

MINUTES
Town of Crested Butte
Special Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2020
Council Chambers, Crested Butte Town Hall

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.

Council Members Present: Will Dujardin, Candice Bradley, Chris Haver, Mallika Magner, Laura Mitchell, and Mona Merrill

A roll call was taken at the beginning of the meeting, and all of the Council members affirmed their presence. Everyone connected and participated in the meeting via Zoom.

Staff Present: Town Manager Dara MacDonald, Town Clerk Lynelle Stanford, and Finance Director Rob Zillioux

Town Attorneys Barbara Green and John Sullivan, Community Development Director Michael Yerman, Public Works Director Shea Earley, and Parks and Recreation Director Janna Hansen

A roll call was taken at the beginning of the meeting, and the Staff members listed above affirmed their presence. They were connected and participated in the meeting via Zoom, with the exception of MacDonald, Stanford, and Zillioux, who were present in Council Chambers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Schmidt added Other Business to Come Before the Council to the end of the meeting after New Business.

Dujardin moved and Bradley seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. A roll call vote was taken with all voting, "Yes." **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING

1) To Ratify Ordinance No. 7, Series 2020 - An Emergency Ordinance of the Crested Butte Town Council Amending Chapter 2 of the Municipal Code to Add a New Section 9 on Emergency Powers.

Schmidt read the title of the ordinance. He reminded that the ordinance was passed on March 13th, and it needed to be ratified at a public hearing. He asked for comments from the Council. Dujardin appreciated the ordinance getting done and the steps that were taken. Schmidt confirmed proper public notice was given. No one from the public chose to comment.

Mitchell moved and Merrill seconded a motion to ratify Ordinance No. 7, Series 2020. A roll call vote was taken with all voting, "Yes." **Motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

1) Discussion on Status of Public Health Orders in Gunnison County.

Schmidt thanked the Staff and recognized they were doing a magnificent job. He thanked the County again for their extraordinary efforts.

MacDonald referred to the order included in the packet. The fourth order was issued after the packet was out. The County's health order was stricter than the State's, and the County's was in effect within Town. She asked if the Council thought there needed to be more restrictive orders. Dujardin acknowledged the peak was unknown. Schmidt stated Joni Reynolds had been outstanding.

Schmidt was not clear on whether people could have family members join them here. MacDonald would ask for clarification, but she believed people should not be coming. Dujardin agreed it was a gray area. The order was directed at tourists, and it was a strong encouragement for anyone else not to come here. There was not a mechanism to get people to go anywhere else.

2) Discussion on Status of Municipal Operations.

MacDonald referred to the memo in the packet, outlining operations. Staff had been keeping the lights on and would be coming back and re-evaluating how to resume operations that had stopped. MacDonald asked for questions regarding the memo in the packet. Schmidt questioned inspections. MacDonald told the Council that Staff had been evaluating the ability to do inspections remotely. Yerman elaborated they were re-evaluating after a test run in Montrose. Dujardin conveyed the request about what other thoughts and options there were to support the County operations.

3) 2020 Revenue Forecast, Potential Expense Management Steps, and New Funding / Financial Requests of Town.

Zillioux explained this presentation would be the 2020 preliminary forecast. He recognized the situation could change dramatically if travel restrictions and social distancing were not lifted by June. Town would be using a large share of the reserves. He identified the objectives for the discussion. Zillioux listed caveats, such as the forecast numbers were directional and were not intended to be comprehensive. He reviewed Federal, State, and County resources. Zillioux provided initial revenue forecasts for the General Fund, Capital Fund, and Affordable Housing Fund. The three funds represented a 20% decrease in revenue through the year. The Enterprise and Street Funds were not forecasted to decline significantly due to non-tourism and economy based revenue streams. Town had strong reserves, about 75% of operating, going into COVID-19. Zillioux lead the Council through forecasted figures in the General Fund, including

Town sales tax, County sales tax, the cigarette tax, and interest income. Zillioux reiterated the reserves were solid. Next, Zillioux outlined the Capital Fund and then the Affordable Housing Fund.

Zillioux reviewed expense management steps that were proposed. Then, he showed a slide depicting community-funding requests. He mentioned assistance programs that were being developed by various agencies. Non-profit renters from Town had been given relief on April and May rents, including utilities. Zillioux updated regarding assistance for deed restricted property owners and renters. The Center for the Arts asked for operating funds of \$180,000. They also wanted to work on concepts that would allow them to use the building for collateral. Zillioux listed recommendations, including delaying non-essential expenses when possible and not beginning new affordable housing projects.

Merrill thought the economic impacts could go through the summer. Zillioux said this scenario is the reason Town had strong reserves. He would stay keenly aware of what would be going on in Texas and Oklahoma. Dujardin agreed with Merrill. He thought they should put as much as possible on hold. Haver agreed with Dujardin and Merrill that planning for the long haul was important for now. Zillioux would be providing frequent updates.

Merrill suggested Staff help businesses to navigate assistance programs. Dujardin identified the economic taskforce was working on it. Schmidt mentioned funds that were available for rental assistance. Schmidt asked about Town's hiring policies, specifically about hiring an engineer. Zillioux stated the search for the engineer was suspended. There had been discussions regarding the Community Director position, which was important for the community. Haver referred to a website with resources for business owners. Zillioux pointed out Staff suspended the hiring of temporary summer workers. Haver preferred to be conservative and prepared. Magner asked if there was a path forward that would be more belt-tightening than cautiously optimistic. Schmidt thought the Council would be constantly evaluating. Zillioux would provide additional scenarios and ideas on expense management at the meeting next Monday, and he would bring forward community grant applications that had been submitted to date.

Schmidt pointed out the Council's first responsibility was to keep Town running. Magner agreed, but she said the Town was the people. Their most important job was to take care of their people. No one on the Council voiced disagreement with the expense management proposals on page ten of the Power Point presentation. Zillioux reiterated requests made by The Center. Haver and Dujardin agreed The Center's requests were not first priority, but they would hear more information. The discussion became focused on The Center. Dujardin suggested a joint meeting between the Council and The Center's board that would take place on a date in the future.

4) Discussion and Possible Direction on Next Steps with Slate River Annexation.

Yerman reminded the Council of the public hearing scheduled for April 6th. There were quite a few ordinances and agreements that would follow suit. They were looking at possibly scheduling the public hearing for May 18th. Staff had been preparing to take public input on the website. Regardless, the Council had to reopen the public hearing on April 6th. Green stated they were stuck with the order of proceedings. She outlined a possible timeline, to include adopting the resolution of eligibility on April 6th. Green said the Council should direct whether they wanted to go ahead with the proposed schedule. The Council directed Staff to proceed on the items. Green said they were waiting for materials from the annexee and would know more by April 6th.

5) Resolution No. 8, Series 2020 - A Resolution of the Crested Butte Town Council Extending the Vesting Period of Certain Vested Rights for Development of Property Within the Town of Crested Butte.

Schmidt read the title of the resolution. Yerman explained there were five property owners that wished to have an extension. They had not pulled building permits, yet, but they did have vested rights. Green affirmed Town had the ability to do this resolution under the emergency powers.

Haver moved and Dujardin seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 8, Series 2020. A roll call vote was taken with all voting, "Yes." **Motion passed unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

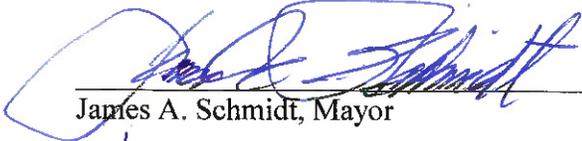
Schmidt brought up the consideration of reinstating the Council meeting on April 20th. No one on the Council stated that he or she would be absent, and the meeting was reinstated.

Dujardin mentioned a constituent was upset regarding the plowing of snow into Coal Creek. MacDonald and Earley would follow up.

Merrill was impressed with Joni Reynolds from Gunnison County. Merrill wondered about a sub-committee that would start talking about stepping down on orders. She asked to be involved. Dujardin identified triggers he heard from Reynolds. The Council's discussion became focused on recovery. Haver suggested a work session or agenda item to discuss making the transition back. MacDonald distilled the upcoming discussion down to two topics: 1) Merrill's point about giving people a glimmer of hope but not stepping orders down too soon and 2) a recovery plan. Magner volunteered to spell out anyone by attending meetings. Schmidt reiterated he was impressed with Gunnison County.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 7:57PM.



James A. Schmidt, Mayor



Lynelle Stanford, Town Clerk

(SEAL)

