

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
September 12, 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
Erin Nelson Town Manager

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2023

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

Public Comment

Dan Meyers was unable to attend the September 5th meeting and he updated what is happening with the playground committee. They are working on grants and will meet with playground planners. The CCC is not the only option for a location moving forward and it

is a high priority. Parks are the heart of a town. Recycling is also moving forward.

Unfinished Business

1. Report on the Bluff Fort Fundraiser for the Bluff Volunteer Fire Department (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported there were around 131 participants and \$5,906.50 was collected with more donations coming in. Leppanen and Sosa counted the money then Kathy Carson and Anthony Lott counted to hand off to the Fire Department. It was a wonderful time.

2. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Letter to Congressman Curtis Detailing Bluff's Requests (Leppanen)

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

3. Discussion and Vote on Lifting the Fire Restrictions (All)

Sayers motioned to approve lifting the restriction, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor.

4. Update on Bluff's Election on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 and Discussion of Canvassing to Occur Between November 28 and December 5, 2023 (Leppanen/Nelson)

Leppanen noted a little more information has been received. Nelson is working with Lyman Duncan to coordinate information to the public. Starting October 26th there will be drop off balloting, voter registration and Navajo language services every Thursday from 10:00 to 2:00 in Bluff. November 21st is the final day to vote. Canvassing by three elected officials is between November 28th and December 5th with training from the County. Jen Davila suggested flyers in all mailboxes at the Post Office so folks don't miss information when it is finalized.

5. Update on Design Review Team for the Cooperative Cultural Center's Meeting on September 12, 2023 (Sayers)

Sayers reported the 50/50 division of funds for the fire suppression system was received favorably by those present. He suggested a time or materials contract with a contingency clause to cover unforeseen problems for the ceiling bid. It is still being worked on. And signage. Murray suggested considering the size and placement of a playground. Leppanen explained that some of these things are addressed in the strategic plan and she would like the Council and UDB board to meet together and talk. The UDB representatives for the Design Team are not board members so they do not have the authority of board members.

6. Report on Joint Work Session with Planning and Zoning Commissioners on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 (All)

Murray remarked it was a good work session. Leppanen will contact McAnany to talk to the Council and Planning and Zoning about questions including conditional variances. We are waiting on the new airport lease from the BLM, which could be soon, and the Bears Ears Management Plan, which might not be soon. Hook suggested a feasibility study with aviation.

7. Discussion and Vote on the Revision of the Master Fee Schedule (Resolution 71) to Include Fee for Partition Actions (All)

Murray motioned to approve a fee of \$200 for partitions, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen noted staff work is required to take in fees and it would be helpful to track fees for a year.

8. Report on Utah League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference and the Take-Aways (Leppanen/Sosa/Nelson)

It was agreed the conference was highly beneficial for learning, networking and awareness of resources and funding options for Bluff. Leppanen noted we have two representative seats on the administrative legislative panel that works with the legislature and it would be good to fill them since they involve input and voting.

9. Update on Fire Suppression Grant from United States Department of Agriculture (Leppanen)

Leppanen signed the paperwork for the \$50,000 grant while in Salt Lake City. We need to renew our SAM number, an easy task.

New Business

10. Report on Meeting with Sheriff Lehi Lacy on Monday, September 11, 2023

Sheriff Lacy joined Leppanen and Nelson to discuss the eclipse and was supportive of the work and preparation that is continuing to happen and asked how he can help. They supplied him with a map of internal streets that will be blocked. They discussed the

logistics of the marathon in October. Also discussed were options of law enforcement and a proactive contractual presence. An idea is to research how things are done in other towns.

11. Discussion of Utah League of Cities and Town's Panel Discussion of "Rural Round Up! Funding Opportunities in Rural Utah" and Grant Opportunities and Deadlines (Leppanen/Nelson)

This panel explained a State mandated program from the Division of Drinking Water to inventory pipes containing lead and copper by October 16, 2024. A limited grant is available for towns smaller than 10,000 and Sunrise Engineering is doing the work. Leppanen submitted the information for Bluff and BWW to be on the list. BWW had previously received a letter about this. This is a two-phase process to determine what we have and what needs to be replaced. Those that do not comply with this will be fined daily by the EPA. Leppanen will meet with Marx Powell to pool their knowledge.

12. Other

Hook explained Ryan Benally contacted her to let her know we had received the joint grant with the Discovery Center to remove Giant Cane this Fall with a Youth Corps group.

Sayers motioned to close the meeting at 6:47 p.m., Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Murray, Hook and Sayers voted in favor.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

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