

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 8, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Austin, Gold, Hunter, Williams, Young, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2017.
2. Minutes of Joint Workshop on February 15, 2017.
3. Register of Demands for March 2017.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Laura Hagert addressed the Council pertaining to her commercial property on Clinton Street which is located within the RAMP Project. She explained “the streets are very hazardous for two way traffic and “I think we need to make the streets one way” “with no right turn unto Charles from N. Lena”. She also noted the parking lot adjacent to her commercial building is being used by persons other than customers to those businesses. The parking area is noticed that vehicles will be towed, and she informed the Council she will begin having illegally parked vehicles towed.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. Request for monetary contribution to provide electronic recycling in conjunction with the Town’s Annual Clean Up Day

Cory Schmidt representing Alpine Bank, explained the bank held an electronic recycling event in 2015 in partnership with Town, and would like to hold another on April 22nd in conjunction with the Town’s clean up day. She noted there is a fee for recycling and the bank will be providing a \$10 credit for each person or business. She requested Town contribution for half of the cost to provide the recycling truck and labor, which would be \$500. The Town Clerk noted the annual clean up day is scheduled to be conducted this year in the parking lot at the Athletic Park.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to appropriate \$500 towards the E-Waste Recycling Event. Councilor Gold seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS

5. Discussion pertaining to dogs off-leash, mandatory leash areas, licensing, enforcement, outreach and matters related to dogs within the Town limits, including an update from a local citizens group on efforts to find common ground

Letters from Antonio Marra in support of mandatory leash laws dated 1-15-17 and Krista Stewart dated 1-16-17; letters in support from Jill Craig, Jill Mihelich, Jeanne Casolari, Alice Billings, BA Blake, Denise Genreau, Kenny Mihelich, Priscilla Peters; letter from Vicki Hawse expressing concerns with loose dogs chasing wildlife; letter from Pat Willits dated 2-1-17 not in support of changing the current regulations.

Manager Coates explained at the previous meeting a citizens group formed to discuss proposed areas for mandatory and voice control throughout Town. She displayed three maps from the group depicting different scenarios for control areas.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Priscilla Peters suggested asking the Marshal's Department for input on expanding the mandatory leash areas.

Pat Willits explained the citizens group held a number of meetings and "we didn't move from where people's original positions were" "with a division between keeping the mandatory areas as they currently are, and the rest wanting mandatory throughout Town". He expressed his opinion which was to allow dogs off leash if they are visual to the owner, and in voice control distance, and require owners carry a leash and dog clean up bag.

Kenny Mihelich noted dog attacks which have occurred were from dogs off leash. He also noted the Town of Telluride has three full time Code Enforcement Officers, and "that's the reason they can have a looser" leash law.

Rodney Fitzhugh noted expanding mandatory leash areas will create "more enforcement issues". He stated he does not think this should be done "unless we have the enforcement".

Vicki Hawse explained she was the victim of a dog attack, noting "there are a hand full of problem dogs in Town" and supported more punitive fines for "violent dogs or dogs chasing wildlife".

Jill Michelich asked the Council to consider "safety and wildlife protection".

Krista Stewart spoke in support of extending the mandatory leash area, noted the need for education, and stated "ultimately it's about safety, to people, animals and wildlife".

There were comments from Council and discussion regarding the proposed areas and licensing. Consensus was to direct staff to incorporate into an ordinance a mandatory leash area encompassing Moffat to Otto and Amelia to Railroad Streets; reinstate a licensing program with a fee of \$20-25 and higher if the animal is not spayed or neutered; require all owners to carry a leash and dog clean up bag and that all dogs off leash be visual and within voice control contact; and ask for the Marshal's Department input on education and outreach.

6. Agreement with the Ridgway Chautauqua Society to obtain a special events liquor license for the Ridgway Concert Series

Mayor Clark and Councilor Austin stepped down due to conflicts of interest, and Mayor Pro Tem Johnson took the gavel.

The Town Manager presented an agreement with the Ridgway Chautauqua Society (RCS) for liquor sales at the Ridgway Concert Series in July. She noted the agreement approves a Revocable Special Events Permit for the purpose of running the alcohol tent concession. Exhibits to the permit define the RCS and Town responsibilities, noting the RCS is fully responsible for the sales and operation of alcohol sales at the concert series.

ACTION:

Councilmember Hunter moved to enter into a revocable permit with the Ridgway Chautauqua Society for the purpose of obtaining a special events liquor license for the Ridgway Concert Series. It was seconded by Councilor Gold and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Clark and Councilmember Austin returned to sit with the Council, and the Mayor received the gavel.

7. Discussion of the design and construction of the Highway 62 crosswalks for the RAMP Up Ridgway Project

The Town Manager explained the RAMP Project will be completed this summer, and will encompass highway construction. Intersections are slated to be laid with colored concrete to match those in the downtown core. She explained the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) expressed reservations with the interface of the concrete with the asphalt highway, and agreed to the installation only if a "sleeper slab" is placed to stabilize the concrete. This type of construction was a significant cost to the project.

Manager Coates reported the project is ahead of schedule and under budget. CDOT has stated the remainder of the project, which was originally removed due to cost constraints, may now be possible, especially if the crosswalk design is changed and the concrete eliminated. This would include completion of sidewalks and some street lights from Laura to Amelia Streets, along with highway overlay,

There was discussion by Council and some of the members of the original community design committee. The consensus was to eliminate the concrete crosswalks on the highway if CDOT commits to including placement of sidewalks on both sides of the highway and overlay of the street.

8. Introduction of an ordinance removing jail time for municipal offenses

Town Attorney Nerlin presented a draft ordinance, noting the topic was previously discussed with the Council. The passage of a House Bill in 2016 taking effect in May will require jurisdictions to provide attorney costs for persons charged with offenses in which serving jail time is involved. He explained the proposed ordinance, which Municipal Judge Jackson supports, will eliminate imprisonment for municipal offenses, though officers will still have the ability to fine and schedule court appearances.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilor Young, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and unanimously carried to introduce the ordinance to remove jail time for municipal offenses.

9. Services Agreement with the Colorado State Forest Service for the purpose of managing the Community Forestry Tree GIS database, facilitate tree education and be a resource for staff

Manager Coates presented an agreement with the Colorado State Forest Service to assist with maintaining the tree inventory GIS database. She noted the agency would also provide technical assistance to the Town's arborist, diagnose trees, assist with Parks Committee and urban forest management as needed and conduct two public workshops pertaining to pruning of trees, for an amount not to exceed \$1500.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to enter into a contract with the Colorado State Forest Service for managing the tree GIS database and facilitate tree education. Councilor Gold seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Ratification of Performance Review Policy

Manager Coates reported at a recent workshop staff and Council reviewed a draft performance review policy. The leadership team, she noted, has addressed and incorporated most of the meeting comments into the document, which has been presented to the Council.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Hunter and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson to ratify the Town of Ridgway Performance Review Policy. The motion unanimously carried.

11. Request from Conservation Colorado for letter of support encouraging legislators to support dedicated funding for multimodal transportation options in any transportation funding bill

The Mayor explained Brien Webster with Conservation Colorado contacted the Council via email to ask for support of a letter addressed to the State Legislator encouraging support of dedicated funding for multimodal transportation options in any transportation funding bill.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to sign the letter of support for funding for multimodal transportation options. Councilor Hunter seconded the motion, and on a call for the vote, the motion unanimously carried.

12. Request from Plaindealer newspaper to advertise in 90th Anniversary Ouray Pool Magazine

The Town Manager explained the Plaindealer newspaper has requested Town participation in the Ouray Hot Springs Pool 90th Anniversary magazine. The Mayor noted this is an unusual request, as the Town does not do advertising. There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed to commit to a quarter page ad if other entities will participate.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Hunter to place a quarter page ad in the Ouray Hot Spring Pool 90th Anniversary Magazine , seconded by Councilor Gold, the motion carried carried unanimously.

MANAGERS REPORT

The Town Manager reported construction on the RAMP Project will resume in mid April or the beginning of May. The first part of the project will be completion of the downtown core, and then move to the highway construction. The project is slated to be complete in 44 days, and may change if items are added.

The Town Manager presented some staff ideas for the idling vehicle project, requested by the Council at the previous meeting. She presented a summary plan for outreach, cost estimate to purchase outreach materials, and designs for a flyer.

There was discussion and the Council agreed to not purchase outreach matters, call the project Idle Free Ridgway, and begin the outreach project with flyers, posters and a banner.

Manager Coates noted registration for the annual CML conference will begin soon, and asked all members interested in attending to notify her.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Young reported on the Chamber of Commerce; Councilor Austin, on the Housing Advisory Committee and Councilmember Gold on the Sister Cities Initiative.

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:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilor Gold and unanimously carried to enter into closed session.

The Council entered into closed session at 8:35 p.m. with the Town Attorney and Town Manager.

The Council reconvened back into open session at 9:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. to a Workshop Meeting on March 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Ridgway Community Center, 201 N Railroad Street.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk