

Bluff Town Council Meeting Minutes
April 6, 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 6:00 p.m.

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Work Session Minutes on March 25, 2021

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

Unfinished Business

1. Introduction of Sgt. Charlie Taylor of the Utah Highway Patrol and Discussion and Vote on Speed Enforcement (Leppanen)

In a conversation with Kendall Laws about UDOT speed limits and driver feedback devices he suggested to Leppanen talking to the Highway patrol. Shortly after Sgt. Taylor reached out to her about what resources the highway patrol could provide the town. He has worked for the County for 23 years and lived in Bluff for a period of time. He explained that speeding was not a new issue and gave statistics for crashes, some with animals, and speeding stops. This is a large geographic area and trooper resources are thin. The main mandates they have are: 1) DUI, 2) speeders, 3) seatbelt violations, 4) equipment violations, and 5) distracted (texting). For County coverage they use speed enforcement shifts for specific areas. He has talked with Jared Beard (UDOT) about signage and decreasing the speed limit at the top of Cow Canyon. Murray asked about window tinting, some states in the 4-corners allow darker than Utah. Taylor pointed out it can be dangerous, it is hard to see inside and outside, especially at twilight and after. He mentioned for equipment violations if the problem was fixed in 14 days there is no fine. The Council agreed a problem time for the town was 4 p.m. to 9 or 10, pedestrians are out walking and going to dinner. Areas on both edges of town were dangerous because people cross the street in the evening from their motel to dinner. Taylor conveyed this was helpful information he would pass on. Leppanen asked if truckers were treated the same as other drivers. He said there is a Commercial Group Enforcement that could come once a quarter. He explained the State and County could increase enforcement in the area if requested and they do stop truckers. It would probably help but some locals could also get tickets. It was decided to

move the vote to next week's agenda to give time for community feedback. The Council thanked Taylor for his service and willingness to help.

2. Discussion and Vote on Solar v. Electric Driver Feedback Devices and Flexible Delineators, Summary of Meeting with Jared Beard, Region 4 East District Engineer with Utah Department of Transportation on March 22, 2021; Update on Road Work; Adopt a Highway Discussion and Clean Up of Intersection Report, (All/Haviken); Update on Gravel Pit Right of Way (Gillam)

The Council discussed the flexibility of solar vs the lack of [maintenance for electric. It was decided Leppanen and Michael Haviken would find out the difference in cost and then put this back on the agenda. Topics that came up with Beard were: cattleguards are the responsibility of the Town, the Sand Island turnoff will be marked in a way to be more visible at a cost of about \$100,000, and a 4-lane plan from the Salt Lake area to Monument Valley was too costly to be considered. Leppanen felt Beard understands the Town's concerns and is working hard for us. Haviken reported the crack seal will probably be finished in the Fall when temperatures are low enough. He is working on the Roads budget and looking at an armor coating for gravel roads in east Bluff. Leppanen reported the volunteers collected a ton of trash when the 191 intersection was cleaned up and likes the idea of adopt a highway for that area. Mary Gilliam spent three hours with Beard looking at gravel resources between Bluff and Montezuma Creek to use instead of the residential area of West 7th North. They were pleased to find several sources of good gravel. UDOT is looking into BLM site leases and Gilliam offered to be involved in the future.

3. Discussion and Vote on Policy for Maintaining Class C Roads and Alleys (All)

This is deferred until April 20th when it is on the County Commission agenda.

4. Discussion on Date (May 20, 2021, 6 p.m.) for Community Meeting on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Mailing Informational Notices to Residents (Leppanen)

Murray motioned to accept this date, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen mentioned that Amanda Podmore and Sarah Burak helped her get mailing lists and the printing company that can print postcards for this event. Murray motioned to allow Leppanen to move forward have the company do this work, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook and Sayers voted in favor.

5. Discussion on Date (April 22, 2021, 6 p.m.) for Community Meeting on the Rights of Nature (Leppanen)

Murray motioned to accept this date, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook and Sayers voted in favor. There will be a TED talk documentary and a period for questions for the presenters.

6. Reminder of Utah League of Cities and Towns Mid-Conference Registration (April 21-23, 2021) and that Declaration of Candidacy for Bluff Town Council Must be Filed (June 1 - June 7, 2021) (Leppanen)

Leppanen signed up for the virtual presentations for \$99 and can share the screen if Council members are interested in topics. Sosa watched last year and found them helpful.

7. Summary of Meeting with Professor Gary Gianniny with Fort Lewis College, Department of Geosciences and Summary by Mary Gillam of GIS Shapefiles (Hook/Leppanen/Gillam)

Dr. Gianniny is working on projects for his undergraduate students that will look more closely at Bluff water and testing issues from arsenic to aquifer levels and refill. Several other departments at Fort Lewis are interested. Sunrise Engineering sent Gillam files from their water study of Bluff and she is creating shapefile mapping to show our distribution system and valve and well locations. Leppanen thanked her for all her work for the Town.

8. Repeat Item: "Unpaid Taxes for June 30, 2020" and Approval for Payment for Municode (\$350) (Leppanen/Sosa)

Leppanen had resolved this when it happened for March 31, 2020 by calling the IRS and sending documentation that we had paid on time with a letter. It was resolved. It happened again and she has repeated the sequence. She predicted this would happen again.

9. Summary of Inspection of Bluff Community Center Roof (Leppanen/Shook)

Our insurance adjuster used a drone to check for rooftop hail damage on the CC and Fire Mesa. The only damage was to the skylight and A/C above the Senior Center. He will figure out our deductible and send an estimate. He noted the rest of the roof is in great shape. If we have leaks just tighten the screws.

10. Removal of Used Tires in Bluff and Mosquito Abatement (Murray)

Murray is working on a community old tire roundup for recycling and mosquito abatement, since they retain water. He explained after a rain mosquitos hatch in ten days and July and August are our worst mosquito times if we have summer rain. Wes Shook provided information from the Cottonwood tire removal he spearheaded. Jackie Warren went into detail about training, information and process from her BSA experience at the earlier Work Session. Murray will become a noncommercial applicator through USU.

11. Discussion Regarding Continued Closure of the Bluff Community Center and Fire Mesa Kitchen (Leppanen)

Sayers motioned to continue these closures and reconsider June first, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Sayers and Murray voted in favor. Sosa recommended the process that all requests go to the CC Manager who informs requestors they are closed due to Covid and those wanting a wavier contact the Mayor to be put on the next agenda. It is open to governmental agency requests. The Council agreed yoga could use the Pavilion and Sosa suggested a reserved sign since we have multiple use.

12. Discussion of Waiving Fees for 4-H Meetings and Their Use of the Pavilion (All)

The Council agreed to waive fees and the meeting would be outside at the Pavilion.

13. Report on Community Impact Board (CIB) Meeting on March 24, 2021 (Sayers)

Sayers reported Michael Bryant presented the list of projects for entities in the SE Region and encouraged the Town to add projects.

New Business

14. Summary of Dinner with Congressman John Curtis and Staff (Leppanen, Sayers, Sosa)

A great meal and conversations included how we are doing with Covid, PPP loans, the economy of businesses, Bears Ears land swaps with the BLM vs SITLA, the gravel pit and uranium. The group sat at two different tables for social distancing and this had been posted on UPNW.

15. RUP/Utah Film Center Screening in Bluff this Spring (Leppanen)

The organizer provides the equipment and film, we provide the parking lot and popcorn for this outdoor event that will also happen in Monument Valley and other southern county locations. The Council is looking forward to seeing their plan.

16. Renewal of Entity Registration and 1st Quarter 2021 Transparency Report Status (Leppanen)

Renewed and completed.

17. Response to Bureau of Land Management's "No Adverse Effect Determination on Emery Telcom Bluff to Mexican Hat Fiber Optic (All)

Leppanen asked those who wanted to comment to do so directly to Amber Johnson (BLM). The deadline is April 10th.

18 Reminder that Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC) Registration is Required Prior to the Class (May 17-16, 2021, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.) (Leppanen)

Leppanen and Sayers have registered for this class. It is required by law communities have a domestic preparedness plan.

19. Reports on Planning and Zoning, Roads, Water

P&Z will meet tomorrow about short-term rentals. Roads was covered earlier.

20. Report on Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Training on March 17, 2021 (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported this covered excellent information for households and the community and Sosa will post the link on the website.

21. Other

Hook reported that Larue Kirkham was donating funds to set up pickleball at the elementary school and would like to donate equipment to the local pickleball class. The Council thanked her for her generosity.

Sayers motioned to close the meeting at 7:37 p.m., Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sosa, Hook 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.

For requests to receive emails/meeting invitations email linda@townofbluff.org