

Bluff Town Council Work Session Minutes

March 10, 2022

Bluff Community Center at 10:15 a.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 10: 23 a.m.

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

1. Proposal for San Juan County to Have a Fire Station Built in the Northern Part of the County with Community Impact Funds and Possible San Juan County Residential Property Tax Increase

(15-minute Conversation with Commissioner Mary McGann)

Mary McGann is a Grand County Commissioner. She is getting the word out about a CIB proposal San Juan County has listed for a new, several million-dollar fire station to be build in the northern part of the county, the Spanish Valley area. McGann explained fire districts receive funds by leveeing property tax on those in the area that is served. Fire departments are run through the county and everyone living in the county pays in their property tax. The Moab Valley Fire District expanded their area to cover Spanish Valley and SJC has paid them \$40,000 a year. McGann felt this has worked well because of limited volunteers and grants in this rural area. T.J. Brewer, fire chief of the MVFD, approached Mack McDonald with the idea continuing the arrangement and removing the fire station from the CIB list as it would lead to a large increase in property tax for all SJC residents. McDonald was not interested. The Grand County Commissioners have also reached out. McGann suggested writing letters, attending the SJC Commission meeting, talking to our Commissioners and educating people. This topic was not on a regular Commission meeting but on the yearly budget meeting. Leppanen will put this on our next agenda and discuss it with McDonald. The Council thanked McGann for making the trip to Bluff to inform us.

2. Share information Received from John Barentine, Dark Sky Consultant; Review and Discuss Dark Sky Flow Chart and Strategic Planning

Leppanen explained Barentine is a full range Dark Sky consultant who can help us with anything we need to obtain this status for the town. Leppanen, Murray, Diana Davidson, Jen Davila and Wes Shook joined in a virtual informational meeting with him to understand how to move forward. This can be a several year process but Bluff is all ready working in several important areas. Our ordinance is already in place. We have the already mentioned committee that may include Sarah Burak and Adrienne Caesar. Hook has taken sky glow readings from the outskirts of town to business parking lots.

All of the 14 reading were 21+ except the School parking lot which was low at 17. FCM has hosted a Dark Skies activity and is interested in partnering, especially with the education component. To facilitate the next steps and fine tune the ordinance Kathleen Pakish created a task and timeline spreadsheet. Leppanen encouraged Council members to decide which tasks they wanted to take on and it will be discussed at the regular meeting on the 15th. Hook expresses a conflict of interest but had concerns about the June 30th deadline for businesses. Leppanen, Murray, and Sosa felt it was important to stay with June 30th and get as much done as possible. Leppanen pointed out the importance of getting the application in the queue before requirements change. Diana Davidson asked to be added to the next meeting agenda and noted a motion detector light bulb, available on Amazon, could be a very doable fix for some residents. She also encouraged easy to understand educational materials for residents.

3. Review and Discuss Planning and Zoning's Proposed Changes to Bluff's Ordinances

Since P&Z has not had their final vote on this draft #3 will be moved to a future meeting.

4. Review and Discuss Draft Policy for Rights-of-Ways, Alleys

The Council felt this policy is a general road map that will be used address specific requests and issues as they come up. It will be discussed and voted on at the March 15th meeting.

5. Review and Discuss Planning and Zoning's Proposed Animal Ordinance

P&Z is not finished editing this, especially in regard to kennels. Discussion included zoning, barking, dangerous dogs, costs and steps of enforcement. Leppanen and Sosa felt this needed more time to look into policy details, enforceability and definitions.

6. Discussion of Details for Town Manager Posting

This centered around the wellness policy, what could be included, and what stipend was realistic. Sayers suggested \$200 to \$250 a month. Sosa preferred getting monthly receipts. Leppanen will work with Erin Richards on this.

Other

Hook announced NetForce would be at the Community Center Wednesday the 16th at 10:00 for training. She asked for a training work session on the broadcasting system Monday the 14th at 11:00.

Sayers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 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 was able to connect and participate electronically.

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