

**TOWN OF RANLO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY APRIL 2024
MEETING**

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

THURSDAY, MAY 16th, 2024 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Governing Body Present

Mayor Lynn Black
Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Moore
Commissioner Ronnie Laws
Commissioner Wade Morton
Commissioner Robin Conner

Staff Present

Town Manager	Charlie Hansen
Public Works Director	Jason Green
Assistant Public Works Director	Charles Harper
Police Detective	Ralph Dowd
LFNC Fellow	Antonia Christou

I. Call to Order

Mayor Black called the meeting to order, and the Town Manager conducted the roll call.

II. Adoption of the May 16, 2024, Agenda

Mayor Black called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the regular May meeting.
Commissioner Laws motioned to adopt the agenda for the regular May meeting.
Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

III. Proclamation and Recognition of Police Week

Mayor Black read the Proclamation onto the record:

“WHEREAS, our nation depends upon local law enforcement as our first line of

Defense, and it is important for the people of Ranlo to know and understand the duties, responsibilities, and challenges of our law enforcement officers and agencies; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, a joint resolution of Congress authorized the President to proclaim May 15th of each year to be Peace Officers Memorial Day, which honors law enforcement officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty, and to proclaim the week of each year during which that date occurs as Police Week; and

WHEREAS, the Ranlo Police Department provides a vital public service by acting as first responders in emergency and crisis situations; by investigating and solving crimes; by offering a variety of community services to individuals, local businesses, and community organizations and agencies; and to provide community services in a fair and professional manner; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lynn Black, Mayor of the Town of Ranlo, do hereby proclaim the week of May 12 through May 18, 2024 as PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL WEEK and May 15, 2024 as PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY and join law enforcement officers nationwide in commemorating their fallen comrades and urge the citizens of Ranlo to recognize and honor law enforcement officers, past and present.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the community of Ranlo acknowledge and appreciate the contributions made by their local law enforcement officers for handling the difficult situations they encounter daily as part of their jobs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Ranlo to be affixed, this 16th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.”

Mayor Black called for a motion to adopt the Proclamation and Recognition of Police Week. Commissioner Moore motioned to adopt the agenda for the regular May meeting. Commissioner Morton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

IV. Proclamation and Recognition of Public Works Week

Mayor Black read the Proclamation onto the record:

“WHEREAS, public works professionals provide our community with integral services, such as protecting our nation’s transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities aiding public health, quality of life, and the well-being of the people of Ranlo, and,

WHEREAS, without the work of public works professionals, who are dedicated managers and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, the Town of Ranlo's infrastructure, facilities, and highly important services, could not be provided; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the residents and civic leaders in Ranlo to gain knowledge of, and maintain an interest in, the vital work of public works professionals and the public works programs in our community; and,

WHEREAS the year 2024 marks the 64th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association be it now,

RESOLVED, I, Lynn Black, Mayor of the Town of Ranlo, do hereby designate the week May 19–25, 2024, as National Public Works Week. I urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and advancing quality of life for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Ranlo to be affixed, this 16th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.”

Mayor Black called for a motion to adopt the Proclamation and Recognition of Police Week. Commissioner Moore motioned to adopt the agenda for the regular May meeting. Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

The Town Manager asked for a round of applause for the Town of Ranlo's Police Department and Public Works Department.

V. Recognition of Medical Center Pharmacy

The Town Manager said that earlier this week, one of the Town of Ranlo's residents had a vehicle stolen. The Town Manager said the resident's walker was in the car at the time it was stolen. The Town Manager said that the resident had concerns over her mobility due to the walker's theft. The Town Manager said that Chief Lunsford had a conversation with Medical Center Pharmacy, and they donated a walker to the resident after hearing the story of what occurred. The Town Manager said that Medical Center Pharmacy went above and beyond with this donation. The Town Manager said he would like to extend

his gratitude and thank Medical Center Pharmacy for thinking of the residents of Ranlo and exhibiting such kindness.

VI. Comments from Attendees

There were no comments from attendees.

