



IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 8, 2022 – 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 6:01 PM by leading in the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Mayor Clark Craig, Mayor Pro Tem Edward Box III, Trustee Joseph Atencio, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Alison deKay, Trustee Sandra Maez, Trustee Jeremy Schulz

Absent: None

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from July 9, 2022

B. Financial Records for July 2022

C. The Rose Café Liquor License Renewal Application

D. Wells Liquor South Liquor License Renewal Application

Action: Trustee Schulz moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Mayor Pro Tem Box III seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ELHI Facility Update and ISD Negotiations

Mr. Garcia stated that, based on the work session, the Board talked about approaching the School Board with a counter-offer and asking them to carry the note. That is the purpose of the discussion this evening, to solidify strategies for the Joint Work Session on Thursday, August 11 at 6:00 PM at the School Admin Building.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning Commission Application from Michael Montoya

Ms. Dunton stated that she failed to contact Mr. Montoya and let him know that he was on the agenda for this evening. She requested this be moved to the September agenda. The Board concurred, and expressed a desire that Mr. Montoya expand on his qualifications to serve on the Planning Commission

B. Ignacio Creative District Update and Request for Street Mural Approval

Ms. Dunton stated there is background information in the packet; the Creative District appreciates the support of the Town Board. Ms. Dunton stated that it is her honor to serve as the Town-appointed representative on the Creative District; the Board of the Creative District appointed her as President, and she is honored to serve in that capacity. She introduced Eva Lewis, the Director of the Creative District, to make the presentation.

Eva expressed appreciation for the opportunity to address the Board and expressed that it is an honor for her to be here this evening. She stressed the importance of involving the Board of Trustees, individually and as a whole, in the exciting plans that ICD has for Ignacio. She stated that there are images in the packet that reflect the top choices of the Creative District Board; these were presented at the Saint Ignatius Festival and the community members voted on those options, pending approval from the Town Board. The community selected the image that has the bright sun next to the deep blue. The Board commented on the various option. Mayor Craig commented on the art installation that has recently been placed just North of the Town. Eva stated that this is the first installation for John Cerney in the state of Colorado, and that Colorado is the 25th state to house Mr. Cerney's art. The Board commented on how they enjoy seeing that as they drive toward Durango.

Action: Trustee deKay moved *to approve the request for ICD to create the Street Mural on Pioneer St.*; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Hearing for Special Event Permit Request from the Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Dunton stated that the application and proposed map of the facility is in the packet; the proper notice was given for this Public Hearing. Sharon Craig is the coordinator of the event, and she is available to answer any questions.

Mayor Craig opened the Public Hearing at 6:31 PM. There were no comments. Mayor Craig closed the Public Hearing at 6:32 PM.

D. Action on Special Event Permit Request from the Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Craig asked if there was further discussion among the Board; there was none. He called for a motion.

Action: Trustee Tom Atencio moved to accept the application for the Special Event Permit from the Ignacio Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Box III seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Public Hearing on FAMLI

Ms. Dunton stated that a public hearing is required if the Town chooses to Opt Out of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program provided through the State of Colorado. The Notice to the Staff and a copy of the notice that was published in the Durango Herald are included in the packet.

Mayor Craig opened the Public Hearing at 6:34 PM. Trustee Tom Atencio asked Ms. Dunton if all employees are aware of this. She stated they are, as the email was sent to all the employees. There were no other comments, so Mayor Craig closed the Public Hearing at 6:34 PM.

F. Resolution 08-2022 – Opting out of FAMLI

Mayor Craig asked if there was any discussion among the Board Members regarding Resolution 08-2022 that was included in the packet. There were none; he called for a motion.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem Edward Box III moved to approve Resolution 08-2022, Declining the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program; Trustee deKay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Resolution 09-2022 – Annexation Petition for Ignacio South Properties

Mr. Garcia stated this resolution initiates the annexation for multiple properties in the Ignacio South area, as depicted on the plat that was in the packet. The Young properties, which are currently under a conservatorship, are part of this annexation; the Phillips property; some of the right-of-way along County Road 320A (not all of it because not all of the property owners have responded); Ignacio South property adjacent to El Paso heights, and the Slaughterhouse Property. This plat will need to be updated to remove the 17.2 acres that were discussed in the Work Session that would be the subject of the potential land exchange with the Tribe. The Tribe cannot sell trust land; however, they can trade trust lands. Mr. Garcia stated it would be better if the portion that we would like to exchange with the Tribe is not annexed at the time of the potential exchange. Mr. Garcia stated that he would also like to talk with the Tribe about purchasing the rest of Rock Creek back from the tribe; it has already been annexed into the Town boundaries prior to us selling it to the Tribe several years ago. Mr. Garcia stated that he would like to have a special meeting on September 26, noticed as a public hearing; there are notices that can be mailed to utilities and property owners; the Town has requested a waiver of the impact report requirement from the County. Mayor Craig stated that he will be out of town on September 26; the Board, by consensus, selected September 19 instead.

Action: Trustee Schulz moved to approve Resolution 09-2022 with the stipulation that the plat be amended to reflect the ridgeline as the boundary of the annexation; Trustee Joseph Atencio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Garcia stated that staff has already been working on the 2023 budget; if the Board would like to have a work session with staff, that can be scheduled immediately following the Special Meeting on September 19. The Board concurred.

H. COVID-19 Update

Mr. Garcia stated there is no update. As long as the emergency declaration from the State is still in effect, this will remain on the agenda. Once the State emergency declaration is lifted, San Juan Basin Public Health will follow suit and then the Town can do the same.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

Chief Phillips stated that the next event that will require road closures is the School District open house on August 18, 4:30-7:00, on Romero Avenue.

Chile Fest will be on September 3, and a portion of Browning Ave and Pioneer Street will be shut down for that event, from 11 AM to 5 PM.

The Tribal Fair is celebrating their hundredth year; Chief anticipates a very long parade procession and Goddard Ave will be shut down for that event.

Trustee Joseph Atencio asked if there are any events for Labor Day. Chief responded that there will be a Rally in Durango; camping will be available at the Downs, but there will be no Rally events in Ignacio. Mayor Craig stated that the Green Chile Fest will be at Farmers Fresh on Saturday and the Casino is hosting events that weekend, but no Rally events in Ignacio.

B. Public Works Department

Getting close to starting the Storm Drain project on Browning; have cleared most of the hurdles with CDOT.

Burns Avenue sewer line replacement project will require closure to through traffic for about a week. Plan to start this project this week. All material is on site and ready to go.

Mr. Smithson resigned his position mid-July; we have hired two new employees that will start on August 15. One is the additional FTE that the Board approved; the other is to replace Colten.

Vac trailer should be here August 22.

Trustee Tom Atencio asked how often the tie-ins for fire hydrants are checked. Mr. Mickey said once a year and work with the fire department regarding this and confined space entry apparatus.

C. Clerk/Treasurer

Ms. Dunton reminded the Board about the Joint Work Session with Ignacio School District Board on August 11 at 6:00 PM at the Admin Building. Also, the Joint Work Session with the Southern Ute Tribal Council on August 24 at 6:00 PM here in the Community Room; we are hosting this Work Session and dinner will be provided. She commended Michala for the good work she is doing coordinating the catering.

CML District Fall Meeting on September 28; Ms. Dunton will register those who would like to attend. Meeting at 4, social hour and dinner and concludes at 7:30. There is a free pass to the Hot Springs that can be used that evening or at a different time. Ms. Dunton will poll the Board Members at the September meeting to get a final count.

Email received from the Elementary School asking if the Board members would like to have an information table at the Back to School Party on Aug 18, 4:00-7:30 PM. Mayor Craig said he will be there.

D. Town Manager

Mr. Garcia said that the Town will begin working on subdivision plats for the Young properties; these will be presented after the public hearing and vote on annexation. The subdivision will go to the Planning Commission (presuming we have a full Commission by then) and the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Town Board. Similarly, he would like to do a minor subdivision of the Ignacio South property, dividing it into four or five lots which would create single-family lots for the builds that TimberAge is working on. La Plata Economic Development Association has created a Catalyst Fund which will provide startup funding for housing development; these funds can be used for infrastructure, planning, etc. as we move this project forward. If the proof-out builds on Ignacio South can be done for \$300,000 or less, the developer would like to use TimberAge to build out Rock Creek as well. Preliminary plat for the subdivision will be submitted to the Board after Mr. Garcia and the Surveyor walk the ridge for the boundary of the annexation. Need to formalize land transfers and how that is contributed to the future homeowner with deed restrictions, etc.

Fee waiver research was done by Michala. There is not a lot of policy out there; Mr. Garcia requested feedback from the Board and suggested 50% utility waiver and possible full waiver of building permit fees based on certain qualifications. Trustee Schulz stated that

this is a topic in multiple surrounding communities; he expressed the importance of having due process and policies in place, especially as the affordable housing projects get started. Trustee deKay stated that, while it is a bit of money that the Town might lose in building permit and utility tap fees, it is a lot of money to a private home owner. The fact that we might provide these discounts could set Ignacio apart, promote investors, and spur people that are already here to make improvements.

Mr. Mickey stated that the Colorado Rural Water Association has software that will help the Town determine the rates for the next 20 years; this will justify the costs of rates, plant investment fees, etc. This will help the Town determine if our own waste water treatment plant is a viable option.

Mayor Craig & Mr. Garcia met with shared utility services with the Tribe; their fiber-to-the-premises build has moved from a Phase 2 priority to a Phase 1 priority. They are concerned about FastTrack's grant award to do fiber to the premises. Hopefully we can see this infrastructure come into Town soon. Mayor Craig added that the Town has been invited into engineering conversations with Bonfire and the other organizations that the Tribe has been working with; those conversations will begin this week. Mr. Garcia stated that the Town has offered the abandoned steel gas piping for the Tribe to use as conduit for fiber.

Four new Tribal Council Members since our last Joint Work Session; hopefully all our Board Members can attend the Joint Work Session. There seems to be a lot of desire to work with the Town moving forward.

Trustee deKay asked if there was any update on the raw water easement issue. Mr. Garcia stated there is not, nor is there an update on the jurisdictional agreement. Trustees deKay and Maez commented that they would like these items to be addressed at the Joint Work Session.

E. Town Attorney

Did attorney letter for the audit; met with Mayor Craig and Trustee Schulz regarding attorney review, would like to get a fee increase in front of the Board since there has not been an increase since 2018; helped Tuggy with advertising for Municipal Judge RFQ and the FAMLI notices and Resolution in compliance with the FAMLI Code; has heard that the Town may be interested in talking with the School District about owner financing for the purchase of ELHI and wanted to remind the Board that, under TABOR, if they enter into a multiyear financial obligation there must be voter approval unless the funds are tucked away and you can account for them in a separate line item in the budget (there may be lease-to-buy options that would not require voter approval); Mr. Garcia has asked me to look over the Zito Franchise Agreement; Tuggy asked about changes to Colorado Business Licensing statutes and how those impact the Town (if at all); several questions have come to me from the Tribal Attorney regarding franchises for broadband, rights-of-way, bonding, and requesting that the Town withdraw their support of FastTrack's grant because they feel it is in competition with their grant.

Mayor Craig stated that the evaluation went well; they worked through some things and feel that it is good to open lines of communication sooner in various projects. He also asked that the rate increase be on the September agenda. He stated that he feels Mr. Liberman is doing a good job.

VII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Schulz stated that one of our high school students attended ECI, which is available for all high school students.

Mayor Pro Tem Box III attended Economic Alliance Board Meeting in person; it is well worth it for the Town of Ignacio to be part of this organization. This will lead to more collaboration with Bayfield, Durango and Ignacio. He also brought up the SUIT Fair and said that the Town Board should be in the Parade on September 10. Mayor Craig agreed that the Board should participate. Mayor Pro Tem Box III attended his first virtual meeting with the Colorado Geographic Naming Commission; he has not been appointed yet, but he advised them that he is representing the Town of Ignacio as a Trustee.

Mayor Craig stated that the Town won \$10.00 from participating in the Saint Ignatius Festival Parade. People seemed to like the shirts. Trustee Schulz stated that we should order more flashlights. Conversation ensued about swag for kids and adults, and ordering bags that the Board could carry the swag in. He also acknowledged that Michala will be getting married in a week and a half and congratulated her on behalf of the Board. She thanked him.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS:

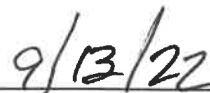
None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Craig adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting.



Clark Craig, Mayor



Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk