



NOTICE OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426

TUESDAY 7:00 PM, AUGUST 22, 2023

OPHIR TOWN HALL 36 PORPHYRY ST.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 867 0143 8435 Passcode: 373146

+16699006833,,86701438435#,,,,*373146# US (San Jose)

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ADOPTION & SIGNATURE OF July 25, 2023
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. BUSINESS ITEMS
 - a. P&Z Election: Daniel Forgrave
5. STAFF REPORTS
 - a. Town Manager
 - i. Microgrid/Solar array update (W/ Kim W.)
 - b. Other Staff
6. NEW BUSINESS
7. ADJOURN

General Assembly Meeting Memorandum

To: Ophir General Assembly
From: John Wontrobski, Ophir Town Manager
Date: August 18, 2023 for August 22, 2023 GA meeting

4a. Planning and Zoning Commission Election

There is one candidate for a full P&Z seat: Daniel Forgrave. He is running for a one-year term that would end in July 2024.

5a.i Ophir Microgrid/Solar Array update

The San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) was awarded a \$36K planning grant by the Microgrids for Community Resilience program to study the creation of a microgrid for Ophir. SMPA put up a match of \$9k, creating a \$45K budget for such planning. SMPA was also awarded grants to study similar microgrids in Rico, Ridgway and the SMPA main offices.

A microgrid would be based on the Town of Ophir employing a large battery system (about the size of a cargo container) that could give the town 4-6 hours of back-up power in the case of a power outage. Both Ophir and Rico are good candidates for such a system as both towns are at the end of the line with respect to electrical service, and we have no redundant or backup line to provide power. The battery would be charged daily by a 200-250 kW solar array, which SMPA and Town staff are discussing putting on Block 10, an entirely Town-owned block of undeveloped property just west of the Cemetery above East Ophir. Part of the planning will include drawing up mock-ups of what the solar array would look like on that location, but if you drive up to the airport you will see a similar sized array on Tim Erdman's property for comparison. The San Miguel Sheriff's Office has also already installed a similar, though smaller, solar array/microgrid system on the south side of their offices in Ilium Valley.

Siting such an array will require several steps on the part of Ophir, including zoning changes, a GA Resolution tentatively approving such a study on Block 10 and ultimately a lease agreement allowing SMPA to construct an array that will be on the property for a minimum of 25 years. The main benefit to Ophir is the resiliency aspect that will power Ophir should the power go out- it is not expected to have any effect on the bottom line of your current electricity bills, though this could be an item to discuss during planning/negotiations.

Kim Wheels of EcoAction, John Wontrobski, Town Manager will present where the project is currently, answer as many of your questions as we can and will discuss next steps.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426

TUESDAY JUNE 27, 2023 7:00 PM

OPHIR TOWN HALL 36 PORPHYRY ST.

CALL TO ORDER

(7:13)

Voting Member: Mark Rosenthal, Jacey Depriest, Judah Kuper, Rhonda Claridge, Ben Foster, Andrew Ward, Dana Baer, Kelton Wright, Phil Hayden, Leigh Sullivan, Ken Page, Kim Wheels, Eric Beerman, Elias Bahou, Jen Rose)

ADOPTION & SIGNATURE OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

Judah motions to approve and adopt, Jacey seconds

All in Favor (Yay): Unanimous

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rhonda motions to approve and adopt June agenda, Judah seconds

All in Favor (Yay): Unanimous

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Judah notes missing line now included in IRC - the only edit made.

Judah motions to approve, Rhonda seconds. Unanimous approval

B. Microgrid grant was awarded to SMPA. Judah notes that approval does not mean we're necessarily moving forward w/ the project. Rhonda asks where solar would be located, Kim and Judah clarified the solar expert would help determine the best location. Kim notes we have 1 year for planning phase.

C. Judah notes that OEC is exploring more about risks that could be helpful.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Town Manager (John Wontrobski): Ophir pass - no work being done on high passes so far, the county is prioritizing high use roads - will look into a bigger pass open/closed sign at 145 turn.

Town Mayor (Andrew Ward): Notes that pond east of Camp Freedom is leaking into river, USFS is aware and investigating

Town Clerk (Ben Foster): Nothing to report

Ophir Environmental Chairperson (Jacey Depriest): New Dominion is looking like it will be cleaned up in 2024

Planning and Zoning Chairperson (Judah Kuper): P&Z passed new IRC – work continues on current construction projects.

Leigh notes leaking adit Andy mentioned has occurred before, may have been dredged before.

6. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

7. ADJOURN

Andy motions to adjourn @ 8:59pm

Minutes prepared by Ben Foster, Town Clerk

Audio recordings of all General Assembly Meetings are available to the public. Please contact the Town Clerk if you would like a copy of this month's audio of the meeting minutes.