

Bluff Town Council Work Session Minutes
February 18, 2022
Bluff Community Center at 10:00 a.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 10:05 a.m.

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

1. Public Comment

Diana Davidson/Rick Reeb –

Is this the right ordinance for Bluff?

Will it get us to Dark Skies Certification?

Will business owners have to make changes that decrease revenue?

Can some of Town's tax revenues be used to help residents and business owners?

Suggestions –

Changing the lumen allowance to 50,000 per acre could help some businesses be compliant.

Excluding motion detector lighting from the lumen cap.

Remove the verbiage about suing for light trespass.

Safety is a big issue and they are working with lighting and design engineers.

Jen Davila –

Davila stated businesses are in favor of International Dark Skies Certification, suggested an extension of the compliance period, an increase of the lumen capacity, a physical visit from a consultant and removing the verbiage.

Leppanen will collect all written comments and publish them with the minutes. Murray suggested the town may be close to compliance. Leppanen thanked those who have given comments and suggestions as being very useful. The goal is to work hard as there will be changes coming that make the certification more involved. The goal is also to work together and not have enforcement issues.

10:37 Public comment closed. Written comments can still be submitted

2. Discussion of Lighting Ordinance and Plan for Addressing Concerns and Enforcement (All)

Leppanen reminded that the meeting with the U of U class and their presentation is Tuesday the 22nd at 6:00 p.m. She noted there seems to be a consensus to find a paid consultant and we have surplus funds in the budget that could cover the cost. Leppanen will be amending the budget and can add those expenses. The Council agreed getting a qualified consultant

should happen quickly, that person can show what we have, where we need to go, what resources are needed, and tasks we need to do. Leppanen will reach out to qualified Dark Skies consultants and Murray, Davidson, and Davila volunteered to be on a call with her when she consults one or more. She will also discuss whether the suing verbiage should be removed from the ordinance with our attorney. Hook pointed out private parties can sue whether it is there or not.

Break 10:55

Resume 11:00

3. Discussion of Town Manager Job and Description (All)

Erin Richards edited the initial town manager position. Discussion included manager-administrator-assistant-intern, different places to advertise, including The Free Press and Colorado Mesa U., benefits, remote work, etc. Leppanen will work with Richards on modifications and mentioned that the CCC will not be part of it, in part because nothing is happening now or in the near future. She will have it on the agenda and hopes to publish it in March.

4. Discussion of Food Trucks, Pop-Ups, and Sales Tax/Business Licenses (Leppanen)

The Council has been considering licensing food trucks and pop-ups, not as a revenue source but as a safety issue. Kirsten Ewing did research for the Council that included San Juan County Public Health, sales tax issues, and common practices. A total eclipse happening October 14, 2023 will create a very large event for Bluff and Leppanen suggested we form a local committee to be prepared for the needs of a very large group of people. Wes Shook sent Leppanen information on how to prepare for very large events.

5. Discussion of GETS Priority Telecommunication

Cathy Orcutt presented this emergency priority communication application to the Council recently and Hook will move forward with how to implement it.

6. Other

Hook reported our communication system is working and a camera has been repaired. Covers are still needed.

Hook motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m., Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, 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 will be able to connect and participate electronically.

For requests to receive emails/meeting invitations email linda@townofbluff.org

Written public comment of Dark Skies Certification is included on website