



MINUTES of the IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 11, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room, 570 Goddard Avenue

and via Remote Public Meeting

I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Cox 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 Stella Cox, Mayor Pro Tem Alison deKay, Trustee Tom Atencio, Trustee Edward Box III (arrived 6:45 PM), Trustee Sharon Craig, Trustee Sandra Maez

Absent: Trustee Dixie Melton

Guests: Nancy Dossall

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2021

B. Special Town Board Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2021

C. Financial Records – September Check Register and September Accounting Reports

Action: Trustee Craig moved to approve the consent agenda; Mayor Pro Tem deKay seconded the motion. Mayor Cox stated that she would abstain and called for the vote. The motion passed with five ayes and one abstention.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 346 – Hybrid Meeting Policy

Mr. Garcia turned this item over to Ms. Dunton. Ms. Dunton stated that the Board had requested an amendment to the previously submitted draft Hybrid Meeting Policy that would state that the intent is for Board Members to attend as many meetings in person as possible. That change was made in Section 1-3-3, section Purpose, by adding the final sentence to that paragraph.

Trustee Atencio stated that he would prefer the language to be stronger, stating that Trustees are required to be in attendance in person for as many meetings as possible. Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that she agreed with Trustee Atencio's sentiments; however there is no language that outlines the enforceability of the requirements. Mr. Garcia stated that staff is working on updating Chapter 1 of the Municipal Code and staff can put language in there that would outline the requirement and consequences of failing to meet the requirement.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem deKay moved to adopt Ordinance 346, adopting the Hybrid Meeting Policy for the Town of Ignacio; Trustee Maez seconded the motion. The motion passed with four ayes and Trustees Atencio and Craig voting against the motion.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Final Draft Review of the Land Use and Development Code – Public Hearing

Mr. Garcia stated that the Planning Commission has been working on the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) update since 2018; the Board and Planning Commission have had multiple work sessions to review the draft LUDC as well as the draft Zoning Map; the final draft of both of these documents are before the Board tonight for a Public Hearing. After the Public Hearing, staff will write an adopting Ordinance for the LUDC and Zoning Map that will be brought before the Board at the November meeting.

Mayor Cox opened the Public Hearing at 6:52 PM. Mr. Garcia stated that there have been multiple written comments concerning the proposed zoning map changes and all the comments are in favor of the current draft; these written comments will be entered into the record.

Lana Jo Chapin stated that she was in favor of the proposed zoning changes. She expressed appreciation to the Planning Commission, the Town Board Members, and the staff that have worked so diligently to get to this final draft. She stated that she believes the current draft expresses what is best for the Town as a whole, and is looking forward to the final adoption of the LUCD and Zoning Map.

Trustee Craig stated that someone from the public has asked her why Rock Creek is not designated as R2 instead of R1. Mr. Garcia stated that it is currently designated as community/public. When Rock Creek is developed, it will go through a PUD process; which will include a major subdivision; at that time the zoning will be selected

Mayor Pro Tem deKay asked about the Public Use lands; Mr. Garcia and Ms. Dossdall from SEH explained that these are areas that the Town owns and/or schools and churches. Mayor Pro Tem deKay asked about the possibility of purchase and rezoning should those properties no longer be useful in their current zoning designation. Mr. Garcia stated there is a process in the draft LUDC that allows for rezoning.

Mayor Cox expressed appreciation to staff, the Planning Commission and the Trustees for all their hard work and dedication over the past three years. Ms. Dossdall also commended them and stated that there is now a group of well-educated people who understand and can explain the LUCD to others. The work is not done because, as development occurs, there will be other things that will need to be changed and updated in the LUDC. The intent of working through this process was not to make the LUDC more restrictive; the intent was to add items that had not been included, remove redundancies, and make it easier for future development.

There were no further comments; Mayor Cox closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 PM.

Mayor Cox asked what the next steps are. Mr. Garcia responded that there are a few details, such a meeting posting locations, that will be looked at again based on Lana Jo Chapin's thorough review of the draft LUDC; also the attorney has looked at it and had some suggested changes on the zoning map. Once these changes are made, the final

draft LUDC will be submitted to the Board for review, along with an adopting ordinance; this will hopefully take place at the November meeting.

No action was taken at this time.

B. Draft 2022 Budget – Public Hearing

Per Statute, the Draft Code is being presented to the Town Board and the public for review and comment. Mr. Garcia stated there are still some things that need to be worked out on the budget, such as capital improvement projects, updates to benefit packages for employees, salary increases, revenue projections, etc.

Mayor Cox opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 PM and asked if there were any comments. There were none, and she closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 PM.

C. Regional Housing Alliance IGA

Mr. Garcia stated that Mr. Liberman, Town Attorney, is also the attorney for the RHA. He reviewed the IGA and made a few minor adjustments to it. Mr. Garcia stated he has not yet received a final version of the RHA; this will be on the next Town Board agenda.

Ms. Dossdall excused herself from the meeting at this point; the Board expressed appreciation for all the work she has done.

D. Indigenous People’s Day Proclamation

Mr. Garcia stated that Trustee Box III brought this forward and has been working with Mayor Cox on the wording of the Proclamation. Trustee Box stated that he has been part of the Indigenous Municipalities Group out of Washington DC, and that is where he received the idea for this proclamation. He stated that he thought it would be a great honor to all the Indigenous People in our community. He stated that the Town may want to consider proclamations for other people groups in the future.

Mayor Cox asked the Trustees for consensus on the proclamation; they all concurred.

Mr. Garcia stated that a few years back the decision was made to not have Columbus Day off as holiday, but to honor the Tribe by taking Leonard C Burch Day as a holiday instead of Columbus Day. Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated that she would like to consider ways to celebrate Indigenous People’s Day, Juneteenth, Cinco de Mayo, etc., but not give more paid holidays. The Board members concurred.

Mayor Cox read the proclamation and expressed appreciation to Trustee Box III.

E. COVID-19 Update

Mr. Garcia stated that staff is working on rapid testing options for staff and will have that in place shortly. There is currently no policy in place regarding testing for staff; this testing will simply provide an opportunity for staff and Board that desire to be tested.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Police Department

Chief Phillips stated that Officer Perez has started at the high school as the second School Resource Officer and Officer Rea is floating between the middle school and elementary school. There were fights at the Bonfire; officers on scene did not deter those fights. As a result of those fights, the dance was postponed.

Chief asked for a report from Clark Craig on the Brisket Cook-Off. Mr. Craig stated that it went quite well, and the lessons learned from the Green Chile Fest were used to help the Cook-Off be an even better event from a compliance perspective. There was a smaller turn-out at the Cook-Off than at the Chile Fest, but it was very good.

B. Public Works

Flushing/jet rodding of storm drain on Browning; not able to visually inspect. Sewer drain was flushed as well. Storm drain issues on Southern lots on Browning will be addressed in the near future.

Irrigation is now turned off.

Garry is working on Cross-Connection Compliance.

Trustee Atencio asked about tree trimming on the cottonwoods in Town. Mr. Mickey stated that would require additional certifications for Town staff to do. Mr. Garcia stated that we can budget to be able to contract that service out; this would produce less liability on the Town than certification of staff.

C. Clerk/Treasurer

Ms. Dunton stated that Kelly McCoy has been hired as the new Administrative Assistant. She is learning quickly and is a good fit for the team.

Ms. Dunton reminded the Board about the Joint Work Session with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners on November 4 at 6:00 PM; details will be sent via email and this will be a remote meeting only.

D. Town Manager

Mr. Garcia asked if the November Board Meeting could be moved to the 15th; the Board concurred. He requested that the Budget Work Session happen after the Board Meeting. Staff will extend an invitation to each organization that receives support from the Town to present at the November 15 Board Meeting.

Jeremy passed both water and waste water tests with solid scores and is now our ORC; he has received a pay raise. Mr. Garcia commended him for doing well on the tests.

There will be some adjustments to the budget; asphalt paving plan (this will need to wait until the storm drain issues are addressed), capital improvement projects, etc. Salaries will need to be addressed; wellness and/or education programs for staff benefits (Mr. Atencio suggested adding to retirement for staff and also surveying staff to see what their preferences are); uses for ARPA funding.

Becker/Goddard Intersection work is continuing.

Mr. Garcia is looking for grant funding for Rock Creek Housing; he suggested making this a matter of discussion with the La Plata Board of County Commissioners to see if the Town can apply for some of the county's ARPA monies to use for plant investment fees for utilities.

FastTrack did not get funded with the grant as we had hoped; we are appealing the decision due to the fact that they are not following their own policies. Mr. Garcia has had conversations with Bon Fire, the applicant to the Tribe on their NTIA grant, which includes the Town of Ignacio, to provide fiber to the premises. They will know by

Thanksgiving whether they are funded or not. Mr. Garcia hopes for both funding sources for Broadband. This could be a capital improvement project as well.

University of Colorado Technical Assistance Program for Downtown Development will be in Town in November.

CHAFFA funding for concept designs was not granted.

Jen Coates, consultant with Ignacio Creative District, is looking at a live/work housing project in the Town. There will be a conference call later this week with ArtSpace and Margaret Hunt from Colorado Creative Industries.

Mayor Pro Tem commented that she doesn't know how Mr. Garcia keeps track of all of those details. Mayor Cox expressed appreciation for all his work.

E. Town Attorney

No report, as Mr. Liberman is on vacation.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Craig mentioned that she is on the committee for the Off-System Bridge Management Program through CML. She expressed appreciation for the Special Event Permit for the Cook-Off; she stated that she believes every successful event is a win for the Town.

Trustee Box III mentioned that the Indigenous People Group features Indigenous Municipal Officers; this organization disseminates grant information and he will share this information with the Board in the future. He is honored to represent our community in this organization. He also expressed that he was glad to see people out for the Cook-Off, having a good time.

Mayor Pro Tem deKay stated there are thank-you notes from the third-grade class that she will put on the table.

Trustee Craig stated that the League of Women Voters is holding a candidate forum for the upcoming school board election tomorrow evening; she can forward information if people want it. Questions can be submitted online.

Trustee Atencio asked at the CML District Meeting about marijuana sales; Mayors from Mancos and Dolores stated they have not seen an increase in problems in their communities. He stated he is in favor of having marijuana in our community because of the potential revenues for the Town. Mayor Cox stated that she is in favor of the revenue as well; she mentioned a flat surcharge per transaction, regardless of the amount of the purchase. Mr. Garcia stated there is a difference between a surcharge and a tax; that can be figured out if the voters approve marijuana sales. Mayor Pro Tem deKay asked, if the voters vote it in, is the issue done and then the Board sets policy or does the Board have to approve what is voted for? Mr. Garcia stated that it depends on how the ballot question is structured. Surcharges, types of sales, numbers of stores and their locations can all be decided in policies after the fact; however, if there is a tax imposed, that needs to be a question on the ballot. In some communities, they have voted against the sale of marijuana but have approved the tax on the marijuana.

Mayor Cox asked if there could be monies set in the budget for getting some swag for the Town that can be handed out at events like CML District meetings, parades, and other events. Mayor Pro Tem deKay suggested Pop-Its that can be handed out. Chief mentioned that Tribal council was at the Homecoming Parade, handing out candy; perhaps the Town Board can be part of the Light Up The Town Christmas parade at the beginning of December and provide a little friendly competition with Tribal Council.

Mr. Garcia asked the Board to think about a holiday party. Mayor Pro Tem deKay suggested the Casino again. Trustee Box said he would reach out to the Casino and organize the event; he requested assistant from Trustee Craig and Mayor Pro Tem deKay.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

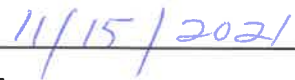
None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 6:30 PM at the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting.



Stella Cox, Mayor



Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk