

**TOWN OF RANLO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MONTHLY
AUGUST 2021 MEETING
TOWN HALL
1624 SPENCER MOUNTAIN ROAD, RANLO, NORTH CAROLINA 28054
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 2021 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 Clerk	Sarah Rowan

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.

Mayor Black offered the invocation.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Locklear motioned to adopt the Agenda for the August 12th Monthly Meeting. Commissioner Fowler 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.

IV. Approval of the July 29th Board of Commissioners' Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the July 29th Board of Commissioners' Special Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

V. Recognition of Recent Activities of Ranlo Police Officers

Police Chief Lunsford recognized the actions of Officers Avant, Byerly, and Farrah for going beyond the call of duty at a house fire on Crossway Circle occurring on July 16th.

VI. Public Hearing for the Annexation of 2400 Spencer Mountain Road.

Commissioner Moore motioned to open the Public Hearing for the Annexation of 2400 Spencer Mountain Road. Commissioner Fowler provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

Randy Thomasson of 1309 Redland Drive expressed his curiosity about what the annexation encompasses. Commissioner Moore explained that the Town was just annexing the property that WBTV owns. The Town Manager explained that the reason for annexation was prior issues with security for WBTV and recreation opportunities for the Town. Randy Thomasson asked if there are plans for further expansion and the Town Manager responded with yes there are.

Commissioner Locklear motioned to close the Public Hearing for the Annexation of 2400 Spencer Mountain Road. Commissioner Moore provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

VII. Consideration of Annexation Ordinance.

Town Manager Jonathan Blanton explained that the Public Hearing and the Consideration of the Annexation Ordinance are the last steps to officially annex the land.

Commissioner Fowler motioned to approve the Consideration of the Annexation Ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tem seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

VIII. Public Hearing for Revised System Development Fees.

Commissioner Fowler motioned to open the Public Hearing for Revised System Development Fees. Commissioner Moore provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

There were no comments from the public regarding the Revised System Development Fees.

Commissioner Locklear motioned to close the Public Hearing for Revised System Development Fees. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

IX. Consideration of Revised System Development Fees.

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the Consideration of Revised System Development Fees. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

X. Public Hearing for Revised Updates to the Town's Code of Ordinances.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to open the Public Hearing for Revised Updates to the Town's Code of Ordinances. Commissioner Conner provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

Randy Thomasson of 1309 Redland Drive inquired about an ordinance for abandoned cars on properties. The Town Manager explained that it can be looked at from a nuisance standpoint and code enforcement can get involved.

The Town Manager explained that the revised updates were to 23 ordinances. For the first time, the Code of Ordinances is available online to the public.

Commissioner Locklear motioned to close the Public Hearing for Revised Updates to the Town's Code of Ordinances. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

XI. Consideration of Proposed Ordinance Revisions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to approve the Consideration of Proposed Ordinance Revisions. Commissioner Locklear provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

XII. Ratification of Intent to Apply for Asset Inventory and Assessment Grants.

The Town Manager reported that Ranlo will be reapplying for grants this year as the Town was unsuccessful last year with grant applications. The Town Manager explained that it is \$300,000 in grants with a deadline in September. Commissioner Fowler asked if missing audits were to blame for being unsuccessful. The Town Manager responded that it could have contributed to the problem, but grant applications are a competitive field.

Commissioner Locklear motioned to approve the Ratification of Intent to Apply for Asset Inventory and Assessment Grants. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

XIII. Town Manager Report

The Town Manager reported that the Police and Fire Departments will be hosting a back to school drive thru giveaway on August 20th at 5pm at the Ranlo Church of God.

The Town Manager also noted that the Town will be closed September 3-6 in observance of Labor Day. There will be a 1 day delay in garbage pickup. The next Board of Commissioners meeting will be held September 9th. The Town Manager asked for the meeting to be at 6:00 PM to allow for a public hearing.

The Town Manager requested to discuss concerns regarding the Fall Festival taking place September 17th and 18th. He reported that in the past week, 110 school age children had been diagnosed with Covid-19. He explained that with the low vaccination rate in Gaston County and cases rising, external factors needed to be considered.

Mayor Black asked if there was a date a decision was to be made by. The Town Manager responded that there is no hard date. Commissioner Fowler inquired about vendors signing up. The Town Manager reported that no vendor fees had been paid at that time. Commissioner Locklear asked if any towns in Gaston County had considered cancelling their own events as well. The Town Manager responded that none have yet. Mayor Black suggested monitoring the cases and situation and revisit at the next meeting on September 9th. Commissioner Locklear expressed concern over September 9th cutting it too close to the event. She explained that notice needs to be given. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell expressed the same concerns as Commissioner Locklear. Both Commissioner Locklear and Conner agreed that a cancellation should be considered. Commissioner Fowler suggested a motion to watch the numbers and then leave the decision to the Town Manager. The Town Manager responded saying he is not comfortable with the responsibility of making the decision himself.

Commissioner Locklear motioned to cancel the September Fall Festival and Commissioner Conner provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

Commissioner Locklear raised the question about the possibility of a spring festival. The Town Manager said yes that idea can be revisited. The Town Manager reiterated that Labor Day and the start of school would continue to worsen the situation.

XIV. Comments from the Mayor

Mayor Black recapped a meeting with MPO in which he spoke to NCDOT about starting road improvements before 2045. Mayor Black said he would keep the Board updated after he meets with a NCDOT representative in the upcoming week.

XV. Comments from the Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Moore expressed that he thought National Night Out on August 3rd was a big success. Commissioner Locklear agreed, saying there was a big turn out.

Commissioner Conner detailed a meeting with the Homeless Task Force for Gaston County. She said the goal is to compile all agencies to create one stop for resources. At the last meeting, it was discussed that the money that comes into Gastonia to help the homeless is not allocated appropriately. The Town Manager commented that some of the Rescue Act funding for the City of Gastonia is supposed to help with the homelessness issue.

XVI. Closed Session Pursuant North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel matters.

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

XVII. Open Session

Commissioner Locklear motioned to go back into open session. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to approve the July 29th Special Meeting Closed Session Minutes. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the Accrued Employee Compensation for Fiscal Year 2021. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

XVIII. Motion to Adjourn

Commissioner Moore motioned to adjourn the August 12 Board of Commissioners Monthly Meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

ATTESTED TO:

Mayor Lynn Black

Recorder and transcriber of the minutes for the Regular August 12th 2021 Meeting