

**TOWN OF RANLO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY
APRIL 14TH 2022 MEETING
RANLO TOWN HALL
1624 SPENCER MOUNTAIN ROAD, RANLO, NORTH CAROLINA 28054
THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2022 7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

Mayor Black
Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell
Commissioner Hay
Commissioner Fowler
Commissioner Morton
Commissioner Moore

Staff Present:

Town Manager	Jonathan Blanton
Town Clerk	Sarah Rowan
Finance Director	Amanda Ellzey
Chief of Police	Jimmy Lunsford

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Black called the meeting to order and Town Clerk Sarah Rowan conducted the roll call. All members were present.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The Town Manager requested to add a closed session for personnel matters to the agenda.

Commissioner Fowler motioned to accept the agenda as amended. Commissioner Moore provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

III. Comments from Attendees

The Town Manager reported that there were no comments from attendees wishing to address the Board.

Ms. Flowe of 123 Ranlo Avenue arrived at 7:30 to address the Board. She claimed that the Utilities Department collected her payment later than the date it was put in the after-hours dropbox, resulting in her being cut off. She requested a refund of her \$50 reconnect fee. The Utilities Department claims they did not receive the check until after the dropbox was unlocked.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hay motioned to reimburse the \$50. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

IV. Approval of the March 10th 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to approve the March 10th Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

V. Special Presentation to Ranlo's Delegation in the North Carolina General Assembly

The Board, along with former Commissioners Effie Locklear and Robin Conner, expressed gratitude to Representative John Torbett for the recent direct allocations awarded to the Town of Ranlo. Over \$6 million will be used for wastewater infrastructure, roadways, water line improvements, and upgrades to Town buildings and parks.

VI. Review of a Second Version of Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

The Town Manager gave an overview of the second draft version of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. He reported that the Police department includes the 13th officer and capital outlay for two new vehicles. Public Works has a \$10,000 increase for departmental supply.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell asked if the backhoe could be taken from the Powell Bill. The Town Manager responded that due to the direct allocation, it is safe to take the backhoe from the Powell Bill fund. He added that the purpose of the fund is to spend it, which looks good to the State. She inquired if there is a plan for the repaving of streets and the Town Manager responded that there is a prioritization plan in the CIP and repaving will go hand in hand with water line replacements.

Commissioner Fowler raised concerns about adding an additional officer alongside other increases and the property tax evaluation in 2023. He noted that the purpose of the tax increase in years prior was to increase the fund balance. Commissioner Fowler proposed reevaluating the additional officer until after the assessment and raising the reserve line

by \$20,000. Commissioner Hay added that the general fund would be doubled if the budget did not include a 13th officer.

Chief Lunsford noted that reserve officers work full-time jobs so it is more difficult to schedule them compared to full-time officers. Commissioner Folwer responded that he sees the need for an officer in the police department, but wants to keep in mind the burden of increases on the people of Ranlo. Commissioner Moore commented that it is not right to not have adequate protection for the people. Mayor Black asked whether the second police car would still be in the budget. Commissioner Fowler responded that the Police Department will need it eventually, and to keep it in the budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell and Commissioner Hay agreed with Commissioner Fowler on being conservative and reevaluating the additional officer at a later date.

Commissioner Fowler motioned to forgo the 13th officer and increase the reserve line to \$20,000. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 3-2, with Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Morton opposed.

The Board reached a consensus to increase the Public Works department supplies by \$20,000.

The Board reached a consensus to send the draft Fiscal Year 2023 budget to the State Treasurer's Office for review.

VII. Consideration of Gaston County Interlocal Tax Agreement for Fire Service

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to approve the Gaston County Interlocal Tax Agreement for Fire Service. Commissioner Hay provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

VIII. Review of Audit Proposals for Fiscal Year 2022

Commissioner Moore motioned to accept Mr. Eddie Carrick's proposal for auditing services for the fiscal year 2022. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

IX. Consideration of a Resolution Adopting an Asset Inventory Assessment

Commissioner Moore motioned to adopt an Asset Inventory Assessment conducted by North Carolina Rural Water. Commissioner Morton seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

X. Discussion of Summer Recreational Events

The Town Manager and the Board of Commissioners discussed the revival of Milltown Nights for the Summer. It was noted that there is an official plan for July fireworks and the fall festival in September. Commissioner Hay asked what day Milltown Nights occur. The Town Manager responded that they are held on the third Friday of each month. Commissioner Moore suggested that each month can be geared towards a specific demographic of the Town (kids, young adults, seniors, etc.). Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell requested a proposal from the Town Manager on how much Milltown Nights will cost. He responded that he will get a proposal together, but proposed a low-budget event for May for seniors at the Lodge.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell inquired about the opening date for the Splash Pad. The Town Manager responded that it is usually Memorial Day weekend, but it can be opened earlier. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell requested that the Splash Pad be opened on May 1st.

XI. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager presented the Board with two action items to approve the Grant Project Ordinances to give authority to begin paying for infrastructure projects. The first is for the State Capital Infrastructure Funds and the second is for the Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure Grant.

Commissioner Hay motioned to approve the ordinances. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

The Town Manager announced that the Town Hall would be closed in observance of Good Friday with no trash delay. He added that there is an Easter event at the Community Building on Saturday, April 16th from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

XII. Comments from the Mayor

Mayor Black recounted his time at the MPO event with Commissioner Fowler the week prior.

XIII. Comments from the Board of Commissioners

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell inquired about an egg hunt at the Easter event. The Town Manager responded that there is no egg hunt, but lots of games and crafts.

XIV. Closed Session

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to go into the closed session. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

XV. Open Session

Commissioner Moore motioned to go back into the open session. Commissioner Fowler provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

No action was taken during the closed session.

XVI. Adjournment

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to adjourn the April 14th Monthly Meeting. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

ATTESTED TO:

Mayor Lynn Black

Recorder and transcriber of the minutes for the Monthly April 14th 2022 Meeting