

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

July 11, 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. 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.

To view the livestream, or watch past recordings, please visit our YouTube channel:<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTqBxSP-Erhxq6muVMX6vdw>.

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Special Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2023

Sayers motioned to approve with a modification, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor

Public Comment: None. Leppanen is working on public comment rules

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion and Vote on Clean Energy's Potential Grant and Need for a Stronger Noxious Weed Ordinance (Hook)

Hook reported she attended the second interview with the Discovery Center for another grant to eradicate Giant Cane. The main concern was support from the Council and community. Counties and towns are required to control and/or eradicate noxious weeds. Leppanen noted we passed Resolution 56 to control noxious weeds and it could be changed to an ordinance, she will write a draft and check with Chris McAnany. Enforcement would include a notification letter, the Council pays for the removal and bill the owner, and finally a lien, if necessary. If we get the grant for the work crew residents could sign up for help like we did last year.

2. Update on LEPC Meeting of June 21, 2023 (Leppanen)

Leppanen attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee for FEMA Region 9, our region. The State has mandated the clean up of uranium material in the Navajo Nation and depositing it in an area north of Monticello. Radioactive tailing will be moved by trucks. Tammy Gallegos is working on training for this. Murray voiced the concern of airborne dust particles.

3. Discussion and Vote on Food and Craft Vendor Applications for the Annular Solar Eclipse (Leppanen)

The application has been posted on the website for people to comment on, the group in charge is Leppanen, Nelson, Jen Davila, and Kerri Harris. Murray motioned to approve

as presented, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

4. Update on International Dark Sky Designation Application (Leppanen)

Nelson and Sarah Burak met with our representative who stated our ordinance looks good. The number of events we have had shows community involvement. Next, we need letters of support and we can add parts about the eclipse. The process should take less time than the three to five years because of the parts we have completed including light reading from five to six locations taken by Hook.

New Business

5. Annual Transient Room Capacity Report (Hook)

Hook has done this annual form every year, due July 31st. that compares the number of beds for tourists with the number of residents. To qualify as a resort and receive certain taxes there must be 66% more beds than residents and we usually have 300+%.

6. Report on June 28, 2023 Planning and Zoning Meeting (Hook)

Hook reported today's Work Session focused on aviation. The regular meeting discussed the RV Ordinance, Dark Skies lighting on new builds and have sent the site plan application to McAnany.

7. Support of Bluff for Utah Dine Bikeyah Bears Ears Summer Gathering

This is July 21 to 23 and an email was received asking support from the Town. Murray suggested a resolution of support and getting them supplies. Murray motioned to approve writing the resolution, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Sosa, Murray and Hook voted in favor. There was concern about donating tax money and Council members volunteered personal donations and bringing ideas to the next meeting.

8. Discussion and Vote on Termination of Net Force IT Contract (Leppanen)

Leppanen asked Council members to consider terminating NetForce services and going with the State service which will meet our needs better, especially for things like email searches, an extra cost with NetForce. This will be discussed and voted on at our next meeting when Nelson can go over the benefits.

9. Discussion and Vote on Fire Restrictions (Sayers)

It is hot, dry and windy and there are currently no restrictions or a closed fire season from the County. Jim Hook noted people need to be careful mowing because a spark could start a fire. Sayers suggested we do what is best for the Town. Leppanen will check with Lott and she will send the Stage One and Stage Two restrictions to consider.

10. Discussion and Vote on AmeriCorps NCCC Team with Community Rebuild (Leppanen)

Leppanen is continuing discussions with Community Rebuild but a sticking point is housing. She will check with Yestermorrow.

11. Discussion of a Grant Writer Through VISTA/AmeriCorps (Leppanen)

Sosa met with River, intern at Yestermorrow, who is enthusiastic about helping us with grant writing. River is attending a grant writing class at USU this Fall.

12. Other

BWW meeting tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.

A local group walked some of the trails in town.

Sayers motioned to adjourn at 6:48 p.m., Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Murray, Sosa and Hook voted in favor.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

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