

Bluff Town Council Meeting
April 21, 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 on Google Hangouts.

Minutes

The meeting started at 6:03 p.m.

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

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2020

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

Unfinished Business

2. Update of Rural Assistance Community Corporation with Karli Salisbury (Sosa)

Salisbury, who has been hosting an Economic Development series of workshops at the CC contacted Sosa with the information the grant for the program has been extended into the Spring. Once social distancing and travel restrictions are lifted she will set dates for the three remaining meetings. She also contacted Sosa with information about a grant that could help business people in town. Sosa passed the information on but the grant quickly closed.

1. USU Community Garden Update and Next Steps (Reagan Wyatsalucy)

Wyatsalucy informed that there were more responses to the Community Garden Survey; they are positive and people wanted to be involved in planting, care, and harvesting. People had more time to be involved on Sunday and Mondays. There could be funds available for a manager. The USU team in Moab will help us organize a board, and supply the resources needed to have a successful Community Garden. There may be some funds available. One of the next steps will be identifying a location. This will be on the agenda in May and Leppanen thanked Wyatsalucy for her hard work.

3. Update on Sunrise Engineering Water Project (Leppanen)

Leppanen has had no new contact. She will work with Jocelyn Meyers getting new invoicing to Workforce.

4. Update on Status of 1st Quarter Transparency Report (Leppanen)

The next Transparency report and D & I (Deposit and Investment) report are due in July.

5. Thank you to Jonathan Till and KSJD (All)

Leppanen received great feedback about this special block party. Murray had friends of Bluff from other states join in. Leppanen suggested one way to show our appreciation is donate to KSJD. She voiced how much everyone enjoyed Till's fun, creative show for Bluff.

6 Report on Status of CIB Application (Sayers)

Sayers presented his Proposal to Purchase the "Old" Bluff Elementary School. Brenda Brown, who has been working with him, encouraged him to increase the proposal from \$500,000 to \$980,000, in part because of increasing costs. This amount covers the purchase, roof, and remodeling of some of the rooms. Brown said the CIB wants to be sure there is sufficient funds to finish the project. Leppanen sent the legal notice for the April 30th, 5:30 p.m. public hearing to the San Juan Record. The CIB presentation will be May 7th.

7. Discussion and Vote on Review of Emergency Closures Ordinance (Leppanen)

The Council decided not to change the closure ordinance but, if there is a change, Leppanen noted we can meet quickly. We will revisit at our next meeting in May. Leppanen has been attending BOB meetings and the Council is aware that this health crisis is devastating to our business community and the community at large. The apex of cases is predicted to be the end of next week. The town is surrounded by cases and we can assume it is here. Sayers mentioned the Weather Channel is tracking cases and you can follow the pattern in our area.

New Business

8. San Juan County Weed Ordinance; Report on San Juan County Commission Meeting (Leppanen/Sosa)

At their last meeting, the Commissioners passed the weed ordinance regulating noxious weeds in towns. If County weed control receives a complain they will inspect to confirm there are noxious weeds present. Within five days the County will send the land owner a written notice to remove them. If they are not removed in the time frame given the County will remove them and bill the owner. If the bill is not paid the County will take a lien on the property. Leppanen noted, this is a shift away from the Interlocal agreements with towns, where the County worked with the towns. The list of noxious in on the San Juan County website under the Weed Department. Murray noted that Jim Hook has successfully worked with the Weed Board for a long time.

9. Discussion of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES) and FEMA Application (Leppanen/Sosa)

Leppanen completed and submitted the application to FEMA so we are already in the system if we need reimbursement for medical supplies and other covered costs. Sosa submitted the Cares Act Application, that covers things FEMA doesn't cover. Leppanen cautioned it takes a very long time to receive funds. She asked BAMA and the Food Pantry to keep all documentation and volunteer hours.

10. Update on Bluff's Status in 2020 Census (Leppanen)

Marcia Hadenfeldt is working on the Census. Drew Cooper and Michael Bryant are helping. People can register online, on the phone, and through the mail. Hook

mentioned that people who don't register will be contacted by Census workers door to door. Government funds that Bluff qualifies for are based on population so it is very important all are counted. The road sign at 3rd and Cottonwood, across from the new school, broke and Sam Cantrell's crew replaced it with a sign on a metal pole. They will bill us. Amanda Podmore reported the next P&Z meeting will be May 6th.

11. Reports on Roads, Planning and Zoning, Water (All)

Leppanen received a call from the Sheriff that there was a loose cow on the cut-off road on the Bluff Bench. A cattle guard was full of sand and the cow walked over it. Bill Crowder went to check it and dug it out. Leppanen asked the Road Dept., Murray and Michael Haviken, to check it and the other cattle guard on that road.

12. Reports on Bluff Area Mutual Aid (BAMA), Citizens Response Team (CRT), San Juan County Covid-19 Task Force (All)

Podmore reported that BAMA is raising about \$10,000 a week and will make about 112 deliveries this week. The group is phasing into becoming facilitators with the chapterhouses, entities, and fundraisers, instead of receiving requests on their hotline and making deliveries. The Council appreciated the tremendous work they are doing. CTR, Kathy Carson reported that she and Dawn Dilego have collecting face masks and getting requests for them. Carson is working on a food resource list, which includes online ordering. Those needing a box of food from the Food Pantry can contact Jackie Warren at 435-459-9464. Leppanen reported the number of cases will increase as testing increases. The information she is given in Task Force meeting is limited and she passes what she gets to the town. She has tried to get more details from the Health Department and they are not forthcoming. Those having questions should call the Health Department to get more information. She said this is an unnerving time as the numbers build but we will get through this together.

13. Financial Report (Sosa)

The current bills are:

Bankcard - \$61.47

Xmission - \$15.00, Google Suite - \$45.13, shipping \$1.34

BWW - \$47.75

ULGT - \$713.00 Airport addition

ULCT membership - \$206.37

Diamond Propane - \$172.73

Carol Shook, April - \$184.70

Kirsten Ewing - \$45.00 transcription

Murray motioned to pay the bills, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers, and Sosa voted in favor.

14. Other

Leppanen checked with the workers laying broadband cable about archeological sites in the area. They will be sending the town a franchise agreement.

Adjourned at 7:15 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.