

Minutes
Regular Town Board Meeting
Town of Paonia, Colorado
March 28, 2023

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Roll Call

Mayor Bachran calls the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

PRESENT

Mayor Mary Bachran

Trustee/Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas Markle

Trustee Dave Knutson

Trustee Paige Smith

Trustee Dave Weber

Correspondence Received

1. Water Company Leak Credits
Attached Images
Memo from Town Clerk
2. BLM Open House Comment
3. Gridline Skateparks Communication
4. Potholes on bridge
5. Paonia in Motion Comments
6. Tree Board Update

Trustee Weber comments about Trustees not being able to attend the BLM Open House due to doing interviews at the same time.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Weber makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the agenda.

Motion carries unanimously.

Announcements

Trustee Weber announces he is resigning from the Finance Committee effective immediately due to feeling as though he was not given all of the information, he needed to do the job effectively. His committee seat if up for grabs to whomever wants it.

Public Comment

S. Watson: served CORA requests to Mayor Bachran, Trustee Smith, Trustee Stelter (absent) and one for Trustee Knutson who was on Zoom for the meeting for cell phone records. She is interested in seeing who the Mayor has been talking to during a specific period of time.

Consent Agenda

Trustee Weber makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Smith, to approve the consent agenda.

Trustee Weber states that he did not review the disbursements, but he trusts Mayor Bachran and Trustee Smith to do a good job.

Trustee Markle wants it on the record that this is the second meeting that no disbursements were in the digital packet, and he understand there are extenuating circumstances, but he would like to be able to review them and they were not emailed to him separately like they were the week before.

The motion carries unanimously.

Interim Town Administrator gave updates on grants/loans and announcement for travel plans in April.

Spring Clean-up-

Board discussion on whether the Town can afford to give a free service after raising rates, Spring Clean-up is not budgeted for, e-waste, transfer station on K road take metal, trash isn't sorted at landfill, and the Town overspends every year. Interim Administrator Klusmire and Cory will work out a different plan.

Trustee/ Mayor Pro-Tem Markle makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Weber for staff to establish a tap relinquishment policy based on the historical way it has been done.

Motion carries unanimously.

Mayor Bachran recognized Jordan Redden for passing his Sewer test with the second highest score his proctor had seen.

The Town Clerk notified the Board about the upcoming IT upgrade and the need to close the office while it happens. The Board provided feedback on the best day to do it and Town Clerk Vetter said she would keep the Board posted when day was set and provide information about the closure to the public.

Trustee Markle recognized the Town Clerk for the digital packets being live links and home and also recognized Administrative Assistant Ruben Santiago for getting the Towns forms on the website converted to electronic fillable forms.

Trustee Knutson asks about how often the town data is backed up and how well we are protected from Ransomware.

Actions & Presentations

1. Presentation and Consideration of Entertainment Districts and Common Consumption Areas to be allowed in Paonia.

Brandt Thibodeaux and Shaun Larson present their interest in having the Town begin the process to establish an Entertainment District and Common Consumption Areas. This can open up breweries and wineries to the ability to serve the same customers while keeping their businesses separate and be able to have special events since special events permits are limited to Non-profits at this time.

The Board and public had questions about open containers, security requirements, licensing, establishment of districts, how breweries and wineries cannot have manufacturing and bar license at the same time, allows multiple businesses, legal fee responsibility, and benefits to the community.

M. Pattison: State statute says lawyer fees can be built into the policy.

C. Patterson: question about combining manufacturing and bar.

S. Watson: what are the zoning requirements/ needs for this.

S. Patterson: Local liquor distribution comments.

The Board wants it to come back on a future agenda with more information.

2. Announcement of Town Manager Finalists and Discussion of Interview Process

All of the finalists withdrew so the Board discusses the options available to them: exploring Hotchkiss's model without an administrator, raising the high-end salary and advertising again and discussing some changes in the interview processes.

(John V joins at 7:31 p)

Trustee/Mayor Pro-Tem Markle makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Smith, to continue the administrator search.

Aye: Trustee/ Mayor Pro-Tem Markle, Trustee Smith

Nay: Trustee Knutson, Trustee Weber

Abstain: Trustee Valentine

Mayor Bachran votes Aye, breaking the tie.

The motion carries.

Trustee Smith makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Weber, to raise the high end of the salary to a To Be Determined amount after some research.

Aye: Trustee Valentine, Trustee Weber and Trustee Smith

Nay: Trustee Markle and Trustee Knutson

The motion carries.

3. Approval of intent to ask Senators Bennett and Hickenlooper for Congressionally Directed Funds to buy the decommissioned school building.

Mayor Bachran re-presents what Congressional Funding is and explains the process of getting the funding, process of reaching the suggestion for the school, request letter has been submitted, explains the grant process for these appropriations. Restated proposal again and the grant amount and that the affordable housing,

Trustee Knutson states that the Mayor did contact him before the meeting and he thought it sounded good, however since then he has learned information that makes him have second thoughts. It would take large amounts of money per unit to remodel and that doesn't include asbestos remediation.

Mayor Bachran discloses that after asking attorney about Sunshine Laws she did poll the board which is allowed since no decisions were made.

Trustee Weber: Voted yes the first time but now thinks that the Town priorities should be water and sewer projects.

Interim Administrator states that affordable housing is a smart move and that it has a different process than traditional land development using assets.

Trustee/ Mayor Pro-Tem Markle states that he feels we have underplanned and under prepared, we do not use the community centers we have now to their full potential, let alone a huge building that will be hard to convert. Feels like we are being premature.

Trustee Smith: Felt differently at the last meeting but wonders if it is more than the Town can handle right now. She doesn't feel like it is worth the issues that have caused public distrust.

Public Comment:

M. Pattison: had a lot to share but seems the Board is already leaning that way. Would like to see you stop voting when things are not brought forward properly.

S. Watson: Why would the lawyer tell you that this was legal? Why couldn't we have used this funding for stuff we needed like street engineering? Thinks a more honest conversation could have been beneficial.

C. Patterson: Thought we were moving forward and there was going to be more transparency, but we may have missed an opportunity because we didn't work together on this.

Trustee Weber makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Smith, to not proceed with the Congressional Funding Request for purchase of school building.

Aye: Trustee Knutson, Trustee/ Mayor Pro-Tem Markle, Trustee Smith

Nay: Trustee Valentine

The motion carries.

4. Approval of Ordinance 2023-03: Amending Section 11-1-80 of the Paonia Municipal Code Regarding Street Closures

Mayor Bachran reads out the changes made to Ordinance since last meeting.

Public Comment:

M. Morgan: Thank you for work on proposed ordinances and it seems to strike a delicate balance between non-profits and businesses.

Trustee/ Mayor Pro-Tem Markle makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Knutson, to accept Ordinance 2023-03.

Trustee Weber still doesn't like the board approval part otherwise thinks it is a good example of people working together to find a common solution.

Motion carries unanimously.

5. Riverbank Conservation Easement, Trail Development & Acquisition: Further Discussion

Summarized meeting attended with Cory and answered questions from the Board on ownership, simple structuring, proper foundation so it won't be washed away, discussion on pros and cons, in-kind donations, cost responsibility, and there might be some property swapping in the future.

6. Appointing a Negotiations Committee for the Urban Rural Continuum Contract

The Board appointed a negotiations committee for Urban Rural Continuum contract: Trustee Knutson and Mayor Bachran volunteer.

Trustee/ Mayor Pro-Tem Markle makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Weber to accept Mayor Bachran and Trustee Knutson as a negotiations committee.

The motion carries unanimously.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee/Mayor Pro-Tem makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Smith, to go into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for purposes of conferencing with the Town Attorney to receive legal advice on specific legal questions regarding the encroachment of a fence on Town-owned property.

The motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Smith makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Weber to have a five-minute break before they go into executive session.

The motion carries unanimously.

Executive Session begins: 8:15 pm

Executive Session ends: 8:58 pm

Present during the executive session: Mayor Bachran, Trustee/ Mayor Pro-Tem Markle, Trustee Knutson, Trustee Weber, Trustee Smith, Interim Town Administrator Klusmire and Town Attorney Cotton-Baez.

No concerns were noted.

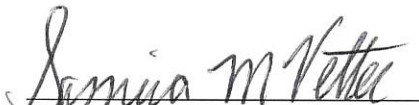
Trustee/Mayor Pro-Tem Markle makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Smith to pursue encroachment permit with property owner.

The motion carries unanimously.

Mayor & Trustee Reports

Adjournment

Meeting adjourns at 9:12 pm


Samira M Vetter, Town Clerk




Mary Bachran, Mayor

