

Hayden Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes For February 20, 2025

Study Session – 6:10 p.m. Review RTA work and Mountain Rail work to date

The work session focused on the regional transportation authority and mountain rail discussions, featuring Paul DesRocher, the Director of Transit and Rail at CDOT. DesRocher presented the Mountain Rail project aimed at enhancing connectivity between Denver and Craig, emphasizing its potential to provide reliable travel options, support economic growth, and meet environmental objectives in Moffet County. He outlined the project's funding secured in fall 2023, which has led to stakeholder meetings to discuss service options and station locations. The importance of a service development plan for operational requirements and infrastructure upgrades was highlighted, along with the Town of Hayden's support for the project and the necessity of a rail station area plan for effective land use and infrastructure planning.

Ryan Bell raised concerns regarding original contracts with Union Pacific and the implications for landowners' rights, to which DesRocher responded by affirming the state's responsibility for capital improvements to the rail infrastructure. Discussions also included the potential benefits of Senate Bill 190 for Hayden and Craig, as well as redevelopment opportunities at the Excel campus and nearby parcels. The operational framework for local rail service in the Yampa Valley was addressed, with Mayor Banks stressing the need for a Regional Transportation Authority to ensure financial support and operational viability. The session concluded with discussions on Union Pacific's operational rights and the importance of high-quality rail service to attract ridership, alongside plans for the station management responsibilities, with a resolution expected by mid-March.

Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Banks called the regular meeting of the Hayden Town Council to order at 7:06 p.m.

Mayor Banks Offered a moment of Silence

Mayor Banks Led the Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmembers Hayden, Bell, Haight, and Carlson were present. Councilmember Hicks was excused, she had a death in the family. Also present were Town Manager Mathew Mendisco, Town Clerk, Barbara Binetti; Police Chief, Scott Scurlock; Public Works Director, Bryan Richards; and Finance Director, Andrea Salazar

Councilmember Reports and Updates

Mayor Banks furthered the RTA that the project is moving forward. There will be public presentations coming soon. It should be on the ballot in the fall November, 2025. Tegan Ebbert had joined the Technical Committee.

Study Session / Staff Reports

HAYDEN CENTER

Sarah Stinson, Director Arts and Events:

Rhonda Sweetser, Director Parks and Recreation:

POLICE

Chief of Police Scurlock: I met with a firm that assists law enforcement agencies with the hiring process for new officers. They can conduct background investigations, computer voice stress analysis (CVSA) tests, and psychological and medical tests. We currently have one of our officers trained in background investigation do that portion, which can take upwards of 40 hours. 40 hours that he isn't on the street. CVSA is in Steamboat; psych is in Denver, and medical is in Craig. This process can take 2-3 months. With this company, it can all be done in 30 days, helping not to lose good candidates.

This afternoon, we completed some arrest and control tactics (ACT) training. Matthew Marchbanks is our primary instructor and does a great job. Our new officer, Bobby, who has a few years of law enforcement experience, commented that this was the best ACT training he's ever received. We will continue to have officers be instructors in various topics instead of relying upon outside instructors/classes

Kudos to Taylor at Public Works. He's been doing a great job maintaining our patrol cars and has some great ideas on how we move forward.

PUBLIC WORKS

Bryan Richards, Public Works Director:

Public Works worked on snow removal. We plowed two times a day on Monday, President's Day. Also, we removed snow berms on the side of the highway. A big shout out to the plowing crews.

PLANNING

Tegan Ebbert, Community Development Director:

ADMINISTRATION

Mathew Mendisco, Town Manager: Hayden Center has 489 members now. Volleyball starts next week. The adult volleyball league, peewee wrestling are underway. The cornhole tournament will be Saturday. Many activities moving forward with the Art's programs: Galentine's Date couple paint classes, Sip and Paint, etc. The Hight School musical is coming up and they are working on Tips training for all employees.

Through research on the Geothermal, it was found that old statutes say that we have to go to the owners for a vote. Mathew requested a special meeting of the NWCO GID to be held Thursday, February, 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and make a resolution to call for an election.

Barbara Binetti, Town Clerk: We celebrate Andrea Salazar's 10th year anniversary with the Town of Hayden.

Andrea Salazar, Finance Director: working on the 2024 Audit.

Staff reports will continue at the end of the meeting.

Public Comment

Brody Farquhar, 408 Clover Circle, Hayden, addressed the Council asking if there was a risk of flooding since the weather is forecasted to warm up to 50 on March 1st. Mayor Banks responded that Public Works has done a lot of work. Bryan Richards said that a dirt berm has been built to reduce any flooding risk. Also, that the historical trend has been April as the most probable month for any flooding when there are extreme conditions. He does not believe that we are at that point.

Proclamations and Presentations

Consent Agenda Items

- A. Consideration of minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 6, 2025
- B. Consideration to approve payment bill vouchers date 2/11/25 in the amount of \$128,695.82
- C. Consideration to approve payment bill vouchers date 2/12/25 in the amount of \$2,762.31
- D. Consideration to ratify payment bill vouchers dated 2/10/25 in the amount of \$123,899.15
- E. Consideration to appoint Katie Berning to the Hayden Planning Commission as an alternate member with a term expiring on 1/31/2031
- F. Authorization to submit a Concept Paper to the Department of Energy with the intent of applying for an Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas grant program to pursue installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system for municipal owned buildings

Councilmember Bell requested to pull consent items B, C, and D from the consent items for further discussion.

Mayor Banks moved to approved the consent items with the removal of items B, C, and D. Councilmember Carlson seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

Items B, C, and D

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

- A. Request to pause sales tax incentive for Creek View Grill

Mayor Banks moved to pause the sales tax incentive for the Creek View Grill. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Councilmember Hayden abstained and the motion passed.

Pulled Consent Items

Consent items B, C, and D were pulled. Councilmember Bell had one question on the payment on invoice 1506 from Browns Hill Engineering. After discussion, Councilmember Bell moved to approve all items and Mayor Banks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

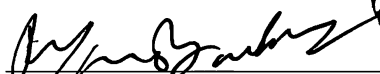
Staff and Councilmember Reports and Updates: There were no further reports.

Executive session: There was no Executive Session

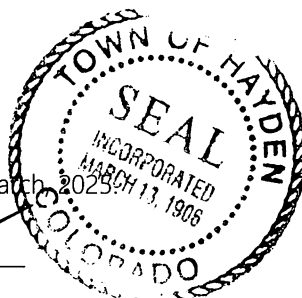
Adjournment: Mayor Banks adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Recorded by:

APPROVED THIS 6th DAY OF March 2025



 Ryan Banks, Mayor





 Barbara Binetti, Town Clerk