

Bluff Town Council Meeting Minutes

April 13, 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

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 Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2021

Sayers motioned to approve the minutes, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook,

Murray, Sosa and Sayers voted in favor

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2021

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

Murray, Hook and Sayers voted in favor

Presentation by Marcia Hadenfeldt on Lowes "100 Towns Contest"

Hadenfeldt has long been involved with a group in town interested in developing the CC park. She explained how she saw the Lowes Contest and felt that it could be helpful to park improvement plans. She sent a video, pictures, and narrative with the application. The deadline is April 19th, she sent it with an estimate of \$123,000 for the project. Sosa explained many people and entities ask to be on the agenda to inform Council members and allow all the public access, through minutes and the audio recording. This gives the Town transparency for issues and information. Projects involving Town property need to be on the agenda at the start of a project. The State audits finances closely and a paper trail is needed. Hadenfeldt did not have the application but will send Sosa the other materials that were sent. Leppanen suggested if the Town wins the contest the Council will become involved, since it involves Town property improvement. A vote can be taken at that time but nothing needs to be done until that point. Michael Haviken said a survey for parking was needed and the CC manager would also like a copy of the materials.

Unfinished Business

10. Request by Molly Schmidt for the Bluff Town Council to Engage in a Bluff Masterplan (Schmidt)

Schmidt introduced professional planners Jason Blankengel and Shannon Ellsworth who have ideas about how to make improvements and apply for funding for the Town. Blankengel worked with Jim Hook on grants for the River Trail and is involved in the Main Street Project. Ellsworth thought some updates could help the General Plan with State compliance. Leppanen pointed out the GP is two years old and approved by our lawyer but was interested in what specifically was not compliant. Ellsworth stated the areas a GP must cover and suggested there were several things that did not need to be in the GP. The Council agreed a Work Session would be helpful to be able to spend more time on these topics and both presenters are willing to join us. Probably in May when we are done with the budget.

1. Approval of Bluff Town Policies During COVID-19 Restrictions (All)

This was previously covered but not voted on. The only change was a correction to the email address. Sayers motioned to accept, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sosa and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen will meet with Mack McDonald and the Health Department Director Friday about keeping our mask mandate in place.

2. Discussion and Vote on House Bill 75, Municipal Alternative Voting Methods Pilot Project Amendments (Leppanen)

Murray motioned to stay with the standard way of voting, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sosa and Sayers voted in favor. The alternate voting involved ranking votes so the public could have a first and second choice. John David Nielson thought it would be very confusing to the public.

3. Discussion and Vote on Request for Speed Enforcement and Electric vs. Solar Driver Feedback Signs (All)

The Council agreed to ask for more speed enforcement to slow the traffic down. Sayers and Hook expressed the importance of late afternoon and the town borders. Hook will speak with Sgt. Taylor about what we want and when it could start. Sosa suggested an email blast to remind the public it would start and what the five criteria are that troopers look for. Such as seatbelt violations. Haviken reported an electric sign would need to be hooked up to a transformer which would cost from \$6,000 to \$10,000. For that reason, he recommended solar. Sayers motioned to use solar, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sosa and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen and Haviken will inform Jared Beard. Murray would like to see a way to help people across to get driver's licenses.

4. Status of Outdoor Pickleball Court Lines/Paint/Repair (Haviken/Murray)

The pickleball group has the go ahead for these improvements and will get with Sosa to order them. Hook reminded the Council that Larue Kirkham's granddaughter is doing a fund raiser for the elementary school and the pickleball group and she had recommended paddles to them.

5. Summary of the Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland's Visit to Bluff on April 7, 2021 and to Edge of the Cedars on April 8, 2021 (Leppanen)

Leppanen was honored to give welcoming remarks at the Bears Ears Education Center and be part of a focus group at the Edge of the Cedars. Josh Ewing gave an overview of BEEC, hiking, and the landscape. Leppanen said Haaland felt a connection to the area and people and was emotionally moved by her experience here. She was here to listen to all the voices and Leppanen stated she would look carefully at the facts from all sides. And the Commissioners did a great job working with her.

6. Reports on Planning and Zoning, Roads (All)

Hook reported P&Z is working on short-term rentals and UNHS is looking for a location for a medical/dental clinic in Bluff. Haviken is working on the Roads budget and has questions for the County about the amount of time and product used on the Cemetery Hill road. He is contacting the County for answers.

7. Updates on Airport and Hangar; Painting/Cleaning Carpet of Bluff Community Center; NetForce; Fraud Hot Line

Sayers is checking with our insurance company to see if the hangar is covered, his carpet cleaner is at the CC and he will be completing the job, after that the offices can be painted, NetForce has installed all equipment but requires an electric outlet installation, the fraud hot line should be in place and he will check it. The Council agreed to have Sosa send out the airport hanger leases since she has received the lease payments.

New Business

8. Financial Report (Sosa) and Utah League of Cities and Towns Draft 2022 Dues (Leppanen)

Sosa finished the quarterlies, sent out the March financial report, and is working with Erin Richards to do another in-house audit in May, as recommended by the State. Leppanen reported our dues for Utah League of Cities and Town is the same as last year, \$134.

9. UServeUtah Youth Council Applications Are Open (Leppanen)

This is an opportunity for young people from 16 to 22 and the deadline is April 19th. Cisca Davila participates.

10. Request by Molly Schmidt for the Bluff Town Council to Engage in a Bluff Masterplan (Schmidt)

Covered earlier.

11. Public Notice by SITLA for Sale of Property in San Juan County (Leppanen)

This is near Moab so it doesn't affect Bluff.

12. Possible Removal of Trees to the West of the Bluff Community Center; Use of Contract Labor v Employees; Use of Insect Spray in Pavilion, Fire Mesa Kitchen, and Community Center (Leppanen)

The Senior Center personnel pointed out the tree on the west is leaning on the fence and dead and could fall on the CC roof. Haviken suggested the tree is in the right of way so maybe Road money could cover the cost. Murray will look into removal. Sosa explained our janitor is recovering from an injury and suggested we use contract labor to fill in, not do a new hire. Especially since the CC and kitchen are closed because of covid, there is limited need. The job requests would go through the Council so liability would be covered. Sosa also pointed out the employee needs a doctor's release to come back to work. The Council agreed. Sosa reported the manager's request to spray and use ant pellets at the pavilion because of the exercise classes using it. Leppanen did not want any use of chemicals because children and adults are present. Hook said some applications could be routine without chemicals. Sosa suggested Murray was going to become a non-commercial applicator and there could be regulations for government buildings. Leppanen decided more information is needed and this will be continued on next week's agenda. No spraying or application until it is decided.

13. Other

The BWW meets tomorrow and it was suggested they attend a Council meeting to provide information to the public, an update about what they are doing. Jen Davila said they are working on a newsletter that would be included in water bills. She will convey our request to be on our agenda to the Board.

Emery is still doing drops and it is not clear if hook ups have started.

14. Executive Session to Discuss the Purchase, Exchange or Lease of Real Property (All)

At 7:32 p.m. Sayers motioned to close the open meeting and go into closed session to discuss real property and then adjourn, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sayers and Sosa 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