larger community or CIB funds that come from oil and gas drilling. Bruce Adams is senior person on the CIB Board and responding against drilling will have an effect on future projects. One of the issues Council members ran on was protecting our water.

Murray wants to raise the standard of living.

Leppanen mentions some links between fracking and earthquakes and suggested that some of our larger businesses are in geologic hazard zones, two near cliffs and one with a retaining wall.

Sosa stated opposition to any drilling into or through our aquifer, not just oil and gas.

2. Management on the Issue of Oil and Gas Drilling on the Bluff Bench, Specifically Referred to as Recapture APDs

Leppanen stated whether we oppose drilling through the aquifer or not, the permit will probably happen.

Amanda Podmore suggested the importance of asking for protections. She felt the first draft was well done. She pointed out the Environmental Assessment Study and RMP from the BLM did not include the possible effects of fracking and seismic impact.

Murray motioned to write that we oppose drilling into our aquifer and would like specific protections named, Hook seconded.

Irene Hamilton, longtime resident who grew up along the river corridor, mentioned that the Aneth oil field is compromised and affecting water there at an alarming rate. People from there come to Bluff for their drinking water.

Leppanen is opposed to drilling through our aquifer, not gas and oil drilling per se.

Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sayers, and Sosa voted in favor of the motion. Leppanen will work on the second draft and get it to Council members to review before sending it in electronically today.

Adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer