

Board Minutes - February 18, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at Town Hall.

Members Present	Mayor	Day
	Trustees	Browning
		Day
		Lockwood
		Nielsen
		Sizemore
Town Staff Present	Administrator	Etheridge
	Town Clerk	Cook
	Attorney	Massih
	Police Chief	Thompson
	Comm. Dev./Planner	Thomson

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Day called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present except for Trustee Jehorek.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Day asked for changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Trustee Sizemore made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Lockwood to approve the minutes of February 4, 2025, as submitted. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Browning to approve the disbursements dated February 18, 2025. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

STAFF UPDATES

Public Works: Administrator Etheridge said Supt. Willey is out this week for training sessions at the Rocky Mountain Asphalt Conference in Denver. Before he left, he reported in January they pumped 10,777,088 gallons; they have been hauling snow, repaired a water leak last week on Main, and will be setting up exclusion cages this week at Ute Park with assistance from the NRCS.

Police Chief Thompson reported during the month of January that his department responded to 182 calls for service resulting in two written warnings, six citations and one arrest.

Community Development/Planner Thomson reported her update was included in the Board packets.

Town Clerk Cook reported a new retail liquor license application has been received from Hull-Stone Provisions at 317 E. Market, the previous Blanco Cellars Wine and Whiskey Bar location who have surrendered their Tavern license. The public hearing is scheduled for March 18th.

Town Attorney Massih had nothing to report other than helping where needed.

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PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of Ordinance 25-001 updating the Meeker Municipal Code Title 18: Zoning and Subdivisions. Mayor Day opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. Administrator Etheridge presented the staff report stating this ordinance encompasses changes that were discussed and recommended at our last Board meeting on February 4th, including:

- adding building width requirements to all Zones – 24 feet in RR & SFR, ten feet in MR, TC, HC, I & CF, and 8 feet in MHP Zone
- adding accessory building dimensional requirements in the TC Zone of 1,000 sf max ground floor area and 25 ft max height
- adding a dimensional requirements chart for the TC Zone which is included as Exhibit A
- amending the definitions in Section 18.1.2 to address renewable energy, including changing the definition of Energy Production Facility to mean a commercial facility for non-renewables, changing the definition of Renewable Energy System to mean an accessory use of renewable energy on personal property, and adding several new definitions, including Renewable Energy Facility.
- adding more supplemental regulation onto Section 18.1.16 to address Renewable Energy Systems as a personal, accessory use
- adding Section 18.1.17 to address Renewable Energy Facilities, which is included as Exhibit B

Mayor Day asked for questions or comments, hearing none he closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m. and called for a motion to approve Ordinance 01-2025 amending the Meeker Municipal Code Title 18 – Subdivision and Zoning. Moved by Trustee Nielsen. Second by Trustee Lockwood. Roll call: all ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Citizen's request to rescind appointment to Library Board. Administrator Etheridge stated on Monday, February 3rd we received a letter and Petition to Show Cause for the Removal of Meeker Town Council Appointee Dan Olsen from the Meeker Regional Library District Board. This receipt was acknowledged at the Board meeting on February 4th with direction for Attorney Massih to consult with CIRSA Attorney Sam Light and MRLD Attorney Linda Glesne regarding the legality and process for this request. To clarify, per state statute 24-90-108(5) governing Library Districts a library trustee may be removed by a majority vote of the appointing legislative body, but only upon a showing of good cause as defined in the bylaws adopted by the Library Board; and statute 24-90-109(1)(a) states that the bylaws shall include provision for the definition of good cause. Upon review of the Meeker Library District bylaws, there is no definition of good cause to be applied in the removal of a trustee that this request can be held to at this time. There is also no clearly defined process for the removal of a trustee, and staff's recommendation is to take no action on this appointment at this time.

Mayor Day asked for comments from the public. Bob Dorsett, citing statute 24-90-108(5), agreed that it was true the Library Board has not included a definition of good cause, but the Town Board's decision is not strictly limited to the bylaws adopted by the Library Board. Kathleen Kelley agreed with Dorsett and suggested the Town Board consider a Resolution of Censure, which could include a request to utilize Robert's Rules of Order and to follow the key laws that govern the Library District, bringing some stability back to the library board. Michael Selle supported both Dorsett and Kelley, adding he felt it was very unwise of the library board to cut their funding and operate on only a contingency fund. Ash Jones talked about the unprofessionalism witnessed of Dan Olsen at the Library Board meetings. Administrator Etheridge read an email from Jeni Morlan that stated if the Town could not rescind Dan Olsen's appointment that maybe he could be asked to resign.

Mayor Day asked for comments from the Board. Trustee Nielsen stated that based on Attorney Massih's recommendation he suggested the Board do nothing at this time but needed to pay close attention to the

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Library Board. Trustee Sizemore said she would like to give the Library Board an opportunity to correct itself with the guidance of their attorney and the public. Trustee Lockwood inquired about the Resolution of Censure and Attorney Massih recommended that the Board not take any action at this time, adding hopefully with the help of their attorney they will internally deal with these issues. Trustee Browning agreed. Trustee Day said we are hearing the public but need to navigate carefully as we are setting a precedent for any similar situation in the future.

