



MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 10, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Remote Public Meeting

I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. She gave the zoom etiquette information, and observed a Moment of Silence, Moment of Gratitude, and Reflection of Hope.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Stella Cox, Mayor Pro Tem Alison deKay, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Edward Box III, Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Sandra Maez, Trustee Dixie Melton

Absent:

Guests:

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2021
- B. Financial Records – April Accounting Reports
- C. Liquor License Renewal Application for Porky's Smokehouse

Action: Trustee Craig moved to approve the consent agenda; Mayor Pro Tem deKay seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 to 1, Trustee Atencio dissenting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Rock Creek Housing Plan Update

Mr. Garcia gave an update on this project. Received quotes from IndieDwell and will be working with SEH on construction costs. The next EIAF Grant Cycle ends on September 3, which gives time to discuss submitting a grant to assist with the infrastructure. Mr. Garcia has also submitted a request to the Division of Housing for their grant cycle, but has not heard back.

B. Land Use and Development Code Update

Two work sessions between the Town Board and Planning Commission have been completed; a third one is schedule for May 18. May need to add one or two more work sessions. This process is going well.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Dr. Rocco Fuschetto Day Proclamation 2021

Mr. Garcia stated that Dr. Fuschetto is retiring last day is May 28, and the Town Board wants to recognize all that he has done to assist the Town. Mr. Garcia requested Ms. Dunton to read the proclamation. The Board clapped at the end of the reading.

Dr. Fuschetto expressed his appreciation and stated that he was honored to receive the proclamation. He talked about some of the memories of his tenure as ISD Superintendent. Various Board Members expressed their appreciation to Dr. Fuschetto.

B. Sonjas New Mexican Cuisine – New Liquor License Application and request for reduction/waiver of fee

Ms. Dunton stated that the actions needed from the Board are to set the Public Hearing date and determine if there will be a waiver or reduction of the new liquor license application fee.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to follow suit with the State and, for this year, waive the application fee for a new liquor license; Trustee Melton seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 2, with Trustees Atencio and Craig opposing.

After some discussion, the Public Hearing date was set for June 14 at the next regular Town Board Meeting.

C. Transit Waste Contract

The current four-year contract ends on June 9. If the Board is interested, the Town could go out for Requests for Proposals to other companies. The staff has done price comparisons with other companies and Transit Waste remains competitive. They would like to renew for another four years and, if the Board is agreeable, they would not raise their current rates for this year; the current contract allows for them to raise rates each year, but they have not done so for the past four years. The Board directed staff to proceed with negotiations with Transit Waste; the decision regarding the number of years of the contract can be determined later. Mr. Garcia stated that he will bring a contract forward at the June Board Meeting.

D. Sancho Cannabis CO Development Request

Mr. Garcia stated that this company approached him about the current regulations on cannabis within the Town of Ignacio. Mr. Garcia informed Chase Sanchez, the owner of this company, that there is currently a ban on marijuana businesses within the Town. He stated that it has been several years since this issue was addressed by the Town Board and he wanted to see what the feelings of the Board were regarding cannabis enterprises within the Town. After some discussion and input from Chase and his mother, Germain Ewing, the Board consensus was to request public input on this issue. This will be on the agenda for the June meeting, with the Board requesting input from the public. This will be published in the newspaper and posted at the posting locations within Town limits.

E. Hunter Sign Permit Appeal

Mr. Garcia stated that there is a political sign on Sheryle Hunter's property that the Town is seeking to remove. Ms. Hunter has appealed staff's action on this to the Town Board. It is staff's opinion that this sign that says "Trump 2020" is political and, per the code, should be removed at the conclusion of the election. If the Board supports staff opinion, then Ms. Hunter would be cited into court and the judge would make a determination based on our current code. Ms. Hunter spoke about her desire that the sign not be taken down because it is her right to express her opinion (freedom of speech) and she told the Board about the positive and negative reactions from other

people. She expressed her willingness to alter the sign if the Board so desired, but not remove it. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was to have the judge hear this case and make a determination. Mr. Garcia stated that the next step would be a citation to Ms. Hunter and the issue would go before the judge.

F. COVID-19 Update

Mr. Garcia stated that, after the last Board Meeting, he had conversations with staff about the possibility of reopening Town Hall to the public and that staff felt that being closed had not reduced customer service and had increased productivity. Staff also expressed the desire to continue having a safe environment to work and not be exposed to the virus. The Board consensus was that there are protective measures in place and they directed staff to set the hours for reopening.

Mr. Garcia reported that the last vaccination clinic was held on Saturday. There have been over 2500 shots administered over the various clinics that were held. He expressed appreciation for all the volunteers that assisted and for Trustee Melton spearheading the venture with the support of other Trustees. Mayor Cox stated that Governor Polis made mention of the Greater Ignacio Vaccination POD in a recent newsletter.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

Will apply for the gaming grant if the Board concurs. The casino was only open 82 days last year, so the number of calls is way down from previous years. Hoping to be able to receive \$45,000 to \$50,000. The consensus of the Board was approval for Chief Phillips to move forward with the application process.

Car show on May 1 had more than 100 cars and several hundred people with no law enforcement issues. It was very well attended and successful.

A patrol officer has been hired who will begin employment in mid-June. This will allow Officer Perez to move from a patrol officer to the School Resource Officer position. Chief Phillips expressed appreciation to the School Board for their support in this entire process and for the funding for the SRO positions. He also stated that he will be seeking federal grant funding for these positions as well.

There has been a statewide opioid settlement of about 2 billion dollars nationally. Colorado will receive about 1.6% of that over 20 years. Discussion among the five counties for use of those funds.

Chief will give a presentation tomorrow to the Justice Assistance Grant for funding to replace the portable radios that the officers use. Mr. Garcia will assist with that presentation. The current radios are about 15 years old, no longer supported by Motorola, and parts are harder and harder to find.

B. Clerk/Treasurer

Ms. Dunton stated her written report is in the packet that was sent to the Board.

The next Joint Work Session with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners has been rescheduled to Thursday, July 1, at 6:00 PM.

C. Town Manager

Public Works Department – completed interviews with candidates and extended a job offer to Jeremy Mickey and he is looking to start at the end of May or first of June. He has a lot of broad experience and will work on obtaining his certifications as quickly as possible.

Valencia Sewer Letter – this is a private service line and customers are responsible for their own service lines. The line is shared two other services and they have the responsibility to repair it. The Town offered to film it to see where the issue is. Mr. Valencia is requesting that we jet the line; however, if it is collapsed, it would make a bad situation worse. The customer would need to replace the line if it is collapsed. A couple of Board members have even needed to replace their lines and so the Town is wanting to be consistent and require that the property owner and the other two customers bear this expense. The Town Code states that, if a sewer line needs to be repaired or replaced, the customer must then remove any piggy-backed lines and create separate services for them.

Becker / Goddard Intersection – construction will begin at the end of May or first of June.

Rural Housing Alliance – will have a retreat in June for discussion on how the RHA will re-assemble and what their priorities will be. It would be good to have a Board Member representing the Town on that Board. If anyone is interested, please let Mr. Garcia know. Mayor Cox offered her assistance.

ELHI Building – ISD has selected dates for a Joint Work Session with ISD, ELHI, and the Town Board (June 8, 15 or 16, 5:30-6:30 PM). Mr. Garcia requested preferences from the Board; after some discussion the consensus was to request June 15.

D. Attorney

No report due to Mr. Liberman's absence.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Mayor Cox stated that the San Ignatius event will take place this year. She is not sure what all will take place this year, but the hope is at least the parade will happen.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that the Pfizer vaccine is now approved for ages 12 and up. Mr. Garcia stated that there are multiple clinics available; people can go to San Juan Basin Public Health website to find a clinic.

Trustee Craig stated that Representative Boebert reached out to the Chamber and visited several local businesses in Ignacio. She is also planning a visit later this year to visit with ranchers and farmers.

Mr. Atencio addressed the lack of water for irrigation. The pond is only half full and the river is too low to provide water at this time. Mr. Atencio suggested sectioning the Town so that the upper level of town waters on even days and the lower half waters on odd days. Mr. Garcia stated that he will look at what has happened in the past; he is aware that our Code states that there are fines that may be imposed for those who waste the water. All the Trustees concurred. Trustee Melton stated that we need to figure out how to inform

the Town residents; the suggestion was to post it on the Town's website, Facebook page, post at the usual locations in Town, and a mailer to all the customers. Mayor Cox suggested the restrictions and conservation be extended to potable water as well as irrigation. Mayor Pro Tem deKay recommended putting information out there, but not make it so structured and/or focused on enforcement.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS


None

X. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:33 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 6:30 PM via Remote Public Meeting.



Stella Cox, Mayor



Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk