

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2022

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, Town Council tab, and audio, in addition, at the Utah Public Notice Website

This meeting was held electronically.

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray, Jim Sayers
Town Manager Erin Nelson (excused absence)

Approval of Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2022

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

Public Comment:

Jim Hook explained the Town has received ½ inch of rain and goatheads have been exploding all over. He encouraged people to remove them from their property and he can be contacted to spray them.

Luanne Hook has been working on removing goatheads at the Community Garden and encouraged people to visit the garden. Several boxes are available for Fall planting. Jackie Warren, who has been on mosquito abatement for seven years, encouraged people to drain standing water on their property.

Unfinished Business

1. Status Report on Playground Equipment by Sarah Burak of the Playground Committee (Burak), Update on Cooperative Community Center Design Review Team, and Discussion and Vote on Joint Banking Resolution (Sayers/Leppanen)

Burak reported the Playground Committee compiled a detailed report and she will take it to the CC office tomorrow. The report contains information from Tom Corrao, playground inspector for the school district. Information includes what equipment should be removed, equipment needing welding, trimming trees, replacing sand with a softer material, immediate and long-term needs, signage, and making it more user friendly for children younger than five. It is not ADA compliant. Sayers is in favor of the committee getting estimates.

Sayers reported six people met for today's CCC meeting. Discussion included old business. Sayers motioned to engage Zions Bank as the joint account with Dine Bikeyah, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sosa and Sayers voted in favor. This will be sent to UDB to vote on and then Sosa and Heather Atene will open the joint account. Leppanen will meet with Dave Conine to go over our contract and create timelines, especially for the joint Eccles Grant. A UDB member proposed using the property for a motorcycle rally but Murray pointed out our insurance would not allow it, we must have a fire suppression system first. And the utilization of outside space has not yet been addressed.

2. Discuss and Set a Preliminary Strategic Work Session (9/7 or 9/8 for 3 hours) and an "Other Items" Work Session (9/13 or 9/14) (Leppanen)

The strategic Work Session is set for September 7th at 9:00 a.m. and the Work Session is September 14th at 10:30 a.m.

3. Update on Audit by Larson (Sosa/Leppanen) and Engagement Letter (Leppanen)

Sosa and Leppanen sent a great deal of information to Larson last week and Leppanen submitted the engagement letter for this annual event. Our accountant has been working on it since the end of the fiscal year.

4. Discussion and Ratification of Food Pantry Pass Through Grant from San Juan Public Health to Ginny Burns and Policy for Management of the Grant (Leppanen)

The pass-through grant was approved by the County Commissioners today. Murray motioned to approve the pass-through grant, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor. This \$10,000 grant is for nonfood items and Leppanen will administer it. She thanked Dr. Sunada for his help.

5. Discuss Sunrise Proposal and Possible Plan of Action (All)

Leppanen reminded the Council about Sunrise's proposal for water right work. Sayers said it was important and motioned to move forward on this work that has to be done, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen will contact Ken Tuttle.

6. Report on Utah Division of History's Visit on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 (All)

Murray reported the State Director and staff have been meeting in towns around the state and 30 people showed up for this listening meeting. The purpose was to find our interests and history, especially oral history. Leppanen pointed out Gene Stevenson has recordings of Melvin Gaines and asked for a volunteer to transcribe them.

7. Discuss and Vote on Repair and Maintenance Work at West Park (Shook/All)

Shook listed the needs at West Park:

Remove the dead tree in the southwest corner

Remove the free-standing barbecue

Remove the drip-irrigation tubes from the area surrounding the statues and store them in the BCC shed

Linseed oil the surrounding fence

Mow the entire park and the areas on the south and east sides.

She thanked Paul Martini and Dudley Beck for work on the irrigation system. Bill Chrowder for refinishing the picnic tables and Kathleen Packish and Tina Krutsky for bringing Transitions down for a picnic. Murray motioned to hire someone to do this maintenance and improvement work, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor. Murray and Gabe Begaye will install a bike rack south of Fire Mesa Kitchen.

8. Discussion of Fire Restrictions (All)

Murray motioned to reduce fire restrictions to Stage One, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor.

9. Discussion of Establishing the Committee for the Active Transportation Plan and Other Possible Grants (All)

Hook reported the first meeting will be Thursday with about eight members. Leppanen will meet with them about how they report back to the Council. Erin Nelson will be liaison and not be involved in planning or writing.

New Business

10. Report on San Juan County Commission Meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 (Leppanen/Sosa)

Leppanen reported three BOB members made public comments citing how the hardship in the large jump in evaluations of commercial property affects them. August 29th and 30th are the public hearings for those making appeals. Appointments must be made in advance with Duncan Lyman, County Clerk. Bruce Adams underlined the importance of bringing evidence of hardship, especially with the effect of covid for the last two years and how it has lowered revenue. Sosa will send out a copy of the ordinance that closed businesses because of covid as further proof. Leppanen will speak with the mayor of Blanding on its impact on their businesses. The Commission voted to approve the \$200,000 grant application and praised Elaine Gizler for her work promoting business.

11. Public Feedback on New Speed Signs

Both ends of town have the signs and it has been observed to be slowing traffic. Data is still being collected on vehicle speed.

12. Discuss and Vote on Joint Fundraiser with the Fort for EMS and BVFD on September 10, 2022 (Leppanen)

The Council will help serve at this second annual fundraiser. Sayers motioned to contribute \$150 toward supplies, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor

13. Special County Economic Development Meeting on August 11, 2022 (Sosa)

Sosa reported the CED board voted to approve the request for a \$200,000 grant and for Elaine Gizler to take it to the County Commission for approval. This grant last year benefited several of our businesses and promoted commerce.

14. Report on Meeting with Kelly Thornton of Department of Workforce Services ("Outreach to Bluff") on August 11, 2022 (Leppanen)

Kelly Thornton explained to Leppanen our part of the state has been underserved and she is bringing attention to available services and resources. Leppanen noted they have great services that can benefit Bluff and south of Bluff and space could be made available for Workforce Services.

15. Financial Report (Sosa)

Sosa reported that Murray verified the bank reconciliation and Council members received the July financial report. We received the Senior Center quarterly check and Dine Bikeyah's. Council members received the August bills:

P&Z Stipends - \$150.00

Carol Shook - \$184.70

Kathy Carson - \$140.38

Denny Bellison – \$103.89

Patricia Bellson - \$85.42

Krieg Benally - \$237.50

Erin Nelson - \$1812.87

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Bess Bennett - \$37.00 cleaning

Blue Mtn. Exterminating - \$200.00

Helgerson - \$50.00

Rocky Mtn. Power – \$637.76

Bankcard – \$852.84

XMission - \$15.00

Google Suites – \$70.45

Amazon - \$27.98 cleaning supplies

USPS - \$58.00 stamps

Ruggable - \$271.41 rug (grant)

ULCT - \$410.00 conference
DS Accounting - \$1750.00
Action Air - \$205.00
Emery - \$99.95
BWW - \$72.72
Frontier - \$121.49
Dufford Waldeck - \$1,080.00

School Project

BWW – \$35.00

Rocky Mtn. Power - \$256.90

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

16. Other

Adjourn

Murray motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m., Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Sayers and Murray 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.

To view the livestream, or watch past recordings, please visit our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTqBxSP-Erhxq6muVMX6vdw>

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