

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Meeker Town Board was held Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at Town Hall.

Members Present

Mayor
Trustees

Day
Browning
Day
Lockwood
Madison
Sizemore
Smith

Town Staff Present

Administrator
Town Clerk
Attorney
Comm. Dev./Planner
Public Works Supt.

Joy
Cook
Massih
Thomson
Kilduff

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Day called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Day asked for changes to the agenda. Mayor Day asked to move the FFA presentation to the beginning of New Business. Trustee Sizemore made a motion to approve the agenda as revised. Second by Trustee Smith. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Day to approve the minutes of March 17, 2026, as corrected. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Browning to approve the disbursements dated April 7, 2026. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

FFA Club Presentation. Meeker High School Ag Teacher, Denae Dinwiddie, thanked the Board for allowing the Ag students to present their Leadership Development Event (LDE) which is called the Agriculture Issues Forum where the group is expected to identify an agricultural issue, write a script and present both the pros and cons of the issue to five different stakeholders.

Mediator, Lauren Shults, explained the topic was about wildfires in the State of Colorado, stating over the past two decades, Colorado has experienced record breaking wildfires. According to Colorado's State Forest Service, nearly 20 percent of our forests are at high risk of severe wildfires with millions of acres identified as priority areas. The question to be debated was what role should wildfire prevention practices play in protecting Colorado's agricultural lands and long-term economic stability? The group made their presentation, and the Board offered suggestions on how to improve it for the next stakeholder presentation.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – April 7, 2026

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Bid Award for Housing Development Concept Plan. Town Planner, Carly Thomson, addressed the Board stating the Town was awarded a \$50,000 incentive from Proposition 123 funding for early adoption of Fast Track (expedited review) policies for affordable housing. The money was allocated toward professional development and planning land development. Planner Thomson said the Town released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on March 2nd for a Housing Development Concept Plan on BidNet and in the Herald Times, a total of six bids were received, all through BidNet, which were opened on March 27th and ranged from the low bid by Reinen Consulting in the amount of \$35,000 to \$72,500. Trustee Lockwood asked, “what do you expect to buy with that amount.” Thomson replied, concept drawings for the two properties that have been identified at the top of Third Street which is owned by the School District and the Town and another property at the top of Sanderson which is owned by the Town. Thomson added she had spoken with the Town of Hayden who had great things to say about Reinen Consulting and it is staff recommendation to award the low bid to Reinen Consulting.

Mayor Day called for a motion to accept the Bid Award from Reinen Consulting in the amount of \$35,000 for the Housing Development Concept Plan. Moved by Trustee Browning. Second by Trustee Sizemore. All ayes. Motion carried.

Presentation Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety. Tara Tafi, Senior Project Manager with Colo. Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (DRMS), oversees the state’s underground coal field fires (of which there are approximately 40) and has been monitoring the Black Diamond underground coal mine fire for surface temperatures and site changes for the past several years. She introduced Tom Cummings with BLM, Aaron Westen property owner, and the Project Manager from Craig .

Ms. Tafi gave the background of previous work since 1989, which included vegetation clearing, herbicide application and in 2016 excavation and armoring the two mine portals with rock and boulders which significantly reduced the wildfire danger. However, in January of 2026 monitoring was conducted by UAS utilizing a thermal camera and found surface temperatures exceeding 400 degrees Fahrenheit, which prompted a visit to assess the condition of the site. Upon that visit they found surface temperatures exceeding 850 degrees Fahrenheit, approximately 1.5 acres of dead and dying trees above the venting outcrop, several large fractures and significant cheatgrass near several low temperature vents. DRMS has determined that the Black Diamond Mine Fire requires emergency fuels reduction around the surface expression of the underground fire to minimize the potential for a wildfire.

Ms. Tafi said that in 2024 DRMS took a hard look at how they identify critical areas and population is a prioritization. What we are proposing is emergency fuels reduction beginning in May, clearing of 1.5 acres of trees, creating a fire break of some sort as it is steep, we want to acquire access up Anderson Gulch, as the access in 2016 from the side of Sulphur Creek Road was awful and is not a viable option. We are asking permission, working with the BLM for access, to engineer a stable long term access as it is important to be able to get our team in to monitor the site but also important to us that the stakeholders are able to monitor the site as well, Anderson Gulch is the way to go and will utilize the same road the mine used initially.

Administrator Joy explained the access would come off of the north side of the existing road at Ute Park, we have discussed lock combinations with Supt. Kilduff for them and other stakeholders when access is needed, DRMS has said they will work with us on costs associated with this and we will meet next week to have a solid conversation, which will include the BLM.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – April 7, 2026

Trustee Smith asked if there was a way to notify people who use the trail system to keep out of the area. Ms. Tafi said it was possible to install a gate system and signage to keep people out, but the area is visible from the China Wall trail. Trustee Day asked what kind of traffic they anticipate with Tafi replying emergency vehicles and the ability to monitor the sight about once per month, to complete the trail and armor the sight, they will need a dozer and maybe two excavators, adding the other landowners have been very cooperative. Administrator Joy said that Supt. Kilduff has supplied her with a list of recommendations for the construction process and storage of equipment at the Ute Park site and once the emergency is over, he requested they touch base with him when they access the property to monitor the site.

Trustee Smith asked how to communicate this to the community. Administrator Joy said DRMS has a communication team, Ms. Tafi said she will get their PIO in touch with the Herald Times. Mayor Day suggested their PIO be responsible for communications. Ms. Tafi stated they have a template for a three-way agreement between themselves, the BLM and the Town which will be needed to proceed.

Trustee Lockwood made a motion to allow DRMS access to Ute Park and to work with staff regarding development of the agreement. Second by Trustee Smith. All ayes. Motion carried.

Update Meeker Chamber of Commerce. Sara Stephenson, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, reported the Chamber has acquired eleven new members this year; a monthly update is given every month to the newspaper; the 2025 annual report was sent out in January; she attended an OHV Expo with representatives from Rangely where 30,000 people and 250 vendors were in attendance; during the months of April and May there will be three small business classes: AI Marketing Made Simple, Bookkeeping Boot Camp and Social Media Made Simple; the marketing Meeker campaign began on April 1st; a communication expert has been added to the website; a Golf Tournament fundraiser is planned for May 30th, and they have hired a tourism coordinator.

Ms. Stephenson reported that Uplift Meeker has received a portion of their mini-grant; round two of the 250/150 coloring contest launched; high school students will get started on our next mural project featuring Teddy Roosevelt and a title of Pioneers in Paint will be added above the murals on the Hugus Building; she spoke with Supt. Kilduff about the placement of a photo spot at Town Park a mini-grant has been applied for the project, she also talked to JAK about the pedestrian flags for crossing the highway; DOLA is assisting us with a communications plan; the Main Street conference is next week in Tulsa; we have gotten in to a liability issue with property owners regarding the banner on Market Street, the Chamber's insurance policy will include them as additional insured with \$100,000 liability coverage. Mayor Day said we have given the banner a good effort, but it needs a better location that is not in a wind tunnel and for it to be properly engineered. There was further discussion regarding the photo spot and moving it to other locations/events with Board consensus that it would be the Chamber's responsibility to move them.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Administrator Joy reported:

- Danni Massey has accepted the Clerk's position and is scheduled to begin April 27th.
- Two candidates applied for the parks lead, interviews were held last evening, and an offer is being made for that position, we have only one application for the seasonal position and will hold an interview this coming Friday.
- Things are going well with the park's transition and will go into more detail at the workshop next week. We received a notice that ERBM's insurance will be cancelled effective June 1st.
- WREA had a power surge several weeks ago and photocells in about 40 of our streetlights need replaced, their insurance will cover the cost of replacing them, Supt. Kilduff and his team as well as WREA will begin replacing them.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting of the Town of Meeker – April 7, 2026

- With drought there has been talk of summer watering restrictions. The RBC Water Conservation District did put a call on the river. Supt. Kilduff spoke with Betty Kracht and so far, Meeker is in good standing for water and nowhere near using our allotted cfs. We still want to be good neighbors and recognize that Rangely is being impacted in a different way, the Town of Meeker and Rangely have put together a joint “Be Water Wise” campaign that will run in the paper and on our social pages.
- Trustee Sizemore said that Lee Overton asked if the Rec Center would have their street sweeper down at the cleanup days on Friday or if the Town could help clean up afterward. Supt. Kilduff said the Public Works crew can take care of it.

MAYOR’S REMARKS

Mayor Day asked for Board consensus to attend the Chamber meeting regarding taking down the poles and the banner based on the previous discussion. The Board concurred.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS


None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Day adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Attest:


Lisa Cook, Town Clerk


Travis Day, Mayor


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C O L O R A D O