

Bluff Town Council Special Meeting
May 7, 2020
Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.m.
190 N 3rd East P.O. Box 324
Bluff UT 84512
435-672-9990

Regular meetings are held the first three Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. 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
This meeting was held electronically on Google Hangouts.

Draft Minutes

The meeting started at 6:01 p.m.

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

1. Discussion and Vote on Options on the Town of Bluff's Emergency Closure Ordinance (All)

Leppanen explained that we have one item on the agenda, to discuss and vote on our options on Bluff's Emergency Closure Ordinance that we passed on March 25th and posted March 28th. The Council members were sent a potential resolution for discussion. The current ordinance is due to expire in a few days. Leppanen has been in conversation with Business Owners of Bluff about how to open the Town. The Governor's May 1st guidelines focused on keeping people safe but moving businesses forward. She noted when we passed the ordinance there were no diagnosed cases in the County, today there are 132 positive cases that have been tested. The State has moved from red, which is high risk, to orange, which is moderate risk. The Council has discussed this in two sessions Tuesday. We have received business plans detailing how businesses would keep people safe by applying red risk factors. The red risk factors give us structure and a path to move forward. With that in mind she asked Chris McAnany what a draft resolution would look like. Murray felt it was time to move forward and that our business owners were smart could operate under these guidelines well. He would like to require masks and get more testing. He would like to be ready in case

there is a resurgence. Sayers liked the 48-hour turn around for lodging; after guests leave no one goes into the room for 48 hours. He would like that protection in place for service workers. Leppanen talked with Kirk Benge, our local health director, and outlined what makes us high risk factor: aging population, underlying health issues, lack of medical resources, proximity to the Navajo Nation, and volunteer first responders. Benge said he would support making a request to the State for Bluff to move back into red risk. This would be a resolution to go to red, which the Council feels would be in everyone's best interest. Hook mentioned that this is hurting many Navajos and summarized best practices. Sosa felt it protected the businesses, community members and guests. Leppanen pointed out the Governor's guidelines contained specific information and commented on how much she appreciated the cooperation the Town has received from the business owners. She stressed the importance of masking for the Council and community members when they are out wandering. Dawn Dilego has masks available.

Sayers motioned to immediately expire the current ordinance, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

Murray motioned to adopt the resolution to ask the governor to give the Town a variance to move back to red risk, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor.

Adjourned at 6:45 p.m.
Linda Sosa Recording Officer

This meeting took place electronically via Google Hangouts in order to follow the social distancing guidelines given by state and local authorities. The public was able to connect and participate by call in or joining the video.