

Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

June 7, 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 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray; Jim Sayers
Town Manager Erin Richards

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2022

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

Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2022

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

Public Comments - None

Unfinished Business

11. (Moved) Update on Work on May 23, 2022 with Canyon Country Discovery Center (Dave Bastian), Community Grant and Possible Projects, Including Bar Well and Giant Cane (Bastian/Hook)

Dave Bastian explained he has worked on youth resource projects with 18 to 25-year-olds and AmeriCorps for several years with great success. He is part of the Discovery Center sustainability program directed at helping youth and the community. He proposed a partnership with the Town as part of a \$10,000 Forever Our Rivers Grant. A youth group would work for two-weeks on various projects including eradicating Giant Cane, a project that was started last year. It is state funded and accepts in-kind-work as a match. The Council was very favorable to the idea. Hook and Sayers offered to assist in editing the grant. Links for the invasive nature of Giant Cane are on the town website.

16. (Moved) Friends of Cedar Mesa's Request for Use of Bluff Community Center on September 23, 24, and 25, 2022 (Leppanen)

Vaughn Hadenfeldt explained FCM would like to hold its annual Celebrate gathering at the Community Center in September and questioned whether the cap of 75 participants would still be enforce. After discussion Murray motioned to allow FCM to hold the event for up to 300 people, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers

voted in favor. Hadenfeldt said the group would be vaccinated and masked. After discussing when to drop the 75 cap and Hook suggested waiting until someone with a group larger than 75 wants to rent the CC.

1. Review of Amended 2022 and Tentative 2023 Budgets and Discussion and Vote on Resolutions (Leppanen/Sosa)

There was no change in the Amended 2022 Budget. Sayers motioned to approve, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor. Leppanen explained she asked our accountant to include \$10,000 under Admin Misc. to cover funds that the CCC will need for things like utilities. Sayers motioned to approve the Tentative 2023 Budget, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

2. Discussion and Vote on Resolution for 2023 Certified Tax Rate (Leppanen)

Leppanen explained this is set by San Juan County and we have not yet received it. She talked to Chris McAnany about how to proceed and he explained we can approve the budgets because we are not changing the property tax rate and vote on it at next week's meeting. This allows her to get the budgets to our accountant who will post them on the State website.

3. Review of State of Utah's Fire Restrictions and Discussion and Vote on Resolution for the Town of Bluff Fire Restrictions (All)

Leppanen explained the BLM, NPS, and unincorporated areas in the county went to Stage 2 fire restriction June 2nd. Included are no open flame, charcoal grills, fireworks, welding and grinding in areas of dry vegetation, and smoking outside. After discussion that included Fire Chief Lott, Murray motioned to adopt Stage 2, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

4. Update on CCC Design Review Team (Sayers/Murray) Fire Suppression System Quote (Sayers)

Sayers described today's meeting and discussion about a shared checking account, check signatures, and the NDN grant. Richards and Leppanen pointed out there could be separate accounts for each entity for things like utilities and one joint account for renovations. Chris McAnany will draft a policy for a joint account resolution and choice of a bank, Sayers is also working on it. McAnany will talk to Woody Lee. Sayers explained there are no grant updates and no funds have been disbursed. Leppanen noted the grant approval letter which says NDN approved the grant. Sosa noted the first year of the grant disburses \$100,000 but the grant lists many different accounts, such as wages and travel and it is not clear how much would go to the fire suppression system. Sayers said about \$50,000 was allotted. Sayers has been talking with Cooper Fire and two different possibilities for the fire suppression system, one above the ceiling and one below. He is getting estimates. Leppanen updated the recycling committee is moving forward with Steve Helgerson looking into the costs of containers. The playground committee did get an inspection report. Weed control is continuing. Today's DTC meeting included Sayers, Murray, Richards, Dave Conine, and Heather Atene, who resigned from her job as bookkeeper and will leave at the end of the month.

5. Update on Dr. John Barentine and Review, Analysis, and Recommendations on the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and Discussion (All)

This will be discussed at tomorrow's work session.

6. Update and Discussion of Issues Related to Roads and Signs, Review of Date for Inspection of Signs, Maintenance (Leppanen)

Helgeson replaced a sign that been knocked down along 191 and informed UDOT. Currant road issues include a culvert drainage problem that includes several property owners and UDOT and access questions, Leppanen recommended a July work session. Leppanen talked with Marcia Hadenfeldt about the P&Z and land use outlook on these issues. Hook mentioned a dust problem on some roads and possible signage at bridges over storm water channels. Hook is planning to do the yearly required sign inspection next week.

7. Update and Discussion on Pass Through Grant to the Food Pantry; Recommendation by Town Attorney (Leppanen)

Leppanen sought more information on how this grant should work in terms of reporting accountability and transparency from Mack McDonald. The funding is from the CDC and comes from the federal government to state and then county. Sosa would set up the revenue and expense accounts and collect all receipts. This covers equipment and supplies, not food. It is moving forward and will require written policy.

8. Update on Status of WEPS (Hook) and status of bike rack (Murray)

Hook is collecting account and cell information. Murray and Sosa sent the Council information about the previously voted on bike rack and will order it. Murray has concrete for it.

9. Discussion and Vote on Virtual vs. In-Person Bluff Town Council Meetings (All)

In July we hope to try an in-person meeting with our audio/visual system. The Town Manager will schedule Krieg Benally, the tech, and let the public know about location changes.

10. Update on Status of Community Development Block Grant and Phone Conference with CDBG Staff (Leppanen)

After a huge amount of work Leppanen and Richards were happy to get all paperwork including the Environmental Review submitted and given initial approval.

11. Update on Work on May 23, 2022 with Canyon Country Discovery Center (Dave Bastian), Community Grant and Possible Projects, Including Bar Well and Giant Cane (Bastian/Hook)

Covered earlier.

12. Fixed typographical error in Amended Zoning Ordinance, 6.01.70A and removed "kennels" as a permissible use (Leppanen)

Leppanen noted the correction.

13. Update on Proposed Solar Farm on the Bluff Bench: Meeting with Jeff Coombs of AES on May 23, 2022 and Meeting with School Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) on May 27, 2022

Josh Ewing joined Leppanen on the walk through with Jeff Coombs at the proposed site. The main question covered was whether the site could be moved to the other side of the highway. It would look better away from the town entrance but it would be more costly for the company and it may open the bidding process. Public comments may be sent to:

communityinquiries@aef.com

Murray informed the Council he had just sent a letter in favor of moving it to the editorial page of the SL Trib.

14. Report on Projects by Town Manager: Update on Policy for Audio Visual Technician and Status of Audio/Visual Equipment, Other (Richards)

Richards has been watching training videos on the Utah League of Cities and Town website. She sent the AV tech job description to Council members. She will be in charge of letting the tech know what is needed and when. In addition to working with Leppanen on the CDBG paperwork she is getting quotes for IT services.

15. Discussion of Possible Violations in Town Related to "Temporary Flags/Signs," Zoning Ordinance 6.01.140

There have been questions from the public about temporary signs, especially those designed to move with the breeze. The time limit for these signs is 20 days. Sayers motioned for Leppanen to talk to McAnany about how to handle it and have him draft a letter, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

New Business

16. Friends of Cedar Mesa's Request for Use of Bluff Community Center on September 23, 24, and 25, 2022 (Leppanen)

Covered earlier.

17. Report on UDOT Regional Meeting in Moab on May 25, 2022

Hook explained the purpose of this meeting is input for the 30-year plan from regional directors and towns. Richards and Michael Haviken also attended. The meeting included all modes of mobility, car, bike, walking, etc. Creating an Active Transportation Plan is necessary for us to receive funding for our walking and biking plans. Sayers noted our General Plan has a transportation component. This will be part of a work session.

18. Discussion of Staffing the Bluff Town Council Offices for June Primary Elections and Early Voting (Leppanen)

By federal mandate we are required to have elected officials staff a secure room that houses a ballot box most of June. Voting hours are posted. This week is covered and staffing will be discussed at tomorrow's work session.

19. Update on West Park Irrigation System (Sosa)

The Council is grateful for the work Paul Martini and Dudley Beck have put into the installation. Martini has ordered a remote control that will allow the three valves to be turned on and off from his house just in time for the summer heat. He is working to make sure everything is in sync. We are monitoring the water usage on our bill.

20. Other

June 16th from 6 p.m. in Monticello – SITLA land exchange meeting

June 22nd from 6 p.m. in Blanding – SITLA land exchange meeting

Sayers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m., Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sosa, Sayers and Murray 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