

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2023

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's Regular Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023

Sayers motioned to approve, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa and

Sayers voted in favor, Murray abstained

Approval of Bluff Town Council's Strategic Planning Session of January 25, 2023

Sayers motioned to approve, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sosa

and Sayers voted in favor

Approval of Bluff Town Council's Strategic Planning Session Part 2 of January 26, 2023

Murray motioned to approve, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa and

Murray voted in favor, Sayers abstained

Public Comment:

Dudley Beck, president of the animal rescue group, explained the history of fostering dogs in town and across the river. He has two dogs that are in a holding area at Dusty Paws but the Burns are returning in a few days and he needs another place to put them. He inquired to Heather Atene about a temporary holding area behind the modular building at the CCC but was told it was not possible. Leppanen suggested that he get on the agenda and he could speak longer.

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion and Vote on Bluff Airport Maintenance by Aviation (All/Jim Hook)

Jim Hook reported this is out for bid and the sealed bids are to be opened March 1st at 3:00 p.m. Because there is uncertainty about the process, either the bids are opened in a meeting or they can be opened by two people, one a Council member, Leppanen will follow up on that point. Hook noted the cost for the Town will be a little higher, from \$11,000 to \$12,510. The correct process will be on the February 14th agenda.

2. Discussion on Public Hearing for Requests to Vacate Alleys/Right-of-Ways and Work on Public Property (Leppanen)

Leppanen explained the date for this hearing will need be pushed out because it interferes with strategic planning dates and no applications have been received. Nelson

explained the applications are on the Town website under the Documents and Ordinances tab, scroll down to Forms and Applications.

3. Discussion and Vote on Finalizing USDA Grant Application for Cooperative Cultural Center's Fire Suppression System (Leppanen)

Leppanen is finalizing the application with a letter from our attorney and three years of audit documents. Then it will be ready for submission. Sayers motioned to move forward, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook, and Sayers voted in favor.

4. Discussion and Vote on State of Utah Work Force's Request for Space During Bluff's Food Pantry Distribution (Leppanen)

Sayers motioned to grant this request, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook, and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen will work with them on wi-fi and parking.

5. Update on Strategic Planning (Nelson/Leppanen)

Nelson reported the smaller group met and three key areas for long term planning were identified: mindful growth, sustainable local government and livability and culture.

Leppanen and Nelson met with the Pathway consultants today about possible dates for the next meetings. They felt the meetings on January 25th and 26th had gone very well.

6. Report on Cooperative Cultural Center's Design Review Committee's Progress and Use of CCC Concept Worksheet (Sayers); Discussion of Joint Bank Account with Utah Dine Bikeyah (Sosa)

Sayers reported most of the discussion at today's meeting centered on the Inflation Reduction Act which is part of EPA Environmental Justice and focuses on rural areas. Sayers felt we had a good chance of qualifying for funds for fire-suppression because of our government/nonprofit partnership. He will bring more information to the February 14th meeting. They will discuss the concept worksheet. He noted Dudley Beck asked Heather Atene about the possibility of a kennel/holding area at the back of the CCC modular and all three UDB members at the meeting were not in favor of it so the request was declined. Leppanen explained that Sosa took documentation to Zions Bank for the joint development and acquisition checking account and was told two entities cannot have a joint account from a different banker since the one she has been working with is on leave. Chris McAnany will investigate this.

Status Reports on Committees:

a. Bluff's Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on February 1, 2023

(Hook/Nelson)

Hook reported a garage attachment to a house was approved, email addresses for P&Z are being worked on, and someone wanted guidance about a subdivision near the transfer station.

b. Active Transportation Committee and Vote on Letter to Stakeholders

(Hook/Nelson)

Hook said there are three letters for the workshops, Sayers noted the letter submitted needed place, time and date, and Sosa wanted the invite to be from the Committee and Bike Utah. No one was sure that the letter submitted was a final revision. Murray motioned that the modifications be added and approved, Sayers seconded and

Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Sayers and Murray agreed. The Committee will review the letter and Hook or Sayers will sign it.

c. Bluff's Solar Eclipse Planning Committee and Vote on Bylaws (Nelson/Leppanen)

Nelson reported the committee has met twice and sub-topic areas are emergency services, communication, traffic control and parking, education and educational events. The focus of the next meeting on February 15th is emergency services. Hook reported the Highway Patrol is working on command posts. Sayers motioned to initiate the committee sub-topics and approve the bylaws, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook, and Sayers voted in favor.

d. San Juan County's Solar Eclipse Committee (Nelson/Leppanen)

In their monthly meeting they are still getting organized and the focus is preparedness and emergency services. The BLM is joining in for enforcement.

e. Report by Roads Committee (Leppanen/Hook)

Michael Haviken would like to set up a Roads Committee meeting.

f. Discussion and Vote to Deposit Sales Tax to Public Trust Investment Fund (Sosa)

Sosa reported that our accountant suggested having the sales tax disbursement be automaticity deposited into our PTIF account. Murray motioned to approve that, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook, and Sayers voted in favor.

Update on Point-in-Time Count (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported she met with Peggy Green from the State. Leppanen went with Ginny Burns and then went several days on her own since there are five days to do the count. She recorded four unsheltered households. This is less than last year but the cold and rainy weather has probably caused people to move to warmer areas. Green said this is a pattern the State is seeing.

g. Update on IT Change Over (Nelson)

Nelson reported the transition has been challenging and appreciated everyone's patience.

New Business

11. Discussion of Water Damage to Bluff Community Center Building (Nelson/Leppanen)

The swiftness of Leppanen and Nelson contacting our insurance adjuster, getting a shop vac, and a service provider out of Durango resulted in far less damage to the office hallway and Senior Center. The water fountain in the Senior Center developed a leak overnight that resulted in standing water. The service contractor brought fans to dry the carpets all weekend and Tuesday decided all that was needed was to shampoo the anti-mold chemicals out of the carpet and replace some floor edging. Insulation and drywall did not need replacement. Leppanen and Nelson spent many hours on this.

12. Discussion and Vote on Request to Use EMS/BVFD Fundraiser Money for License Plates Differential and Update on EMS Training (Leppanen)

Leppanen noted the three trainees are all most finished and thanked Dawn Dilego and Kathy Carson for their involvement. Sayers motioned to pay for the license plates, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook, and Sayers voted in favor.

13. Review and Approval of Letter of Support for “Bluff Community Foundation” Grant Application

Sayers voted to approve the letter of support, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook, and Sayers voted in favor.

14. Other

Leppanen met with the school Superintendent Nielson and Tom Corrao about access to the school playground, similar to Blanding. Nielson assured her State law mandated public access and it will be open to the public.

Hook mentioned the letter of support for the Fort.

Sayers motioned to close the meeting at 7:24 p.m., Hook seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Murray, Sosa and Hook 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`](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTqBxSP-Erhxq6muVMX6vdw)