

**RANLO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY 2020 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
RANLO TOWN HALL
1624 SPENCER MOUNTAIN ROAD, RANLO, NORTH CAROLINA 28054
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	Lynn Black
Mayor Pro-Tem	Katie Cordell
Commissioner	Robin Conner
Commissioner	Jamie Fowler
Commissioner	Effie Locklear
Commissioner	Doug Moore

Staff Present:

Town Manager	Jonathan Blanton
Town Attorney	Jim Windham
Chief of Police	Jimmy Lunsford

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Black called the meeting to order and Town Manager Jonathan Blanton conducted the roll call. Mayor Black offered the invocation.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Moore motioned to adopt the agenda and Commissioner Locklear provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

III. Comments from Attendees

No person registered to call-in during the comments from attendees' portion of the meeting.

IV. Adoption of the March 12, 2020 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the March 12, 2020 regular meeting and public hearing minutes and Mayor Pro Tem Cordell provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

V. Town Manager's Budget Message

Town Manager Jonathan Blanton presented the 2020-2021 Budget Message (Attached as Exhibit A). Mr. Blanton presented a balanced budget of \$3,770,600, consisting of a General Fund Budget of \$2,077,850; a Powell Bill Budget of \$154,400; a Storm Water Budget of \$27,000; and a Utility Fund Budget of \$1,511,350. The budget requires a \$140,250 fund balance appropriation for the General Fund Budget, a \$53,4000 fund balance appropriation

for the Powell Bill Fund Budget, and a \$93,350 fund balance for the Utility Fund Budget. The Town Manager announced a public hearing will be held on June 11, 2020 at the regular Board of Commissioners' Meeting prior to the adoption of the budget.

VI. Discussion of the Disposal of Surplus Town Property

The Town Manager requested that the Board authorize the Town Manager to work with staff to surplus all unneeded, miscellaneous Town personal property valued at less than \$30,000 under the requirements described in North Carolina General Statutes 160A-266(c). The Mayor inquired as to whether an on-site auction would be taking place and the Town Manager stated that we would explore on-site and on-line auctions once an inventory was taken. Commissioner Moore moved to approve resolution and Mayor Pro Tem Cordell provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

VII. Approval of the 2016-2017 Audit Contract

The Town Manager recommended moving forward with awarding the 2016-2017 audit contract to Mr. Eddie Carrick at the price of \$15,000. The Town Manager explained that Mr. Carrick hopes to have all outstanding audits completed by the end of September 2020. Commissioner Moore moved to approve the audit contract and Commissioner Fowler provided the second. Commissioner Locklear inquired as to whether the Town was paying Collis and Associates for this audit and the Town Manager explained that he drafted and entered into a release agreement with Collis and Associates where no fees were owed by either party and that the agreement was approved by the Local Government Commission. The audit contract was approved 5-0.

VIII. Discussion and Revised Meeting Schedule

The Town Manager explained that the Board of Commissioners' 2020 Meeting Schedule needed to be amended with the cancellation of April's meeting and the rescheduling of the May meeting. Mayor Pro Tem moved to adopt the schedule and Commissioner Fowler provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

IX. Review of Payment Plan for Water and Wastewater Services Subject to Executive Order 124

The Town Manager explained that the Board would need to approve a payment plan under the Governor's Executive Order with a case-by-case basis as a determination for additional assistance for customers. The Mayor inquired as to whether a fund would need to be set up to help customers who may have a need. The Town Manager explained that a local pastor had also inquired as to whether there was a need and the Town Manager stated he would assess the situation when bills became due under the Executive Order's guidelines. Commissioner Fowler inquired as to whether the Town was aware of the number of delinquent water bills and the Town Manager explained that the Town is tracking and reporting the number of delinquent accounts to the Utilities Commission. Commissioner Conner inquired as to whether FEMA would cover the cost of these outstanding bills and the Town Manager stated that FEMA may cover the cost of penalties and late fees for lost

revenue. Commissioner Moore moved to adopt the policy and Commissioner Fowler provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

X. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager reported that a detailed discussion would be held in June to approve end of the year budget amendments. The Town Manager also thanked the public for their patience and cooperation during the prior weeks with Public Works being short-handed during the current state of being in a pandemic. The Town Manager also reported that the Center for Disease Control were not recommending that playgrounds reopen at this time and that the Town would closely monitor the situation to reopen at a later date. He stated that he had spoken with Senator Harrington regarding the relief funds being allocated to Gaston County and stated he would keep the Board of Commissioners updated. The Town Manager also shared a sign that Mr. Larry Simons had provided that would be displayed at the Wild Horse Auto Sales Property and thanked Mr. Simonds for his generosity and his business in Ranlo. The Town Manager also thanked Pastor C.L. Simmonds for accepting the position of the Ranlo Police Department Chaplain and noted that the Mayor and he had attended the service initiating Pastor Simmonds at the Ranlo Church of God.

XI. Comments from Commissioners

i. Employee Bonuses

Mayor Pro Tem Cordell noted that in light of the difficult political and environmental challenges that the Town has faced over the last six months, that she would like to recommend that the Board approve a one-time appreciation bonus to Jason Green for \$2500, \$1000 for Jimmy Lunsford, \$1000 for Brian Holland, \$1000 for CJ Harper, and \$500 for all other employees. Mayor Pro Tem Cordell stated that this would equate to \$16,000 and affirm the Board's appreciation, approval, and recognition of Town employees. Commissioner Locklear inquired as to whether bonuses were recently awarded and stated that approximately \$5,000 in raises were given recently to the Town's collection clerks. Mayor Pro Tem Cordell stated that the raise Commissioner Locklear was referring to equated to an average salary for similar positions. Commissioner Locklear also stated during the limited work-schedule that some employees were paid for a 40-hour week when they only worked 20 hours. Commissioner Locklear also stated that she was not opposed to the measure, but felt the Town had shown its appreciation to Town employees. The Mayor inquired as to how much money had been saved with current vacant positions and Mayor Pro Tem Cordell stated that at least \$16,000 has been saved with the vacant Finance Director position, the vacant Parks and Recreation Director position, and contracted inmate services. The Mayor inquired as to whether former Chief Anderson's severance package was considered in these figures and Mayor Pro Tem Cordell stated that it had been taken into consideration. Mayor Pro Tem moved to award these bonuses and Commissioner Fowler provided the second. Commissioner Conner, Fowler, and Cordell voted in favor of the motion and Commissioner Moore and Locklear abstained. The motion carried.

ii. Scheduling of Summer Events

Commissioner Fowler inquired as to what the schedule for Mill Towns Night would be after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and Commissioner Locklear solicited comments on when planning should begin for these events. Mayor Pro Tem Cordell and the Town Manager discussed the timing in regards to the Governor's phased orders for events. The Mayor suggested a small event be planned and it was the consensus of the Board to plan a small reopening of the splash pad with a tentative date of being in mid-June. Commissioner Locklear stated that she would like to see a senior bingo planned and Commissioner Conner inquired as to whether additional funding would be needed to sanitize public areas. The Town Manager confirmed that disinfectants would be purchased with internal budget amendments and reimbursement would be sought if possible. Commissioner Moore stated that Public Works had purchased and planned with large quantities of cleaning supplies. Commissioner Locklear stated that the Town should monitor the current state of affairs and that a mid-June event be planned.

iii. Banner Recognizing Ranlo Graduates

Commissioner Conner expressed her desire to see a banner purchased recognizing Ranlo graduates to be installed across Spencer Mountain Road and the Mayor stated he would hang the banner for free. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with this project.

iv. Reopening of the Splash Pad

Commissioner Locklear sought clarification as to whether the splash-pad could be reopened the first of June if phase two went according to plan. The Mayor and Town Manager stated that we would assess the situation as it unfolds and include any updates on the water-bills.

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Locklear motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mayor Pro Tem Cordell provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

ATTESTED TO:

Mayor Lynn Black

Recorder and transcriber of the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on May 8, 2020.