

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF JOINT SPECIAL MEETING  
WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION

JANUARY 26, 2016

The Town Council convened for a special meeting at 6:10 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center to meet jointly with the Planning Commission. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Barnes, Gold, Hunter, Weaver, Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark in attendance.

Town Clerk's Notice of Special Meeting dated 1-19-16.

Town Manager Jen Coates explained banners displaying public events will now be placed on the new banner poles in Hartwell Park, and presented draft Banner Display Guidelines. The Council, Commission and staff reviewed the guidelines and it was agreed to change items pertaining to dimensions, disposition and timeliness.

The Council and Commission discussed affordable housing. The discussion was directed to receive public input and the following persons were involved in the dialogue - Al Lowande, Roze Evans, Chris, Pike, Don Batchelder, Heather Zeilmen, Diane Quarles, Ashley King-Grambley and Shirley Diaz.

Community and Economic Development Coordinator Diedra Silbert presented the Space to Create Initiative. She reported the program will assist communities in providing affordable housing and work spaces for creative sector entrepreneurs, artists and arts organization. It would involve mixed use projects that blend affordable live/work space for creative sector works, artists, and their families with non-residential space for creative enterprises, and organizations that serve a critical community need. She presented potential benefits to the Town, and explained the community must show public support before submitting an Application of Intent, the first phase of the application process.

The Town Manager stated the project "would require significant financing and staffing from the Town". She noted staff "needs to complete due diligence to manage unknowns". The funding outlay for the first phase of the application process is staff time, and if chosen to proceed would require staff time and resources to organize committees, create dialogue and prepare documents. If chosen as a finalist a \$35,000 commitment is required to study the feasibility and market studies, and then a Project Manager would need to be hired and staffed from Town Hall. She noted the final projects costs are unknown until the scope of the project and funding options are identified. A pilot program is being undertaken in the City of Trinidad, and the City has budgeted \$150,000 and acquired a donated building for their project. She stated an expenditure of this size would prohibit the Town from performing any other capital projects or making capital expenditures.

The Council, Commission, staff and public discussed potential challenges and funding sources. There was support to proceed with the application process.

ACTION:

Councilor Hunter moved to proceed with the Intent to Apply Application for the Space to Create Initiative. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with the Planning Commission and Town Council.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk  
Karen Christian, Deputy Clerk