

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

June 13 , 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 and audio, in addition, at the Utah Public Notice Website
This meeting will be held electronically.

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

Erin Nelson Town Manager

The meeting started at 6:01 p.m.

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

Erin Nelson Town Manager

Approval of the Budget Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2023

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

Approval of Regular Bluff Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2023

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

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion and Vote on Modifying Meeting Information on the Town of Bluff Agendas and Public Comment to Require Advanced Sign Up for Public Comment (All)

This was discussed in today's work session and will be moved to the June 20th agenda to allow Leppanen and Sosa time to make changes to the header and footer of agenda and minutes pages.

2. Discussion and Vote on Town of Bluff Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (All)

This was discussed in the work session and there have been no changes. Murray motioned to approve as presented, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Murray, Hook and Sayers voted in favor.

3. Discussion and Vote on Certified Tax Rate (All)

Leppanen reported the property tax rate has not increased, the rate is .000733 and the Town will receive \$32,377.00 Sayers motioned to accept the rate, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Murray, Hook and Sayers voted in favor. Next the resolution will be signed and sent to Lyman Duncan at the County.

4. Discussion and Vote on Town of Bluff Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (All)

This will be voted on our next agenda after Lyman Duncan accepts the tax rate in case there is a slight change.

5. Update on Maintenance at Town of Bluff Airport (Leppanen/Nelson)

Nelson reported the first phase of work is finished, next will be sealant and paint then, permanent paint before the end of June.

6. Update on Sunrise Engineering's Work on Water Rights (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported she is closing in on needed information and will call Marc Stilson at the Division of Water Rights to confirm some information. Then Sunrise will do a water right matrix and the project will be completed.

7. Update on AmeriCorps and Request for Grant Writer and Meeting with Community Rebuilds Update on May 25, 2023 (Leppanen)

Leppanen is coordinating with AmeriCorps tomorrow about a grant writer position. She has talked with Rikki Epperson of Community Rebuilds and Adrienne Caesar of Yestermorrow and Design/Build/Bluff about partnering for a new team in January. Because of the importance of housing a project being considered is repairs and updating at Scorup House. The Town would be the supporting partner and local entity.

8. Update on Grant Request to San Juan Clean Energy (White Mesa Mill) for Removal and Mitigation of Giant Cane (Arrondo); Discussion of an Ordinance to Support the Grant Requirements (Hook/Leppanen)

Hook reported on the grant request. The Discovery Center applied for the grant and the second interview is July 10th. This is a San Juan County priority, removal of invasive plants, and it complies with State law. Leppanen noted the Council passed a resolution in November of 2021 about the Town's duty to control noxious weeds which is helpful in the application of this grant. Hook will keep moving forward monitoring the grant process.

9. Discussion of Ceiling Demolition and Material Removal Project Competitive Bid and Cultural Capital Grant Update (Nelson/Sayers/Leppanen)

The bidding process ends Thursday the 15th at 5:00 p.m. Packets are on the Town website and at the office. The State has extended the completion date.

New Business

10. Report and Discussion of Acton's Petition to Disconnect 9,500 Acres from the Town of Bluff (All); Report on Status of Discussions with School Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) Regarding the Disconnect Petition and the Proposed Solar Farm on the Bluff Bench; Report and Discussion of the Episcopal Church of Utah/Navajoland as Related to the Disconnect Action (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported Bruce Baird has gone to SITLA who has joined in the Acton disconnect petition, changing the acreage from 640 to 9,500. Baird added St. Christopher's Mission to the petition without their knowledge, and BLM land. Leppanen will check with the BLM to see if they did include themselves or were added by Baird. The Episcopal attorney stated they have no desire to withdraw from the Town. Nelson will post the petition on the website. Baird and McAnany agreed to an August 15th public hearing. Leppanen is continuing to work with Brian Torgerson of SITLA, Bruce Adams, the solar farm lease and the BLM.

11. Update on 2013 Primary and General Election Dates by Proclamation of Governor Cox (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported Governor Cox changed the dates to September 5th and November 21st due to the retirement of some Congressional folks. She alerted the five people who have filed for the Council and offered to host a public forum at the CC. They would have to pick a non-Council person to chair and can contact Leppanen or Nelson if interested.

12. Request for a July 4, 2023 Town Celebration by Westley Shook (Leppanen)

The Council liked this idea but didn't feel that it needed to have Town support. It was suggested Mr. Shook check with Malia Collins, the CC manager, who could reserve the CC pavilion at no cost. Murray noted previous requests for Town support of activities have also been declined and it was not needed to have the celebration.

13. Consideration and Vote to Cancel Bluff Town Council Meeting on July 5, 2023 (Leppanen)

Murray motioned to cancel, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Murray, Hook and Sayers voted in favor.

14. Update on Bluff Town Work Session on June 13, 2023

Most of the topics are covered throughout this meeting.

15. Other

Hook noted an upcoming Outdoor Recreation workshop at the Discovery Center in Monticello.

16. Executive Session to Discuss Strategy for the Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property and Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation Pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205 (All)

At 6:57p.m. Sayers motioned to leave the regular meeting, go into executive session to discuss strategy for the Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property and Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation, and then adjourn, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sosa and Sayers voted in favor.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

This meeting will follow the social distancing Guidelines given by state and local authorities. This meeting will be held virtually. The public can 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>. For requests to receive emails/meeting invitations, email linda@townofbluff.org.