

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

September 14, 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 6:05 p.m.

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2021

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

Unfinished Business

1. Update on Status of San Juan County Transportation Board Grant and Other Roads Report (Haviken/Hook)

Michael Haviken and Leppanen presented their grant proposal to the Transportation Board Monday evening. The County has too much of their own work currently and is not able to work for us so Haviken obtained a quote of \$186,866 from LeGrand Johnson for chip sealing and gravelling. The presentation included a 20% match of \$37,373. The County explained that their bylaws require a 50% match and suggested getting a loan for the remainder. By removing the crack/seal the total reduced to \$124,913. Leppanen motioned to approve using \$46,715 of our Road funds, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen, Hook and Haviken will meet to discuss options, priorities, and reducing the scope of the work. At our September 21st meeting the Council will discuss going to the CIB for the short fall funds. The County criticized the Town for opposing oil and gas drilling, which is where Roads funding comes from. Leppanen explained the Council had voted against a drilling project that went through our aquifer. George Rice agreed that drilling through the aquifer is not a good idea and the group voted to give us the grant. They also felt our support of Bear's Ears would hurt our goals of getting grants. Leppanen reported that Haviken did an excellent presentation of the job, scope, and how it would help our town.

12. Request by Bluff Animal Rescue Committee for Use of Space for Housing Rescued Animals (Tonya Helgerson)

Dudley Beck reported that BARC has been rescuing dogs and cats for the last three years. They have started to get noise complaints about barking dogs and decided to shut down and move the dogs that they have and look for a better location. They are still getting requests for dog pick up and are delivering 150 pounds of dog food and asking those people to foster dogs for two weeks. Possible locations being looked at

are Billy Gaines' gravel pit, Gary Guymon's farm and the airport. The airport manager will look to see if this is allowable on the BLM lease. Although it is not a Town program, we will add it to a work session. The Council agreed the group did a great job.

2. Update on AmeriCorps Grant for the Bluff Community Garden and the Mission

Leppanen reported the grant had been approved. And 10 to 12 volunteers would arrive by October 31st. they will be housed at the Mission and have an orientation November 1st with Leppanen, Father Joe Hubbard, and Regean Wytsalucy. They will visit Edge of the Cedars for a local orientation. The Council will do Lunch and Learns the first two Mondays in December. There is work being done on a Covid backup plan. Wytsalucy will not be available for a couple of days and the Council and Mission will cover those days. Murray expressed that this would be really good for the town.

3. Update on American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") Grant Application (All)

We are receiving \$29,000+ in ARPA funds and working on projects for the matching funds.

- Leppanen, recreate the CC offices, Food Pantry and recreation,
- Sayers, a fire suppression system for the old school, if we purchase it,
- Hook, a safe trail linking the school, Sand Island, and the Mission through the town. She noted it was hard to fit into one of the categories and may decide not to include it in this grant; it is an ongoing project.

4. Update on Pending Funding and Purchase of the Old Bluff Elementary School, Discussion on Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Acquisition and Development Agreement Between the Town of Bluff and Utah Dine Bikeyah; Notice of Public Hearing on September 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (All)

Leppanen reported that Dine Bikeyah has approved going forward with the purchase agreement. The public notice will be in tomorrow's paper. Sayers felt the school is worth working for and has extended his date for the funds to be received from UDB to September 30th. Leppanen, Sayers, McAnany, Lee, Conine and the UDB attorney had a phone conference and made a few small changes. McAnany will draft the agreement. Jen Davila asked if the document will be available before the public hearing. Leppanen explained it is not finished and when it becomes a public document it will be published. Leppanen will check with McAnany on the sequence.

5. Municode Bound Books Announcement and Explanation (Leppanen)

Leppanen explained these books are for our codified ordinances, zoning, etc. Kathy Carson has been confirming everything is correct and nothing is missing. We will add new ordinances quarterly.

6. Report on September 11, 2021 Bluff Volunteer Fire Department Breakfast (All)

Council members agreed that this was highly successful and was appreciative to organizers Dan Myers and Paul Tibbet, the Fort for donating the food and cooking, Twin Rocks for supplying the coffee and all the volunteers. About \$3600 was raised and the Fort expressed interest in it being a yearly event, Leppanen will send thank you notes.

7. NetForce Update (All)

Sosa reported Jake and his helper worked on equipment installation and wiring all afternoon and will return to complete the wiring and synchronize the cameras. Leppanen was happy the Town computers are in and mentioned we will receive training on them and the system.

New Business

8. Request by Mayor for Approval of Hourly Rate for Temporary Contract Office/Town Manager (Leppanen)

Sayers motioned to approve a \$25.00 hourly rate for this position, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor. There are funds in the budget for a Town Manager and they will work on policy reviews, personnel, templates, etc.

9. Report of Bluff Water Works Meeting, Wednesday, September 8, 2021 (Sosa/Hook)

Hook reported it was a good meeting. For construction jobs the BWW does not sell water and suggested alternatives. The County pump at the fire station is broken. They are aware of the erosion on the water tanks and said a couple of dump trucks of gravel would take care of the problem. They noted insurance may be being duplicated by the Town and BWW for the water system. The leak in in the Church irrigation is an ongoing problem.

10. Request for Maintenance and Purchase of Char Wood Finish and Linseed Oil for Exposed Wood at Fire Mesa Kitchen (Sosa)

Sayers motioned to do this project not to exceed \$100, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

11. Financial Report (Sosa)

Sosa reported that Murray reconciled the bank statement and accounting statement. She sent the Council members the August Financial Report. Leppanen and Sosa will meet to discuss the October audit and questions about accounting for the new school, if we get it.

12. Request by Bluff Animal Rescue Committee for Use of Space for Housing Rescued Animals (Tonya Helgerson)

Covered earlier

13. Other

The Council agreed to hold a work session Thursday the 16th at 10:00 a.m.

Deb Dull asked Leppanen for a needs request because Rocky Mountain Power has some excess funds and she asked for \$2000 for professional furniture, something that grants do not cover. Murray motioned to endorse the request, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

Planning and Zoning will have a work session tomorrow at 5:15 and their regular meeting at 6:00.

The CIRD has their monthly workshop tomorrow and Sosa will send an email invitation.

Sayers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 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