



## MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, August 9, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room, 570 Goddard Avenue

and via Remote Public Meeting

I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem deKay called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. She opened the meeting by leading in the pledge of allegiance.

### II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Alison deKay, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Dixie Melton

Absent: Mayor Stella Cox, Trustee Edward Box III, Trustee Sandra Maez

Guests:

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from July 12, 2021
- B. Financial Records – July Check Register and July Accounting Reports
- C. The Rose Cafe Liquor License Renewal Application

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

### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Marijuana Issue on the April 2022 Ballot

Mr. Garcia stated that he wanted confirmation that the Board wants this on the ballot prior to working with the Town Attorney to write the ballot questions. Sample ballot questions will be brought to the Board for approval and adoption by ordinance. By consensus, the Board members stated that they wanted staff to move forward.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Public Hearing on the Special Event Permit Application from Ignacio Chamber of Commerce Green Chile Fest, scheduled for September 4, 2021

Ms. Dunton stated that the Chamber has completed the application and submitted all the proper documentation. Clark Craig, President of the Chamber, gave the history of the Green Chile Fest, stating this is the Fifth Annual Green Chile Fest. He talked about the location, the plans for the event, etc. Chief Phillips stated that the past events has been very well organized and received well by the community and, from the Police Department perspective, he has no issue with this event. Mayor Pro Tem deKay opened

the public hearing. There were no public comments. She closed the public hearing and called for a vote.

**Action:** Trustee Atencio moved to approve the application from the Chamber for the Green Chile Fest for September 4 at Farmers Fresh. Trustee Melton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2021-2023 Strategic Plan Review and Discussion of ARPA Funds

Mr. Garcia stated that the ARPA Funding will be part of the budget discussions and the hope is that the Strategic Plan will inform the projects that will be budgeted for 2022. The total amount the Town will receive a little over 128,000, half of it has already come in and the other half will be disbursed in 2022. These funds can be used for things such as housing and broad band. No action was needed on this item.

C. Contract with Auditor for 2021-2023 Annual Audits – renew with Hinton Burdick or put out an RFP

Mr. Garcia stated that Hinton Burdick has had six years of audits with the Town; they have been very supportive and easy to work with. One of the responsibilities of the Board is to hire the auditors, and staff will support the decision of the Board. The consensus of the Board was for staff to prepare an RFP.

D. Ord 346 – An Ordinance Adopting a Hybrid Public Meeting Policy for the Town of Ignacio, Colorado

Mr. Garcia stated that the Town Board adopted a Remote Public Meeting in response to the Emergency Declaration; we are now functioning in a Hybrid environment which is not reflected in the current policy. This Ordinance will address in-person meetings, remote meetings, and hybrid meetings where there can be in-person attendance as well as remote attendance. Trustee Atencio stated that he wanted to table this until all the Board Members were present and that he believes the Board Members and Mayors should always be present and not use the hybrid option as a cop-out. Trustee Melton stated that the Board Members should police themselves on this issue. Mr. Garcia stated that some communities have language in their policies that only allow for two remote meetings per year and that language can be included if the Board Members would like it to be. Mr. Garcia suggested a general statement be included that the intent is to have in-person meetings and Trustees are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible in person; however, there may be instances where remote access serves the needs of the Trustees. Mr. Craig stated that, as an attendee at the remote meetings, his observation was that those Trustees whose cameras were turned off were no longer engaged in the meeting; if they are in-person, they cannot turn their camera off and they are then required to be fully engaged in the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem deKay reminded the Board that one of the points in the Strategic Plan is to engage with the community and the best way to do that is face-to-face. She asked if there were any other comments; there were none, so she stated that the ordinance is tabled until the next meeting, then moved on in the agenda.

E. COVID-19 Update

Mr. Garcia stated there is no new report on this agenda item.

## VII. STAFF REPORTS

### A. Police Department

Chief Phillips stated that the new officer, Neal Lott, has been with the department for about 3 weeks. Officer Boyce advanced him to the next level of training, and Officer Lott is meeting or exceeding all expectations.

In addition to the Green Chile Fest, there are several events at the Casino on Labor Day weekend in conjunction with the Four Corners Motorcycle Rally.

### B. Public Works Department

Mr. Mickey stated that several drainage ditches needed to be cleaned after the monsoon rains last months.

Compliance with the code is an on-going task, and Lionel is doing a good job with notifying residents that are not compliant.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay expressed appreciation for the way Mr. Mickey organizes his report.

Mr. Garcia stated that the Town purchased a skid steer on the CDOT auction, along with a truck for the PW Department. They were both great deals.

### C. Clerk/Treasurer

Ms. Dunton expressed appreciation on the direction given regarding the RFP for an auditor.

The standard utility billing policy is now in place and there are seven people signed up for the repayment agreement that the Town is offering. The first shut-off list has about 40 people on it, so she anticipates a lot more people signing up for the repayment agreement. Citizens have all expressed appreciation for the Town extending this offer. Mr. Garcia stated that this will help get the utility funds back up to budgets.

### D. Town Manager

CDOT Construction on the Becker/Goddard intersection is a little behind schedule, but should be completed soon.

Mr. Garcia and Mayor Cox have been attending RHA Meetings. The September meeting will be the Town of Ignacio in the month of September; after the meeting Mr. Garcia will take them on a tour of the slaughter house property and the Rock Creek property.

There will be another speed test for the Broadband Plan. The Tribe is desiring to work with the Town on this project, utilizing grant funds for both mid-mile and last-mile broadband. The speed test results will need to be certified at the September meeting.

Mr. Garcia stated that in 2009 there was some work with DOLA to come up with a downtown improvement plan; some of it has been accomplished, other parts of it may not be able to be accomplished. He is continuing to work with DOLA on a more current downtown improvement plan. There is currently a lot of grant funding available for downtown revitalization and rural economic development. The challenge is that a stated highway runs right through the middle of town, but he is trying to get a downtown development and/or a live-work environment going; he hopes to work with

the Ignacio Creative District on this idea. Jen Coates was very instrumental in the Ridgway Creative District and he hopes to have her involved in Ignacio.

In the future, there will need to be an executive session to discuss the work that Mr. Garcia and Mr. Liberman have been doing on the raw water easement. Tonight's executive session will be to discuss the potential acquisition of property within the Town limits.

Ms. Dunton gave a quick update on the Creative District; they have partnered with Dancing Spirit and Silver Spruce to hire an AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer whose primary role will be finding grant monies to help move the district forward.

E. Attorney

Working on the raw water easement issue. Last month worked on the attorney letter for the 2020 audit.

**VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Craig stated that CML has their Special Conference September 22-24; she will attend this event. County Commissioners will have office hours at the library in case any citizens want to connect with them.

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS**

The St. Ignatius Fiesta was well received; hope to have a bigger event next year. Some Town Board members walked in the parade and it was a good community outreach.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** To discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a)

Action: Trustee Melton moved to go into Executive Session; Trustee Atencio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into executive session at 7:50 PM.

The Board returned to open meeting at 8:26 PM. Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that the participants in the executive session were: Alison deKay, Mayor Pro Tem; Dixie Melton, Trustee; Sharon Craig, Trustee; Tom Atencio, Trustee; Mark Garcia, Interim Town Manager; David Liberman, Town Attorney. She asked if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law to state that for the record. There was none.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay asked for a motion regarding Lot 2 of the Williams Field Services Subdivision.

**Action:** Trustee Atencio made the motion to accept the offer of \$150,000 for the purchase of Lot 2 of the Williams Field Services Subdivision and directed staff to move forward with closing procedures; Trustee Melton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay asked for a motion regarding retaining realtor services for potential property acquisition.

**Action:** Trustee Craig moved to direct staff to retain realtor services for potential property acquisition; Trustee Melton seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem deKay clarified that this will come back to the Board for final decision; Mr. Garcia stated that this is in regard to a property that is currently in negotiations with another party and will only take place if those negotiations fall through. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Pro Tem deKay adjourned the meeting at 8:32 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 6:30 PM at the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting.

  
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Alison deKay, Mayor Pro Tem

10/11/21  
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Date

  
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Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk