

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

April 5, 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 6:08 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 15, 2022

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Work Session Minutes of March 22, 2022

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

Public Comment: None

Unfinished Business

1. Update on Priority Telecommunications Application (Hook)

Hook said the GETS cards for the application should be here any day.

2. Report on CCC Design Review Team Meeting on April 5, 2022 and Utah Dine Bikeyah's Celebration of the Bears Ears (Sayers/Murray)

Sayers announced a grant of \$100,000 was received by UDB earmarked for the fire suppression system. He reported the team discussed getting a project manager eventually for that project and others, Murray pointed out the cost of a project manager can be part of a grant. Murray is going to get estimates for the project and Sayers thought \$100,000 could cover half of it. The grant is from NDN, a collective out of South Dakota. A second \$100,000 is released the second year and UDB will use it for their projects. Sayers is planning to be present at the Celebration. The playground needs to be roped off. He will give tours of the CCC. David Conine is pursuing other grants.

3. Update on Dark Sky Committee meeting on March 24, 2022, Tasks, and Proposal by Consultant (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported the committee discussed consultant Dr. Barentine's scope of services and fee schedule. There is \$20,000 in the budget and we can choose what we would like to hire him to do. Sarah Burak pointed out she is already doing work on the education piece. Murray has blacked out some of the CCC lighting and explained changing out lighting will be part of the remodel cost. Leppanen met with Superintendent Nielson about dimming the school lights and Hook had noticed a positive difference in the school lighting. Hook mentioned a space station viewing as a Dark Skies activity.

4. Discussion and Vote on Hiring a Technician for the Audio-Visual Set-up (All)

Sayers motioned to hire Krieg Benally at \$25 an hour and increments to work the audio-visual equipment for the Council and Planning & Zoning, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor. Sosa suggested writing a contract labor type contract and reminded payment is once a month. Sayers will work out the details.

5. Update on Bluff's Fuel Reduction Progress (Leppanen)

Leppanen checked with Duncan Fuchise on the status of the Fuel Reduction funding. He let her know the legislature had funded \$1,000,000 and we can probably qualify for some funds.

6. State of Art Irrigation System at West Park; Removal of Two Dead Trees and Fire Pit (All)

Leppanen reported Paul Martini designed the new system and he and Dudley Beck installed the equipment. Steve Helgerson loaned them his trencher and Carol Shook helped. Two trees need to be cut and Fire Chief Anthony Lott suggested removing the fire pit. It could also be filled in. It was decided that more information is needed.

New Business

7. Discussion and Vote on Administrative Action to Execute the Deed for the Transfer of Alleys with Easements to the then-owners, W. Dale Walker (125 N 5th West Street, Bluff) and David Bond and Patricia Cook Bond (127 N 6th West Street, Bluff)

Sayers motioned to table while waiting for more information, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

8. Discussion of Date for Bluff Town Council Work Session for Review of Lighting Ordinance and Edits to Zoning Ordinance (All)

Leppanen explained that P&Z has passed three ordinances to the Council. The animal ordinance needs more time to clarify some questions and procedures and focus is needed on the lighting ordinance. The alleys and easements ordinance was passed by the Council. Because some members will be out of town, work is needed on the lighting ordinance, and budget work is starting Murray motioned to cancel the April 12th meeting, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor. The Work Session will be Thursday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m.

9. Update on Community Development Block Grant; Required Attendance at Workshop in Salt Lake City and Conflict with Utah Rural Leadership Academy on April 26, 2022 (All); Discussion and Vote on Date for CDBG 2nd Public Hearing (Leppanen)

Sayers will attend the CDBG meeting allowing Leppanen to attend the Leadership Academy. The second CDBG public hearing is May 17th at 5:30 p.m.

10. Discussion of Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget; Discussion and Vote on Date for Tentative Budget Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2023; Discussion and Vote on Date for Public Hearing for Adopted 2023 Adopted Budget and Set Property Tax Rate

The 2023 tentative budget public hearing is May 17th at 5:00 p.m. Leppanen announced she may have an accountant on board.

11. Review of, and Vote on, Letter to School Institutional Trust Lands Administration on "Expanded operations at gravel pit on Bluff Bench and potential Bears Ears land exchange" (All)

Leppanen sent a draft letter to Council members to review about the proposed trade out, expansion of the Bluff Bench gravel pit and its impact on the town, and lack of a required impact plan. Murray motioned to send the letter, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

12. Status of Regional Mayoral Meeting on March 25, 2022 (Leppanen)

Leppanen attended the first quarterly meeting with mayors of Blanding, Monticello, and Moab to discuss common concerns. The Castle Valley will be included at the next meeting. Sayers suggested blowing trash at the land fill as a concern.

13. First Amendment Audits Presentation by Utah Local Government Trusts on March 21, 2022; Discussion and Vote on Safety Signs that read "Authorized Employees Only" (Ordered on March 21, 2022) (Leppanen)

Leppanen explained citizens have been going into Council offices across the State and filming at will, which is legal. To protect and secure areas these signs limit access to those offices. The signs are for the archive room and Council Clerk's office. Murray motioned to post the signs, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

14. Discussion on a Round Table Discussion a SE Utah Career Expo on Utah State University, Blanding Campus on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm (All)

Leppanen is not able to attend this and Sosa volunteered to attend.

15. Report on Division of Water Quality Public Hearing on March 30, 2022 (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported this meeting focused on Utah Navajo Nation water rights. The Navajo Nation has a large budget for this and town and city water rights will come under scrutiny in the future. As in, who holds water rights, what is the usage, etc. The State is eyeing unused water rights.

16. Report on LEPC meeting on March 23, 2022 (Leppanen)

Leppanen reported this was an interesting law enforcement meeting that touched on local emergency planning.

17. Report on Meeting with the Fort on March 28, 2022 (Leppanen)

The Fort and Council are collaborating on an April 16th Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Fort at 8:30 a.m.

18. Report on CIB meeting on March 29, 2022 (Sayers)

Sayers explained the town has three items on the CIB list: the CCC, repair of the Historic District road, and secondary water. Hook would like to have bike and walking paths added to the list and Sayers explained it could be added at the next cycle. The Council favored the CCC as a priority. Sayers mentioned the CIB likes big projects and a large road project is possible through them.

19. Liaison from Bluff with the Community Garden (Leppanen)

The Council is grateful Eirene Hamilton has agreed to be liaison. She has many ideas and Hook suggested local composting. There is still a job opening for garden Coordinator.

20. Report on March 24, 2022 Planning & Zoning Meeting (Hook)

Hook reported these meetings are also on You Tube. Current work includes finishing zone edits, setbacks, and waiting for input from Chris McAnany about duplexes.

21. Report of March 21, 2022 County Economic Development Meeting (Sosa)

Sosa reported they are planning an entrepreneurial Shark Tank in October where people present ideas for products and the winner receives seed money. \$5,000 left over from businesses grants was split between three tour operators. We approved a contract with Wayfinding to create standardized signage throughout the county. In Vernal, for example, signs for tourism have dinosaurs.

22. Summary of Telephone Call with Clayton Holt on March 16, 2022 (Leppanen)

Leppanen contacted Clayton Holt about the status of a local clinic. There is no hard plan it is just an idea at this time.

23. Other- Departures of Michael Bryant from SEUALG and Amber Johnson from the BLM

Leppanen expressed best wishes and gratitude for their support of our town.

Sayers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m., Murray 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