

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2010

OATHS OF OFFICE

The Town Clerk administered the oath of office to Councillor Tim Patterson, who was appointed to the Council at the previous meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor 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 Durnan, Hunter, Patterson, Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem Clark and Mayor Willits. Councilmember Johnson was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 8, 2010.
2. Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of September 14, 2010.
3. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of September 22, 2010.
4. Register of Demands for October 2010.
5. Resolution No. 10-07 Amending Personnel Regulations as they Pertain to Compensatory Time.
6. Approve employment agreement with Jennifer Coates as Town Manager.
7. Ratify appointment of Joanne Fagan to the Ouray County Transit Committee, and Jen Coates as alternate.
8. Approve agreement for website maintenance with mtngoogleek.
9. Amendment of lease with Pureline Treatment Systems for chlorine dioxide generator at water treatment plant.
10. Water leak adjustment for Account #2570/O'Brien.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Davitian suggested the Council consider requiring building inspections for rented and leased living quarters. She stated landlords should be held accountable for the health, safety and welfare of persons renting their facilities, and encouraged Town regulation.

Ouray County Commissioner Lynn Padgett explained in August elected officials received a letter from the Air Force regarding proposed low altitude military training over Southwest Colorado. The proposal includes three training flights a day, five days a week, to be conducted by lit aircraft at night, two hundred feet above the ground, at speeds of 288 miles per hour. The original notification established a public comment deadline of October 4th and this has been extended to November 14th. She suggested if the Council has concerns with the proposal the letter sent should also be copied to local senators and congressmen. She stated she personally questions the definition of a municipality or rural area, and a noise sensitive area; what analysis has been made on impacts to big game species and livestock; interaction with local and medical air traffic; and the frequency of mishaps over land.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

11. Request the Town consider holding a community block party

Joe Alaimo asked the Council to consider holding another community block party to celebrate the success of the summer concert series. He suggested the event could be held in Town Park and along N. Lena Street, noting he has spoken to local merchants who support the proposal.

There was discussion and consensus was if citizens would like to organize and fund the event, it should be coordinated with the Town Clerk.

12. Update on Second Chance Humane Society operations and programs

Kelly Goodin, Executive Director of Second Chance Humane Society, presented the Council with an annual update on programs and services offered by the organization. She displayed a slide presentation outlining the organizations vision and mission statement; programs and services including volunteers, community education, pet placement and counseling services, mobile adoption, special events and fund raisers, shelter and fostering, and the thrift store. She reported the shelter can house 15 dogs and 30 cats and remaining animals are placed in foster homes. In 2009 the shelter took in 390 pets and adoptions were double the national rate. As of August of this year there have been 201 pet intakes and 105 adoptions.

Financial statements through August 31st were presented. Assets of \$561,927 included the thrift store, land for construction of a new shelter and cash; a profit and loss statement showed 70% of income is received from sales at the thrift store.

There was discussion between the Council and board members.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. Application for restaurant liquor license for Land and Ocean ; 185 Sherman Street, Unit 101; Applicant: Land and Ocean LLC, shareholder: Luis Bolanos

Staff Report from the Town Clerk dated 9-16-10 presenting an application for restaurant liquor license from Land and Ocean LLC, shareholder Luis Bolanos, for Land and Ocean Restaurant at 185 Sherman Street, Unit 101.

Town Clerk's Notice of Public Hearing dated 9-2-10.

The Town Clerk explained the restaurant liquor license application has been filed by Luis Bolanos, single shareholder in Land and Ocean LLC. The application includes licensing a seating area along the front entry to the restaurant, which is enclosed and adjacent to the building. She reported all requirements of the license have been met, including receipt of clear findings from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation on the background check.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Weaver to approve the restaurant liquor license, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clark and unanimously carried.

POLICY MATTERS

14. Update on proposed improvements by the Colorado Department of Transportation to Highway 62

Staff Report from the Public Works Director and Town Manager dated 10-7-10 presenting planned improvements by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to Highway 62.

Public Works Director Joanne Fagan addressed the Council regarding proposals by CDOT pertaining to improvements on Highway 62. The highway bridge is scheduled for replacement in 2012 and improvements, including a center turn lane, are planned for 2016. In the spring the Town applied for CDOT Enhancement Funds, Phase 4 of Town wide improvements, to finance construction of sidewalks and crosswalks at the highway she explained. Staff met with CDOT representatives who expressed concerns the improvements may be removed and replaced during the scheduled improvements and discussions ensued regarding integrating the project with desires of the Town. These discussions included review of the Town's 2006 Historic Business District Streetscape Plan, which includes a highway profile. A few weeks ago, she noted, staff again met with representatives who presented a plan which differs considerably from the Streetscape Plan. Staff is now soliciting input from the public, Planning Commission and Town Council regarding the planned improvements.

Town Manager Coates explained the Streetscape highway profile includes a 12 foot center turn lane, two 12 foot drive lanes, two foot curbs and gutters, a six foot landscape strip and seven foot sidewalks on each side. CDOT is proposing 14 foot turn lanes, two 12 foot drive lanes with adjacent three foot bike lanes, curbs and gutters two and half feet, and eight foot sidewalks on both sides allowing landscape planters, and does not include landscape strips. She explained at the recent Planning Commission meeting there was significant discussion regarding the proposal and consensus was reached that the center turn lane should be from the bridge to Laura Street and then neck down to two lanes from Laura to Amelia Street; retaining the existing pedestrian islands at Amelia Street and the Fairgrounds is important; landscape planters are acceptable with sufficient sidewalk; a yield to pedestrians sign at the Lena Street crosswalk is desired; crosswalks at Lena, Cora and Laura with colored and stamped concrete as shown in the Streetscape Plan; the idea of bike lanes is favorable, but considering the options for the Highway Profile, bike lanes are not preferred.

Prior to the meeting the Council received emails dated 10/13/10 from the following citizens supporting installation of bike lanes - Brenda Moden, Scott Middleton, Stephanie Wallin, Raleigh Coburn, Kellie Day and Lisa Issenberg.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Dick Spirek spoke in support of bike lanes.

Lawrence Carlock questioned impacts on businesses with the elimination of highway parking.

Rod Fitzhugh supported narrower turn lanes and wider sidewalks to “make it pedestrian friendly”.

Randy Charrette stated bike lanes are needed for safety of both riders and drivers, and noted that bike lanes will also encourage alternative forms of transportation for residents.

Emme Spirek supported bike lanes.

Lisa Davitian stated it is “important to maintain the old west flavor we have here” noting it draws tourists which support local businesses.

There was discussion between the Council and audience. The Council agreed CDOT should be encouraged to reduce the turn lane from fourteen to twelve feet, necking down from three to two lanes from Laura to Amelia Streets, explore the idea of raised medians and inclusion of tree grates in the sidewalks. There was agreement with the concept of bike lanes, colored concrete diversions in the crosswalks and that the overall concept be more pedestrian friendly.

15. Review of Council committee representation

The Town Clerk suggested, due to the resignation of the Councillor Hebert and appointment of Councilmember Patterson, the Council review representation on committees and boards.

It was agreed that citizen Rod Fitzhugh will become one of the representatives on the Joint Planning Board, and Councillor Patterson the alternate; Councilmember Patterson will serve on the Region 10 Board and Councillor Hunter will provide representation on the Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Authority.

STAFF REPORTS

Manager Coates reported One Track Communications has inquired into the application process for utility easements for telecommunication lines. She also presented an update on the New Community Coalition Advisory Board.

Councilmember Hunter explained at the recent budget workshop there was consensus to pursue xeroscaping at the north end of the Athletic Park. After meeting on site with staff she recommended the Council consider the use of grass in the area. It was agreed by the Council the area should be seeded in the spring.

Councillor Weaver suggested staff contact CDOT regarding the process for placement of a park identification sign on Highway 550 at the entrance to the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park. The Council agreed.

Councillor Durnan explained the Bureau of Land Management is preparing a new management plan which requires identification of any properties which may be considered

for purchase or land swap. It was agreed staff should send a comment on the plan requesting inclusion to purchase the agencies property off of County Road 10.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Attorney suggested the Council enter into an executive session to discuss matters subject to nuisance enforcement, water rights, litigation, easements and General Improvement District #1 pursuant to State Statute Provisions 24-6-402(4)(a)(b)(c)&(e) to confer with the Town Attorney and receive legal advise, determine a position and a strategy relative to negotiations and acquisition of public property.

ACTION:

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

The Council entered into a closed session at 8:20 p.m. with the Town Attorney, Town Manager and Public Works Director.

The Council reconvened to open session at 9:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m. to a workshop meeting on November 3rd at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk