

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JULY 14, 2010

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. Members in attendance were Councillors Durnan, Hebert, Hunter, Mayor Pro Tem Clark and Mayor Willits. Councilmembers Johnson and Weaver were absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 9, 2010.
2. Minutes of Special Meeting of June 9, 2010.
3. Register of Demands for July 2010.
4. Renewal of restaurant liquor license for Chipeta Sun Lodge.
5. Renewal of tavern liquor license for CUPS.
6. Renewal of 3.2 beer liquor license for Ridgway Shell.
7. Renewal of 3.2 beer liquor license for Ridgway Conoco.
8. Renewal of liquor store license for Ridgway Liquors and Wines.
9. Renewal of liquor store license for High Spirits.
10. Request for water leak adjustment, Meter # 2320.1/Kornbluh.
11. Ratify appointments to Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region – Jen Coates member, Joanne Fagan alternate.
12. Renewal of beer and wine liquor license for Panny's.
13. Display banner in Heritage Park for Arts and Crafts Rendezvous on August 7th & 8th.
14. Use of sidewalk at 521 Clinton Street in front of Season's Harvest for annual customer appreciation day on August 5th.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and seconded by Councillor Durnan to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBIC COMMENTS

Chris Sanchez addressed the Council explaining he was the owner of Grand Mesa Growers LLC, and wishes to establish a medical marijuana care giver dispensary in Town. He inquired into lifting the Town moratorium to allow him the opportunity to apply for a license prior to state imposed regulations which will be effective at the end of the month.

The Town Attorney explained the Town does not have licensing regulations in place. Regulations and licensing will not be in effect until the state regulations are adopted, after which time the Town will have the ability to process applications.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

13. Presentation of potential solar energy project in Ouray County

Bryan Hammond introduced himself as the Project Manager for SunEdison out of Denver, Colorado. He explained San Miguel Power Association has contracted with the firm to construct a "solar farm" in the cooperatives territory, which encompasses Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties. After conducting a viability study Ouray County has been targeted as the potential site. The company is currently in the due diligence process to procure a parcel of land which will be located within two miles of the sub-station, which is required for utility tie-in of the photovoltaic's.

He presented background on the company which employees over 300 people worldwide, and to date has constructed twenty projects in Colorado, and two hundred through out the United States. He noted the proposed project would be "ground breaking for cooperative utilities" and the second largest in the state. A "multi-million dollar project", it would produce 2 mg. of electricity through the use of "door sized" solar panels "operating on a tracker system with east-west rotation". The plant will produce "clean, quiet energy", require no water to operate, will be completely fenced and there will be no lights at night.

He explained the company is working on permitting with the County and requested support from the Town in the permit process. The Council expressed support of the concept and being located within Ouray County.

14. Request for participation in Cub Scouts flag program

Danny Wesserling addressed the Council as the Cub Scout Leader for Ouray County. He explained for fund raising purposes, during seven holidays throughout the year, the organization places flags in front of local businesses. This year a member of the community has paid for flags to be placed at Heritage and Hartwell Parks. He requested permission to place six flags along Highway 62 in Hartwell Park, and four flags along Highway 550 in front of Heritage Park.

The Council consented.

15. Request to partner with Town for a grant from Colorado Tourism for regional advertising

Caitlin Switzer, Executive Director for the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce explained she is preparing a \$15,000 grant application to the Colorado Tourism Office for funds to produce visitor guides presenting the Town's history and art and recreational opportunities. The grant would be matched with funds raised through the Chamber and would provide for the printing of 35,000 guides. She noted the grants are given based on community partnerships, and asked if the Town would partner with the Chamber on the venture. There would be no cost to the Town, only a written endorsement would be needed she explained.

The Council directed staff to prepare a letter of support for the Mayor's signature.

POLICY MATTERS

16. Proposal to increase unit size of accessory dwelling units

Memo dated 7-9-10 from Councillor Hebert and Planner Coates presenting current regulations and incentives for accessory dwelling units, and requesting consideration of additional options and incentives.

Councillor Hebert explained due to lack of funding the Ouray County Housing Authority is unable to implement programs and has discussed policy items which can be implemented at no cost. Encouraging accessory dwelling units was one of these ideas and he noted, also received positive results in the recent community survey pertaining to updating the land use plan. He recommended the Council consider increasing the size of accessory dwelling units from 600 square feet to 800 square, which would allow for construction of two bedroom units.

There was discussion by the Council. It was agreed staff should prepare an ordinance to be introduced at the next meeting amending the regulations.

17. Discussion and project identification for Phase 4 of Colorado Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant funding

Staff Report dated 7-7-10 presenting background on the application for Phase 4 funding for Colorado Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant Funding which will be available July 2011 through June 2013. Options for use of the funding were presented for Council input.

Interim Manager Jen Coates explained the grant application for Phase 4 of Colorado Department of Transportation Enhancement Funds has been awarded in the amount of \$240,000. The project is scheduled for 2012 and would affect sidewalks and or crosswalks at Highway 62. The Department of Transportation will be conducting two projects on the highway, in 2013 increasing the bridge to three lanes, and widening the highway in 2016. These projects will affect the Town's original grant proposal, and the Department has asked the Town to re-evaluate the project. Staff met with transportation department representatives, she explained, and four viable options were agreed upon. They were identified as Option 1 – sidewalk along the east side of South Railroad Street, north side of Hyde and east side of Lena Streets, a cross walk at Cora and sidewalk links at Railroad and Cora Streets; Option 1a – includes the same items as Option 1 with the addition of a sidewalk on the north side of Hyde from the alley west of Lena to Cora Streets; Option 2 – starts at Highway 62 on the west side of Laura to Clinton Street, and along the south side of Clinton to Amelia Street; Option 3 – a sidewalk on the easement east of Highway 550 connecting Hunter Parkway to the Ridgway USA path around the pond, condominiums and apartments.

There was discussion between Council and staff. Council agreed Option 1a should be pursued, and Option 3 used as an alternative. It was noted Option 1a will impact a number of businesses and would be dependent on property owner participation. Staff was directed to invite affected property owners to meet with staff and Councillor Hebert to discuss the proposed plan and solicit ideas.

18. Review of options and alternatives for Great Outdoors Colorado mini grant application

Staff Report dated 7-9-10 from Jen Coates presenting project options for a Colorado Great Outdoors Mini Grant Application.

The Interim Manager explained the upcoming grant cycle for Great Outdoors Colorado closes at the end of August and staff would like to submit a grant for parks and recreation opportunities. Maximum grant award is \$45,000 for a \$60,000 project. She requested the Council discuss projects to be considered for an application.

There was discussion and Council directed staff to inquire if a permanent stage with tent covering in Hartwell Park would be an eligible program under the categories. It was agreed to further discuss the options at the July 20th workshop meeting.

19. Resolution establishing water restrictions for outdoor irrigation

The Public Works Director, Joanne Fagan, explained last summer the Council discussed establishing permanent water restrictions on outdoor irrigation. She presented a draft resolution which would institute year round voluntary water restrictions.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Clark to approve the Resolution Adopting Outdoor Watering Restrictions. Councillor Hebert seconded and it carried unanimously.

20. Discussion regarding statewide ballot Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 & 61 to be presented to the voters at the November 2010 election

Town Attorney John Kappa reported the Colorado Municipal League has prepared informational materials in relation to "serious adverse impacts on municipalities" if state ballot measures Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 & 61 are approved by the voters in November. These include reductions in vehicle registration fees; elimination of sales tax on vehicles and telecommunications; cancels prior property tax de-brucing and limits future de-brucing; limits municipal borrowing and requires voter approval for lease purchases. He explained the Council can adopt a resolution taking a position on the ballot measures. Staff can prepare the resolution and a fiscal analysis of the impacts, but after adoption campaigning by members of the Council must not be done with Town funds.

The Council agreed staff should prepare a resolution in opposition to the measures and place it on the August agenda.

21. Request for payment of dues from Painted Sky RC&D

The Town Clerk presented a letter from Painted Sky RC&D dated 6-16-10 requesting payment of dues for 2010. She noted the item is not budgeted and she is not familiar with the request. She inquired if any member of Council is working with the organization.

There was discussion and it was agreed a representative of the organization should be invited to attend a meeting and make a presentation.

STAFF REPORTS

The Council reviewed the written staff report and discussed the weed removal project along the river corridor.

The Interim Manager reported the Department of Local Affairs Energy Impact Assistance Funds have been reinstated at the state level. The Town's grant application is now being considered for funding to install transmission water lines to Vista Terrace Subdivision.

Mayor Willits suggested the Council delay for two months the hiring process to fill the Town Manager position. The Council agreed and staff was directed to notify applicants at the end of the application period.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Council enter into an executive session to discuss matters subject to negotiation with respect to land development agreements, nuisance and ordinance enforcement and legal issues pertaining to water right agreements, pursuant to State Statute Provisions 24-6-402(4)(a),(b),(c)&(e) to confer with the Town Attorney and receive legal advise, discuss property acquisition, matters subject to attorney-client communication and a position relative to negotiations.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Clark moved to go into closed session. Councilmember Hebert seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council entered into a closed session at 8:30 p.m. with the Town Attorney, Interim Manager and Public Works Director.

The Council reconvened to open session at 10:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m. to a workshop meeting on July 20, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk