



IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 9, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room, 570 Goddard Avenue
and via Remote Public Meeting

I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM by leading in the pledge of allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clark Craig, Mayor Pro Tem Edward Box III, Trustee Joseph Atencio, Trustee Alison deKay (arrived 6:04 PM), Trustee Sandra Maez, Trustee Jeremy Schulz

Absent: Trustee Tom Atencio

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2022

B. Financial Records – December 2022 Accounting Reports

Action: Trustee Maez moved to approve the consent agenda; Mayor Pro Tem Box III seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Region 9 Economic Development Presentation – Heather Otter

Heather introduced herself and talked the various counties, tribes, and local organizations that Region 9 works with. She stated that a copy of her presentation is available if anyone desires to have it, and handed out physical copies for people to write on.

Action: No action taken on this item.

B. Resolution 01-2023 – Posting Places for Meeting Notices

Ms. Dunton stated that this is an annual resolution. The Town website is the primary location; the physical locations have changed due to the Post Office regional decision to not post public notices; the physical locations for 2023, if the resolution passes, will be the Library and the front door of the Community Room.

Action: Trustee deKay moved to approved Resolution 01-2023; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

C. Dancing Spirit Utility and Building Fee Waiver Requests

Mr. Garcia stated that Dancing Spirit first submitted this request in 2022; the request prompted the formation of the policy for these types of requests that was adopted at the last meeting. Dancing Spirit has submitted the additional requested information.

Action: Trustee Schulz moved to approve the request for the 50% Utility Tap Fee Waiver for Dancing Spirit; Mayor Pro Tem Box III seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

Action: Trustee deKay moved to approve the request for the 50% Building Permit Fee Waiver for Dancing Spirit; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

D. ELHI Board Presentation

Mr. Garcia gave the background for this presentation from ELHI. Ann Salviagul and Lisa Weber presented the dilemma that ELHI is in. Ann talked about the fact that, because there is no lease in place, ELHI can no longer do fundraising and have, to date, lost over a million dollars in grant funding. She also talked about the potential losses for each of the tenants. ELHI's request is that the Town support a three-year lease between ELHI and the Ignacio School District Board so that they can continue to operate in the current location until decisions are made regarding the purchase of the ELHI building by the Town.

The Board Members and Town Manager expressed appreciation for all the information presented and understanding for the difficult situation that ELHI is facing. No action was taken on this item.

E. Utility Billing Policy Revision

Ms. Dunton talked about the fact that, as was discussed earlier, Ignacio has an aging population on fixed incomes. The request is that the Board approve moving the past due penalty and disconnect notice to the 30th of each month rather than on the 26th of each month so that these individuals can avoid having to pay a late fee when they are already struggling to make ends meet. The Board suggested that the wording be changed to the last business day of the month and removing specifics such as times and days that the office is open. The Board asked for clarification on the timing that this policy adjustment would go into effect; Tuggy requested that it be effective immediately.

Action: Trustee Schulz moved to approve the billing policy as amended; Trustees Maez and Joseph Atencio seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

F. Town Representation on Various Boards and Commissions

Mr. Garcia stated that this is on the agenda for review and reappointment by consensus.

1. La Plata Economic Development Alliance Board: Mayor Pro Tem Box III is currently representing the Town on this Board; he stated he would like to continue serving.
2. CML Policy Committee: No one is currently serving on this committee; no one expressed an interest in this committee.
3. CML Executive Board: The deadline was at 5 PM today, so this opportunity has passed.
4. Regional Housing Authority Board: Mark Garcia and Mayor Craig
5. Southwest Colorado Council of Governments: Tom Atencio
6. Region 9: Mark Garcia, Primary; Michala Hall, Secondary
7. SW Transportation Planning Region: Mark Garcia

G. Planning Commission Applicant – Shane Roukema

Mr. Garcia stated that he has concerns about Mr. Roukema serving in this capacity. Mr. Roukema shared his responses to each of Mr. Garcia's concerns and presented various documents to the Board for consideration. Mayor Craig expressed appreciation for Mr. Roukema's coming before the Board. No action was taken on this item.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

Sergeant Crume stated that we have a new judge but have not held court yet because all of the cases have been for district or county court. He expressed appreciation to the Board for the Christmas bonuses and salary increases. He stated that Ignacio Police Officers are assisting Southern Ute Police Department because they are short-staffed.

B. Public Works

Mr. Mickey stated that SEH has been working with Ms. Dunton to get proof of insurance for CDOT for the Browning Storm Drain Project and that supplies for this project have been ordered. Staff is working on certifications. An inspection by DORA showed compliance issues in the Operations and Maintenance Manual as well as the Integrity Management Plan; Mr. Mickey is working with a consultant to resolve these issues. Mayor Craig expressed appreciation for the snow plowing efforts by staff.

C. Clerk / Treasurer

Ms. Dunton stated that the complete Budget Book for 2023 was at each place on the dais; she commended Dee Wesner, Finance Coordinator, for all her work on this document. She stated that all the pay rates and withholdings have been updated in the payroll software and expressed appreciation for the salary increases and year-end bonuses. She reviewed upcoming events, especially the planned dates for Joint Work Sessions with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Garcia requested that Ms. Dunton inform the Board concerning our new Administrative Assistant.

D. Town Manager

TimberAge and Sinton Development are looking at a different model home build but still committed to the Rock Creek project. Grant processes are moving forward with the State and a letter has been submitted to the County for funding as well; hope to break ground this summer.

Dancing Spirit would like to apply for a CBDG Grant for ADA accessibility to their new building, and has requested that the Town sponsor them in this venture. An MOU would be drawn up if the Board supports moving forward with the grant application. By consensus, the Board approved Mr. Garcia moving forward with this.

Mr. Garcia stated that he will be applying for the IHOI Grant; the letter of intent has already been submitted and the Town was invited to apply, pending the Board's approval. By consensus, the Board approved the application for the IHOI Grant.

E. Attorney

Helped Tuggy with the plastic bag and Styrofoam information; assisted with the fee waiver policy; worked on the ELHI issues; followed up with BIA regarding FOIA request and still waiting for that information; worked with Mr. Garcia on the Zito franchise agreement.

IX. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Box III stated that he has been invited to apply for the Colorado Geographic Naming Commission. He is requesting support from the Board; by consensus, the Board supported his application to this Commission and appointed Mayor Craig to sign a letter of support if needed.

Mayor Craig was invited to participate in the distribution of the Toys for Tots. Great community event, and commended Bruce LeClair and his team for all their work on this.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Garcia stated that we have received the monthly gas rate for January, which has increased 3 times from what it was in December. Mr. Garcia requested the Tribe to waive their 20% and is awaiting a response from them. The Town adds 10% to the Southern Ute Rate; Mr. Garcia is suggesting that the Town waive this 10%. He stated that we have already heard from multiple customers that the rate increase from November to December has impacted them negatively; this new increase will have an even greater impact. He suggested allowing customers to pay the gas over the next several months, especially since the anticipation is that the gas prices and usage will drop during the summer months. The Board expressed a willingness to hold Special Meetings if needed to address this issue. The Board directed staff to send a notice to customers as quickly as possible.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION for the purpose of discussing the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property of interest between the Town and the Ignacio School District, and between the Town and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a)

Action: Trustee Maez moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property of interest between the Town and the Ignacio School District, and between the Town and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a), and stated that no action will be taken during executive session and the Board will not return to open meeting after the Executive Session is over. Mayor Pro Tem Box III seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting.



Clark Craig, Mayor

02/13/2023

Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk