

Bluff Town Council Meeting Minutes

March 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 6:00 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 9, 2021

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

Unfinished Business

1. Introduction of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan by Bluff Fire Chief Anthony Lott

Lott reminded the important points of the Wildfire Protection Plan, amnesty of cost if there is a catastrophic fire, mitigation and preparedness of the community, and this is an ongoing project that is updated every year. He suggested meeting with town members to identify problems and get input. It involves large projects and small, such as individual property owners removing debris. Murray thanked the fire dept. for all their work and suggested a town meeting. Mary Gillam said the fire hydrants only have 40% capacity because of undersized water lines. Leppanen said that's a BWW issue. She mentioned P&Z has a master list of landowners that could be used to mail property owners so we could have more involvement at a meeting. Lott suggested posting flyers and will work with Leppanen. A question about dealing with neighbors with yards full of weeds was submitted and Leppanen said this could be an enforcement issue in the future and the Council could look into it as a budget issue. Just talking to the neighbor and expressing concern would be the first step. Some neighbors may not be able to deal with yardwork.

2. Presentation on the Alley Connection for the Bluff River Trail by Jim Hook

Jim Hook reported on progress including connecting the Town to the trail, the BLM doing a five-mile rough cut, and access points that include an easement. Leppanen stated questions about alley/easements were premature because, while we own them we do not have the deeds from the County yet. Leppanen is in conversation with Kendall Laws about getting the deeds. Hook offered to give interested people rides along the trail.

3. Speed Enforcement on Highway 191 and Conversation with Kendall Laws, San Juan County Attorney; Discussion of "Dangerous by Design" and Vehicle Drivers v Pedestrians (Leppanen)

Leppanen and Michael Haviken will be talking with Jared Beard (UDOT) about speed limits, pedestrian safety, and other issues. Leppanen had a conversation with a frequent tourist who felt he had been stopped unreasonably for tinted windows. No ticket was issued but Laws informed Leppanen that every state decides the acceptable amount of tinting and you can get a ticket if your state allows darker tint than Utah. Leppanen sent the Council members the "Dangerous Design" article linking speed and pedestrian safety. The County or State would give us extra speed enforcement if we requested at no extra cost. Sargent Charlie Taylor of the Highway Patrol is willing to increase patrols.

Several Council members felt this was important for safety and a bad accident was going to happen at some point because of cars speeding through town. Murray pointed out more locals could get tickets. Leppanen will get more information about the parameters of enforcement. Taylor will be invited to our April 6th meeting.

4. Report on "Rights of Nature" Meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2021 (Leppanen)

Leppanen and Malysa Egge attended this meeting about the rights of nature and how to create an informational event to increase awareness. A meeting during Earth Week in April could include a short video and speaker. Leppanen will work with the group on the date and time for a virtual meeting. She suggested an excellent TED talk about the subject, google Kelsey Leonard, rights of nature to hear it.

5. Maps of US 191 and Rights of Way (Leppanen/Gillam/Haviken)

Haviken and Gillam worked together on what a four-lane highway would look like in Bluff. Haviken determined the width would be 100 feet across and Gillam created maps showing the impact of this on the Main Street, it would go through some buildings. Leppanen has been in conversation about these impacts with Beard who doesn't feel this is likely to happen because of the expense and geography.

6. Review of Recommended Revisions to Code of Conduct (Leppanen)

The Council will have a work session April 6th at 9:00 a.m. to look at revisions. Leppanen has been researching Robert's Rules for virtual meetings and felt section A was applicable to our needs. Sayers pointed out being respectful of others including no public attacks was important, especially in public hearings.

New Business

7. Reports on Bluff Water Works Meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 (Leppanen), San Juan County Commission Meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Leppanen reported things were going well with the water system and the BWW has posted their yearly data at the State site. The Commission meeting was cancelled, possibly because they had a Special Meeting earlier.

8. Updates on Planning and Zoning, Roads

At tomorrow's 6:00 p.m. meeting P&Z will discuss public comment from their public hearing. Leppanen explained the ordinances and all comments will come to the Council in April and the Council has final decisions. Haviken reported more crack sealing has been done and there could be more depending on the weather.

9. Utah Ranked Choice Voting Update (House Bill 75) and our 2021 Bluff Elections (Leppanen)

Leppanen reached out to John David Nielson for clarity and his opinion was it lacked consistency and would be confusing to people. People can vote for more than one person by ranking their choices. Leppanen will put this on the April 6th agenda and directed Council members to research it.

10. Shuttle to the Southern Areas of Utah (Leppanen)

Sayers sent a draft response to the Council, we support this valuable link but are disappointed that Bluff and the southern part of the County were not included on the route. Leppanen wants the Town to be included in future projects. Sayers also asked for accommodations for bikes.

11. Bluff Town Audit of October 16, 2010 and Notice of Bluff Town Audit dated February 15, 2021 (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported the confusion over the BSA audit and Town audit has been resolved and ours is complete and submitted.

12. Mosquito Abatement: Who Will be in Charge of This (All)

Jackie Warren headed this last year; it has been a BSA duty. There were two suggestions, post a flyer to see if a community member is interested and check with Helgerson Property management. It will be part of a work session. It includes training to be able to handle the chemicals.

13. Utah League of Cities and Towns Mid-Year Conference on April 21-23, 2021 (All)

Those interested in this let Leppanen know.

14. Financial Report (Sosa)

Murray motioned to approve the March bills, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sosa, and Sayers voted in favor.

P&Z Stipends - \$150.00

Carol Shook - \$184.70

Denny Bellison – \$20.77

Kathy Carson -\$236.42

Erin Richards - \$111.00

Helgerson - \$45.00

Helgerson - \$120.00 snowplow

Frontier - \$114.52 Feb

Frontier - \$114.52 March

Rocky Mtn. Power – \$363.17

River Canyon - \$80.99

Bankcard - \$248.76

 XMission - \$15.00

 Google Suites - \$51.24

 Keys – \$50.80

 Paper shredder - \$75.64

 HAVC filters - \$56.08

BWW - \$45.00

San Juan Record - \$77.00

Pelorus -\$400.00

Waldeck Dufford - \$2452.50

Diamond Propone - \$330.80

SJC Roads Department- \$6,286.08

15. Other

Sosa reminded the Council about the Clean Up Day at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday the 23rd at the 191 intersection (Mexican Water turn-off). Wear heavy gloves.

16. Executive Session to Discuss Purchase, Exchange or Lease of Real Property (All)

At 7:36 p.m. Murray motioned to close the open meeting and go into closed session to discuss real property and then adjourn, Sayers 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