

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2021

Bluff Community Center at 5:30 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 5:32 p.m.

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

Approval of Bluff Town Work Session Minutes of August 2, 2021

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

Approval of Bluff Town Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2021

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

Approval of Bluff Town Special Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2021

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

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion on Electronic Banking Procedures: The Next Step (Sayers/Hook) and Status of PTIF (Hook)

Hook and Sayers met with Kim Palmer, of the Blanding Zions Bank, and the Price bank manager to discuss electronic deposits. Hook explained you get a free app for your phone and it is very secure. Leppanen will research getting a mobile phone for the office and deposits. Sayers motioned to start depositing checks electronically, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers and Sosa voted in favor. Hook and Sayers explained a financial product called Positive Pay that could help control fraud with electronic checking. Sosa will check with Larson and Co but Pelorus already does some of the same things and it would mean extra work. Also fixing something that isn't broken. Hook said the PTIF account is set up.

2. Discussion and Approval of the Report on the Internal Audit Completed by Erin Richards (All)

Richards presented the final report at the July 29th Work Session.

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

3. Discussion and Vote on Plan for Removal of Noxious Weeds (All)

Leppanen explained keeping the right-of-ways clear is one of our responsibilities. Murray said UDOT is happy to loan us cones and safety jackets. He is working with Ed Dobson who is working on a grid to show areas of need. People have offered to help. Murray also encouraged citizens to remove weeds on their property.

4. Discussion and Vote on State of Utah Department of Transportation Contract for Placement and Maintenance of Driver Feedback Signs; Approval of Payment of \$5,000 (Leppanen)

This contract was approved at a previous meeting, we are sharing the cost of the signs with UDOT, \$5,000 each and signs on each side of town. Sosa will write the check. Murray asked about keeping the signs that are already there and Leppanen will inquire. Murray updated the Town/UDOT Main Street Project, the group, which has been involved for the last year and a half, will meet in Bluff in the Fall. It was suggested the River Trail group and CIRD group meet with them for continuity.

5. Discussion and Vote on Short Term Rental Permit Application (All)

Sosa created an application form and will add zoning, residential or commercial to it. The Council agreed on adding a second page checklist for the requirements. Murray is checking with the Health Dept. about checking septic systems.

6. Clarification of Bluff Town Airport Insurance Policy with the Trust (Leppanen)

Leppanen spoke with Darin about the need to insure planes in the hanger when their owners are required to carry insurance. He explained we do not need to carry insurance since we do not own the hanger. He suggested checking with the BLM to see if our contract requires insurance. Leppanen will also check with our attorney. Sayers is working on the yearly general liability forms.

7. Update on Citizen's Institute of Rural Development (CIRD) Main Street Non-Motorized Trail and Clarification and Discussion of Presentation to Bluff Planning and Zoning on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 Regarding the Master Plan Initiative (Hook)

Hook said the latest meeting covered a lot of topics and people are welcome to join the monthly meetings. They are working on safe routes to school and an evacuation trail/walking bridge across the wash. Sosa mentioned it is common for schools to have lockdowns and shelter in place protocols. Leppanen again encouraged the various groups to join in conversation. Sayers suggested a conceptual map. Murray liked the idea of coordinating and said grants should not be pursued without coordination. #14. Leppanen reported on her meeting with Heather McDaniel who had helpful information about resources and the free help her group has available to the Town, she will send information. Leppanen expressed concern the P&Z minutes of August 4th were not accurate about the Town and BOB support of a proposed housing needs project. The Town and BOB are not in support of it. Our plan continues to be look at options with Michael Bryant of the Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments and will be meeting again at the end of the month. Leppanen and the Council agreed the Council has too many projects to jump into a housing assessment grant/project at this time. We do not have the time to give such a project the careful research and thought needed.

8. Report on Town Hall with Congressman John Curtis on August 10, 2021 (All)

Twin Rocks opened to host a pre-Town Hall dinner with the Congressman, his staff, and most of the Council. Sayers noted the importance of being able to talk about Town and regional issues with him. The Town Hall had about 35 attendees, including

Commissioners Maryboy and Grayeyes, from the town and the surrounding communities. He did not duck any questions and was knowledgeable about the local issues of Bear's Ears, water protection, White Mesa Mill issues, and the problems Utah Navajos have that are ignored by the Navajo Nation. It was a helpful meeting.

9. Report on San Juan County Homeless Project Meeting on August 10, 2021 (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported the meeting did not take place. Joe Hubbard of St. Christopher's Mission is excited to join the project.

10. Requests from Bluff Community Center Manager for Future Rentals, possible use of CC park for equipment giveaway (Sosa)

Sosa reported the manager has been taking reservations with the disclaimer the CC could be closed again due to covid. Jonathan Thompson, author of Sage Express – How a Remote Utah County became the Battlefield of American Public Lands, has reserved the CC August 27th from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Council felt this could work because it would be mostly locals and masking and social distancing will be in place but the Council will revisit it at the next meeting. October has three reservations including the Art Festival. Atsushi is considering a Japanese cooking class this Fall. Molly Schmidt requested using the CC park for as a clearing space for an equipment give away from a motel being remodeled in Moab on August 18th. Murray also offered his property as a possible location. Hook motioned to have it at the CC park, Sayers seconded and Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor Leppanen and Sosa voted against. It is not a Town event, everything must be removed by the end of the day, the restrooms will be open and it must be left in its original condition. Leppanen will work with the CC manager and Schmidt.

11. Update on Status of Pending Purchase of the Old Bluff Elementary School (All)

Leppanen has reached out to several companies that do fire suppression systems for quotes. The school district has signed the purchase contract and the 57 days to get funding has started. This is the funding period, we have not bought the school.

New Business

12. Community Impact Board's Capital Asset Inventory Request by Michael Bryant and Notice of Public Comment for SEUALG (Leppanen)

Leppanen said this is straightforward and she will get a draft copy to the Council members.

13. Review of Request by Utah Government Trust for Renewal Information for Worker's Compensation Insurance (Sosa/Leppanen)

Leppanen explained this has many pieces and our Workman's Compensation insurance premium is based on it. She asked Council members to send an approximation of how many hours a week they spend on Town work. It will include all volunteers and employees. It is due the end of September.

14. Report on Meeting with Heather McDaniel of Souder, Miller & Associates Services (Leppanen)

Covered earlier

15. Financial Report (Sosa)

Murray checked the bank reconciliation. Council members received the July financial report and had no questions.

16. Other

Leppanen will ask McAnany for a timeline for the school contract.

Hook mentioned Highway 95 is closed.

Leppanen expressed extreme gratitude for local and jurisdictional response for the house fire this week.

Sayers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 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