

Bluff Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 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

Minutes

The meeting started at 6:01 p.m.

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

Discuss and Vote on an Ordinance Authorizing Electronic Meetings; Google Hangout

Leppanen explained to comply with the Utah Open Public Meetings Act we had to pass an ordinance allowing it. Murray motioned that we accept the ordinance to meet electronically, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Sosa, Hook and Murray voted in favor. Leppanen signed the ordinance and will get it to Sosa. Leppanen explained that she would pause after each agenda item for public comment.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting on March 17, 2020

Approved at a Special Meeting

Approval of Minutes of Special Bluff Town Council Meeting on March 20, 2020

Sayers motioned to approve, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor, Sosa abstained.

Approval of Minutes of Special Bluff Town Council Meeting on March 25, 2020

Murray motioned to approve, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Sayers, Murray and Hook voted in favor.

Unfinished Business

1. Update on Status of USU Town Garden Project (Leppanen)

The link for the Garden Project Survey is back on the town website as is the County Extension April Newsletter. Reagan Wytsalucy will be on next week's agenda to update the project.

2. Update on Copper Cliff II Road (Murray)

Murray reported that Michael Haviken has been emailing back and forth with Craig Simpson regarding Copper Cliffs II Road. Currently, they are waiting for Mr. Simpson to provide a construction cross section of the road as it is built at this point in time. Simpson suggested this be tabled because the pandemic is taking everyone's time, so nothing will probably happen until May.

3. Discussion and Vote on Revision of Emergency Closures (Leppanen)

Because a community member felt that the original document was not clear about teleconferencing or being allowed to do administrative duties while a business is closed Leppanen consulted Chris McAnany who added a minor revision clarifying that those were permissible to #4. Murray motioned

to accept the revision, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook, and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen signed the ordinance and will get it to Sosa. The Council agreed to revisit closure of businesses every two weeks and this meeting was the first two-week date. Cases have not increased locally but they have on the Navajo Nation. When and how severe cases will be is unknown but the Health Dept. has suggested from April 20 – 25 will be bad in this area. Jen Davila asked for clarification about essential workers staying in town. Sosa referenced the ordinance and motion which say all short-term lodging is closed. There is nothing in the ordinance about essential workers, only essential businesses. Hook suggested to allow for essential workers the ordinance would have to be changed. Leppanen will listen to the audio and contact McAnany about essential workers. She will meet with Davila tomorrow. Murray suggested that Leppanen be the one to decide who was an essential worker.

New Business

4. Discussion and Vote and Emergency Management Plan (Leppanen)

Leppanen has been working with Dawn Dilego on guidelines for safety including dividing the town into sections, have section leaders, and have a system where neighbors check on each other to make sure everyone is okay. Hannah and Malysa Egge are working on a buddy system. Also, part of the plan is an emergency hospital area, getting information out daily, and compiling contact information on one site. Sayers will take Leppanen's spot on the County Task Force if she becomes ill. Leppanen reported the State qualified for FEMA help and she will investigate how we can get PPE. She said Tammy Gallegos is doing a great job as County Coordinator. Murray motioned to approve the parts of the emergency plan that are in place and continue to talk about it at our next meeting, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sayers, Murray and Sosa voted in favor. Murray and the Council voiced their appreciation for the hard work of the EMS group.

5. Staffing the Office Phone Line (All)

Hook has been checking the office phone several times a day and volunteered to continue. She will email messages to the Council. Then we will take turns.

6. Discussion and Vote on Measures Discussed in San Juan County's COVID-19 Task Force

This was covered in #4.

7. Update on Bluff Area Mutual Aid (Leppanen/Sosa)

Amanda Podmore reported the BAMA group of volunteers has made 250 deliveries of food, water, firewood and supplies to people in the region in need, especially the elderly, those with young children and those with health issues. They have raised \$14,000 and expect to be working for the next three weeks or longer. The Fort and others in town are making face masks and Twin Rocks is helping with packaging the items. They will not go out during the NN curfew. Sayers and Murray noted with appreciation BAMA's hard work and humanity to others and the Council echoed their deep thanks.

8. Status and Cancellation of Food Pantry Friday April 10th (Leppanen)

The truck is coming Friday but there will be no food distribution, the food will be stored and distributed to those in need with BAMA's help. Jackie Warren posted the flyer announcing this and the food banks that will be open and distributing. Warren and Ginny Burns have organized a system for five people to unload the truck and five others to organize and create 50 boxes of food to distribute. BAMA is helping.

9. Update on San Juan County Commission Meeting (Leppanen/Sosa)

Leppanen joined the mayors of Blanding and Monticello in a joint letter asking the Commissioners to table agenda item 3.c, which addressed Countywide budgetary changes. Many Bluff and County citizens sent public comment asking for the same in this time of health and business crisis. Leppanen thanked the community for so many well thought out and thoughtful comments that noted this time of pandemic was not the time to do major change and the effect negative of taking away County services by terminating the Interlocal Agreements, services that include fire, EMTs, 911 calls, and police protection. Sayers noted that the edict to terminate the Interlocal Agreements with the towns was buried in this lengthy emergency resolution. Towns would have to negotiate for services we now receive through the taxes we pay. The Commissioners dropped the word cancel but are going to look at charging fees, possibly to individuals, for things like calling 911, getting an ambulance, etc. After the meeting the Chairman called Leppanen and asked again that she meet with people not happy with planning and zoning. Leppanen explained the Council is willing to continue negotiating the ILA but it is not appropriate for the County to be involved with Town matters.

10. Financial Report, BSA Transfer (Sosa/Leppanen)

The bills are:

Paid since last meeting

Carol Shook - \$184.70

Patricia Bellison - \$162.30

Denny Bellison - \$161.15

Current

River Canyon Wireless - \$80.99

San Juan Record - \$54.60

P&Z Stipends, March - \$150.00

Malysa Egge, Amanda Podmore, Sarah Burak, Robin Cantrell, Michael Haviken

Sunrise - \$8,550.00

Sunrise - \$18,475.00

Murray motioned to approve, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Sayers, and Murray voted in favor. Leppanen explained that the Sunrise payments are from a grant for the 50-year water study. The BSA transferred \$60,000 to the Council. This would have happened when the BSA dissolved but some members who use the online banking have been hacked and the system seemed at risk. Leppanen will check with McAnany to see if this should held in safe keeping for them, if it is designated, and how it effects the budget.

11. Other

Sayers reported that the CIB approved an electronic public hearing and he is working with them on the date. Murray reported that Tim and Nancy Swanson are working with Bike Utah, a bike family friendly grant project for bike trails and lanes. Leppanen appreciated their work.

Adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

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 (1-619-832-2092, PIN 493553104) or via the following link (meet.google.com/rpd-jnba-uhy) prior to the meeting.