

Bluff Town Council Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2020

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. 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.

The meeting started at 6:02 p.m.

The meeting was chaired by Pro Tem Jim Sayers, Ann Leppanen was present

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

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2020

Previously approved

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2020

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

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020

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

Unfinished Business

1. Update on Bluff Service Area and Bluff Town Council's Joint Presentation to Utah Division of Water Quality Board (Leppanen)

Tabled until the next meeting.

2. Request from Ed Dobson Re: Noxious Weeds, i.e. Goatheads: Community Clean-Up Day (Leppanen)

Leppanen explained items were tabled because the meeting had several issues that would take extra time. She explained Dobson's idea of a clean up day for goatheads and other noxious weeds.

Leppanen will write a resolution for a town clean-up day October 24th.

3. Clarification of Payment on Bluff's Insurance for the Airport and Other Property (Leppanen)

Tabled until the next meeting.

4. Update on Applications and Vote for Note Taker for Planning and Zoning (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported we have received one application and it was from Erin Richards, who has taken minutes for P&Z as a volunteer. Her letter of intent stated she is flexible and able to take minutes at their work sessions. Leppanen motioned to offer her a contract for contract labor at \$20.00 an hour to start immediately, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers and Sosa voted in favor. The agreement will be revisited in six months to see how it is working.

5. Update on Early Voting by San Juan County/Informational BSA Dissolution (Leppanen)

The County will start early voting at the CC tomorrow, from 10 to 3, for the next four Wednesdays. She gave a brief explanation of Prop. 11, shall the BSA be dissolved. All assets, property, and obligations of the BSA have been transferred to the Town. If it does not dissolve it will be an empty shell for next three years, then be dissolved by the state. She will write an update to send out.

6. Internal Audit Report by Erin Richards (Sosa/Leppanen)

Tabled until the next meeting.

7. Update on Utah League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference (Sosa)

Sosa listened to five or six meetings and said they were worthwhile. Two things stood out in Ask David Church Anything. Transparency journals, a timeline for important/controversial projects, and

people who don't understand the office they are running for. This underscores the importance of training newly elected officials.

8. Update on Main Street Meeting on October 5, 2020 (Murray)

This UDOT group used our USU document and General Plan to correlate where the town is and where it wants to go. Besides the UDOT people Leppanen, Murray, and Malysa Egge attended. Murray felt it went really well. He explained how the main street of a town defines its quality of life and character. Leppanen emphasized that no decisions have been made and community input and understanding are very important. This will go forward after the start of the year. Included are things like crosswalks at the ends of town from motels to restaurants, safe school routes, and pedestrian crosswalks/sidewalks.

9. Discussion and Vote on NetForce Video Conferencing System (Leppanen)

Leppanen and Sosa met with Josh Daggs who presented products and services his company could supply for security, audio, and visual needs. They have set up systems in Dolores and Mancos that include support and backup. A dedicated YouTube channel could be used to record meetings. Enhancing our technology will help citizens to access meeting and support social distancing. CARES Act funds support this. They will send us more information and it will be added to a work session.

New Business

10. Rocky Mountain Power Donation Request (Leppanen)

Tabled until the next meeting.

11. Progress of Joint Effort with the Business Owners of Bluff on Signs/Banners and Update on Business Owners of Bluff's Meeting (Sosa/Leppanen)

Jen Davila reported most of the signage has come in and is being distributed. Marcia Hadenfeldt and Sosa have been getting the signs to businesses. BOB is planning a Balloon Festival that will be scaled down to fit the current times. She stated it would be two days and totally outside. It is a good community activity. Sayers suggested looking into hand washing stations and Davila already had.

12. Notice of Public Comment by Bureau of Land Management on the Bluff River Trail (All)

Jim Hook happily reported that the 25-year trail system project from the Davis Farm to Sand Island Is near completion. The BLM has a 30-day public comment period for the last stretch which is over October 17. Murray commented that it was a great benefit to the community.

13. Discussion and Vote for 2023 UDOT Safe Routes for School Grant Application (All)

Tabled until the next meeting.

14. Closed Meeting to Discuss the Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property (All)

At 6:49 p.m. Sayers motioned to close the open meeting and go into closed section to discuss real property, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sayers and Sosa voted in favor.

At 7:54 p.m. Murray motioned to leave closed session, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sayers, Hook, and Sosa voted in favor.

15. Discussion and Vote on Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property (All)

Tabled until the next meeting.

16. Update on Roads, Planning and Zoning (All)

Tabled until the next meeting.

17. Purchase of Safety Equipment for Outdoor Pickleball Court (Leppanen)

Tabled until the next meeting.

18. Changes in Timesheets for Employees/Contractors/Community Center Update (Sosa)

Tabled until the next meeting.

19. Financial Report (Sosa/Murray)

Tabled until the next meeting.

20. Report on San Juan County Commission Meeting of October 6, 2020 (Sosa/Leppanen)

Tabled until the next meeting.

21. Discussion and Vote on Action Related to October 1, 2020 Fire (All)

Sayers noted the Council was all back from closed session at 7:56 p.m.

Sayers reported on the fire event on Cemetery Hill October 1st. Sayers, Murray, Malysa Egge, the Hole In The Rock group, Dawn Dilego, Dan Meyer, Sarah Burak and Karen Walker met to discuss moving forward. The HITR group had been doing a clean up of weeds at the pioneer part of the cemetery and the fire got away from them and damaged vegetation, landscaping and an irrigation system. The County fire ban is still in place. About three acres were burned and one person received a serious burn. Murray noted it was a good meeting and people were very understanding of each other. The HITR

Group want to do anything they can to help the landowners and asked for a list of needs. They will help now and again in the Spring. Walker was concerned that natural vegetation was gone and would be replaced by weeds. Leppanen was sad this happened, talked to Chris McAnany, and said the Town cannot enforce the County fire ban but she will write a Town ordinance for burning. She felt this was a good time to ask the County to transfer The Cemetery Board from the County to the Town. Brandt Hart volunteered to be on the Cemetery Board earlier in an email.

22. Other

Hook noted that she heard fireworks at midnight several nights earlier.

Leppanen motioned to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., Hook seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sosa, and Sayers voted in favor.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

This meeting took place electronically in order to follow the social distancing guidelines given by state and local authorities. The public was able to connect and participate electronically.