

Bluff Town Council Meeting
April 14, 2020
Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.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
This meeting was held electronically via Google Hangouts

Minutes

The meeting started at 6:02 p.m.

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2020

Murray motioned to approve the minutes, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, and Sayers voted in favor

Unfinished Business

1. Update on CIB Public Hearing and Discussion of Purchase of the Bluff Elementary School (Sayers) and Request by Travis Shumway of Possible Use for the Bluff Elementary School (Sayers/Leppanen)

Sayers reported the CIB Presentation will be May 7th. He gave a Power Point presentation with a breakdown in the funds we are asking for, \$500,000, for the purchase, a new roof, and remodeling. Hiroko and Atsushi Yamamoto of Design/Build/Bluff have been working with him on roof design and repurposing. He showed the photo of the roof at Ganado Elementary that could fit over the existing roof and give it slope instead of being flat. The Town Public Hearing will be Thursday, April 30th. Sayers will publish the legal notice in the paper. Leppanen explained she had been contacted by Travis Shumway about the possible interest of the Council renting the school building or offices if a different party got the school. The Council agreed there are too many unknowns currently to consider. Leppanen noted if we are offered the school we don't know what our options will be for loans and grants. Murray suggested a partial, low interest loan for 20 or 30 years is doable. Leppanen expressed concern over buying the school in the current environment, as did the rest of the Council. Sayers stated we would need to have a work session to carefully look at options. Leppanen expressed gratitude to the Yamamotos.

2. Update on University of Utah Bluff Town Garden Survey and Plan (Leppanen/Reagan Wytsalucy)

Leppanen will contact Wytsalucy and put her on next week's agenda to give feedback from the survey.

3. Update on Bike Utah and New Bluff Elementary School (Murray)

Murray is working with Tim and Nancy Swanson of Bozeman, Montana, Tara Magee of UDOT, and the Bike 1000 organization on a safety plan for getting students back and forth from school, the speed

limit, biking, and state and federal grant opportunities. Leppanen stated that UDOT has worked very well with us in the past and does not want to be adversarial. She and Murray will look at possible dates to meet and strategize.

4. Updates on San Juan County COVID-19 Task Force Meetings and Current Status, Citizens Response Team, and Bluff Area Mutual Aid (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported the definition of resident did not come from the Task Force, but from Tammy Gallegos, San Juan County Emergency Coordinator, partly in anticipation of nonresidents traveling to the County for the Easter weekend. The Task Force was first aware of it when it was published and Leppanen will clarify that Bluff has some half-year residents at the next meeting. She informed that there will be free mobile testing in Monument Valley Thursday and Friday from 9 to 4, until supplies run out at UNHS for anyone; an up-tick in the number of cases is expected but that does not mean it is spreading faster, just we are getting a more accurate count. The results take 4 -5 days, not counting weekends, and a health official calls people with the results. The Citizen's Response Team members are reaching out to the community with favorable response. Kathy Carson explained people are happy to know who to call with questions and needs. Leppanen thanked Dawn Dilego, Carson and others for the great job they are doing to help protect our town. Jen Davila was disappointed essential workers were not allowed to stay in town at this time. Leppanen spent a fair amount of time Monday and over the weekend explaining to multiple people who wanted to stay in town to work they could not and had to commute from Blanding. Murray and Sayers reminded that this was a Council decision and we support it for the safety of our town. Amanda Podmore updated that BAMA has made 275 deliveries in the region and helped over one thousand individuals. People have donated \$23,000. They will continue and will shift to help the Chapterhouses in May. Leppanen reported the Food Pantry delivery went well. To request a box of food people can contact Jackie Warren and Ginny Burns at:

TEXT 801-718-8007 or 435-459-9464

[EMAIL Gaburnz@gmail.com](mailto:Gaburnz@gmail.com)

5. Report on Bluff Service Area Meeting on April 8, 2020 and Note Cancellation of Bluff Water Works Meeting on April 8, 2020 (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported this was a short meeting and they are continuing to work with their attorney to dissolve. Because of the hacking of an account problem they moved \$60,000 to the Town sooner than they had originally planned. The BWW meeting was cancelled.

6. Report on April 8, 2020 County Travel Tourism Advisory Board (Sosa)

Sosa reported this board discusses economic resources and issues and then members report to towns and local businesses. It was a very positive meeting. No one had any idea when businesses would open back up but decided the goal would be plan campaigns in advance for late 2020 and 2021 so they will be ready for opening in advance. A coupon book that linked lodging, meals, and activities was one idea. A business in Monticello is creating a drive-in movie for residents. The Mexican Hat bridge replacement project is expected to start in May, bids are out now.

7. Date for Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing (Leppanen)

Leppanen is working on setting the time for the public hearing in May or June. Projecting the fiscal budget has gotten more difficult with current events and changes. She may base it on the revenue we received the first six months of 2019, when we had a small revenue stream. She noted we have no big expenses except lawyer fees, and are fine with day to day expenses. We are in stable condition to sit the year out.

New Business

8. Roads, Planning and Zoning (All)

Leppenan noted there is a broken sign on 3rd North and Cottonwood. She will check with the construction site, as there is lunch trash there, and let Sam Cantrell know about the sign. P&Z are meeting tomorrow and discussing a land use application for a pavilion at the HTR Campground.

9. Financial Report (Sosa)

Sosa send the March bank reconciliation to the Council.

The current bills include:

Steve Helgerson - \$130.00

Feb., March, April and 1 event

Rocky Mtn. Power - \$313.73

Chris McAnany - \$4,270.00

Frontier - \$67.66

Sayers motioned to pay them as presented, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor.

10. Other

Leppanen and Sosa will get together with Tammy Gallegos and Mack Macdonald to finalize the lease for the senior center and paying the electric bills.

Leppanen was looking for a positive idea and teamed with Jonathan Till on:

AN INVITATION FROM THE BLUFF TOWN COUNCIL TO JOIN A NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY ON THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM VIA KSJD!

Bluff's own Jonathan Till is putting together a mix of dance music to play for his home community of Bluff and all of the 4Cornia on KSJD's Eclectic Hour this Thursday.

Get your dancing shoes and party mask on and get outside in your yard for a fabulous 2 hours of socially responsible boogying.

Adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

This meeting took place electronically via Google Hangout in order to follow the social distancing guidelines given by state and local authorities. The public was able to connect and participate by calling the following number (1-484-800-1993, PIN (549759712)) or via the following link (meet.google.com/rpd-jnba-uhy) prior to the meeting.