

Bluff Town Council Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2021

Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.m.

190 N 3rd East P.O. Box 324

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.

Minutes

The meeting started at 6:01 p.m.

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Work Session Minutes of January 19, 2021

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021

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

Unfinished Business

1. Update on Status of Community Development Block Grant Application

(Murray/Leppanen/Sayers)

Murray explained the deadline for this grant was Sunday at 5:00, he had been working on it all weekend to finish in time and it would not download. Cheryl Brown had given him weekend time to help with the process. He decided it was not ready and we should circle around to it next year.

Leppanen talked with Brown and there were parts that were not complete. Leppanen acknowledged construction projects are harder than others. She will attend the next informational meeting in October and work on putting the project together before that date unless there is interest in a different project.

2. Update on Creation of Bluff Cemetery District (Leppanen)

Tabled until next week.

3. Report on Road Meeting with Michael Haviken on January 29, 2021 and Future Road Work and Projects (Hook/Haviken)

Haviken had sent meeting notes to Council members. The County is in town doing crack sealing, has finished the airport, and is starting Sand Island. He explained \$21,100 had been budgeted for it which should average out to eight days of work. He and Hook felt to finish the town it would take 10 or 11 days. Council members felt it was important not to go over budget. Haviken will reassess how much more needs to be done toward the end of the eight days and inform the Council. He reported the County snowplowed the bypass road, airport road, Sand Island road and several in town roads during the recent snow storm; it will be paid for from Roads reserve funds. Sayers liked the idea of being able to turn the Helgerson dump truck into a snow plow. Haviken will look into it. Hook suggested a sign on the bypass road telling people not to use it when there is a lot of snow. Haviken suggested grading and graveling 2nd East with discretionary road funds. Hook said Melvin Gaines has a grader. Murray suggested limiting work to repairs and drainage so it retains the rustic look. Hook and Haviken will get estimates. Haviken reports that he has been receiving a monthly newsletter from the Local Technical Assistance Program for over a year now. There are some upcoming workshops on Roadway Drainage, Roadway Materials and Gravel Roads that Haviken will look into. Haviken had been contacted by Todd Hurst that the County grader is near East town boundaries and could grade C roads, such as the Foot Bridge Road. A day and a half or two days work would cost about \$2000.

We are responsible for C roads and conditions are good for grading. Sayers motioned to grade the roads, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, and Sayers voted in favor, Murray voted against. Sosa would like to see what current road work costs are before we engage in more planning. We have not gotten the bill yet for Fall crack sealing.

4. Update on Bluff's Planning and Zoning

Amanda Podmore sent Leppanen an update thanking Bluff Elementary School for turning off their sign at 10:00 p.m. P&Z will have a public meeting March 3 for ordinances for animals, parking, and short-term rentals.

5. Proof of Open and Public Meetings Act Training and Conflict of Interest for 2021(Sosa)

All Council members have finished this yearly training and Sosa has posted these and other trainings on our website. P&Z commissioners have also finished the training. Council members have turned in their Conflict of Interest forms.

6. Review of Code of Conduct (Leppanen)

Leppanen suggested the Council review this and discuss additions and/or deletions at a work session.

7. Discussion about NetForce Installation (Leppanen)

Josh Daggs sent Leppanen a help list. Murray and Sayers will talk to Daggs about starting the installation at the CC. Leppanen and Sosa are organizing CC office space.

8. Discussion and Vote on Bluff Town Office Clerk/Manager (All)

Kathy Carson has expressed interest in the clerk job and has been organizing BSA files. The job is \$16hr with flexible hours and the office clerk reports to the mayor, others wanting her to do tasks must approach the mayor. Sayers motioned to hire her, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers and Sosa voted in favor.

New Business

9. Update on San Juan County Commission Meeting of February 2, 2021 (Leppanen)

Willie Grayeye's chaired the meeting and Amber Johnson of the BLM approved and signed off on the River Trail.

10. Financial Report/Ned Krutsky Picture Framing (Sosa) and the Internal Revenue Service Letter Regarding 1st Quarter 2020 Tax Withholding and Response (Leppanen)

Sosa reported that Krutsky has beautifully framed our certificate of incorporation and certificate of the BSA dissolution and charged \$200. She has finished quarterly and year-end reports, except for one, and W-2s are out. Leppanen explained her ongoing interaction about our first quarter employee withholding check which the IRS credited to our second quarter. They want to charge us interest on their mistake and may be mishandling our second quarter check. She expects to be spending many more hours on hold trying to get agents to fix this.

11. Discussion about San Juan County's Plan to Extend the Highway to a Four-lane Highway Through Bluff (All)

The Council agreed in their opposition to four-lanes of highway through town and the impact on businesses, Cow Canyon and the school. Leppanen suggested adding this to a work session and being proactive in our opposition. Mary Gillam offered to work with Haviken on a map that would show how this would change our main street. Haviken will talk with UDOT. Murray will check with our Main Street Project team. A community work group could be formed at the work session.

12. Discussion and Vote on Resolution to Oppose SB0061 (Removing Local Control from Lighting/Signs) (Leppanen)

Murray motioned that Leppanen draft a letter voicing our opposition of this bill, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers and Sosa voted in favor. This takes away local control and would affect our businesses and Dark Skies. Leppanen will check with Utah League of Cities and Towns.

13. Discussion and Vote on Resolution Opposing White Mesa Mill's Expansion on Uranium from Other Areas (Leppanen)

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

14. Discussion about AED Maintenance Plan (Sosa)

Sosa received information about a yearly contract for the AED the Council bought with CARES funds. She will get more information for our next meeting.

15. Update on 2021 Declaration of Candidacy and Election Schedule (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported the primary date is August 10th and the general election is November 2nd. There will be three vacancies on the Council, Sosa, Hook and Leppanen. Hook is interested in running, Leppanen is not. Those running for those offices must file between June 1st through 7th and give their form to the Town Recorder, Sosa. Leppanen can help anyone who wants to be a write-in. This information will be on the Town website.

16. Update on Training for VTTX Earthquake (Leppanen)

Leppanen and Chief Lott have signed up for this virtual preparedness training on February 9th.

17. Discussion on Citizens' Institute on Rural Design and Due Date of March 12, 2021 on Applications (Leppanen)

Monique McDermott expressed interest in this grant.

18. Training on MuniDoc (Leppanen)

Leppanen is setting this up and will include Carson.

19. Other

Murray announced a new round of vaccinations.

The Bluff Water Works meeting is next week.

Sayers motioned to adjourn at 7:36 p.m., Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

This meeting took place electronically in order to follow the social distancing guidelines given by state and local authorities. The public was able to connect and participate electronically. For requests to receive emails/meeting invitations email linda@townofbluff.org