

Bluff Town Council  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019  
Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.m.  
190 N 3<sup>rd</sup> East 435-672-9990  
P. O. Box 324  
Bluff UT 84512

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 (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

### Minutes

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

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

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2019

The minutes had a modification and addition so we will revisit at our next meeting.

Approval of Amended Minutes for March 26, 2019

Sayers motioned to approve the minutes, Hook seconded and all voted in favor.

### Old Business

#### 1. Discussion and possible vote on Municipal TRT and Resort Tax (Sosa) - 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. if needed

Sosa had been part of a conference call with Business Owners of Bluff and explained to them our recent State acceptance of the Municipal TRT tax and Resort tax for Bluff. The State starts collecting these July 1<sup>st</sup>. They were concerned about lodging that had already been booked through booking agents because they were locked in to a lesser tax rate. Jenn Davilla thanked the Council for quick action of putting this on our agenda so BOB could respond to this issue. She has some contracts in place for 18 months and booking through the end of the year. Murray mentioned that the State just increased taxes. Davilla asked if our start dates could be adjusted. Cindy Tumeh echoed that the Desert Rose has many pre-booked rooms and it is a hardship for pre-booked lodging. Sosa asked if one tax goes forward and the date of the other is adjusted, does BOB prefer that the Municipal TRT keep the July 1<sup>st</sup> start date because it effects funding from the County we could receive a year from the time we start collecting. Davilla and Tumeh agreed. Murray said that he knew the timing was bad but felt it would not stop customers and felt we should go forward. It was decided that we would have a work session Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and discuss this issue.

#### 2. Set a work session

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We will meet Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at the Community Center to work on tax issues, an overview of the Pelorus accounting package, steps we need to take for alcohol permitting and ordinances, and honoring Bluff volunteers for Volunteer Month (April).

#### 3. State of Utah Transparency Report via Pelorus (Leppanen) and other reporting requirements (Leppanen)

Leppanen and Sosa worked several days with the accounting package and the Transparency

reports for our first three quarters are in and accepted by the State. All checks and deposits are recorded and reconciled. Pelorus online support was very helpful.

#### 4. Weed Eradication (Leppanen)

Monte Perkins sent Leppanen a copy of the contract he gave Blanding for weed eradication, \$1500 plus the cost of the chemicals. Perkins applied for but did not receive any grants this year and asked for help writing grants for next year. Sayers will help him. Hook suggested that some towns ask property owners clean the weeds from their land to the edge of the road. Murray said that Perkins will continue coming to Bluff one day a year with chemicals for land owners to use and Jim Hook will let people in town know when that day is set. Sayers was concerned about camelthorn along the river bottom; it needs to be poisoned to eradicate. Leppanen suggested having a weed education day for the community. Hook mentioned the importance of getting rid of standing water and dumping water out of containers to avoid mosquito problems.

#### 5. Wildland Fires and Setting a Meeting/work Session with Chief Lott (Leppanen)

Jason Johnson, Southeast Area Manager for Utah Division of Forest, Fire and State Lands, has requested a meeting with Anthony Lott and Council members. Leppanen will work on setting up a time and location for this meeting.

#### 6. State of Utah Alcoholic Beverages and Permit Status (Leppanen)

Stephne Hanson has not responded to emails about rescheduling a meeting with us. We will discuss our next steps including working with a different person in our work session.

#### 7. Thank you to Becky Hinchcliff and Next Step (All)

Leppanen suggested that we had not decided the amount of involvement we wanted with Hinchcliff's DHS program. It was decided that this would be added to our work session.

#### 8. Update on Planning and Zoning, Roads, Water

Sarah Burak reported that at the April 4th meeting the Commission recommended to reconsider the request from Steve Simpson about the Town accepting his new road until after the moratorium was over and he submitted an application. There was discussion about streamlining the process of adding to the agenda, Sosa will add the mayor's email and the Council phone number to agenda and minutes headings. Sayers pointed out that Planning & Zoning is a standing item on our agendas. Burak informed the Council that they have a solid draft of the General Plan, they have sent it to Michael Bryant, and she would like to give Council members access to it now. She will send it out Google docs and as a pdf. Sayers attended the last meeting and said it was a very strong team and had really impressive mapping skills. Hook asked about the status of ADA transcribing at the meetings. Leppanen or Hook will try to transcribe at the April 11th meeting. Leppanen said the Council is responsible for ADA compliance but we are getting no response from the State or ULCT. Sayers will contact our insurance company for advice; we could be sued about this. Leppanen said there are very expensive systems and programs and down the road we could apply for a grant. It was suggested we create a volunteer list to transcribe on Thursdays and we ask Zak Podmore to do a post for volunteers in the Canyon Echo. Roads - UDOT is working on the turn lane for Bluff Dwellings. Water, Sayers was concerned about four untested wells in town that are being used for drinking water: the Mission, HIRF Campground, Sand Island well, and Nielson well. The Division of Water Quality has not approved these. Wes Shook has been inquiring about the Campground well with the State and the State is not required to monitor it because of low usage for a small number of people.

#### New Business

#### 9. Interview with Judy Fahys of Public Radio (Leppanen/Brant)

This interview is about the SITLA land being leased for a solar farm on the Bluff Bench and the

trio spent time on site with Mary Gilliam's drainage map. While the town favors solar energy, concern was voiced about the disruption of the soil that will happen from blading the site causing possible flooding into Bluff Dwellings and Cow Canyon Trading Post. And it is at the gateway to our town. Fahys interviewed David Ure (SITLA) earlier. Murray will contact Bryan Torgerson about doing a tour of the land.

#### 10. San Juan Building Permits, the Mission, and the Fort (Leppanen)

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Scott Burton, San Juan County Planning and Zoning, sent Leppanen a list of the three building permits issued since January, as requested. He will get new permit requests to us within three days so we have time to respond to them. The Mission is engaged in a clean-up project and there is building going on at the Fort but it may be ongoing.

#### 11. National Volunteer Month

Leppanen suggested doing something to honor our many Town volunteers this month. Sosa suggested there are so many if we listed them we would miss people; this is a Volunteer Town. We will explore ideas in our work session.

#### Other Business

Murray motioned and Sayers seconded cancelling our next meeting of April 16<sup>th</sup> and spending time reading the General Plan draft. All voted in favor.

Adjourned at 7:30

Linda Sosa Recording Officer