

**TOWN OF RANLO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY JULY 18 2024
MEETING**

**RANLO TOWN HALL
1624 SPENCER MOUNTAIN ROAD, RANLO, NORTH CAROLINA 28054**

THURSDAY, JULY 18th, 2024 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Governing Body Present

Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Moore

Commissioner Robin Conner

Commissioner Ronnie Laws

Commissioner Effie Locklear

Commissioner Wade Morton

Staff Present

Town Manager Charlie Hansen

Public Works Director Jason Green

Police Chief Jimmy Lunsford

Finance Director Reagan Day

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Doug Moore called the meeting to order, and the Town Manager conducted the roll call. Commissioner Locklear led the invocation

II. Adoption of the May 16, 2024, Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Moore called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the regular July meeting. Commissioner Locklear motioned to adopt the agenda for the regular July meeting. Commissioner Connor seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

III. Recognition of James Wright for 5 Years of Service

The Town Manager recognized Jason Green, Public Works Director. Mr. Green recognized Mr. Wright for 5 years of service. Mr. Wright is in charge of roads, sidewalks, and stormwater infrastructure. He fixes any and all mechanical issues in the Town. You have to wonder how he is able to do anything as he can do everything. Mr. Green thanks James and his wife for his service and dedication to the Town and his service.

The Town Manager also recognized how Mr. Wright was able to fix chainsaws when no one else can.

IV. Comments from Attendees

There were no comments from attendees.

Old Business:

V. Adoption of the June 13th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board

Commissioner Laws called for a motion to adopt the June 13th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board. Commissioner Locklear seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

VI. Presentation of the Monthly Financial Expense Report

The Town Manager went over the new Monthly Financial Expense Report noting that last month's report was the end of fiscal year close-out report and how this month's report goes over the monthly and year-to-date spending for the Town. The manager highlighted the importance of how open finances to not only the Board, but to the residents is a pillar of open and honest government.

Page 1 of the report gives a holistic look at all of the Town's accounts and associated interests accrued in each of the accounts. Page two of the document shows each department account within the general operating budget and how the accounts stack up compared to how far along the town is throughout the fiscal year.

VII. Consideration Budget Amendment FY2425.1

The Town Manager mentioned that he would speak on all three Budget Amendments at the beginning, then will go into each one specifically. The Manager mentioned that the three budget amendments before the Board are a result of the budget workshop and discussions that the Board had back in March and April and an effort to procure some of the bigger capital expenditure and outlay requests that the Town was not able to fit into the general operating budget. The items included three police flock cameras, a new zero-turn mower for public works, and a tractor for the public works department. Each would be a one time fund balance appropriation. The first item is the flock cameras for the police department.

Commissioner Morton motioned to approve the purchase of the police cameras.

Commissioner Connor seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

VIII. Consideration of Budget Amendment FY2425.2

The Town Manager mentioned that the appropriation for the mower would also be a one time fund balance appropriation from the general fund reserves. Commissioner Connor made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Locklear seconded the motion. the motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Consideration of Budget Amendment FY2425.3

Mayor Pro Tem led the discussion by saying he wanted to amend the proposed budget amendment to allow the spending limit of the tractor to go from the proposed \$30,000 to no more than \$50,000 because of the need to have nicer equipment for the Town and to have equipment you can count on. Commissioner Locklear made a note about the fund balance status, to which the Town Manager mentioned that this appropriation would be

coming from the Powell Bill Fund Balance as it is to serve the street maintenance of the Town.

Commissioner Locklear made a motion to amend the budget amendment to \$50,000.

Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Morton made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Consideration of Speedbump Installation on Sapphire Drive

The Town Manager presented the discussion about a proposed speedbump on Sapphire. The Town Manager was approached by the Mountainview HOA about a speedbump on Sapphire. On Sapphire just after it turns from Mitchem over to Sapphire, there was a previous speedbump at this location. It was removed so that the model homes were built in that location. After the meeting with the Mountainview HOA, the interest for a speedbump was brought forward. The Town conducted a traffic study about the area. A study was conducted by the Police department. The results showed that over a third of the traffic in that location speed by that area with speeds up to 37 mph in that spot.

When the Town discussed the findings and considered pedestrian safety, child safety, traffic safety, so it was recommended by the Town Manager to install a speedbump at this location. The manager mentioned that the power to decide on a placement of a speedbump lies with the Board according to Town ordinances. The manager presented the recommendation with the HOA's support to install the speedbump.

Commissioner Connor reflected the same concerns that there are a lot of speeding concerns at not only this location, but also in the Spencer Heights neighborhood. Commissioner Connor mentioned that children play at Wicklow and Sunriver in Spencer Heights and that there is a lot of speeding in that area. Children try to play basketball and cars coming down the hill causing a dangerous situation for the area.

The Manager recommended considering Spencer Heights as a part of a speed study prior to installing the speedbumps in that location to confirm the need for speed. The manager recommended studying the speedbump in a due diligence process.

Commissioner Morton made a motion to approve the speedbump on Sapphire.

Commissioner Laws seconded the motion to approve the speedbump. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Connor made a motion to direct staff to study the Spencer Heights neighborhood for potential speedbumps. Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Town Manager Project Update of Grant Projects

The Town Manager mentioned that there are lots of exciting projects happening in the town. He mentioned the last couple of months have been very financial and numbers driven and now this is step 2. The step 2 is to tell the Board where each project stands. Within the NCDEQ grant, the 2.8 Million dollar grant, the electronic water meter upgrade project has been completed. The water line upgrades for south ranlo waterline upgrades are currently waiting on easements. Once the easements are completed, the town staff will be able to submit to the State for approval. The water line upgrades for the Ranlo Avenue Extension has been submitted to DEQ. In the 3.5 Million for the SCIF grants, the Boulder Court project was completed. The Ranlo Avenue Extension project was approved by the state, and is now out for bid. The timeline now will be to open bids in the beginning of the August and hope to be in construction somewhere between September and November. The Lodge renovations project have been completed, there is nothing left with that project. The final project is the sidewalk upgrades. That project will be the final project to complete in the SCIF.

The 5 Million received from the state for the secondary water interconnect with the City of Gastonia is now underway. Meetings are going to be held soon to get that project kicked off. A meeting happened that day to discuss with the USDA, who is administering the 1 Million Dollars from Congressman Jeff Jackson for the secondary interconnect to go over the project as well. The project was discussed with the town's engineers with the state.

The HUD money, the 2 Million is still being sorted out through clerical issues and website issues, but once that is resolved, that will be moving forward.

The Lead and Copper survey is 95% completed. The manager noted that there is an October deadline for this project. The manager noted that Ranlo will be one of the only municipalities that will have this project completed on time.

Commissioner Connor asked about the south ranlo water project. The manager reiterated that the easements are still being tracked down, but once they are located, that project will move forward.

XII. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager said that the July Celebration was coming up that Saturday. The manager hoped that the rain would stay away from the event. The manager mentioned that the staff was keeping an eye on the weather around the event.

The manager mentioned that the National Night Out event will take place on August 6th. The manager mentioned that the Police department who has worked diligently along with community partners to put together the event.

The manager wanted to thank the YMCA for the tball league. The league pulled 110 children for the league. The manager had a meeting with the YMCA team to discuss yearly sports in Ranlo. The YMCA mentioned their only concern is the illumination at the field. The ball field only has lights along the first base and third base line of the baseball field. When winter sports happen, the need for lighting is crucial. The sun sets sooner in the winter months. The YMCA and town staff will be looking at the illumination of the ball field to see if it can sustain sporting events.

That determination will be made in the coming days about the illumination.

The Manager thanked the Board for allowing the meeting to be moved.

The Manager recognized the Police Chief to go over the Police Report.

The Police Department responded to 575 calls last month. Some of the calls included death investigations, breaking and entering, overdoses, and shooting calls. Commissioner Locklear asked about the lost gentleman, that will be included in the next month's meeting.

Comments from the Mayor and Board

Mayor Pro Tem Moore asked if the Board any comments. Commissioner Conner mentioned that Ranlo has an Olympian. Kaylyn Brown is a Mountainview resident, her parents still live in Ranlo, and she is a track runner. She finished high school and is attending the University of Arkansas. She has qualified for the Olympics and is going to Paris. Kaylyn's parents have been talking with Commissioner Connor about Kaylyn's exciting journey to Paris. Commissioner Connor mentioned that the Town staff will be cheering Kaylyn on as she travels overseas and that Ranlo is proud to have an Olympian here in town.

Commissioner Morton mentioned that he has been working the concession stand. He expressed concerns of the concession stand and folks spending time in the facilities when they shouldn't be. Commissioner Morton suggested no loitering signs around the concession stand. His concerns were to make sure no vandalism takes place in the bathrooms.

Commissioner Locklear reflected the same thoughts noting that some of the kids don't have parents when they are at the concession stand, so there is no supervision.

The manager mentioned that the facility is still a park, so the no loitering signs create a bad atmosphere for the park. The manager mentioned that Police shouldn't be policing the restrooms, and recommended that if there are signs, that there is clear guidance around what that would mean.

The manager said that what this really boils down to, is the issue comes down to the park hours. If there are no specific hours for the bathrooms, then it can't be enforced. He recommended that it would be good practice to develop park hours for the facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Locklear motioned to adjourn . Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

ATTESTED TO:

Mayor Pro Tem Moore