



IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 10, 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 6:00 PM by leading in the pledge of allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clark Craig, Trustee Joseph Atencio, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Alison deKay, Trustee Jeremy Schulz

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Edward Box III, Trustee Sandra Maez

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action: Trustee deKay moved to approve the agenda; Trustee Schulz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kasey Correia with Dancing Spirit Community Art Center: received award of grant from CCI for \$500,000 and working on getting funding for construction loan. She is waiting on word from the Board regarding potential fee waivers for utility tap fees and building permit fees, and cannot proceed until she has an answer from the Board. Currently down to \$350,000 needed for the construction loan; hope to break ground this year. Both Boettcher Foundation and Gates Foundation will do a site visit on the 21st for potential capital funding.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

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

B. Special Town Board Meeting Minutes from September 19, 2022

C. Financial Records for September 2022

Action: Trustee Tom Atencio moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Trustee Joseph Atencio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RHA Funding Agreement

Mr. Garcia stated that both he and Mayor Craig are on the Regional Housing Alliance Board. RHA is working with La Plata Economic Development Alliance to develop scope of work and funding needs for 2023. There is no action to be taken at this meeting because the draft agreement will most likely change. Mr. Garcia stated he is no longer a candidate for the Executive Director position.

B. Ord.351 – Ignacio South Annexation – Public Hearing

The Public Hearing at our last meeting has been continued to this evening; the annexation agreement with the Young property has yet to be completed. Mr. Garcia recommended that we continue this Public Hearing to the next meeting. He requested a Special Meeting on October 24 to give an update on this. At that Special Meeting he would also like to give an update on Dancing Spirit's fee waiver request and discuss projects for the 2023 Budget. The Board concurred with the date and time of October 24 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Garcia stated that this evening's meeting was published as a continuation of the Public Hearing from last meeting; he will ensure that it is published as such for the Special Meeting on the 24th.

Mayor Craig stated that since this was published as a Public Hearing, he would open the Public Hearing at 6:11 PM. There were no comments, so he continued the Public Hearing to the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 10-2022 to ratify appointments of Planning Commission members

This resolution identifies the appointments and terms of the planning commission members that were appointed previously. Mr. Garcia stated the first meeting of the Planning Commission will take place on Wednesday at 6 PM.

Action: Trustee Schulz moved to ratify the appointments; Trustee deKay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Funding Requests for 2023

Mr. Garcia stated that the current draft of the budget which will be formally presented later in this meeting contains the same funding amounts as were approved for 2022. The requesters can give updates on program changes and funding request changes for the Board to consider.

1. Axis – Haley Leonard

Serata Leavenworth presented; Haley was not able to be present this evening. Axis is requesting funding for the acute treatment unit; the Town has provided funding for the Center since its inception. The Acute Treatment Unit (ATU) is the only in-patient psychiatric provider in southwest Colorado. Each night in the ATU costs \$1400-\$1500; this past year there were twenty nine nights of care for Town of Ignacio residents. The funding request for 2023 is \$1,000.00.

2. Community Connections – Tara Kiene

Tara stated that she knows that a value to the Town is diversity and she believes that Community Connections aligns with that value. The mission of Community Connections is to support children and adults with disabilities to thrive and live fulfilling lives within their local communities. There is also support for the extended families of these individuals. This year CC has served 39 Ignacio residents; 12 in the children and families program, 27 were in the various adult programs. The funding request for 2023 is \$2,500.00

3. HomesFund – Pam Moore

Pam is Deputy Director of HomesFund. They create affordable housing programs through Down Payment Assistance Funds, Homebuyer Education, and Financial

Counseling. Over one million in lending into the Ignacio area in the past 12 years, with 20 families served. The funding request for 2023 is \$1,808.00.

Mr. Garcia stated that he has been in communication with the Director of HomesFund regarding the affordable housing the is planned for Rock Creek and he anticipates they will be of assistance with deed restrictions.

4. Ignacio Creative District – Eva Lewis

Eva expressed appreciation for the support from the Town over the past year; it has enabled the District to make great strides toward achieving their mission of economic and civic prosperity. The Public Art Program has begun with the street mural that will be painted this coming Saturday on Pioneer Street. The funding request for 2023 is \$5,000.00.

5. La Plata Youth Services – Jason St. Mary

La Plata Youth Services provides diversion programs for young people to keep them out of the juvenile detention system. Part of the funding from the Town goes to provide a youth advocate to support young people that are at risk. Hoping to expand services in Ignacio through the school district. A pilot mental health program was started last year and is currently serving 16 young people at the high school. The funding request for 2023 is \$8,800.00.

6. Pine River Valley Centennial Rotary Club – Carrie Bergfalk

No representative was present from this organization.

7. Sexual Assault Services Organization – Laura Latimer

SASO has an office dedicated to Ignacio, located in the ELHI Community Center. Founded in 1977 and provides services to individuals that have experienced sexual violence. Operate a 24-hour support line. Also provide resources for family members and friends so they can be a better support to the one who was assaulted. Last year SASO served 11 people from Ignacio. The cost of service is \$3,200 per person.

8. Southern Colorado Community Action Agency – Jay Rhodes

Provide transportation for Ignacio residents, including the senior center, to medical appointments, shopping, etc. Road Runner has grown significantly in the past two years and now has its own facility on Buck Highway. They provide fixed route services for Ignacio and Bayfield; have added Dial-A-Ride services for Ignacio, Bayfield, and Durango. Funding request for 2023 is \$18,000.

Mr. Garcia stated that these funding requests are reflected in notes 13 and 23 of the budget. Mayor Craig expressed appreciation to the various presenters.

C. Formal Presentation of Draft 2023 Budget – Public Hearing

Mr. Garcia gave an overview of the budget, stating that the presentation this evening is to meet the statutory requirement of a formal presentation prior to October 15 each year. This is also noticed, per statute, as a Public Hearing. This is the beginning of discussions about salary increases (if any), capital improvement projects, departmental budgets, etc.

Mayor Craig opened the 2023 Budget Public Hearing at 7:04 PM. There were no comments from in person or online attendees. Mayor Craig closed the Public Hearing at 7:04 PM.

Mayor Craig expressed appreciation to staff for their work on the budget, and stated that he looks forward to the work session on the 24th. Mr. Garcia stated that staff will ensure that the salary increase spreadsheet is made available for that meeting; he also requested that the Board Members consider comfort limits for sales tax projections. Dee requested that the Board also consider the ARPA Funds; we have received the full funding and we are needing to look at how the funds would best be used.

D. COVID-19 Update

Mr. Garcia stated there are no updates. This is simply a continuing agenda item until the emergency declaration is lifted.

Mayor Craig asked Chief Phillips if, before we move into staff reports, he had any comments on the funding requests that were shared this evening. Chief stated that the Town of Ignacio has cost Axis a lot of money this past year and he would like to see the Town consider increasing their funding for 2023, beyond the \$1,000 they asked for. He would also like the Board to consider an increase for SASO because of all the benefits they offer to victims of sexual assault. He also stated that SoCoCAA (Road Runner) was a valuable service within our community.

Dee asked for confirmation on the amounts that the Board is considering: CC = \$2,500; LPYS = \$8,800; Axis and SASO are under consideration for more than they requested;

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

Kratom is a hot topic currently. It is not regulated by the FDA, and the DEA is very concerned about it. There is a store in Durango that is selling it currently. The legislature has increased the age to 21 and older. Two municipalities have banned it already.

Fentanyl is another substance of concern. Chief showed a picture of what looked like candy but was actually fentanyl. Just one of the pills could kill someone; they are smaller than a dime. State Patrol made an arrest in Edgewood metro area three months ago; they seized 124 pounds of fentanyl, which has the ability to kill 36 million people. There was also a seizure of Lego Toys and fentanyl was found in the packaging.

IPD had a meeting last Friday with the District Attorney about better ways to make arrests. Good training that he is doing with each of the municipalities in the area. 14 trainings scheduled in the next six weeks; all but one will be online.

Homecoming parade on Thursday and Ignacio won the football game!

Trustee deKay expressed a desire that we address the Kratom issue with a moratorium until we know more. She would rather err on the side of caution.

Chief's recommendation was to wait until the state study is completed and the recommendation is made.

Mr. Garcia stated that he could obtain copies of the ordinances from the communities that have already banned kratom. Mr. Liberman stated that it is possible to create an

emergency ordinance that is effective immediately for the safety and welfare of the public. Mayor Craig requested an update at the Special Meeting on the 24th and possibly have an ordinance for November.

B. Public Works Department

Mr. Mickey stated that he had received a call from the PUC regarding the clean air act for the natural gas system that the Town must be in compliance with by 2023. Meeting in the next weeks with the representative to ensure the Town is in compliance and to answer whatever questions they may have.

95% complete with the Burns Avenue sanitary sewer main replacement. Report forthcoming on the jet-rodding and photographing of the sanitary sewer lines. Darren Stewart working with CDOT to finalize traffic control plans to be able to commence work on the storm drains.

Working in conjunction with the Tribe to get some PRV issues addressed on the drinking water lines.

Irrigation was turned off as of today.

C. Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Craig stated that the report is in the packet. He stated that she is in the hospital recovering from an event and requested that people keep her in their prayers. As information becomes available, he will attempt to get it to the Trustees and Staff.

D. Town Manager

Mr. Garcia stated that he did not prepare a report due to being out of town. Continued work on the annexation, model home build with TimberAge and Frank Sinton; received technical assistance funding from CHAFA for Rock Creek.

E. Town Attorney

Working on the Young Annexation and raw water line easement. Tribal Attorney, David Smith, expressed via email that resolving the raw water easement issue is a high priority for the Tribe and e would like to set up a meeting with Mr. Liberman. Mr. Liberman requested 45 days to research and prepare for the meeting; he has sent a FOIA request to the BIA & the Department of Justice, requesting documents related to the raw line, revocation of rights to that water line, and plats. He anticipates having that in the next 20 days; BIA granted a fee waiver, so there should be no charge to the Town.

Mayor Craig noted that there is an Executive Session on the agenda, but he is of the impression that there is no need for that. Mr. Garcia and Mr. Liberman both confirmed.

IX. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Tom Atencio stated that there are a lot of overweight vehicles going down Browning and he would like to request that there be a weight limit put on that street to prevent damage to the street and the utility lines under it.

Trustee deKay asked about the digging going on and wondered about retaining walls to prevent erosion. Mr. Mickey stated that the one on the South end of Burns Ave is County and the Town can only make suggestions. The one behind Browning has been informed that he has to get that engineered before he can proceed with digging into the hill. If he chooses

to not comply, the Town will hold his taps until he does. Mr. Garcia stated that the one on the South end of Town is a good example of why we should annex the enclaves into Town.

Trustee deKay stated that the Elementary School has requested that the Trustee go talk with the third graders about municipal government. She asked if there is a day that several Trustees and Staff could attend over the next couple of weeks. Either 8-9 AM or 2-3 PM. By consensus, the date selected was the 17th in the morning. Trustee deKay stated that she would remind everyone about it as the event gets closer.

Trustee Joseph Atencio stated that several people have asked a hypothetical question about ELHI that he does not know how to answer. What will happen to the residents at ELHI if the Town acquires that property? Mr. Garcia stated that there is a lease in place until July of 2023; it is up to the school district to determine whether or not to extend that lease if they still own that property. If the Town owns that property by then, we will have discussions with the tenants to determine the plans moving forward. He stated that we really do not know at this time. Trustee deKay stated that she has also been asked those questions and she believes there is a lot of fear around that issue; she stated that we need to attempt to build trust with the tenants. Mr. Garcia stated that it may be quite a while before we acquire the property, if we acquire it. There are discussions with ISD about building housing for the District before we can acquire it; that would be a few years down the road. There is not anything firm at this time.

Mayor Craig stated that the discussion is way outside the scope of Trustee reports, so he was going to reign it back in. Trustee Joseph Atencio stated that he had his question answered.

Mayor Craig stated that he received an email from a resident that had out-of-town visitors that stated there are no dog-friendly parks in Ignacio. Something to consider...

Mayor Craig stated that Sharon was on the Special Highway Committee through CML for the past couple of years; he has volunteered to take Sharon's place.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

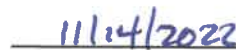
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** For a conference with the Town attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) pertaining to agreements with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 7:55 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting. There will also be a Special Meeting on Monday, October 24, 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