

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

December 13, 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 6:01 p.m.

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

Erin Nelson, Town Manager

Approval of Bluff Town Council's Regular Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2022

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

Public Comment: Jim Hook thanked the Council for letting the community know that the Council would address his request for an extension of 6th street West at a special meeting about alleys where community members could comment.

Unfinished Business

1. Update on the Cooperative Cultural Center's Design Review Team/Joint Checking Account Name

Sayers explained Yestermorrow discussed building bins for recycling on the CCC grounds. Materials would cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. He is working on a \$50,000 grant for the fire suppression system that is due in January. He noted the Eccles grant should be joint and needed a plan for how the money asked for would be used. The request for allowing balloon launches on the CCC property was denied to protect the septic system from harm. Pathways is seeking interviews from UDB about strategic planning and those should happen this week. Leppanen pointed out in response to the recycling bin project the Council needs to set policy for non-governmental requests like this. She suggested addressing the policy at a work session late December or January. Six public entities are involved in the recycling project. Sayers motioned to call the joint checking account Cooperative Culture Center, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Murray, Hook and Sosa voted in favor. Next signatories will be decided.

(Sayers/Leppanen)

2. Update on the National Endowment for the Arts Grant, aka Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (Sayers)

Sayers explained he is sending in a proposal for \$50,000 to go toward the fire suppression system. It is related to having a space at the CCC to archive historical and cultural documents and local collections. He reminded the group of Debbie Westfall's information about webinars and in person workshops on archiving and records being offered by Utah Humanities. Sayers will send the public an information sheet to find interested persons. There is a small fee for the workshops and the Council put \$100.00

aside to cover the fee for those wanting to attend the workshops. The first is at the Edge of the Cedars January 5th.

3. Update on the AmeriCorps Gold 5 Team's Work in the Community (Leppanen)

The Team is wrapping up their work and leaving Saturday. This week they continue removing Giant Cane, working on tiny houses and food distribution. There will be a small thank you dinner for them. The Council agreed to allow them to spend the night at the Community Center and agreed they have done a tremendous job.

4. Update on Bluff Airport Management and Vote on Request for Services by Hook (Jim Hook)

Hook explained how and the importance of shutting down the runway when needed. When it is necessary he calls Denver and they inform pilots that the runway is closed. He explained this is called a NOTAM. He has signed an agreement with the Denver Air Route Traffic Control Center for this policy. He has been keeping the grass mowed around the landing strip. A recent asphalt inventory shows cracks in the asphalt and he would like to apply for a grant that would crack seal and paint the strip for \$100,000 with a \$12,500.00 match from the Town. Murray motioned to proceed with that, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen noted after three requests she has still not received documentation from Glen Gurney's lawyer and this will be on the December 20th agenda to remove the debris from the airport.

5. Update on Public Trust Investment Fund (Sosa/Leppanen)

Sosa reported the PTIF is ready to go. To transfer funds the authorized person goes into the IPASS website and transfers funds from our checking account to our PTIF account. At our December 20th meeting we need to vote on who does the transfer and the amount to transfer.

6. Discussion and Vote on Business Owners of Bluff's Request for \$3,000 for Production of Rip Maps(All)

Sosa reported that she spoke with Jen Davila about getting the paperwork from County Economic Development showing the quote. This will be moved to the Work Session where policy is discussed for non- governmental requests.

7. Report on 2023 Election Schedule (Leppanen)

Leppanen suggested being proactive with next year's elections and scheduling. There was confusion this year about how long the ballot box was here and the County did not pick it when they said they would. This makes it harder on people trying to vote. She suggested we create the procedure and get with the County and then publish it on our website. Two Council seats will be open in 2023. Those wanting to run for office the time to declare is June 1st through 7th. The primary date is August 15th and the election is November 7th.

8. Report on Status of Book on Melvin Gaines (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported Leon Jones has been using oral interviews between Melvin Gaines and Gene Stevenson for a book he is writing about Melvin Gaines and found them very helpful. Some citizens have forwarded pictures to him and anyone else with pictures or contributions is welcome to get them to him through Leppanen.

9. Report on Bluff Water Works Budget Hearing and Meeting of December 7, 2022 (Leppanen/Sosa)

Sosa reported there were some increases this year because of an up grade to the meter reading system, billing software and chemicals. These are on-time costs so the 2023 budget is similar to 2022. She mentioned the eclipse in October and they are thinking about what they need to do to be ready. The system is in good working order. Marx is researching the difference in water use between winter and summer and

suggested a secondary water system could help protect culinary water. They are considering changing the time or the day of their meeting so that is easier for the public to attend.

New Business

10. Report on International Dark Sky Pre-Application; Discussion on Local Committee; and San Juan County Economic Development Meeting on December 12, 2022 (Leppanen/Sosa/Nelson)

Nelson reported she and Sarah Burak submitted the pre-application to Dark Skies International and the next step is for them to reach out to us. The process can take from 18 months to three years. Leppanen noted Dr. Barentine's information that a Dark Skies ordinance and education piece are a large part of the application and the Town already has these in place. Nelson noted that the CED meeting treated the October 14th eclipse as an event for tourism instead of an occurrence. Planning is extremely important for both. The BLM, Forest Service and UDOT are not inclined to provide management services currently. Leppanen pointed out the 20,000 people expected in our area will have an extreme impact on our town and resources and suggested an ad hoc committee of stakeholders be created with Nelson as chairperson. Murray motioned to create the committee with Nelson chairing, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Murray, Hook and Sosa voted in favor. An informational email will be sent out to the public.

11. Report on Planning and Zoning Meeting of December 7, 2022 (Hook)

Hook reported there were no LUCs. The group welcomed Malia Collins and there is still another opening. Yestermorrow and the Active Transportation Committee gave updates. They are working on their meeting dates for 2023, Leppanen is looking at how LUC requests could be impacted by the number of meetings.

12. Short-Term Rental Renewal (Sosa)

Sosa explained almost all renewal letters are out and we have gotten some fees already. The number of residential short-term rental was capped Dec. 31, 2021.

13. Other

Leppanen suggested dropping off snacks for the CC sleepover.

Murray motioned to adjourn at 7:06 p.m., Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers, 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 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-Erhxg6muVMX6vdw>

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