

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2022

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 6:06 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 February 15, 2022

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Work Session Minutes of February 18, 2022

Murray motioned to approve with a modification, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, and Murray voted in favor, Sayers abstained.

Public Comment

Father Joe Hubbard shared a Tiny Houses Project that is progressing at St. Christopher's Mission to supply temporary housing needs for the unhoused, unsheltered, and some seasonal workers. He pointed out the Town has partnered with the Mission in the Gardening Project and AmeriCorps Grant and he is hoping the Town will help with this project. Volunteer help will be needed to build seven tiny houses; arched frames for the houses will come from Texas. He is in need of a gooseneck trailer to haul them here. Leppanen thanked him for his informative presentation and said we will add it to a work session.

Unfinished Business

1. Summary of February 22, 2022 Meeting with Erin Richards; Discussion and Vote on (Leppanen/Richards)

Richards has made several changes to the original draft, adding a wellness option, paid holidays, and a salary from \$40,000 to \$50,000. Sayers felt it was comprehensive. There was discussion about the salary range but it can be revisited if needed and the benefits make it more attractive. Murray motioned to approve as presented, Sayers seconded, and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Sayers, and Murray voted in favor. Leppanen and Richards will work on where to post it. Hook felt it would also be helpful to hire someone to run the broadcasting system.

2. Report on Meeting of CCC Design Review Team on February 22, 2022 (Sayers/Murray); Report on Fire Suppression System (Murray); and Description of Policy for Billing Utah Dine Bikeyah (Sosa)

Sayers reported the Team talked about the playground equipment, UDB is open to keeping the equipment, and a four-phase plan that starts with getting a fire suppression system.

Sayers will write the four-phase system and get it to the Council. Murray has a list of companies and estimate costs for a fire suppression system and will work on getting an estimate. Murray motioned to approve the Policy for Billing UDB as presented, Leppanen seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Sayers, and Murray voted in favor.

15. Report on Status of Playground Inspection (Burak) (Moved)

Sarah Burak reported the playground inspector has been down twice and submitted a detailed report that the committee has started to review. They will make recommendations and find prices, then she suggested a work session. The inspector gave them inspection and maintenance logs.

3. Report on Dark Skies Workshop on February 22, 2022 and Update on Tasks, Light Meter, Discussion with Sarah Burak on February 23, 2022 (All/Leppanen)

Murray reported that the sky was mostly "dark" and the workshop was helpful. Hook agreed the students did well and is planning on taking the light meter out to start taking readings. Leppanen expressed gratitude that a resident has donated another light meter, this one reads buildings instead of the sky. There is a check out sheet for anyone who wants to borrow it. Ask a Council member or Kathy Carson. Leppanen has set up a Thursday meeting with a Dark Skies consultant. She met with Kathleen Packish who created a spreadsheet based on what we need to accomplish to get to June 30th. This will be part of a work session. Friends of Cedar Mesa is allowing Burak to spend time helping the Town coordinate Dark Skies as needed.

4. Report on "GoWest" (Business Owners of Bluff)

Jen Davila thanked the Council for supplying the funds for the BOB group to attend and thought it went well. Leppanen remarked the town will benefit from this. Davila reported the expectation is the European trade will still be low this year but up 4%.

5. Update on Priority Telecommunications Application and Process (Hook)

This is pushed to the next meeting. Hook reported P&Z will discuss the hearing at tomorrow's meeting.

6. Update on "Class C" Road Work by San Juan County (Haviken)

Haviken reported the County will be doing crack/seal for several days starting tomorrow. He will attend a County Transportation Board meeting on the 7th and mentioned the importance of having an engineer help with a town plan.

7. Status of Equipment from NetForce (Hook/Sayers/Leppanen)

Leppanen has gotten no return calls about several problems. Hook has been spending time working with the equipment, especially a camera that is not working correctly. Sayers suggested using a different address for the log in.

New Business

8. Report on Meeting on February 17, 2022 with Adrienne Caesar and Molly Schmidt Regarding Participation on San Juan Housing Task Force (Leppanen)

Both Schmidt and Caesar have expressed interest in being part of this county-wide task force and other volunteers are welcome.

9. Report on EPA Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) Grant Proposal Interview about Non-motorized Trail, Safe Sidewalks (Hook)

The focus of this was walking and biking through town. Many stakeholders were involved and it was agreed it went well.

10. Report on Bluff Water Works Meeting on February 16, 2022 (Leppanen/Sosa)

Systems are working well.

11. Consideration of Request by Utah Division of Water Rights for Public Meeting in the Bluff Community Center on March 31, 2022 (All)

Marx Powell explained these statewide meetings look at local water usage and the State is considering reappropriation of excess water. Murray motioned to waive the rent, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers and Sosa voted in favor.

12. Report on Meeting on February 16, 2022 with Josh Haidenthaller from Larson et al (Leppanen/Sosa)

Deferred until next week.

13. Discuss Waiver Form for Skating Exercise Class (All)

Chris McAnany has not gotten back to Leppanen yet.

14. Discuss and Set Work Session (All)

Thursday the 10th, time to be decided.

15. Report on Status of Playground Inspection (Burak)

Already covered.

16. Report on Workers' Compensation Application Update (Leppanen)

Leppanen finished and submitted this. The State is reviewing and aligning policy and is asking towns for paperwork previously submitted to be updated and resubmitted

17. Other

None

Sayers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m., Brant seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray, 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 will be able to connect and participate electronically.

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