

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 11, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. In attendance Councilors Austin, Hunter, Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark. Councilor Gold was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Register of Demands for January 2017.
2. Pursuant to state statute designate the Town Hall Bulletin Board as the official posting place.
3. Renewal of liquor store liquor license for San Juan Liquors.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Hunter to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. Request to initiate an Adopt-A-Road Program within Town limits

Tom Heffernan addressed the Council regarding the statewide Adopt-A-Road Program, explaining he is currently involved with three programs in the area, noting it is a "highly successful program" and "it gets the public involved and saves the city money." He asked the Council to consider establishing the program, allowing individuals, businesses or organizations to adopt a street in Town, and become responsible to keep it litter free.

Town Manager Coates reported the Parks Committee has been discussing the Adopt-A-Park Program, and suggested they may be able to be combined.

There was discussion by the Council. Consensus was to forward the request to the Parks Committee to explore the concept alongside the Adopt-A-Park Program.

POLICY MATTERS

5. Continued discussion concerning bear proof trash receptacles for residences and businesses

Chris Trospher with Bruin Waste Management, the Town's refuse and recycling service provider, addressed the Council in follow up to discussion at the previous meeting.

He answered questions, and had discussion with the Council and members of the audience regarding the available types of bear proof trash receptacles, and costs to supply or purchase. Mr. Trospher noted the outlay for the company to purchase the containers would be a \$120,000 outlay, and to provide the service, the contract with the Town would need to be extended.

There was discussion between members of the audience and Council. The Town Manager suggested waiting until expiration of the contract to allow public outreach and receive comments.

It was agreed staff should research fees, and also determine if a smaller size residential receptacle is available.

6. Review of draft revision of the Dog Brochure

The Town Manager reported in follow up to the prior meeting staff has revised the Dog Brochure originally designed in 2009. She noted items included were based on discussion and direction at the last meeting, and pertain to mandatory leash law Town wide; leash optional areas with dogs under voice command at the Athletic Park at times of events are not being held, Cottonwood Park, the dog swim area along the river and Green Street Park; requirement to carry a leash and doggie bag at all times; reinstating licensing requirements; enforcement, outreach and education through dog bag stations throughout Town, flyers, signs, and outreach events. She explained owners with dogs off leash would receive a warning for the first contact, and a citation at the second; attacks would be cited; maximum number of dogs per household would be four and would be cited to Town Hall, with first citation at \$150; fee structure for Municipal Court citations would be \$50 first offense, \$100 second and \$300 third.

There were comments by the Council and it was agreed to include prohibiting dog breeding.

The Town Attorney noted if Council agrees with the draft brochure, items contained within the document could be used as a template for drafting a revised ordinance.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Krista Stewart questioned licensing provisions.

Dan Rider addressed licensing as an incentive to spay or neuter pets, and licensed animals running loose can be reunited with owners. He supported requiring "visiting dogs" to display a rabies tag; and defining residents as part time or permanent. He suggested a Town wide survey regarding the Town wide leash law requirement.

Pat Willits stated "a special relationship comes with dog and owner relationship when the dog learns to be social off a leash." He noted the Town of Telluride does not have a mandatory leash law and he feels public education should be addressed, not mandatory regulations. He supported zones for both on and off leash, and summarized "the problem is with free ranging dogs, not dogs off leash."

Jill Kneeland stated she and her dog "have been attacked four times at the soccer field" (Athletic Park). She opposed the area being designated for off leash use noting "it's an area for kids." She continued there have been "numerous attacks in the field from dogs off leash," "my dog almost got killed" by one. She asked "is this what we want, we can't walk our dog on a leash without being attacked?" She stated "I have dogs aggressive toward me at least once every time I walk my dog" and "I've talked to a lot of people who agree with me." She also expressed concerns that "the entire Town has high wildlife traffic."

There were comments from the Council.

Kenny Mihelich noted "it's a public safety issue and the safety of everyone needs to win out."

Ruth Stewart supported the proposed brochure and said it is “a good balance of on and off leash areas.” She supported the new language dogs must be leashed unless in the designated areas.

Jeanne Casolari expressed concerns with deer throughout Town being chased by “dogs running loose.”

Amy Jacobsen supported focusing on educating dog owners.

There was discussion among the Council about an educational outreach program. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson suggested moving forward with preparing an ordinance based on the draft document.

#### SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Dan Rider asked changes be implemented incrementally, such as issue verbal warnings for six months and then implement issuing citations. He suggested receiving more public input before finalizing the document, ask for comments and allow emails or letters with opinions to be left at Town Hall.

Gordon Reichard suggested comparing regulations to “other small towns.”

Members of the audience suggested forming an informal ad-hoc community committee to prepare suggestions which can be presented at the next meeting.

The Council agreed to allow the group to submit a written public comment at the next meeting.

The Council took a recess at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

#### 7. Memorandum of Understanding for access to Railroad Street from 321 Sherman Street

The Town Attorney presented a Memorandum of Understanding with Railroad Depot Funding LLC for access off of Railroad Street to the property at 321 Sherman Street. The agreement allows for a maximum 25 foot wide driveway access.

#### ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Hunter, with a second by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson to approve the MOU between the Town and Railroad Depot Funding LLC. On a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. Update on the Space to Create Project

Community Initiatives Facilitator Diedra Silbert presented an update on the launch event for the Space to Create survey. She explained the survey will determine needs and desires of the community and become a tool for preparation of the final needs assessment and feasibility report from ArtSpace.

#### 9. Discussion pertaining to development of a Social Media Policy

The Community Initiatives Facilitator explained the Town does not have a policy pertaining to social media. She noted social media is a useful tool for program development, and staff is

suggesting development of a policy, which would be based upon existing policies used by other municipalities.

The Council agreed with development of a policy.

10. Update on the Main Street Program and 2017 participation

Community Initiatives Facilitator Silbert presented the 2016 accomplishments of the Main Street Program which included receipt of a half million dollar grant for site furnishings for the RAMP Project; two grants to assist with the Space to Create study and property option purchase; and a grant for technical assistance funds to prepare a property and marketing analysis. She recommended entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Local Affairs to participate in 2017.

ACTION:

Councilmember Austin moved to approve the MOU for participation in the Main Street Program. Councilor Hunter seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Application for Department of Local Affairs grant funds for property acquisition for the Space to Create Project

Town Manager Coates recommended submittal of an application for Department of Local Affairs Energy Impact Assistance Funds in the amount of \$125,000 for half the purchase price of the property for the Space to Create Project. She noted the application deadline is in February.

ACTION:

Councilmember Hunter moved to approve staff submitting an application to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for Energy Impact Assistance Funds for land purchase for the Space to Create Project. It was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Application to the Department of Local Affairs for grant funds for a facilities and capital assessment of municipal utilities and operations

The Town Manager recommended submittal of an application to the Department of Local Affairs for a Planning Grant for an assessment of municipal utilities and operations including utilities, water rights, future investment costs, and space needs. She noted the Town's match to the \$25,000 grant to hire a firm to prepare the assessment and report, would be the Town Engineer's time.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilor Hunter and unanimously carried to approve staff's request to apply for DOLA Energy Impact Assistance Planning grant funds for a facilities assessment.

13. Discussion regarding House Bill 1309

Town Attorney Nerlin reported the passage of House Bill 1309 has been interpretation that any defendant charged with a crime in which incarceration is a potential if found guilty, must be provided counsel. He recommended the Council consider removing from the Code the

possibility of jail time if found guilty of a municipal offense. He suggested preparing an ordinance changing regulations to be presented at the March meeting. The Council agreed.

14. Ratification of the 2017 Strategic Plan

The Town Manager presented the 2017 Strategic Plan explaining the document outlines, based on the Town's mission, vision and goals, all planned priorities and projects for staff, noting the items may not directly incur budgeted funds.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Hunter and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson to approve ratification of the 2017 Strategic Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Reappointment of Councilor Hunter to the Ouray County Weed Board

Manager Coates reported the County requires annual reappointment to the Weed Board, and Councilmember Hunter has agreed to continue serving on the Board.

ACTION:

Councilor Austin moved to reappoint Ellen Hunter to the Ouray County Weed Board. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

16. Request from Mountain Pact to support the Outdoor Recreation Economy and Accountability Study

Mayor Clark presented a request from Mountain Pact to participate in supporting the Outdoor Recreation Economy and Accountability Study, a national issue affecting mountain communities.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, and seconded by Councilmember Hunter to approve letters to Ridgway's national representatives using the Mountain Pact suggested letters. The motion unanimously carried.

17. Purchase of server for the Marshals Department

Manager Coates reported new State regulations require law enforcement agencies to electronically submit crime reports to the District Attorney's Office, through the E-Discovery Program. The Marshals Department's current server is unable to upload the required photos, requiring purchase of a new server, to allow compliance with the state regulation. She noted the purchase is not budgeted, yet the amount can be absorbed by the budget.

The consensus of the Council was to purchase a new server for the Marshals Department to come into compliance with the state regulations.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager reported department heads are preparing a performance evaluation policy and forms, and wishes to present them to the Council during a work session prior to the February meeting.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Austin presented an update on the Ouray County Housing Authority.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney requested an executive session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402 (4) (b) and (e) for the purpose of receiving legal advice and to discuss matters subject to negotiations.

### ACTION:

Councilor Hunter moved to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and carried unanimously.

The Council entered into closed session at 9:00 p.m. with the Town Attorney and Town Manager.

The Council reconvened back into open session at 9:35 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk