

Bluff Town Council Meeting Minutes
December 19, 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

<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/>

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>.

This meeting was held electronically and in person

Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray
Erin Nelson Town Manager (excused absence)

The meeting started at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council and Utah Dine Bikeyah Meeting to Walk Through the Cooperative Cultural Center for Discussion on Demolition

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

Public Comment:

Kathy Smith voiced her concerns about a multi-use path going along the edge of Allan's property because it is a residential area and could make their property subject to theft and poor behavior. In general, she has seen and supports tourists going down the public road and trails connecting communities. Leppanen thanked her for her comments.

Unfinished Business

1. Update on Bears Ears Partnership (BEP) Work with the Town of Bluff (Leppanen)

Leppanen explained Sarah Burak raised the question of collaborating with the Council over the Dark Skies Initiative and Leppanen met with Joe Neuhof and Burak about

creating a Memorandum Of Understanding between the two entities. BEP has been involved in education and measurement. Leppanen will continue to explore this and check with the Town Attorney. Murray applauded the idea of the joint involvement.

2. Update on AmeriCorps Red 4 NCCC Team and Work to Be Done; Vote on changes to housing costs; Cleaning Supplies and Food Needs for First Night in Bluff (Leppanen/Nelson)

Leppanen updated that the team of 8 to 9 will arrive January 8th for 44 days and asked the community and Council for contributions of food for their first night. They will stay at St. Christopher's and go food shopping the next day when they have orientation and go to Blanding for a tour of Edge of the Cedars and lunch. There are cleaning supplies left over from the eclipse. Dine Bikeyah has not yet committed to sharing the \$6,000 housing cost and Leppanen asked the Council about covering the whole thing if needed. The Council agreed the work they do is a big benefit to the town. Murray motioned to fully cover the \$6,000 if needed, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

3. Report on Meeting with Utah Dine Bikeyah (UDB) at the Cooperative Cultural Center (CCC) on December 15, 2023 (All) and the meeting with Design Review Committee (DRC) on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 (Sayers)

Leppanen, Nelson, Sosa, Hook, Sayers, Jen Davila and Britt Hornsby were joined by Janet Slowman-Chee, Melanie Daniels, Dave Conine, and Damian Bollermann at the Cooperative Cultural Center at 9:00 a.m. to go through the building and discuss work the AmeriCorps team could do. Slowman-Chee and Daniels left shortly after for a board meeting and the remaining group decided on removing carpeting and baseboards, continuing ceiling removal, and taking down whiteboards and storing. Sayers and Daniels will supervise some of the work at the CCC. Leppanen mentioned the need for agreement from the Dine Bikeyah Board. Sayers reported a short DRC meeting that clarified a few things.

4. Summary of Meeting on December 11, 2023 and Update on Bluff Airport and Need for Approval of Capital Improvement Projects for the Airport (Jim Hook, Manager/Nelson)

Jim Hook reported he met with an airport engineer about a 5 to 10-year plan for airport maintenance and improvement, a several million-dollar project. He monitors a website that offers grant funding. Leppanen suggested waiting until the new officials are seated and will look into capital improvements. There is no deadline for this.

5. Report on Planning and Zoning Meetings and Planning and Zoning's Presentation of the Work on the Sign Ordinance Revisions to the Business Owners of Bluff on December 12, 2023 (Hook/Leppanen)

Hook reported Amanda Podmore presented the sign ordinance that Planning and Zoning is working on. There will be a public hearing for the public to express their concerns and ideas. The Commission is working on RV and dirt moving ordinances.

Moab has dirt moving ordinances that are based on geographic and public hazards. They have chosen the Michael Hanson group for work on subdivisions.

New Business

6. Report on Utah League of Cities and Towns “Elected Officials Essentials” Training on December 16, 2023 (Leppanen/Sosa)

Leppanen and Sosa watched this virtual training with Jen Davila and Britt Hornsby. Leppanen noted the salient points covered in the four-hour training were ethics, land use and conflicts of interest. Todd Godfrey, attorney for ULCT, encouraged stepping back from discussions and vote with a conflict of interest, especially if a council member has a business conflict or could gain financially . A great deal of information was covered and a new handbook was given to participants.

7. Discussion and Vote on Year-End Bonuses for Employees (Leppanen/Sosa)

Murray motioned to again give \$50 bonuses to employees and Planning and Zoning Commissioners, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sosa and Sayers voted in favor.

8. Report on LHCC Meeting on December 18, 2023 (Leppanen)

Leppanen attended the quarterly Local Homeless Coordinating Committee and reported Mack McDonald gave background on what the group has done the last several years. This is federally mandated and grant funds are available to people in need. The Mission has received some of this funding. The Point in Time Count is three days starting about January 26th and Leppanen would like help doing the count, this is important to people in need. Sayers would like to see a fact sheet of what the County has done. Murray motioned that Leppanen ask for a fact sheet at the next meeting, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sosa and Sayers voted in favor

9. Update on Short Term Rental and Business Licenses (Sosa)

Sosa reported all renewal letters have gone out and the business licenses are now \$25. Many have already responded with their fee. Hook asked for a print out of the short-term rentals and businesses.

10. Financial Report (Sosa)

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

P&Z Stipends - \$150.00

Malia Collins - \$581.80

Malia Collins - \$46.54 Reimburse for lighting

Erin Nelson - \$1825.33

Patricia Bellson - \$162.30

Kathy Carson - \$140.38

Brant Murray - \$114.00 Travel Time Farmington Second Trip Eclipse

Erin Nelson - \$ 249.33 Reimburse Sysco Eclipse

Jim Hook – \$355.11 Reimbursement Noxious Weed Account

Eirene Hamilton - \$160.00 Translation

Helgerson - \$50.00
Ginny Burns - \$ 4,403.62 Food Pantry Final Disbursement
NetForce - \$646.25
Bankcard - \$214.73
 Google Suites - \$84.54
 X-Mission - \$15.00
 USPS - \$70.19 Postage
 ULCT - \$45.00
Dufford Waldeck - \$9133.00 Disconnect
Dufford Waldeck - \$227.50
DS Accounting - \$750.00
San Juan Record - \$25.20
Action Air - \$275.35
Pelorus - \$900.00
Weldon Builders - \$27,076.50 ARPA/ULGT/State Match – 2nd payment
BWW - \$60.00
Emery Telecom - \$236.17
Rocky Mtn. Power - \$472.58

School Project
BWW – \$35.00
Rocky Mtn. Power - \$355.60

Teller error – UDB deposited \$39,723.10 into joint account and corrected it by moving it to UDB- Deposited November/ Removed December 1st

11. Other - None

12. Executive Session to Discuss Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation Pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205.

Withdrawn and moved to the next meeting.

Sayers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m., Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sayers, Sosa and Hook voted in favor.

Linda Sosa, Recording Officer

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