

**TOWN OF RANLO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY APRIL 2023
MEETING
RANLO TOWN HALL
1624 SPENCER MOUNTAIN ROAD, RANLO, NORTH CAROLINA 28054
THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2023 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

Governing Body Present

Commissioner Wade Morton
Commissioner Robin Conner
Commissioner Jamie Fowler
Commissioner Doug Moore
Mayor Pro-Tem Katie Cordell
Mayor Lynn Black

Staff Present

Town Manager	Jonathan Blanton
Town Attorney	Nick Tosco
Town Clerk	Sarah Rowan

I. Call to Order

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

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The Town Manager informed the Board that the Gastonia Honey Hunters rescheduled their presentation to the Board.

Commissioner Moore motioned to adopt the amended agenda for the regular April meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

III. Comments from Attendees

The Town Manager reported that there were no comments from attendees.

IV. Approval of the March 9th Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fowler motioned to approve the March 9th regular monthly meeting minutes. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

V. Approval of the March 9th Regular Monthly Meeting Closed Session Minutes

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to approve the March 9th regular monthly meeting closed session minutes. Commissioner Conner seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

VI. North Carolina League of Municipalities Law Enforcement Accreditation

Matthew Selves, the Law Enforcement Risk Management Consultant for the North Carolina League of Municipalities recognized Chief Lunsford and the Ranlo Police Department for completing the North Carolina League's Law Enforcement Risk Review.

VII. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Discussion

The Town Manager presented the Board with the second draft of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. He noted that there were minor changes from the last meeting, and the Town continues to work with the insurance company for final renewal projections.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell asked if there were any changes in the utility fund. The Town Manager responded that water and sewer rates will not be changing.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell asked the Town Manager if the budget includes bonuses. The Town Manager responded that it includes the standard \$775 Christmas bonus. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell asked if not including raises would put the Town behind in terms of pay. The Town Manager responded that the Town is currently above market rate with a minimum salary of \$40,000. He noted that the Town is in a good spot regarding salaries, with a fully staffed Public Works Department and almost fully staffed Police Department.

Mayor Black asked if the salary included in the Recreation budget is someone who is going to be hired. The Town Manager responded that it is a current employee that upkeeps, cleans, and maintains the parks and recreation areas.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell asked if the playground at the Lodge would be renovated. The Town Manager noted Cunningham Recreation is executing site assessments of Fulbright-Wagner Park and Gardin Park. He added that the direct allocations will cover ADA accessibility improvements and safer, newer equipment. Once the Lodge is completed, there will be a free-standing Renaissance structure where the former playground was. The Town Manager added that there may be enough funds to put a small piece of equipment at the Lodge after the parks are renovated.

Commissioner Moore requested covered areas in the parks. The Town Manager responded that a need for shade is the biggest concern for residents, and it is included in the renderings. Commissioner Moore additionally requested a picnic area.

Commissioner Fowler asked if the equipment will be usable by children with different types of disabilities. The Town Manager informed Commissioner Fowler that all requests made with Cunningham Recreation included ADA accessibility.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell expressed concern over projections for revenue. She added that anywhere from \$5,000-\$10,000 under is money that could be saved in the tax rate. The Town Manager noted that projections are difficult to project because they are not consistent between years.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell requested the numbers for FY22 actual and projected as well as FY23 projected for revenue and expenditures.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell inquired about the surplus difference between the draft budgets. The Town Manager reported that the first draft has a surplus of \$90,122.42 in the General Fund and \$73,194.20 in the Utility Fund. The second draft has a surplus of \$84,422.42 in the General Fund and is unchanged in the Utility Fund. The Town Manager noted that the changes were based on insurance and additional salaries for IT.

Commissioner Fowler asked if the utility fund reflects any needed repairs for the Duff Street pump. The Town Manager that there are no specific capital improvement projects funded through the Utility Fund. Commissioner Fowler asked if there are plans to renovate or replace the lift station. The Town Manager responded that there are plans and engineering designs, but the Town needs funding to execute them.

Mayor Black asked if the tax rate in the draft budget is .45 cents. The Town Manager confirmed the draft tax rate. The Town Manager noted that the \$84,422.42 surplus and the tax rate is the decision of the Board.

Mayor Black asked the Town Manager to break down the LOGOS report. The Town Manager explained that it includes the balances of the bank accounts and the three Capital Management Accounts. Mayor Black requested a breakdown of interest accumulated over the fiscal year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell requested a report of surplus and deficits for all potential tax rates under .45 cents.

Mayor Pro-Tem and Mayor Black agreed on the .45 cent tax rate being too high. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell added that she does not want to put the Town in a deficit, but the fund balance does not need to be built as aggressively as before.

The Board reached a consensus to hold a budget meeting on May 4th, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

VIII. Resolution for an Intent to Apply for Grant Funding

Commissioner Moore motioned to adopt the resolution for an intent to apply for grant funding for lead and copper identification in water lines. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

IX. Awarding of the Contract for the Fiscal Year 2023 Audit

Commissioner Moore motioned to award the contract for the Fiscal Year 2023 audit to Eddie Carrick, CPA. Commissioner Morton seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

X. Resolution Approving the Town of Ranlo Water Shortage Response Plan

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to adopt the resolution approving the Town of Ranlo Water Shortage Response Plan. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

XI. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager recapped his meeting with Cunningham Recreation. He anticipates having renderings for the parks by the May 4th meeting. The Town Manager added that he hopes to have all renovations completed by the 60th Anniversary in July.

The Town Manager recognized Meridian and Standard Distributors for sponsoring the 60th Anniversary event on July 28th and 29th. He added that four bands have been confirmed, as well as hot dogs and fireworks. The Carnival will be held at Town Hall Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through the Anniversary Celebration.

The Town Manager announced that there is a delay in paving Boulder Court. The milling of the road will be done on May 10th and paving the following week. The Town Manager added that the final two engineering studies for the Lodge are being finalized in order to secure permits.

The Town Manager informed the Board that Congressman Jeff Jackson is supporting the funding of about \$1.5 million for a second interconnect for Ranlo. The Town Manager added that he has been in touch with representatives Torbett and Overcash who have both given signs of hope for funding in the General Assembly budget.

The Town Manager thanked Public Works for the tremendous work they have completed over the past weeks. The Town Manager thanked the Police Department as well for handling extra calls.

The Town Manager informed the Board that the 6-month report reflecting budget-to-date actuals has been sent to the Local Government Commission.

The Town Manager announced that the Senior Brunch Bingo will be held on May 5th at 11 AM at the Maylo Methodist Church.

XII. Comments from the Mayor

Mayor Black attended the local MPO meeting where the railroad intersection was discussed. The Town Manager added that he had seen preliminary designs the week prior for the turning lane.

XIII. Comments from the Board of Commissioners

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell thanked the Public Works and Police Departments for their dedicated work.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell congratulated the Town Manager on this three-year anniversary with the Town.

Commissioner Fowler presented a list of citizen concerns including more night patrol in the HOA neighborhoods, speed bumps on Everest Drive, and for Public Works to patrol construction sites around the town.

XIV. Closed Session Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3)(6) for Attorney-Client Privilege

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

XV. Return to Open Session and Consideration of Closed Session Action

Commissioner Fowler motioned to return to open session. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. No action was taken.

XVI. Adjournment

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to adjourn the regular April meeting. Commissioner Conner seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

ATTESTED TO:

Mayor Lynn Black

Recorder and transcriber of the minutes for the Monthly April 2023 Meeting