

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF RETREAT WORKSHOP MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2011

The Council convened for a retreat workshop at 1:00 pm in the Independence Building at 550 Clinton Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Members in attendance were Councilmembers Durnan, Hunter, Johnson, Kavanaugh, Weaver and Mayor Willits. Mayor Pro Tem Clark was absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Workshop Meeting dated 8-11-11.

1. Follow up discussion on status of the economy and municipal bond market

The Council reviewed the presentation made at a workshop the previous evening by Troy Bernberg, Vice President of Stifel Nicholas Investment Banking. It was noted Mr. Bernberg had addressed taking advantage of the current low interest rates for funding long term projects. The Council discussed using bond funds for financing the Lake Ottonawanda expansion project or implementing the Historic Business District Streetscape Plan. Staff was asked to research if any current bonds can be refinanced at a lower interest rate.

2. Fiscal Year 2011 Budget update

The Council received a report of year to date revenues and expenditures for the 2011 fiscal year budget. It was noted current sales tax receipts are at 61.5% of the projected annual amount. Building permits are down, and year to date receipts are at 24%. Council also reviewed monthly sales tax receipts for January through June, which were up 6% from 2010 during the same time period.

3. Update of 2011 capital projects and policies

The Council received an overview by staff of current capital projects. These included: engineering for Department of Transportation Enhancement Projects 3 & 4; Vista Terrace Subdivision water distribution line; expansion of the skatepark; chip sealing streets in General Improvement District #1; installation of the force main along Highway 62 and relocation of the force main under on the south side of the highway bridge. Policy plans currently being prepared are the Land Use Plan update and creation of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan.

Council reviewed a memo dated 8-15-11 from the Town Manager outlining the history of the Historic Business District Streetscape Plan. Council discussed proposed improvements by the Department of Transportation to Highway 62.

4. Scheduled increase in 2012 for water and sewer user fees

Council reviewed the scheduled water and sewer user fee increases for 2012. Fee increases for both utility funds were instituted over a three year period and began in January of 2010. It was agreed that without the increase in 2012 the utility funds would continue to operate at a deficient and the January 2012 increases should be instituted. Council asked that staff prepare public information and a press release educating users on the need to increase the rates to pay for debts incurred to upgrade and improve the utility infrastructure, and also provide a chart of user fees in other communities.

5. River Corridor

There was discussion regarding the current condition of the river and improvements such a sandy beach and boat launch area. Great Outdoors Colorado has set aside 19 million in grant

funds for river corridor improvements and the Council discussed with staff preparation of a grant for master planning the corridor. It was agreed that an application for the funds should be prepared when the grant period opens.

Impacts to the river when the Department of Transportation begin upgrades to the highway bridge were discussed. There was consensus to expend \$5000 from the river corridor maintenance line item in the 2011 budget to hire an engineering firm to prepare an engineering assessment of the river.

6. Capital Improvement Planning

The Council reviewed the ten year Capital Improvement Plan and staff recommendations for 2012 projects.

There was discussion regarding the proposed 2012 projects and Council agreed with staff recommendations in placing in the draft budget the following items: irrigation lines to the pump track in the Athletic Park; remodeling the restroom facility and picnic pavilion in Hartwell Park; re-roofing the gazebo in Hartwell Park; grant for master plan of the river corridor; Department of Transportation Enhancement Projects 3 & 4; amenities such as benches, trash/recycling containers, bike racks, etc in the Historic Business District; pedestrian lighting through Hartwell Park; Outreach Plan improvements to Town Hall; patrol car for the Marshal's Department; electric cart for building inspector, police department and parks use; laptops for meetings and inspections; design plan for water storage at Lake Otonowanda; backwash pond improvements at the water plant; asphalt overlay of streets in General Improvement District #1; increase the part time deputy marshal position to full time; river corridor maintenance of gravel removal and bank stabilization; sludge removal from the wastewater treatment facility; gravel removal from the discharge outlet from the wastewater treatment facility. Items which may be include through findings in the technical energy audits include solar power for the restroom facility at the Athletic Park; retro-fits to Town Hall and Public Works Office and photovoltaic panels at the water and wastewater treatment facilities. It was noted the items would be included in the draft 2012 budget and then Council will decide which items to fund, and which to remove.

The Council discussed presenting the voters with a ballot question pertaining to bonding the Historic Business District Streetscape Plan. Staff was directed to research presenting the issue to the voters, and schedule further discussion at another meeting.

7. Policy priorities for 2012

The Council received a document with 5-10 year Master Planning/Policy Development Priorities and staff recommendations for 2012 projects. The Council and staff discussed the list and it was noted it was a goal to complete the items in 2012, and some of them may not be addressed. The Council agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk