

Bluff Town Council Minutes
November 17, 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

Minutes

The meeting started at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray
Presenters Jared Anderson, Brock Johansen, Bob Springmeyer

5:30 p.m. CDBG 1st Public Hearing

Approval of Bluff Town Council Work Session Minutes from November 10, 2020
Sayers motioned to approve the minutes, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor
Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2020
Sayers motioned to approve the minutes, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor

Unfinished Business

1. Introduction of Jared Anderson of Emery Telcom; Community Conversation with Jared Anderson about the Fiber Optic (Leppanen)

Leppanen introduced Jared Anderson and Josh Daggs of NetForce. Brock Johansen of Emery Telecom was also present. Anderson and Johansen presented the background of their company and the broadband project. Johansen reported the Bluff portion of this huge project is being funded by Emery's non-profit board as a capital project, not by grants. They reported a great deal of information including the building for their distribution center is going well, they don't go on people's property without permission, they will start hooking up residences late next year, the school will be online this week, they are connecting to the cell tower to upgrade cell phone service, connections will be aerial or buried. Emery does not charge an installation fee, only a monthly fee.

NetForce is working with us to provide technology for reliable meetings, broadcasting to the public, solid connectivity and up to date security standards. Daggs, Anderson, and Johansen felt very comfortable working together as needed. Leppanen spoke for the Council giving Emery Telecom a huge thank you for their generosity to the Town.

6. Update on Strategic Planning with Bob Springmeyer (All)

Bob Springmeyer explained where we are in strategic planning. He has created a community survey with the Council using a ranking system of opportunities, threats, strengths, and weaknesses. He remarked this information will be very helpful for jobs, tasks, and building up community positives. He will edit it and get it to Sayers for an email blast and the website. Leppanen commented this will give

the Council very important information about what the Town wants and needs. Springmeyer was impressed with how much agreement the council had in the process. The survey is not long.

2. Update on Bluff Service Area Dissolution and Meeting on November 11, 2020; Update on Board of Water Quality Vote on the \$164,000 Advance (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported the Chair of the BSA is working with their attorney to get paperwork to the Lt. Governor to complete dissolution. The County canvassed and certified the vote today. Leppanen received documentation for the forgiveness of the \$164,000 and she will notify the state auditor to take it off their books.

3. Update on Bluff Service Area Transfer of Funds (Sosa)

Linda Richmond is preparing checks to transfer designated and other funds to the Town. These funds have already been included in the 2021 budget.

4. Update on CARES Money and NetForce (Leppanen)

Sosa is writing checks for NetForce and other purchases so the CARES account is used up by the deadline. NetForce will order equipment and do remote work; it is not appropriate to travel because of covid issues. Sayers motioned to pay NetForce, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray and Sayers voted in favor

5. Report on Meeting with Bureau of Land Management regarding Indian Creek, General Questions and Answers, the UDOT Gravel Pit Right-of-Way in Bluff, Fire Conditions and Signage (Sayers/Leppanen)

Leppanen and Sayers met with Amber Johnson, the new BLM field manager, and Angela Bolic, about the gravel pit located in town at the end of West 7th. They are working to change its designation. Mary Gillam offered to help locating resources for gravel. They were agreeable to increasing safety signage at Sand Island. Sayers explained Indian Creek is quite a way from Bluff but involves water drilling issues. He is interested in the process of getting more detailed information of issues, especially related to water. He will be given paperwork to be granted Interested Party Status for the Town. This will allow him access to more detailed information about BLM land.

7. Update on Extension of Application to Appropriate Water Number 09-1853 (Leppanen)

Leppanen received notification that we were granted the extension until 2030. Sunrise did the work at no charge on this after our grant with them for the 50-year water study was completed.

New Business

8. Report on the San Juan County Commission Meeting of November 17, 2020 (Leppanen)

The County will send two letters in regard to a copper mining project that requires water and underground drilling. One will ask for a public hearing and the second will state their opposition to the project.

9. Report on the Bluff Water Works Meeting of November 11, 2020 (Leppanen)

Three seats on the BWW will expire January 1, 2021. Melvin Gaines has decided not to reapply.

10. Report on Conversation with Municode Re: Codification of Ordinances (Leppanen)

Leppanen and Sosa will watch this webinar tomorrow. We can self-publish or hire a service. They will do a presentation in 2021.

11. Report on Webinar on Possible Grant Possibility for Bluff (Sayers/Leppanen)

Sayers reported this is a wonderful opportunity from the National Science Foundation. They are asking for proposals for technology and social improvements that would serve under and non-served groups with advanced broadband in a region. These grants are for \$300,000 and very complicated so they are usually done by academic institutions. The deadline is January the 8th. It was felt that this is

out of our reach without partners. We could check with USU or it could be added to UEN. Leppanen and Sayers will check with Jared Anderson to see if this is a possibility.

12. Financial Report (Sosa)

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

P&Z Stipends - \$150.00

Carol Shook - \$184.70

Patricia Bellson - \$17.08

Denny Bellison - \$72.73

Helgerson - \$35.00 (trash)

Rocky Mtn. Power -\$ 275.64

River Canyon - \$175.97

Bankcard - \$890.32

XMission - \$15.00

Google Suites - \$51.58

USPS, postage - \$57.80

CARES - \$675.94

BWW - \$70.31

San Juan Record - \$47.60

Frontier- \$83.04

NetForce - \$10,155.00

Chris McAnany - \$990.00

MET - \$505.93

13. Other

N/A

14. Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property (All)

At 7:30 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 8:04 p.m. Sayers motioned to leave closed session and adjourn, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sayers, Hook, and Sosa 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.