

## MINUTES OF BUDGET RETREAT

### RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

AUGUST 20, 2016

The Town Council convened for a budget retreat at 9:10 a.m. in the Ridgway Community Center, 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. In attendance Councilors Austin, Hunter, Williams Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark. Councilors Barnes and Gold were absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Budget Retreat dated August 11, 2016.

Town Manager Coates asked the Council to provide vision and direction on projects for next fiscal year, and outcomes for accomplishing projects before the end of the current year.

The Council discussed their roles as policy makers.

The Manager and staff presented the Council with community and economic initiatives; community outreach programs; and public health, safety and welfare issues.

Manager Coates explained staff has encountered capacity issues with projects and workload, and with the award of the Space to Create project, staffing will be further stressed, noting this reinforces a need for additional staffing.

The Council reviewed items to be undertaken by the Planning Commission and Parks Committee. It was agreed the Planning Commission should continue to address inclusion of high density residential and mixed use density zoning, including affordable housing; updating the Land Use Plan; inclusionary zoning; and update the annexation policy for affordable housing.

It was agreed staff should continue to pursue receipt of a GOCO grant for development of the Green Street Park and community garden.

There was discussion between Council and staff, and the Council agreed a full time professional land use planner should be hired by the end of this fiscal year.

Council and staff reviewed the mosquito abatement program, and participation by the County and State Park. The Council agreed Town incurred costs have increased substantially, and the other entities should be asked to monetarily contribute at a higher rate. Council noted the program addresses an important public health and safety issue and supported the program even as expenses increase. They suggested the County Health Department participate with public education.

Manager Coates explained participation in the Creative District and Main Street state programs have provided major contributions of grant funds to the Town. She noted these include mini-grants for technical assistance through the Main Street Program; a half million dollar grant for furnishings for the RAMP Project; and award of the Space to Create program.

There was a discussion regarding the limited capacity of staff to continue to oversee the Ridgway Creative District and Main Street Committee. It was agreed staff focus should now be project management for Space to Create, versus volunteer management, and the Creative District Committee should address becoming a stand-alone organization without staff assistance.

There was discussion regarding the vision for the Ridgway Concert Series, and its fundraising arm, the Love Your Valley Festival. The Council agreed growth in attendance at concerts should not be encouraged; it should remain free; dogs and outside alcohol should not be allowed in the event area. It was further agreed to explore inviting a non-profit organization to assume liability and responsibility for alcohol sales at the concerts.

Council agreed staff should prepare options regarding community events and volunteer management and present these during budget discussions.

The Town Manager explained the staff leadership team is creating a performance review process in follow up to the compensation survey and job classification study; and documents pertaining to succession planning. She reported the Wellness Program which was initiated this fiscal year, has been extremely successful with full participation.

There was consensus to meet September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to review the 2017 capital overlays, projects and priorities.

The retreat adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft  
Town Clerk