Dinosaur Town Council

Dinosaur Council Chambers

January 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Mayor, Richard Blakley

Darcie Rocque Michael Taylor

Nicole Ratcliff Devonna Wilczek

Marshelle Gray Leroy Trujillo

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Darcie Rocque, Marshelle Gray, Michael Taylor, Devonna Wilczek, and Leroy Trujillo were present. Nicole Ratcliff zoomed into the meeting. Public in attendance: Emma Knez, Den Davis, Kelly Clark, Bruce Fredrick, Dusty Roth, Jan Roth, and Emma Baker.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led By Mayor Blakley.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and action on Minutes of January 14, 2025. Devonna Wilczek moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025; seconded by Michael Taylor, the motion carried.
2. Rangely Chamber of Commerce membership. Emma Baker explained the membership packages for 2025. Devonna Wilczek mentioned that the Council discussed the $2,500.00 package last year. Marshelle Gray moved to approve the $2,500.00 gold membership; seconded by Darcie Rocque, the motion carried.
3. Discussion and action on Town Attorney. Larry Elarton has posted the position of Town Attorney. Bruce Fredrick, an attorney for the McDonough law firm, was present at the meeting. After reviewing Mr. Fredrick's qualifications, Michael Taylor moved to approve Mr. Fredrick as the Town Attorney for Dinosaur; seconded by Marshelle Gray, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update from Mr. and Mrs. Bird on the Variance at 208 Triceratops. Mayor Blakley stated that Mr. Bird submitted his floor plan. Building inspector Ken Davis noted that he went and viewed the property today. Ken asked Tex at the last meeting to submit a site and building plans. Tex Bird submitted a building plan drawing. At the walk-through, he noted that Tex would need to separate the floor because he doesn’t have enough of the floor joist to fit all the way under the walls; therefore, he will need to separate the house and use beams to support the walls by putting on a face plate to adjoin the floor joists together and put on new sheeting then drop it to the house then raise the whole house to put a foundation under it. Marshelle Gray asked if that process was according to the code. Ken stated that he would need to bring up the flooring and the face plates, and he saw that some of the face plates had been replaced due to rotting out. Ken stated that he was not sure how he would raise the house. Tex has mentioned that he will raise it, use jacks to raise it, and then put up telephone poles. At his previous review on July 9, 2024, Ken stated that Tex told the council that his plan was to raise the house and start working on the foundation. The house has not been raised, and a couple of boards could be in a day of work. Michael Taylor mentioned that the building permit and variance are two different issues. The variance allows him to stay in a camper until he finishes the house. So, the decision must be made whether to enable Tex to continue the variance. Devonna Wilczek mentioned that it has been 4 years since the council approved the first variance, and nothing has been done to the house, nor has anything been accomplished. Michael Taylor states that the Council is setting a presence in the community and for the next person. The Council's willingness to work with people could return on the Council haunting the board. Devonna Wilczek stated that this is the same plan Tex had 4 years ago to stay in the camper to save money so he could work on the house. Leroy Trujillo mentioned that Tex has moved onto the property cars, junk, and some stuff that is an eyesore. If he has no money, he must get rid of the junk. The Council gave him a chance to complete the house. Marshelle Gray stated that what he does after the variance is revoked is none of the Council's business, nor should the Council be able to tell him where to go. The property is bringing down property values and could be keeping other businesses from potentially making money. She asked when the variance expires. Larry, 3 ½ years ago, Tex met with the Council to grant some additional time, which expires at this meeting. Marshelle Gray stated that the council must not extend the variance any longer. Marshelle Gray made the motion not to extend the time for the variance for the property located at 208 Triceratops Dinosaur Co. and the resident must move from staying on the property immediately; seconded by Michael Taylor, Roll Call vote Darice Rocque yes, Nicole Ratcliff yes, Marshelle Gray yes, Michael Taylor yes, Devonna Wilczek yes, Leroy Trujillo yes, Richard Blakely Yes, motion passed and the variance for an additional time failed, therefore, no one can longer live at the property at 208 Triceratops and code enforcement will review the property and issue letters to clean up the lot.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mayor’s report.
2. Sidewalks purchase order numbers have until March 21, 2026, to complete the project. The Town portion of the cost is $175,000.00, and the grant is $250,000.00. There is still time to get a grant for the engineering cost of $26,000.00. The plan is also to lower the speed limit to 30mph and add a crosswalk at the intersection.
3. Town Manager
4. Title 13.
5. Working on code enforcement
6. Working on job descriptions
7. The town should consider imposing a utility deposit on new customers to help the town and/or landlord recoup some of the cost when someone leaves without proper notification.
8. Some new Colorado laws may affect dinosaurs. He can email the Council about the changes in the law.
9. The police department has received complaints about decorative rock on the property easement.
10. Municipal court will be monthly, making it easier for code enforcement.
11. Town Council
12. Marshelle Gray update on Dinosaur Library. Marshelle mentioned that she spoke to one of the board members in Craig, and they are open to having maybe a senior night or a craft night at the library. In the past, people have approached the Fire Department to utilize their building; it would be more beneficial to use the library building since it could spark more interest in the community. Yampa Valley River district is seeking a council member to join their rafting trip this year, a 4-day Yampa Canyon raft trip in the Dinosaur National Monument. The dates are from June 3 – June 6, 2025. If any Council members are interested in going on the trip, they must contact Tom Kleinschnitz ASAP.
13. Maintenance Supervisor updates.
14. The maintenance department has two new vans: one for tools and the other for the sewer camera.
15. Ryan Wilczek is taking classes/training for his CDL license.

PUBLIC COMMENT – *This section is set aside for Town Council to LISTEN to comments by the public regarding items that do not otherwise appear on this agenda. Generally, the Town Council will not discuss the issue and will not take an official action under this section of the agenda. Please limit comments to three (3) minute periods.*

ADJOURN: Marshelle Gray moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.; seconded by Leroy Trujillo, the motion carried.

TOWN OF DINOSAUR

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Richard A. Blakley, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Christine Brasfield, Town Clerk

For more details, go to the Zoom link: Minutes, Agendas, and a Zoom Link for the meetings can be found at https://townofdinosaur.colorado.gov/minutes-and-agendas.