

March 1, 2012

Meeting began at 7:40 p.m.

Present: Bill Muse, Mayor; Gladys LeFevre, Tom Jerome, Steve Cox, Sue Inman, Council Members; Mark McIff, Attorney; Judi Davis, Clerk.

Public Present: Mark Nelson, Judy Drain, Keith Watts and Lisa Varga, David and Susan Heaton, Alyssa Thompson, Ray Nelson, Peg Smith and Sergio Femenias, Dennis Bertucci, Tim Mutcher, Jim Catmull, B. J. Orozco, Conrad Jepsen, Jack Pollock, Ellie Pollock, Sean Treves, Matt Cochran, Jeff Sanders, Stephanie Touati, Bobbie Cleave, Boz Bosworth, Drew, Mary and John Parkin, Cheryl Cox, Scott and Brynn Brodie, John Holland, Ashley Coombs.

Pledge of allegiance

Gladys made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2. Tom seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The mayor called for a vote on the proposed Ordinance 59A. Tom asked if we could put a sunset date on it in order to live with the signs for a while but not in perpetuity. He would like to accommodate businesses but put a time limit on the ordinance. Steve is concerned about whether the sign location might be in the UDOT right-of-way. Gladys thinks the whole corner situation is a mess. It was agreed that the UDOT sign showing how to get to the Burr Trail needs to be clarified. Sue likes the sunset idea and the compromise. She wondered if it needed to go back to the Planning Commission, but the Council has the option of making changes in the PC's recommendation before approving it. Bill proposed that we change the language to put in the ordinance a length of time at which we will revisit the issue. Hopefully that would be a time at which the TODS style of sign could be put in place. Mark said that the ordinance would have to specifically state that this change (to a larger size) would be effective until [whatever date we decide], at which time it would revert to the language of the former ordinance.

John asked what we would do if UDOT doesn't allow this sign? It will probably have to be taken down.

Sue explained that next week Garkane will be trimming trees which are not compliant with State regulations which were adopted in 2006. The tops of trees have to be at least 11 feet below the power lines for safety purposes. This is a national law and a Utah standard. She showed pictures she had taken in town of non-compliant trees and read the existing policy, which states that Electric Utilities have the legal right and authority to maintain their facilities, and that customers on whose land these facilities are located have a legal obligation to allow these Electric Utilities to perform reasonable maintenance and

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upkeep of their facilities. Garkane gave us notification that they would be doing this, even though they aren't required to do so. We are only the messenger; their obligation and need to do this is not a town decision. They will contact owners first where there are special problems. They would like to cut trees off at the base and have bushes planted in place of the trees. Landowners are encouraged not to plant new trees beneath power lines. If needed, Bill will give a copy of the law to anyone who would like to see it.

Boz has some concerns with the work done by some people they have contracted with to do the work. He has seen debris left and has seen them use chemicals that are unsafe on some stumps. He has also seen them leave containers of the chemicals. Bill will furnish him with the name of the person he can contact to voice those concerns. Constance also requested to receive that information. Ashley is concerned about low hanging lines. If he'd like to talk to someone about it, he should call Kay Brooks.

John Holland presented the Highway 12 Annual Meeting report as mandated by the Corridor Management Plan. Last year they completed their most significant project yet—the Route Guide. It is available free to tourists. Last year the Hogsback Wayside stop was squashed, and the question they faced was what other projects in the Corridor Management Plan should be dropped or added. They are doing a review. Plans have a life, and they are revisiting theirs. He discussed the annual report, of which we have a copy. The BLM is in the design stage for improving the Head of the Rocks site.

Our representative, Scott Brodie, plans to resign, and John thanked him for his many years of service. We will need eventually to fill his position, preferably with a Town Council member. They have meetings the third Tuesday of February, April, June, August, and October, and the location rotates along the highway. We will choose someone to replace Scott. Like many programs that have not yet been funded by Congress, the Scenic Byway program may not be continued on a national level but will still be administered on the state level by the Governor's Office of Tourism. Grant funding will probably be greatly reduced and will pass through the states instead of coming through the federal government. In reference to our sign situation, he suggested we have Steve Kunzler sit down with us at a meeting when he comes through the area.

Drew Parkin gave an update on proposed clinic improvements. He reviewed the proposals: expand to five days and emergency care, dental, pharmacy, xray facilities, mental health counseling, and an expanded physical structure. They looked at merging with the Wayne Community Health Center and worked with our senators and representatives, who all support it. They then submitted the grant proposal, and then all the funding shut down. The application will be viable and can be considered for five years. It is the top-rated grant application in the state. There is some movement in funding, and they are cautiously optimistic.

He began his next presentation by stating that, because the economy in Escalante and Boulder is rough, a group of people are looking for solutions. We both need a viable economy to keep people here so the schools wouldn't have to be closed. They looked for events that would draw people and feel that a marathon would be good as a shot in the arm for tourism. They are proposing a Boulder-to-Escalante marathon, and, as luck would have it, the distance is 26.2 miles. It would complement the Bryce Valley Half Marathon. It would be run over Highway 12 from the Burr Trail to the high school, possibly over the Labor Day weekend. They want it to benefit the communities. They've contacted UDOT, who is willing to work with them. Brynn wondered if there might be a better weekend, since there will already be people here that weekend. As the committee looked at available dates when nothing else was going on in the area, the only times they found were at the end of August or Labor Day. When September comes, there is too much competition. Questions were asked about where they would market the event and about traffic management. This year it will be tried on an experimental basis. The Council thinks it's a good idea and will support it.

Superintendent Dalton was planning to be here but wasn't able to come so asked Cheryl Cox to represent him. He has been meeting with Town Councils to explain that the School District is in the process of setting five- and ten-year goals for the district. They want to involve the communities in deciding what a quality school looks like and how we get there. They would like three to five people from each community plus a member of the Town Council to participate. He wants to visit each community. March 21 will be their first gathering, probably in the Bryce Valley area. He is available and anxious to meet people. They are not looking at closing any schools, but they will have to make cuts.

The meeting returned to the matter of considering Ordinance 59A. Mark McIff read the changes setting an ending date of June 1, 2014. Tom made a motion that we adopt Ordinance 59A amending Section 1804.5. Gladys seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Brynn, with assistance from Constance, described the concept of a seed library and asked if they could have a place in the Community Center to house the seeds. Gladys thinks it is a good idea but doesn't think the public can get into private enterprise activities. They explained that it isn't a business. Gladys asked, if everyone wants to do similar things, where do we draw the line? She is also concerned about liability. What if there were a fire, or insect contamination? But she does support the idea. Steve thinks it is a viable way to bring people together. There is a need to ensure that the seeds are not diseased. Brynn said that Dianne would be happy to have them coordinate their activity with library hours. They want to educate people about the advantages of seed saving. Steve asked them why they want to do it in this building. Brynn responded that it is a public place and is more visible than other places. All they would need is a place to put a small, locked

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cabinet, maybe outside the west library door. It would be open during library hours. They will start and try it out. Gladys made a motion we let them do seed checkout on a trial basis outside the library for 2012. Steve seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Bill gave an update on the grant process. We are scheduled to meet with the CIB in St. George on April 5. Bill and Gary Zabriskie will meet with them, and Steve is welcome to be there if he can. Judi will not be able to go. There was discussion on how to proceed if they are not willing to grant us as much money as we are requesting. We would first drop the pavilion, second, the restrooms, then there were a few other suggestions. We could also increase our participation from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Because the CIB meeting is the same day as our regular April meeting, the April meeting will be postponed to the next Thursday, April 12.

Gladys introduced the rates she is proposing for use of this building. She is suggesting that members of the Town Council, Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, EMT's and Fire Department each get one day of free use per year. If a small group wants to have a small meeting in the commons area when the building is otherwise open, there would not be a charge. And there would not be a charge if the meeting or activity is open to the public. And uses such as the pre-school and seed library would not be charged. We will use the proposed fee schedule for three months, but giving the clerk flexibility to decide if exceptions are warranted. Those who use the building without a charge will be asked to clean up after themselves and will be given a key to the janitor closet. A copy of the fee schedule will be attached to these minutes.

The custodian needs were discussed. Gladys proposed that we pay \$10-12/hour and figured it would require 10-15 hours per month. Requirements would be to check (and adjust if needed) the thermostats regularly and the filters monthly, changing filters if they were dirty, clean the restrooms weekly, vacuum the meeting room as needed, clean the entry way and floors in other rooms as needed, occasional dusting and other minor cleaning, snow removal in the winter at the front door and sidewalk as needed for public meetings, check to make sure the outside water is functioning properly and do minor yard cleaning in the summer. We will post a notice that the position is available. We will have one or two volunteer clean-up days a year.

The outside lawns would probably need to be mowed 10-12 times during a season. She proposed that we contract with someone who would furnish their own equipment. The Town would provide Worker's Compensation Insurance. We will post a notice asking for bids for this work.

She asked Tom to present his ideas for landscaping the yards around the Community

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Center. He proposed that the front, north of the sidewalk, be landscaped with low-water-usage plants, such as pinon, juniper, sage, penstemon, ephedra, and cliffrose. We can get a permit from the Forest Service to get rocks for landscaping. He suggested we keep lawn on the south side of the walk. He would like permission to get someone to give us a bid on rehabilitating the sprinkler system, which was damaged during construction. We need a solution to the front wall. In order to keep the dust down, he suggested planting native grasses which wouldn't require much water on the west side. Gladys directed Tom to get estimates on repairing the sprinkler system.

The major project with roads right now is the tree trimming. We are trying to find a copy of Jack Lyman's survey of the Lower Boulder roads in order to work through property ownership issues. The yard waste pit at the landfill has been burned, and the road has been graded.

Peg reported that the Planning Commission will have a generic training on subdivisions on March 13 at 5:00 presented by Justin Fisher from the County. The Board of Adjustment will hold an introductory meeting on March 21.

Sue made a motion the meeting adjourn. Tom seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Judith Davis, Town Clerk