

ROCKY RIDGE TOWN MEETING

November 15, 2023

7:30 PM

MLA Building

Draft – Awaiting Approval

Opening:

Presiding: Mayor Ronald Allred

Present from the Town Council: Ronald Allred, Andrew Aagard, Lucy Gold, and Bethany Sturgeon. Shannon Allred was absent.

Present from the Town Staff: Marilyn Bronson, Rachel Bronson, and Terry Allred.

Others Present: Shay Morrison, Katie Allred, Charity Allred, Chuck Todd, Marni Baird, Shaun Allred, and LaVon Allred.

Invocation was given.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of August & September Minutes: Special Meeting – Canvass Election & Town Meeting

Changes to August's minutes: Council Member Bethany Sturgeon asked that the detailed version of the minutes be used for approval of the minutes instead of the summarized version. Amendments to said minutes followed:

Council Member Bethany Sturgeon noted that in regards to Precision Welding, Marilyn was informed that this needed to be clarified in the current meeting – Council Member Bethany Sturgeon meant that Marilyn was to obtain the past written agreement between Precision Welding and the Town, *if one existed* (Page 3 was referenced).

Council Member Bethany Sturgeon also referenced page 4 – stating that she had struck out a line and had a question for Marilyn about this item. This was in reference to whether Cathy was still in attendance (at the August meeting) after a comment was made by Lane regarding why Cathy had set up Domingo Hernandez to be paid separately from himself instead of Lane paying Domingo out of the Salary he was receiving from the Town.

Council Member Bethany Sturgeon also felt was a discrepancy in what was mentioned in the minutes regarding former Office Manager, Cathy Lummus position. It was stated in the minutes that Town Clerk/Recorder Marilyn Bronson and Treasurer, Rachel Bronson did not understand that they answered to Cathy. She further expressed that when Cathy stayed with the Town to help the Mayor in his position, she also was to oversee the operations of the Town Office/Staff. This position made all those that worked in the Office accountable to Cathy. Marilyn made the comment that Cathy had been contacted – that this had been done. Rachel asked if she could clarify what was referenced and informed the Town Council that in this specific circumstance, she did not feel that it was necessary to go to Cathy due to the conflict of interest, therefore, she did not feel that it was out of line to speak directly to the Mayor. She further stated that if you look at other instances in which there is a conflict between yourself and the person above you, it is appropriate to go above that person to the next in line to address problems/issues.

Council Member Bethany Sturgeon then referenced the minutes in regards to a comment made by Chase Bronson (Rachel's husband) in which he stated that he felt that the Park subject (during August's meeting) was being taken personally and it should not be. Council Member Bethany Sturgeon agreed with

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this statement, however, she wanted it noted in this meeting that she did not agree with the second half of his statement, “if Public Funds are being used inappropriately then this needs to change.” Council Member Bethany Sturgeon asked - If the subject was not personal then why was Cathy not involved? Town Council Member Lucy Gold as well as Marilyn both commented that Cathy was informed.

Approval of August’s minutes: Council Member Lucy Gold motioned to approve August’s minutes as corrected. Council Member Bethany Sturgeon seconded the motion; all others voted in favor. Council Member Shannon Allred was absent, and therefore did not vote.

Changes to September 20th minutes: Council Member Bethany Sturgeon noted errors in the minutes as follows:

In regards to “Others present,” - Brian Lewis was in attendance because he spoke during the meeting.

Council Member Bethany Sturgeon expressed confusion in regards to a statement made in relation to the Mayor being aware of the agreement between the Town and Joanna regarding payment of her services to deliver oversized packages and undeliverable mail. According to December’s minutes, Council Member Bethany Sturgeon noted that the amount for this service to the Town was not disclosed. Marilyn informed that this was for the Town Council’s information - because a statement was made in September’s minutes regarding the Town Council’s awareness of the agreement, Marilyn had researched the minutes in order to find where the subject was discussed. She then sent December’s minutes to the Council Members in order for them to see where things were not communicated correctly.

Council Member Bethany Sturgeon also noted that under EMS/CERT: The minutes stated there was no CERT update and then an update was given.

In conclusion, Council Member Bethany Sturgeon expressed that the Contract with hiring Lane Allred as the Town Building Inspector was attested by Rachel, as Town Clerk/Recorder. This title was incorrect and asked that this be re-written to state Town Treasurer. Marilyn informed the Council that Lane had written the contract and prepared it. In addition to this subject, Marilyn had reached out to a member of the UMCA Board regarding Rachel’s attesting to the contract. They suggested that we either write Treasurer under the signature or white out the title. Marilyn had already taken action on this item – whiting out the title.

Council Member Andrew Aagard sought to clarify that in reference to his statement regarding the delivery of undeliverable/oversized items – that he, as a private citizen, would be willing to pay for his packages. He further expressed that, in the minutes it sounds as if he, as a Council Member approved of the Town paying that expense.

Approval of September 20th minutes: Mayor Allred, Council Members Bethany Sturgeon and Lucy Gold were not in attendance. Therefore, the minutes could not be approved, as Council Member Shannon Allred was absent from the current meeting, resulting in the absence of a quorum to approve September’s minutes. September 20th minutes were not approved.

September 15th minutes: Council Member Andrew Aagard motioned to approve August’s minutes as corrected. Council Member Lucy Gold seconded the motion; all others voted in favor. Council Member Bethany Sturgeon abstained. Council Member Shannon Allred was absent, and therefore did not vote.

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Visitor: Shay Morrison, Six County Representative

Subdivision Assistance List Released – A list of Subdivision Consultants was released to assist Towns/Cities in the process of updating the Towns subdivision ordinance to comply with the latest Senate Bill passed (SB174). The Town of Rocky Ridge funding amount available is \$14,000 – this money is offered to those who need help implementing this new bill with their Municipal Code. The Bill states that the Legislative body will no longer be involved with the Subdivision approval process any longer. Staff can be involved, however, the overall process is handled by Planning & Zoning in regards to this item. From the list of Consultants, the Town is welcome to reach out to one of those on the list and enter into a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). The bill then goes to the State to take care of the expense. This will need to be done by December of 2024. Shay suggested that the Town could reach out get on the list.

Town Clerk/Recorder Marilyn Bronson expressed that someone had reached out to the Town in regards to this (Mike Hanson). This item will be brought up in Planning & Zoning Meeting. Shay will be attending that meeting. The Town Council asked that Marilyn give this information to Planning & Zoning and get their input on this before contacting someone.

- **Rural Communities Opportunity Grant Application** – Shay wanted to check in with the Town Council in regards to this Grant (Economic Development)
- **Thriving Communities Application** – This is an application the AOG (Six County) is applying for in order to get more funding to provide more planning services in their respective area in the State. The application may help communities with some of the awarded funds (up to 20%). A support letter was presented to the Mayor to sign if he supported the approval of this submission.
- **Guiding our Growth Survey Results** – The State put out a survey about growth and Shay shared those results with the Town Council.
- **Procurement Policy** – Shay expressed that he was covering the subject of procurement/purchasing policies with all communities over the next month or so. He informed the Town Council that this was being done to ensure that each Town/City had a policy in place and followed/used it.
- **Community Advisor Program Update** – A list of activities was provided to assist communities in order for Six County's cope of work is clear.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Email from UDOT – Brad Palmer – This email was sent to Town Council Member Bethany Sturgeon. She wanted to be sure the Town Council was aware of this. Council Member Andrew Aagard had questions regarding compliance with obtaining a diagnostic review and the current application to implement safety bars and lights at the railroad. Council Member Lucy Gold informed the Council that this has already been done. Marilyn informed the Council that the diagnostic review was submitted along with the application.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES:

1. EMS/CERT: EMS: None. CERT: 30 people signed up for this class – 15 attended. Council Member Lucy Gold informed the Council that Anchor Academy is going to add CERT as a

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class for the 2024-2025 year. Council Member expressed satisfaction that Jonathon Kool was pursuing the advanced EMT class.

2. **Water:** Road Department Head Terry Allred informed there was an issue with Well #3: The sand that encases the well was dropping – a Well Service came down and looked at it. There is a hole – he advised not to pull the pump but to keep a close eye on it. Council Member Lucy Gold asked how this was affecting the water output. Terry expressed that there is no effect at this time.
3. **Road:** Updated on installing safety signs for Lark Ridge Drive – Terry informed the Council that this had not been taken care of yet. Update on Mountain Ridge – ran out of asphalt. The Town is on their schedule again – he has not received an estimated date at this time. Waterways – Commander never got back with him. These will be cut next year.
4. **P & Z:** None
5. **Admin: Monthly Expenditures;** Mayor Allred questioned payment of \$200 to JoAnna Covington for her services, as he thought this agreement ended. Marilyn expressed that the agreement ended and the Town processed the remaining payments owed to her. Council Member Lucy Gold asked for clarification regarding a payment to Doming Hernandez in the amount of \$1,200. Marilyn expressed that the expense shown was the last payment for his services - he billed the Town for the month of September (this month being his last) and the check went out in October. Mayor Allred questioned an expense to WPA of \$1,044 – Marilyn informed him that this was for WPA's continued help with the Town Hall. However, this expense is covered by CIB, as Marilyn requests reimbursement for this. **Letter of Engagement;** Town Attorney – this is for the Town Council's information. We have secured her services for reviews for Resolutions and Ordinances. Any other help or questions that we may have – our Attorney would be available to help us with. Council Member Bethany Sturgeon expressed that she thought this service was available to the Town through the Utah League of Cities and Towns. Marilyn informed her that they no longer can give legal advice – the Town was encouraged to employ their own attorney. **Town Hall sign** – Council Member Andrew Aagard expressed his displeasure with idea of the large Town of Rocky Ridge sign on the East side of the new Town Building as well as the option to light the sign. The general consensus was that this was an unnecessary expense.
6. **Park:** None.
7. **Library:** None.

***OPEN FLOOR:**

1. **Citizen Items:** Katie Allred brought a proposal to the Town Council to review regarding a Cemetery Committee to oversee the care of the cemetery under the direction of Terry Allred. This item was not on the agenda; therefore, a decision could not be approved and was tabled until a decision could be made.
2. **Town Council Items:** The Mayor informed the Council that after meeting with the Head of Road Dept. & Park Superintendent this morning regarding three (3) applications for the full time position offered by the Town, that the decision to hire Benjamin Allred was made.

A proposal was made to hire Benjamin as a part-time Employee through the winter and a full-time Employee starting in May of 2024. It was disclosed that Benjamin is Terry's son (Head of the Road Dept.) and the Conflict of Interest was noted.

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Council Member Lucy Gold asked about the age for getting a CDL License. Terry informed her that he would be required to do so but that he would allow him some time to accomplish this. Terry also expressed that the Park Superintendent had suggested the Town invest in a long-term Employee and they all agreed that Benjamin fit this criterion. Training into this position will be a little more work but will be the best decision overall. Council Member Bethany Sturgeon asked Clerk/Recorder Marilyn Bronson and Treasurer Rachel Bronson if they saw any issue is regards to this decision – specifically due to the Conflict of Interest. Council Member Andrew Aagard and Lucy Gold referenced the Conflict of Interest Form. Both Marilyn and Rachel saw no issue with this as it was discussed in an open public meeting.

The Town Council was in agreement with this decision to pay him part-time until May – at which time he will be paid as a full-time Employee.

Adjournment:

No adjournment was made.

Town Meeting ended at 8:56 pm.

/s/ Marilyn Bronson

Approved by Town Clerk