Mayor Day thanked everyone for coming, stating he appreciated their support, and said he would like to step back and let the process take place internally. He added that on other boards where he has served they have taken mill levy holidays, it is not necessarily a bad thing if the laws are followed, it doesn't mean they will run the reserves to zero and he wanted to offer a different perspective about it. Mayor Day said a mill levy holiday helps the businesses who pay the greater share of property tax. Dorsett replied that he was not so concerned that they dropped the mill levy, but that the Library Board had provided no plan for how to operate without it.

Board consensus was to follow the legal advice given and allow the Library Board an opportunity to work with their attorney on their processes.

Consideration of request for donation to YouthZone. Administrator Etheridge said she had no additional information to present to the board; Jami Hayes, YouthZone Executive Director was not present and Etheridge recommended tabling the item until Hayes can be present to make a presentation.

Consideration of request to use Town Park for Community Cleanup on April 5th. Administrator Etheridge said Lee Overton has requested use of Town Park for a community Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 5th. The idea would be to provide several roll-off dumpsters for different disposal – refuse, appliances, electronics, and tires – free of charge to the community. Town Park was scouted as a good location because the parking lot could house the dumpsters and provide pull-through access for people, and because of the pavilion as Lee wants to invite FFA or some other school group to provide a community lunch. I have already blocked off Town Park from the Rec District's Park rental schedule and recommend the Board approve the use of the Town Park for this purpose.

Trustee Lockwood asked if the Rec District had any comment. Administrator Etheridge said they did not and agreed to block the time off on their rental schedule. Trustee Day asked what the plan was if there is overflow and whether they will be switching dumpsters out during the day. Trustee Nielsen asked if there was any cooperation with RBC landfill, and Trustee Sizemore would like to see document destruction as part of the effort. Etheridge said she will get back with Overton regarding the details. Mayor Day asked how the Town can partner with him and entertained a motion to approve use of the Town Park. Moved by Trustee Browning. Second by Trustee Nielsen. All ayes. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Etheridge gave the Manager's report as follows:

- There were two walk-throughs for the Garfield Street Waterline to accommodate thirteen contracting companies, generating some great observations and Chris Hale has been working to get all RFIs and an addendum to the specs issued this week in anticipation of next Tuesday's deadline and bid opening. We are still in an open bid window for this year's street maintenance for crack filling, that will close on the 27th which is next Thursday. Bid awards for both projects are planned for the Board meeting on the 4th of March.
- Added to the Board packet is a Letter of Support for RBC Historical Society – Teresia Rose asked for Town support last week for an application she was submitting last Friday to the Smithsonian Institute

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for the White River Museum to be considered for a traveling exhibit on Native American cultural contributions and impacts on our history.

- Circle Park update: Met with Michael (engineer) and Pete (foreman) last week as the first of the boulder toes were being placed to make sure everything was as it should be. Everything looks great from all perspectives and the next site visit should be once the ramp wall is about halfway up, which is estimated to be about 1-2 weeks out.
- Meeting reminders:
 - AGNC meeting tomorrow in Rifle starting at 9am
 - Cricket public meeting Thursday, February 20th at 6:00 pm at the Fire House
 - Matt Solomon with AGNC will be back for the third workshop meeting with the Board to talk about the NW Colorado Energy Initiative on Tuesday, March 4th at 6:00 pm
 - EDCC regional meeting in Craig on Wednesday, March 5th
 - CML is beginning to advertise their annual conference in Breckenridge the end of June if anyone is interested in going

MAYOR’S REMARKS

Mayor Day said he had been approached by Water Commissioner Betty Kracht about the Town’s water rights for the Circle Park, it looks like we need to revisit them as they also list our leasee. Administrator Etheridge said she thought there had been some clarification to that but will check with our water attorney, Ed Olszewski, she also informed the Board the Town will be adding a measuring device at the pump house at Third Street as it is our responsibility and because of the confusion the Rec. District is planning to add the measuring device at the pond.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Trustee Lockwood said he was happy to see FAA height restrictions in the Land Use Code update. Referring to the mixed residential area around the airport, there a lot of municipalities that have outgrown their airports and have shut them off, Lockwood asked whether we need to rezone that area as an airport impact zone and give it some different parameters and suggested it is something to explore with the Planning Commission.

Mayor Day commented that we have been visiting the Muni Code and changing it quite a bit lately and with all the trainings he has been to recommended visiting it once a year at the most, maybe only every other year as it is not really a living document, suggesting getting a list together to update it once a year or every couple of years.

Trustee Browning reported that the electrical work had been completed at Ute Park as requested by the Meeker Classic and the electricians saw no need to move any of the services or equipment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Day adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

/s/Travis Day, Mayor

Attest:

/s/Lisa Cook, Town Clerk