

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2011

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. The Council was present in its entirety with Councillors Durnan, Hunter, Johnson, Kavanaugh, Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem Clark and Mayor Willits in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2011.
2. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of October 19, 2011.
3. Register of Demands for November 2011.
4. Renewal of tavern liquor license for Ouray County Fairground.

ACTION:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Susan Baker expressed concerns with San Miguel Power Associations plans to install smart meter technology on homes in Town, noting health concerns, adverse effects on vegetation and power surges in homes which harm appliances. She encouraged the Council to use the Town's franchise agreement "to slow down the process" and request the electrical co-op to enact a one year moratorium on the use "until more information can be obtained" on the product.

Jean McDonnell reported she held a seminar a few days earlier in which three experts spoke on the technology used in the smart meter systems, proposed for installation by San Miguel Power Association (SMPA). She explained the equipment "is not safe" and "people are getting sick". The product has an on-going frequency which runs continuously and "does not allow the body to rest". She suggested an alternative wireless unit should be explored. Ms. McDonnell requested Council allow presentations and discussion at another meeting regarding the smart meter technology.

Rodney Fitzhugh reported the Ridgway Area Trails Group is interested in installing a bicycle trail along the south edge of Cottonwood Creek, which would traverse in and out of the drainage along the "bench cut drainage edge". He explained if the Council is interested in pursuing the idea, he would research it further.

Mary Beth Hollenbeck explained after attending the workshop regarding the smart meter technology she is “convinced the Town needs to urge for a one year moratorium to study the effects of the meter”.

The Council discussed Mr. Fitzhugh’s request to build a trail on Town property. It was agreed he should research the proposal and approach the Parks and Trails Committee with the idea, and the committee can make a recommendation to the Council.

The Council discussed the request to address the installation of smart meter technology within Town limits and agreed to schedule discussion of the item at the next regular meeting.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. Proposed Electric Car Rally between Silverton and Ridgway

Resident Leon Luyckx presented the Council with a packet of information regarding a proposal to establish an electric car rally between Silverton and Ridgway. He explained this would “be the first of this type of event” and would tap into “the dawn of electric cars”. He is considering holding the event on a weekend in early June. Electric car manufactures would be invited to participate and sponsor the event, which would begin in Silverton and end at the fairgrounds in Town. He explained he is also approaching the Town of Silverton and City of Ouray requesting support of the proposed event. He noted “if it works we will continue into the future” and the event “could grow into longer distances through the San Juans, with the improvements in battery capacity”.

There was discussion between the Council and Mr. Luyckx. There was consensus to support the idea and Councillor Kavanaugh volunteered to be on the public committee.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Application for restaurant liquor license at 640 Sherman Street for Flour Power Bakery and Cafe; applicant: Flour Power LLC; shareholders: Amy Madaris and Becky Foulk

Town Clerk’s Notice of Public Hearing dated 10-11-11. Staff Report from the Town Clerk dated 11-1-11 presenting an application for restaurant liquor license from Flour Power LLC to license the premises at 630 Sherman Street.

The Town Clerk explained the shareholders in Flour Power LLC, Amy Madaris and Becky Faulk, are seeking a restaurant liquor license for Flour Power Bakery and Cafe. The licensed premises will encompass an outdoor patio to the north side of the building, the first floor restaurant, and tavern in the basement. She reported all requirements of the license application have been met, all fees paid, and all forms received. One of the two background checks has not been received from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and she recommended if approved, approval be made contingent on receipt of a clear background.

ACTION:

Councilmember Hunter moved to approve the restaurant liquor license for Flour Power Bakery and Cafe contingent on receipt of a clear background check. Councillor Durnan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS

7. Update on 2011 Noxious Weed Management efforts and preview of 2012

Town Manager, Jen Coates, presented a memorandum dated 11-9-11 outlining the 2011 management of noxious weeds and proposals for 2012.

Manager Coates explained management techniques identified in the Integrative Weed Management Plan were implemented in the spring and summer of this year. Five areas of Town property were targeted, additionally the plan called for 15 priorities, all of which were met. The areas addressed were the water treatment facility, Lake Otonawanda, the Athletic Park, the wastewater treatment plant and the Uncompahgre River Corridor. A biological treatment, using goats, occurred at the water plant, lake and park, and she reported, the results were encouraging. This process will require a multi-year effort, and will continue into 2012. The use of vinegar spray was also continued at the park to control outbreaks. Multiple control efforts were used along the river. These included mowing, weedwacking, hand pulling, and hand spot treatment of a chemical application on the east side of the river, which was applied in the fall. The wastewater facility received a chemical application.

There was discussion between Council and staff.

Susan Baker thanked the Town for its efforts to “reach a balance” in the treatment of noxious weeds. She asked the Council to encourage the property owner on the east side of the Athletic Park to manage noxious weeds and revegetate the property. Ouray County Weed Manager Ron Maybry agreed this was a problem area and said he would follow up.

8. Update on Colorado Department of Transportation Enhancement Project, Phase 4

Public Works Director Joanne Fagan reported the proposed project for Phase 4 of the Colorado Department of Transportation Enhancement Funds will proceed as planned. Phase 3 and 4 of the funding will be combined and the projects constructed during the summer of 2012. She will be preparing the engineering and design of the projects, which will be used as the Town’s match for the grant funds.

Manager Coates noted the projects will entail the construction of a crosswalk at Cora and Highway 62 and connecting sidewalk; crosswalk at Railroad Street and sidewalk from S. Railroad Street terminating at Hyde Street; crosswalk at Highway 550 and sidewalk heading south along Palomino Trail, and Hunter Parkway north to the condominium project.

9. Request to participate in the Stronger Economies Together (SET) program

The Town Manager presented information on Stronger Economies Together (SET) in Colorado, a program administered by the USDA Rural Development division. She explained Region 10 applied for, and has received a federal grant which they will administer to provide training workshops for the six counties which participate in the Regions planning area, on creation of an economic development plan. She reported the Town has been requested to participate in the program; the training schedule encompasses meeting once a month over an eight month period.

The Council agreed the Town should participate and be represented by a member of staff.

10. Report on improvements by the Colorado Department of Transportation to the Highway 62 bridge

Manager Coates explained staff has spoken with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) regarding proposed improvements to the Highway 62 bridge, which will take place next summer, and increase the bridge to three traffic lanes, while the existing highway will remain two. Staff inquired into integrating some of the Town's streetscape features into the proposed project. She reported the representatives agreed to allow the Town to have input on the type of railing; colors of the concrete along with selecting concrete relief forms for the sides and abutment; install banner poles for event banners; and assist with landscaping decisions along the roadway and bridge. When asked about decorative streetscape lighting she reported, they responded conduit could be installed for future use, but all lighting must meet CDOT standards. Additionally, they denied the request to install planters in the roadway.

11. Award of bid for relocation of sewer force main

Director Fagan reported bids were received, and have been opened, for relocation of the sewer force main, which is being funded by CDOT to assist in improvements to the highway bridge. Only one bid was received, from Palisade Construction Inc. She noted CDOT may not accept the bid, as there is an organizational policy to reject bids if only a single bid is received, and requested Council accept the bid conditional on CDOT approval of the bid process.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Clark to award the bid to Palisade Construction Inc. for \$231,597 for relocation of the sewer force main, seconded by Councillor Johnson. After a call for the vote the motion carried unanimously.

12. Application for Colorado Department of Transportation Enhancement Funds for Phase 5

Manager Coates reported the next round of funding for CDOT Enhancement Funds, for Phase 5, which encompass fiscal years 2013 to 2015, has opened. Staff is recommending applying for the \$300,000 in grant funds, which would be funded at 80%, with a 20% match by the Town, which would probably be the services of the Town Engineer and some of the capital project funds. The proposed project would encompass a segment of the Downtown Streetscape Plan, and include sidewalk on the east side of S. Lena from the post office to Charles Street, both sides of the Charles Street to Railroad Street, and pedestrian lighting through Hartwell Park. The Council agreed with the suggestion and staff noted they will speak to CDOT about scoping the proposed project area.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Manager Coates reported the contract for a Technical Energy Audit has been finalized. The consultant will assess the Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Town Hall and the Public Works Facility. Costs to replace heating units, pumps, light fixtures, windows, doors, roofing and the purchase of solar panels will be evaluated. Cost savings that would be incurred by using financing options to implement the energy saving improvements will be presented in the final report.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Johnson presented an update on the Parks and Trails Committee, which is preparing the Parks Element for the Comprehensive Development Plan.

Councillor Durnan reported the Concert Committee will be preparing a request to CU Architecture School for a community service project by the graduate school to design and build the stage in Hartwell Park. If chosen all architectural work and construction services would be performed by the students, and the Town would be responsible to pay for materials.

Councillor Hunter expressed concerns with the status of the gravel quarry which was approved in conjunction with the River Park Subdivision. She noted the quarry was approved for one year and was supposed to be reclaimed years ago. Mayor Pro Tem Clark agreed, noting the use was approved through a conditional use permit and was to be reclaimed after a year of issuance and was not done due to a change in ownership. The Council agreed conformance should be addressed and directed staff to consult with the Town Attorney regarding resolution of the issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Manager suggested the Council enter into an executive session subject to State Statute Provisions 24-6-402(4)(a)&(e), to discuss legal issues related to matters subject to transfer of property interest and matters subject to negotiations with the Ridgway Fire Protection District.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Clark moved to go into closed session, Councillor Johnson seconded and it carried unanimously.

Councillor Hunter left the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

The Council entered into closed session at 7:55 p.m. with the Town Manager and Public Works Director.

The Council reconvened to open session at 8:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. to a budget workshop meeting on November 16, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk