

Bluff Town Council
Tuesday, December 11, 2018
Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.m.
190 N 3rd East
P. O. Box 324
Bluff UT 84512
Minutes

Regular meetings are held every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted to Ann Leppanen at least 4 days before the meeting.

Mayor: Ann Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Brant Murray, Jim Sayers, and Linda Sosa

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call Ann Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa were present, Brant Murray had excused absence

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from 12/4/18, Sayers motioned to approve, Hook seconded. Sayers, Hook and Sosa voted in favor, Leppanen abstained.

Old Business

1. Swearing in of Planning and Zoning Commission (Sosa/Leppanen)

Sarah Burak, Malysa Egge, Amanda Podmore, and Kristen Bushnell were introduced and sworn in. Michael Haviken is in NY and will be sworn in January. Sayers said that Planning and Zoning is vital to our town. The Commission, Council members, and advisors will have a Meet and Greet Wednesday at 5:30 and decide on their first official meeting in January. The Council and audience expressed gratitude for their willingness to take this on.

2. Ron Nielson, Superintendent of San Juan School District, Addresses the Council (Hook)

Hook introduced Superintendent Nielson, who gave out maps showing the most current position of the elements of the school in West Bluff. He explained the history of the project and the importance of public safety, cultural awareness, and including dark sky features. Hook had concerns about school access for busses and the public. The District with UDOT is planning a turn lane. Leppanen thanked him for addressing the Council.

3. Report on School Board Meeting and CRA (Sayers)

Sayers acknowledged to the Superintendent that the District is struggling with its future decision about the Community Reinvestment Act. He attended the School Board meeting of December 11 and let them know that the money involved from property tax is intended to help children, not to give tax breaks to private business. Nielson encouraged the Council to send the School Board a formal position letter. We will put it on next week's agenda.

4. Update on Lyman Family Farms Petition to Disconnect (Leppanen/Hook)

We will have a public meeting Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Center with our attorney, Chris McAnany of Dufford Waldeck Milburn and Krohn; He will address the legal position of the request to disconnect and the likelihood of success. Leppanen stated that the public will have the opportunity to talk to him. She will post the notice. The retainer should be in tomorrow. Baird may come to that meeting and if he does we want him to observe not speak. The Council will put that on the December 18 agenda so we can vote on it. Sayers informed the audience that the Council members had spent many hours talking with lawyers and getting informal feedback from them. Leppanen brought up concerns about the peninsula of land and the cost of having to remap. The Council must vote by January 13, 2019.

5. Update of Tourism Tax Board (Sosa)

Sosa explained that the Transient Room Tax was split between Blanding and Monticello before Bluff incorporated. The Tax Board met December 5th and discussed their new plan where individuals and groups could apply to the Board for funds. Towns could develop marketing strategies and ask the Board to fund or market them. Leppanen said that the State is auditing TRT uses and the County would soon have new Commissioners so the strategy could change. Sayers stated that Bluff generates more than Blanding and Monticello and this plan is a way to get more of our funds. Gavin Noyes, in the audience, was pursuing funds for a traditional artist directory.

6. 12/17 Work Session Covering CIB, Agenda for Joint BSA Meeting, and Interlocal Agreement (All)

Leppanen has not made editing changes on the Interlocal Agreement yet and has not heard from Kelly Pehrson. Sosa was concerned that the County wanted to drop weed mowing in the summer. Blanding and Monticello both get snow plowing which we do not need. Leppanen asked everyone to bring CIB ideas to the Work Session. The CIB meeting is in March.

7. 12/18 Joint Work Session with BSA (All)

Leppanen is concerned with the BSA's push to dissolve before we have infrastructure in place. The legal process will take time, especially with the BWW. She will ask the BWW to be on their agenda in January to start talks with them.

New Business

1. Support of UDOT Grant for Montezuma Creek and Aneth. (Sosa)

Sosa explained that she and Hook signed a letter in support of a UDOT grant from Ben Musselman to improve the road from Montezuma Creek to Aneth.

2. Change time of January 2, 2019 Meeting to 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.

At 6:00 there is a conflict with a class so Leppanen motioned that we meet at 6:30 p.m. Sayers seconded and all voted in favor. Leppanen will post a public notice for it in the San Juan Record.

3. Set Work Session to Prepare for Planning and Zoning Commission

We will discuss this at the Meet and Greet December 13th.

Other

Gavin Noyes, Executive Director of Utah Dine Bikeyah, gave us an overview of the scope of their work. Their mission includes traditional healing and foods, land planning, art and working with youth, He considers Bluff a cultural hub and is interested in partnering with us to acquire the Bluff School building when it is available. Leppanen let him know that we have already started talks with the District about the town keeping it and suggested a joint work session with his group in January. Sayers mentioned that it is a big building and could be used for multiple things. Sayers motioned that we adjourn and Hook seconded. All voted in favor.

Adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer