



MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 14, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Remote Public Meeting

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:33 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 (joined meeting at 6:50PM), 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 May 10, 2021
- B. Financial Records – May Check Register and May Accounting Reports

Action: Trustee Craig moved to approve the consent agenda; Trustee Box III seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Rock Creek Housing Plan Update

SEH working on updating conceptual plans to use IndieDwell pricing. Mr. Garcia will email updated concepts in the next week or so and this will be on the agenda in July.

B. Broadband Plan Update

Phone conversations with Diane Kruse from NeoConnect to look at grant funding opportunities. May work with FastTracks again. Multiple grants currently available; looking at all the options. LPEA is considering entering the Broadband Market. Tribe received 10 million in funding for Broadband; will reach out to see if we can partner with them on their middle mile project through Town.

C. Transit Waste Contract Renewal

Contract for solid waste services was discussed last month; Transit Waste has requested a four-year extension with no increase this year but the potential for cost increase next year. This is the third extension of the original agreement. Discussion ensued about rates charged to the customer, the cost to the Town each month, the length of the contract, and other items.

Action: Trustee Melton moved to accept the contract for a four-year term; Trustee Box III seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 to 1, the Trustee Craig opposed.

D. Valencia Sewer Letter #2

Sewer service line issue on Burns Ave. The Town was cautious about jetting the line in the event it might have already failed; the Town filmed the line and snake the line instead. There is a potential major failure that the residents who share the line will need to incur the costs for repair.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ignacio Creative District Presentation: Resolution 03-2021 – A Resolution of the Town of Ignacio Authorizing Certification of a Creative District and Expressing Support Thereof

Ms. Dunton introduced Marcia Vining, Ignacio Creative District (ICD) Board Member, and Eva Lewis, a volunteer for ICD. They gave a PowerPoint Presentation discussing the history of ICD, the benefits of a Creative District, and a request for a Resolution of Support which will enable ICD to apply for state certification. Mr. Garcia stated that Ms. Dunton is the President of ICD and Trustee Craig is also on the Board. Ms. Dunton talked about some of the plans for the future of the District, and Sharon, Marcia and Eva talked about the various organizations that ICD is working with and plans to work with moving forward. The Board expressed appreciation for the presentation and Mayor called for a motion on the Resolution.

Action: Trustee Maez moved to pass Resolution 03-2021; Trustee Melton seconded the motion. Trustee Craig stated that she would abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest. The motion passed, with 6 approving and 1 abstention.

Trustee Box III stated that he serves on the Board of the Creative District in Durango to represent the cultural aspect. His vision is to bring Ignacio and Durango together and he expressed a willingness to work with the ICD Board as well.

B. Sonjas New Mexican Cuisine Liquor License Public Hearing

Ms. Dunton stated that Sonja has completed her application and the background check is clear. The next steps are for Sonja to introduce herself and then have the public hearing with a vote after the hearing. Mayor Cox invited Sonja to speak.

Sonja expressed deep appreciation to the Board for all the support they have given during the application process, as well as during the establishment of her business. She stated that it is evident that the Board has the best interest of the community in their hearts, expressed deep and sincere gratitude for the waiver of the application fee during the pandemic, and expressed appreciation also for how helpful, responsive and supportive staff have been during this process.

Mayor Cox opened the Public Hearing at 7:29 PM. There were no comments or concerns from the Public. Mayor Cox closed the Hearing at 7:29 PM.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to approve the liquor license application; Trustee Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Cannabis Discussion with input from the public

Mr. Garcia stated that a request had come from Sancho Cannabis Company that would like to open a business in Town even though there is currently a permanent ban in our ordinances. This meeting was published on our website, on Facebook, and in the newspaper. Mayor Cox gave instruction on the Public Comment session. The following people commented:

Chris deKay, ISD Superintendent, is opposed to allowing Marijuana in our Town.

Chase Sanchez, Owner of Sancho Cannabis Company, expressed appreciation to the Board for their willingness to consider this.

Germaine Ewing is in favor of this.

Gary Faulks 718 CR 302 is in favor of this.

Mayor Cox closed the public comment section. Trustee Craig stated that she had brought this issue up at the Chamber of Commerce meeting earlier this month; many of the businesses were not opposed to it. Trustee Maez stated that she agrees with Mr. deKay's concern for the youth and she believes that there is not a place for marijuana in our Town. Mayor Cox stated that she does not want to be an enabler and that she feels this is not something that should come into our community. Trustee Craig stated that she believes this should be brought to vote to the public. Mayor Pro Tem deKay concurred that this should go to vote; however, when it was legalized, the Town of Ignacio was not in favor of it at that time.

Mr. Garcia stated that the Board could now give direction to staff on next steps. Options include having an ordinance written to lift the permanent ban, directing staff that this be on the next ballot in April or in a coordinated election with the County in November. If this does go to vote, there would also need to be questions on the ballot regarding percentage and type of tax and specification of the various businesses that would be licensed (grow, testing, medical and/or recreational). This will come back to the Board for approval of the various questions that will be put on the ballot.

Trustee Box III stated that the Tribe has talked about hemp farms in the past, but that goes against the traditional ways of the Tribe. The Town will need to keep in mind that we are within the exterior boundaries of the reservation and communication needs to be kept open between the Tribe and Town.

D. Land Use Development Code Public Hearing – Discussion on the draft LUDC

The Town Board and Planning Commission have been meeting to discuss the draft of the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC), but these discussions are not yet concluded. The Public Hearing will need to be continued to the next meeting and possibly until August. Staff will re-publish the notice of public hearing at that time. There was one citizen, Lana Jo Chapin, who wrote her comments on this issue and her written comments will become part of the record of the Public Hearing.

Mayor Cox opened the Public Hearing at 8:08 PM. There were no comments from the public; Mayor Cox closed the Public Hearing at 8:08 PM.

Mr. Garcia stated that after discussions between the Town Board and Planning Commission are completed, the Public Hearing will be re-published in the newspaper, on the website and on the Town's Facebook page.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that the zoning map also needs to be looked at, along with the LUDC.

E. COVID-19 Update

1. Town Operations

Town Hall is open to the public 10 AM to 2 PM daily now; the volume of people coming into the office is minor with most people still choosing to make payments via the drop box and handle other business via telephone and/or email. Phones are operated 9 AM to 4 PM.

Mr. Garcia asked if the Board is inclined to begin in-person meetings or hybrid of in-person and remote public meeting. After much discussion, the consensus of the Board was to move to in-person meetings in July, with the option for people to attend and participate via Remote Public Meeting; staff will follow through with ensuring that the technology is in place for this to be able to happen. The seating will be set up to ensure six-foot physical distancing.

2. Utility Billing Discussion regarding late fees, disconnections and reconnect fees

Mr. Garcia stated that, during the Emergency Declaration, there were Executive Orders in place that prohibited utility shut-offs and/or late fees and reconnect fees. That Executive Order has expired, and the issue is before the Board to give the staff direction as to whether the Town should reinstitute the fees and disconnections. After much discussion, the Board gave staff direction to reinstitute the standard Utility Billing Policy that states that any account with a past-due amount will be charged a late fee of \$10.00 and, if the account remains delinquent, it will be shut off on the 10th of the following month. This information will be printed in the July 5 newsletter and on the Town website and Facebook page. There is also a one-year repayment agreement for those who have fallen behind in their utility payments. As long as they remain current, they would have 12 months to repay the past due amounts without penalty.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

Chief Phillips stated that the new officer is lacking some advanced CPR training and, once that is completed, he will be able to receive a provisional POST certification.

Applied for two grants, one for radios and the other for gaming. The gaming grant is considerably lower this year. Chief expressed appreciation for the assistance that Mr. Garcia and Ms. Dunton provided. There has been no word back yet on the approval or denial of these two grants.

B. Public Works Department

Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. Mickey as the new Public Works Director and commended him for the good job he has done so far.

Mr. Jeremey Mickey stated that the Town was able to purchase some equipment at the CDOT auction. 5200 Bucket truck in good mechanical condition, as well as a skidsteer.

Working on compliance issues with gas, water and sewer systems.

Remote laser methane gas detector has been purchased as well.

Building Department: 509 Tranquilo is scheduled for final inspection on June 18-21; 507 Tranquilo is scheduled to pour the foundation on June 11; 365 Goddard remodel is scheduled for June 14; Crème de la Crème Coffee Shop at 695 Goddard is scheduled to open later this month.

Mr. Garcia stated that the Becker/Goddard intersection project is underway and Mr. Mickey has been involved every step of the way, working closely with SEH (our engineering company) and CDOT.

Mayor Cox commented on the merry-go-round being made of metal and there being a liability risk of children burning their skin on it. Mr. Garcia stated that most communities do not have merry-go-rounds anymore due to the liability issue. Staff will check into this.

Trustee Atencio asked if property owners have been notified of their non-compliance with the weed ordinance; he also asked if the Town is going to hire someone to take care of the weeds and mowing of town property. Mr. Garcia stated that there has been an ad in the paper and not one single application has come in yet.

C. Clerk/Treasurer

Ms. Dunton expressed appreciation for the direction given to staff.

La Plata Youth Services wrote a thank-you note for the financial support and that note is in the packet.

Colorado Municipal League Annual Business Meeting is on June 21. Sharon Craig will be the voting representative for the Town; if any other Board Members would like to attend, Ms. Dunton stated she would be happy to ensure they are registered.

D. Town Manager

Most of the items in the report were already talked about during the meeting. The equipment from CDOT was purchased for \$3,000.00; we were able to acquire it at the governmental auction at a major discount.

Road closures for conduit will take place during the Becker/Goddard intersection project.

No further communication from ISD or ELHI after the joint work session with them. Mr. Garcia will work on a Downtown Redevelopment Plan through the University Technical Assistance Program of the University of Colorado. This will help show ISD and ELHI how critical downtown is to the development of our community. There is little to no charge for this program.

The purpose of the Executive Session is to update the Board on the Raw Water Easement and Jurisdictional Agreement with the Tribe.

E. Attorney

Working on Law Enforcement IGA with the Tribe, LUDC with the Planning Commission, the Raw Water Easement with the Tribe, and sign code enforcement.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Craig stated that Green Chile Fest will take place 12:00-4:00 on Saturday, Sept. 4. The Chamber has offered to assist with the clean-up of downtown. She can see what their thinking is on this topic if the Board would like her to.

Trustee Melton asked about the modular that SoCoCAA owns. Mr. Garcia stated that they are trying to finalize their choice of companies to set the modular buildings permanently. Mr. Garcia stated that he can email the Board with any updates.

Mr. Atencio asked about the Town’s involvement with St. Ignatius Parade. Trustee Box III volunteered to coordinate this. The Parade will take place on Saturday, July 24 at 10 AM.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: For a conference with the Town attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) pertaining to agreements with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to go into Executive Session; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Cox stated that no action will be taken during the executive session, and that the Board will not return to open meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:17 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, July 12, 2021, at 6:30 PM via Remote Public Meeting.

Stella Cox

Stella Cox, Mayor

07/13/2021

Date

Tuggy Dunton

Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk