

Bluff Town Council Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021
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 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray (6:10)

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes from February 9, 2021

Sayers motioned to approve, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Hook, and Sosa voted in favor, Murray had not yet joined the meeting

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion and Vote for Bluff Community Center's Use by 4-H and Introduction of Shaila Benn (All)

Leppanen explained the Community Center has been continuously closed since last March. Benn and Reagan Wytsalucy requested the use of the east side of the CC once a month starting in March for a 4-H group of 10 or less 8 to 18-year-olds. They were well aware of social distancing and use of PPE. While the Council was in favor of the project the concern was the use of the building. Council members supported using the Pavillion. Hook motioned and Leppanen articulated the motion to grant the request and meet at the pavilion but use the building if the weather is poor, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook and Sayers voted in favor, Murray and Sosa voted against. The CC Manager will work with the group.

2. Update on MuniDoc Training on Thursday, February 11, 2021 (Leppanen/Sosa)

Leppanen, Sosa, Kathy Carson and Amanda Podmore attended this training of the process of scanning and publishing records. This will be used with archived BSA agendas, minutes and other records. The group will meet to discuss a plan for BSA, Council, P&Z and Incorporation records. Carson has been organizing BSA records and will probably be in charge of scanning and publishing. This will allow the public to access these records on our website.

3. Update on Reorganization of Bluff Community Center Offices (Murray), Removal of Desk, Town Clerk/Manager Duties (Leppanen)

Last weekend Jackie Warren and Ryan McAndrews moved a bookcase and metal cabinet out the CC offices to make the spaces more useable. They removed the BSA computer and will move data to a hard drive. Kathy Carson has been organizing records and Linda Richmond is organizing BSA financial records. With the removal of the bookcase from room 4 there is room for a small table for Carson to work. The cabinet is

in the hallway and will hold supplies for Council members. Murray is looking into the cost of removing the carpet, staining and sealing the concrete floor and painting walls; Mitch had supplied the figure \$14,000 to \$15,000 for that labor and materials. Sayers and Hook volunteered to shampoo the carpets and Leppanen suggested revisiting the budget for improvements in March.

4. Discussion of Rights of Nature and Protection of Water (Sayers/Leppanen)

Sayers and Leppanen were part of this phone call meeting. Sayers explained this new legal concept that aspects of nature, such as a river, have rights and need protection. The concept is to help protect natural assets. Leppanen explained proposed housing developments in Spanish Valley could exceed the amount of water available. Development can be an assault on water. There are two approaches to this concept, a soft and a hard version. Leppanen explained the soft approach was suggested for small towns. The Town could have a meeting to inform the public and generate ideas, then form an advisory board. She suggested a meeting in March after Moab has a similar meeting. Hook suggested a professor at Fort Lewis and Mary Gillam volunteered to approach him about a meeting with Leppanen. Debbie Westfall pointed out the General Plan addresses protecting our water.

5. Discussion of Need for Amended 2021 Budget and Date of Public Hearing (Leppanen)

There will be a modified budget meeting March 9th at 5:30 p.m. While there are funds to cover road improvements, the budget needs to be increased from \$30,000 to cover additional improvements. Attorney fees will also be increased.

6. Update of AED Maintenance Agreement (Sosa)

Sosa explained this plan costs \$99 a year, the pads are \$67 and last 2 years, and the battery is \$167 and lasts 4 years. The company will send parts as scheduled. Sosa motioned to accept the plan, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sosa, and Sayers voted in favor.

7. NetForce Update (Murray, Sayers)

Since neither Murray or Sayers have heard from NetForce, Sayers will call them tomorrow.

New Business

8. Update on Bluff Water Works Meeting on February 10, 2021, Update on San Juan County Commission Meeting on February 16, 2021, Update on Bluff's Planning and Zoning

Leppanen reported things are running smoothly at BWW. Sosa reported they discussed using a low dose chlorine twice a year instead of two system flushes that are harder on the system and result in Clorox tasting water. Leppanen had sent the Forces of Nature invitation to Marx Powell. Leppanen reported the County Commission meeting spent over an hour and a half on public comments. Item 19 addressed voter and redistricting policy that is about to expire and needs to be redone and sent to the Judge for approval. The new resolution includes adding more early voting sites, such as Aneth and Red Mesa, have in person voting at Chapter Houses on election day, and how to broadcast to the Navajo Nation. Many of the earlier public comments were in favor of this. Amanda Podmore discussed the five goals P&Z is focusing on for this year. Finishing drafts of ordinances for animals, short term rentals, and noise and the public hearing,

form a Dark Skies committee, work with the Council on an enforcement officer, revisit zoning code, and look at the General Plan at the end of the year. Hook mentioned the new members were being trained on using Google Drive. Their next meeting is tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.

9. Update on Roads Committee Meeting on February 11, 2021 (Hook/Haviken)

Michael Haviken reported the road crew is planning to resume crack sealing Thursday. He and Hook are doing a sign inventory. He is working with Mary Gillam on two maps, a zoning map and a C roads map showing paved, gravel, and dirt roads. He is comparing County Road Standards to our roads. Leppanen thanked them all for their work and will work with Haviken to make sure the budget is sufficient for our needs.

10. Financial Report (Sosa)

Sosa sent Council members the January financial report and the February bills. Sayers motioned pay the bills, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor.

P&Z Stipends - \$150.00

Carol Shook - \$184.70

Denny Bellison – \$20.77

Erin Richards - \$105.00

Ned Krutsky - \$200.00 framing pictures

Ann Leppanen - \$148.84 reimburse for two front door handles

Helgerson - \$45.00

Rocky Mtn. Power – \$360.48

River Canyon - \$80.99

Bankcard - \$66.24

 XMission - \$15.00

 Google Suites - \$51.24

BWW - \$45.00

San Juan Record - \$77.80

Waldeck Dufford - \$1,381.00

Diamond Propone - \$823.60

11. Other

Murray noted how well vaccinations were going.

12. Executive Session to Discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property.

At 7:17 p.m. Sayers motioned to close the open meeting and go into closed session to discuss real property and then adjourn, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sayers 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. For requests to receive emails/meeting invitations email linda@townofbluff.org