

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

November 1, 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 on 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, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray
Erin Nelson, Town Manager

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2022

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

Leppanen informed the public that based on advice from legal council #12 would be temporarily taken off the agenda but anyone wanting to make public comment can do so.

Public Comment: None

Unfinished Business

1. Introduction of AmeriCorps "Gold 5" Team and Outline of Schedule (Leppanen)

Leppanen explained the group of 8 and their team leader are due this evening and they are from all over the country. Tomorrow is orientation day starting with breakfast, then orientation of Bluff and Blanding and cultural orientation at Edge of the Cedars. In the afternoon they will start work on the garden project at the Mission and start work on the tiny houses in a few days. They will work in Town on removing Giant Cane Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Duncan Fuchise's crew will bring tools and equipment. Landowners who want cane removed can contact Leppanen, Nelson or Hook to be added to the list.

2. Reminder of Voting at Bluff Community Center on November 2, 2022, 10 am - 2 pm (Leppanen)

Tomorrow is in person voting from 10 to 2. Leppanen has asked Duncan Lyman several times if the voting machine will be here then and has not gotten conformation. The ballot box is also available. The ballot box will be removed sometime on November 7th, so vote before then.

3. Report on Meeting with Congressman John Curtis on October 24, 2022 (Sosa/Hook/Nelson)

Topics included slowing the speed through town, fire suppression for the CCC, and the trail system. It was a good visit.

4. Report on Utah League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference (Sosa/Leppanen)

Leppanen reported it was a successful conference and very informative. Networking included information on rural and the USDA grants, help with playground equipment, and many rural issues. Two playground vendors will be reaching out to the playground committee. The ULCT attorney pointed out the importance of treating people the same in terms of everyone or no one. Hooks noted reading an article about the Governor's plans for a statewide trail system.

5. Report on Pave Rite and Road Work (Haviken/Hook/Leppanen)

Hook reported the chip sealing is finished and it will be an aid to snowplowing and dust control. Michael Haviken is monitoring some wash boarding but feels it will level off. Leppanen sent the request for matching funds and the copy of the first payment to the San Juan Transportation Board, who will meet November 14th. Haviken and Nelson will attend that meeting.

6. Reminder of "Unite Us" and Meeting with Leticia Goodman (Nelson)

Nelson reported this free software is a resource tool that is a networking system for questions, issues and resources in one place. Nelson sent the information to several community members and it will be launching in San Juan County soon. Leppanen has used a similar system that saved time and was helpful.

7. Report on Status of Design Review Committee and Update on Cultural Capital State Grant; Update on United States Department of Agriculture Grant; Joint Checking Account Progress; Security Discussion at CCC (Sayers/Leppanen/Sosa)

Sayers reported on the afternoon meeting that included Nelson, Murray and Leppanen taking turns, and Dave Conine. The state grant awards will be announced in the next two weeks and the USDA grant could be used for materials. Progress on recycling and the playground were discussed. There were unauthorized locks on the fence and Heather Atene's office is having security issues so Leppanen asked a deputy to come down so they could be documented. Sosa reported that the accounting system can add the joint checking account and our accountant directed us to get a Public Funds analyzed checking account. Rochelle at Zions Bank has provided a very detailed, involved list of documentation for this kind of account and Sosa is working on it. She will get advice from our auditors about how this kind of account works.

8. Update on October 18 and 20th Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for Bluff's Inclusion in San Juan County's Plan (Sosa/Leppanen/Nelson)

Leppanen reported that the County updates this plan every five years. The public meeting in Bluff had 12+ participants. The second meeting, in Monticello, was to start the paperwork to identify and rank possible hazards in each town. Three major risks in Bluff include flooding and a possible geologic event in Cow Canyon. Flooding could also impact the arsenic treatment plant at the base of Cow Canyon. A need for a generator at the Community Center so it could be used as an emergency shelter, and the bridge between east and west Bluff were noted. The erosion problem at the water tanks was included. Leppanen and Sosa completed the first set of forms at the meeting and a more detailed set is due in two weeks.

9. Update on Local Homeless Coalition Meeting on October 18, 2022 (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported the time study to count the unsheltered population in San Juan County will take place in January.

10. Update on CDBG Grant (Nelson/Leppanen)

Nelson has been following the grant requirements, steps and timeline for submission closely and correctly but was informed there must be two parts, an architectural and construction bid. She published a public notice withdrawing the request for bids for the CC project and will have to redo work with their new requirements. She will attend the CDBG meeting for 2023 projects this week in Moab.

New Business

11. Eco Flight Information and Water Use at White Mill Mesa (Leppanen)

Will be covered on the next agenda.

12. Discussion and Vote on Bluff Fort's Heritage Day Request (All)

Leppanen noted that we have received requests to sponsor activities as Town activities and declined them but encouraged them as public events. A group in town is involved in setting up a public event system that could act as an umbrella for this type of event and others.

13. Discussion and Vote on Jim Hook's Request to Extend 6 West (All)

Tabled at this time.

14. Financial Report (Sosa)

The recent road work was approved by Michael Haviken and the next transfer of funds from the pass-through grant was approved by Leppanen. Murray motioned to approve payment of \$12,500.00 to Pave Rite and \$2,500.00 to the Food Pantry, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sayers, Murray and Sosa voted in favor.

15. Other

Nelson requested all elected and appointed officials take the Open and Public Meetings Act training and send her their certificates.

Hook reminded the public wanting removal of their giant cane to notify the Council. It is a big fire hazard.

Murray encouraged everyone to vote.

Sayers motioned to adjourn at 7:09, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sayers, Murray and Sosa voted in favor.

Linda Sosa, Recording Officer

This meeting followed the social distancing guidelines given by state and local authorities. This meeting was held virtually. The public could participate by telephone at 1 904-900-0507 (PIN: 364208783) or through meet.google.com/ytf-sjdx-csv. To view the livestream, or watch past recordings, please visit our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTqBxSP-Erhxq6muVMX6vdw>.