

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor Willits called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. in the Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. In attendance were Councillors Hebert, Hunter, Johnson, Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem Clark and Mayor Willits. Councillor Hynes was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2009.
2. Register of Demands for January 2010.
3. Pursuant to state statute, designate the Town Hall bulletin board as the official posting place.
4. Resolution Supporting the Agreement Between the Town of Ridgway and the Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund for the Ridgway Athletic Park, Phase II.

ACTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councillor Hebert to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Kevin O'Hara inquired regarding enforcement of dark skies regulations as they pertain to a neighboring home. Council explained the ordinance is difficult to enforce since homes built prior to 2007 have been "grandfathered in". Continuing violations are considered a nuisance, and are penalized in accordance with the municipal code.

There was discussion between the Council and Code Enforcement Officer Bill Behan who explained that he has contacted the offending property owner, and there has not been compliance. The Council directed the Code Enforcement Officer to issue a citation.

Kuno Vollenweider asked if the Town was still interested in constructing an outdoor ping-pong table in the Athletic Park. The Council asked Mr. Vollenweider to present a design of the proposal at the next meeting for further discussion.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation on proposed climbing wall at Ridgway School

Matt Hemp presented a letter dated January 13, 2010 requesting financial assistance for the Voyager Youth Program climbing wall, to be constructed at the Ridgway High School. A budget and design were also presented. He explained the wall has been designed for climbers of all abilities, and will be open to the public. He noted "out of pocket expenses" have been met, but \$5,000 is needed to hire a professional wall finisher, and requested a donation from the Town.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Clark to contribute \$3,000 towards finishing the climbing wall. Councillor Weaver seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. Presentation of Town 2008 annual financial audit

Town of Ridgway Financial Statements and Report of Independent Auditor dated, December 31, 2008 prepared by Blair and Associates, P.C.

Pete Blair, Certified Public Accountant, presented a financial overview of the 2008 audit. He stated Town assets, (which include capital assets), exceed liabilities by approximately \$7,000,000. The combined Governmental Funds were down approximately \$340,000 due to capital projects. Though sales tax revenues were down 4% from 2007, property, sales and other taxes accounted for 87% of the revenues. The year ended with approximately three months of cash reserves, which is currently average for municipalities. Revenues over expenses for Water and Sewer Funds experienced no gain or loss. A grant for the Sewer Fund increased long-term liabilities by approximately \$200,000. The overall funds experienced a net increase of approximately \$80,000 on a cash basis. Mr. Blair commended staff for good accounting practices, adding there are no audit recommendations.

7. Presentation of report regarding green building policy

Prescriptive Energy Code and Green Building Standard Program for Residential and Commercial Construction dated January 4, 2010 from the Building Inspector.

Building Inspector Bill Behan explained goals of the proposed code are to facilitate construction of efficient structures; encourage sustainable solutions; be pro-active with state and federal mandates; provide educational materials and resources; and offer incentives for energy conservation and green building opportunities for existing and new structures. He noted the recent community survey revealed 93% of respondents feel the Town should work with neighboring jurisdictions on sustainability issues, and 86% indicated they would take advantage of energy conservation programs or incentives, if they were reasonable and available.

Inspector Behan explained the Town has been operating under the state mandated 2006 International Energy Conservation Code. A committee comprised of local industry professionals, elected officials and staff met over several months and developed the proposed program. Their goal was to be sensitive to mandating any item that will significantly increase construction costs. Items that are mandated, will have a payback period of five years or less, he noted.

Town Planner Jen Coates stated the intent of the document is to provide a resource for the consumer in the areas of alternative energy, green building, rebates, tax credits, low-income options, and water conservation.

The Council agreed with the content of the document.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Adoption of Ordinance Amending Traffic Regulations and Adopting by Reference the 2003 Edition of the Model Traffic Code for Colorado

Town Attorney John Kappa noted the purposed ordinance will bring the Town in conformance with the state statute addressing traffic codes.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem John Clark to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-01 Amending Traffic Regulations and Adopting by Reference the 2003 Edition of the Model Traffic Code for Colorado. Councilmember Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS

9. Informal discussion regarding proposed sign code changes

The Council received three suggested changes to the current sign code from the Temporary Signage Task Force.

Planner Coates explained the proposed changes provide for portable or wheeled signs; addresses flyers, menus and signs in windows; and allows for increased area of unpermitted signs.

There was discussion between Council, staff and the Town Attorney regarding administering the proposed changes. The Council directed staff to prepare a draft ordinance for presentation at the next meeting.

10. Request for encroachment permit for encroaching garage at 415 Kismet Street, Lot 148, River Park Ridgway Business Park Planned Urban Development (PUD), Filing 1

Planner Coates explained in 2004 a building permit and certificate of occupancy were issued for the residence at 415 Kismet Street. An Improvement Location Certificate has identified the garage, which is on the western aspect of the property, is constructed in the utility easement and setback, and encroaches approximately two feet. The property owner is seeking an encroachment permit to encroach in the easement and set back, she reported.

ACTION:

Councillor Hebert moved, with Councillor Hunter seconding to approve the encroachment permit for encroaching garage at 415 Kismet Street, Lot 148, River Park Ridgway Business Park PUD, Filing 1. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Joanne Fagan presented a status report regarding activities of the Public Works Department.

Planner Coates reported the Ouray County Housing Authority will host a workshop on January 14 to review 2010 action plan items.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Willits announced he will be attending a job forum regarding small business development on January 15th in Denver.

Councillor Weaver reported the Economic Development Forum, a Chamber of Commerce sponsored event, is scheduled for February 3rd.

Councillor Weaver requested a donation to the Mount Sneffels Education Fund to host a team in the upcoming spelling bee.

ACTION:

Mayor ProTem Clark moved to approve a \$50 donation for the Ridgway/Ouray Spelling Bee. Councillor Hebert seconded the motion and it carried with Councillor Weaver abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. to a workshop meeting on January 20, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Christian
Deputy Clerk

Pam Kraft
Town Clerk