

Minutes
Regular Town Board Meeting
Town of Paonia, Colorado
March 24, 2020

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Roll Call

The Regular Board Meeting held Tuesday, March 24, 2020, was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Charles Stewart.

Trustees present were as follows:

Mayor Charles Stewart
Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Bachran
Trustee Karen Budinger
Trustee Dave Knutson
Trustee Carrie Diehl
Trustee Michelle Pattison
Trustee Bill Bear

Town Staff present were as follows:

Corinne Ferguson – Town Clerk/ Town Administrator

Approval of Agenda

Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Due to Executive Orders regarding number of attendees in close proximity Administrator Ferguson released staff from attending the Board meeting.

Recognition of Visitors & Guests

Thomas Markle – noted frustration with obtaining information from Public Works Director Loberg in a timely manner.

Suzanne Watson – Submitted questions in writing to the Board.

Consent Agenda

1. Regular Minutes:
February 25, 2020

Liquor License Transfer:
En Passant, LLC dba Salt Pollen to Flying Fork Café

Minor corrections to the minutes noted.

Motion made and seconded to approve consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stewart notified the Board of the decision made to sign a local disaster order on 3/23/2020.

Trustee Pattison suggested staff begin to review the 2020 budget – looking for areas to reduce – in anticipation of a reduction in revenues due to the pandemic.

Staff Reports

Police Chief Ferguson and Public Works Director Loberg were excused from attending the meeting. Administrator Ferguson provided updates for staff.

- April Municipal Court cancelled.
- Monitoring and ordering PPE for staff as needed.
- Individually contacting and informing businesses of regulations implemented by Executive Order – 50% staff & social distance requirements.
- Continuing to address essential needs
- Filling potholes
- Water plant maintenance and monitoring
- Trash services – gloves required

Administrator Ferguson provided the following updates.

- Closed Playground and picnicking areas in the parks
- Scheduled the removal of portable bathrooms from parks
- Participating in daily calls with multiple agencies for coordinated information sharing, business support, and daily emergency operations calls
- Tracking coronavirus related expenses

Administrator Ferguson informed the Board of the decision to waive late fees and suspend disconnections for the month of March and requested Board approval to do the same and add additional relief to community for the month of April.

Motion made and seconded to suspend disconnection of Services, waive late fees, and offset online payment fees through April 30, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Disbursements

3. Disbursements

Motion made and seconded to approve disbursements as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

4. Modifications to Mayor Duties – Requested by Finance & Personnel

Mayor Stewart provided information regarding the statutory requirements of the mayoral position and recommended the Board keep a strong mayoral involvement as the current mechanism, voting in a tie and retaining veto power.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Quorum
- Standard vs. majority vote
- Limiting ability to count only with a veto decision

Motion made and seconded to include language stating the mayoral seat is not included in a 2/3 majority regarding veto decisions. Motion withdrawn.

Motion made and seconded to adopt Ordinance 2020-TBD; a Modification of Mayoral Duties as presented. Motion withdrawn.

Motion made and seconded to direct Town Attorney Nerlin to provide an opinion to the Board at the next regular meeting regarding a majority vote and quorum. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

5. Board Ratification of Town Administrator COVID-19 Response Plan

Administrator Ferguson provided an overview of the tiered plan for coronavirus pandemic COVID-19.

Motion made and seconded to approve COVID-19 Response Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion & Potential Adoption of Resolution 2020-06 Authorizing Town Administrator to Close the Administrative Offices to the Public Without a Declaration of Emergency

Motion made and seconded to approve Resolution 2020-06 authorizing the Town Administrator to close offices.

Motion made and seconded to amend the main motion to specify only authorized in a disaster. Amendment to the motion carried unanimously. Main motion as amended carried unanimously.

7. Discussion & Potential Adoption of Local Disaster – C.R.S. 24-33.5-709

Mayor Stewart again discussed the reason to declare and extend the local disaster declaration.

Motion made and seconded to approve Resolution 2020-07 (numbered after the meeting) extending the local disaster declaration to April 30, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution 2020-04 – Virtual Meetings in Emergency and/or Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster Declaration

Mayor Stewart provided an overview of the use of virtual media to have Board meetings during the stay at home executive order. Trustee Bear added that agendas should only include essential matters.

Motion made and seconded to approve Resolution 2020-04 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made and seconded to schedule a special meeting for April 2, 2020 at 6:30pm to test virtual meeting capabilities and review of any other issues necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

9. Finance & Personnel

The bond issue was scheduled for today but has been postponed until the next meeting.

Governmental Affairs & Public Safety

Nothing to report.

Public Works-Utilities-Facilities

Nothing to report.

10. Space 2 Create

Nothing to report.

11. Tree Board

The Tree Board committee met via Zoom. Plan to hold a virtual Arbor Day in Apple Valley Park, with a potential planting in Poulos Park as well.

Suzanne Watson – Questioned who is responsible for maintaining downtown trees.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:30pm.

J. Corinne Ferguson, Town Clerk

Charles Stewart, Mayor