

Bluff Town Council Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2021  
Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.m.  
190 N 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6:01 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 April 13, 2021

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

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **1. Update and Discussion of Use of Spraying of Bluff Community Center, Fire Mesa Kitchen, and Pavilion (Sosa)**

Sosa reported that Jackie Warren has been researching the use of pesticides, weed sprays and mosquito pellets. She contacted the USDA, who gave her a national pesticide applicator core manual that we can use as a resource, and they talked to her about applications of chemicals and government entities. The bottom line is paid employees cannot apply these chemicals. Hook has checked with Edge, a company licensed to do application; they are already doing local businesses county wide. They have the procedures, chemicals and equipment and charge based on the size of the building and hour. They suggested we might want every other month. Hook will get an estimate. The CC manager is concerned about ants with the start of the outside yoga class.

#### **2. Updates on: Solar Driver Feedback Signs (Leppanen); Contact with Sgt. Charlie Taylor re: Speed Enforcement (Hook); Charges on Road Work by San Juan County (Haviken/Hook); Transfer of Alleys from San Juan County to the Town of Bluff (Leppanen); NetForce (Sayers); Status of Fraud Hotline (Sayers); Removal of Tree(s) from Bluff Community Center Fence (Murray); Update on Certification to Distribute Pellets for Mosquito Abatement (Murray)**

Leppanen let Jared Beard know the Council decided on solar signs. Placement should be in a month or so. Michael Haviken has talked to T.J. about the increase in charges from last year and he agreed to change the invoice to last year's rates. We had not been notified about change in rates. Their charges are costs plus 10% for administrated costs and they will probably go up next year. Leppanen appreciated his extra work and the fact this kept the bill within the 2021 budget. Hook has emailed Sgt. Taylor about

increasing enforcement and has not heard back yet. Leppanen has gotten some comments from concerned citizens and welcomed others to email her if they have concerns about increased enforcement. Leppanen listened to the County Commission meeting and reported the Commissioners voted 2 to 1 to sign the alleyways to the town. Commissioner Grayeyes will sign the paperwork. She was grateful that Grayeyes and Maryboy supported the Town and wondered if parts of the County would still like oversight of Bluff. Sayers will check with NetForce and is working on the fraud line. A call from Emery let Leppanen know they encountered a problem while trying to hook up the office and the senior center that the company installing the optic fiber would have to fix, probably in a week or two. Steve Helgerson has given a quote of \$150 to remove two dead trees west of the senior center. The Council was favorable but Murray would like to look at them first. Jackie Warren is confirming that Murray may not need certification to apply mosquito pellets.

### **3. Discussion of Rules of Conduct, Order, and Procedure (Leppanen)**

Leppanen sent copies to Council members with changes outlined in red. This will be discussed at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Work Session at 9 a.m.

### **4. Reminder as to Civility in Public Meetings and Hearings (Sayers)**

Sayers reminded the importance of keeping language in the formal register in meetings.

## **New Business**

### **5. Update on San Juan Collaboration Tools Workshop Session (Sosa)**

This is the third session Sosa has been involved in. She explained the purpose was creating a website bar graph that tracks the flow of tourists through the county. Data is represented yearly, monthly, daily and can be compared to other areas, for example, Bluff and Natural Bridges at the same time. She felt this would be helpful to businesses, grant data, and UDOT projects.

### **6. Discussion of West Park, Water Maintenance, Upkeep, and Volunteers (Sosa)**

Sosa explained there are people who have taken care of West Park for a very long time, Dudley Beck and Ceil McDermott, for example. The drip system needs lots of patching and Sosa would like ask Beck and Paul Martini's advice about a new system. The Council agreed.

### **7. Discussion of (New) Bluff Elementary School Marquee Lights (Leppanen)**

Leppanen will check with residents bothered by the lighting and the principal. Hook thought the school forgot at times to turn off the lighting. The marquee does dim at 8 or 9 p.m. The problem could be the entrance or parking lot lighting.

### **8. General Policy Book Discussion (Sosa/Leppanen)**

Leppanen explained that ordinances are laws, resolutions are not as strong and not binding, and policy is process. Sosa also called it institutional knowledge and a way to have continuity as Councils change. Leppanen and Sosa are working on a general policy book. Sosa and Kathy Carson are working with BSA papers to sort and organize. Hook suggested a master list.

### **9. Update on Progress of 2022 Budget and Discussion of a Need for a Work Session on 2022 Budget (Leppanen)**

Leppanen is making progress, she has the revenue and is working on expenditures and basing them on the 2021 financial report figures. When she returns she and Sosa will work on the budget. Michael Haviken is working on the Roads budget. Leppanen would

like to have a work session so the Council can work together on the rough draft. The legislature changed the budget date to the end of May which gives us more time.

**10. Financial Report (Sosa)**

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

**11. Report on Bluff Water Works Meeting on 4/14/2021 (Sosa); Report on San Juan County Commission Meeting on 4/20/21 (Leppanen); Meeting with Senators Riebe and Kitchen on 4/17/21 (Sayers/Sosa)**

Sosa reported the water systems were going well and new antennas were adding communication between wells and the computer were improved. Marx Powell had noticed the Council was dealing with more water related topics and thought was a good idea to be in the loop with the Council. The Council agreed it would be timely to get together, both entities have projects and we could coordinate information. Leppanen will ask to be on their next agenda and suggest a work session. Fort Lewis college is working on class projects to test water and our water issues and Sosa reminded we have had good experiences with other college projects. Powell said the Water Board has done a lot of testing. Sayers and Sosa enjoyed spending time with the senators. They had been political and social activists before they were elected and were interested in supporting rural communities.

**12. Other**

Sosa reminded the Council about the Rights of Nature event is April 22, at 6:00 p.m. It includes a short TED talk and a question and answer period. Leppanen and Malysa Egge have been working with the group. Sosa will send an email invitation tomorrow.

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

Sayers suggested it was not necessary at this time and the Council members agreed.

At 7:05 p.m. Sayers motioned to 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](mailto:linda@townofbluff.org)