Old Business:

VII. Adoption of the April 11th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board

Commissioner Moore called for a motion to adopt the April 11th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board. Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

VIII. Staff Follow up on the Concession Stand Discussion

The Town Manager said last month, there was a conversation about the town's concession stand. The Town Manager said that, following guidance from the board, he contacted Gaston County Health and Human Services.

The Town Manager said that if the concession stand is to be open and used, no permit is required for the sale of only pre-packaged products (chips, candy, drinks, etc.). The Town Manager said that if any type of prepared food is offered, the concession stand will need a permit. The Town Manager said that a permit requires the Town of Ranlo to pay a fee to Gaston County, the submission of an application for the permit, and inspection would occur twice a year. The Town Manager said that a Person in Charge, a "P.I.C.", would also need to be designated and would need to be a certified food manager. The Town Manager said this individual would have 210 days (about 7 months) to obtain the certificate before any points are deducted. The Town Manager said that person would need to be present when the concession stand is going.

The Town Manager said private parties could use the facility without a permit if they are not charging money for food. If they are using the facility to prepare food, the "P.I.C." would need to be present during the entirety of preparation and sale. The Town Manager said that is the update from Gaston County.

Mayor Black asked the Town Manager how much the permit would cost. The Town Manager said \$75.00 but that he could double-check that figure and report back.

IX. YMCA Update

Mayor Black asked the Town Manager when T-Ball was scheduled to begin. The Town Manager said the T-Ball league starts practice next Tuesday. The Town Manager said he is pleased to report that 3-4 weeks ago there was a waiting list, and there will be a full field of players. The Town Manager said a full roster would be there.

X. Staff Update on YMCA corporate membership numbers

The Town Manager said staff was directed to move forward with offering the corporate YMCA memberships to the whole Town of Ranlo team. The Town Manager said that a representative of the YMCA came and hosted an on-site sign-up. The Town Manager said the entire staff is eligible to receive the 75% discount rate now. The Town Manager said he would like to thank the board and everyone who worked on this project.

Commissioner Conner asked what staff could do to sign up if they missed the on-site representative's visit. The Town Manager said any staff can visit the website, input the Town of Ranlo's code, and staff can then receive eligibility.

Commissioner Conner asked if she was eligible to participate. The Town Manager said yes.

Commissioner Morton said he was not aware that commissioners would be eligible. The Town Manager said he will make sure the board receives the sign-up information.

XI. New Business Presentation 2024-2025 Budget Message

The Town Manager said he is excited to present his first budget year to the Town of Ranlo. The Town Manager said that he and the finance department have worked diligently to put this budget together, considering the limited time available following his hiring in January. The Town Manager said he would have the budget available at Town Hall if any residents would like to see the budget. The Town Manager said that the public hearing will be in June, followed by a vote to adopt the recommended budget for July 1st. The Town Manager said that the outcome is one he is very proud of.

The Town Manager said he is pleased to present the Town of Ranlo's recommended budget for 2024-2025. The Town Manager said the recommended budget is balanced at five million, four thousand, one hundred and fifty dollars. The Town Manager said the budget consists of a general fund budget of two million, nine hundred and eighty-four thousand, two hundred dollars, a utility fund balance of one million eight hundred and sixty-eight thousand, and nine hundred and fifty dollars, a Powell bill fund balance of ninety-one thousand dollars, and a stormwater fund balance of sixty thousand dollars. The Town Manager said that the board could direct their attention to page five to see the

breakdowns of departmental expenditures that reflect administration, governing body, recreation, police, public works, sanitation, and non-departmental information within the general fund.

The Town Manager said that the utility fund expenditures are included to the right of the general fund breakdown. The Town Manager said expenditures reflected include administration, engineering, water and sewer departments, and non-departmental information. The Town Manager said the bottom of the page includes Storm Water and Powell Bill expenditures.

The Town Manager said the idea to emphasize is momentum, momentum, momentum, following the Town of Ranlo's first budget prioritization exercise. The Town Manager said that the discussion started with looking at the big picture items and themes, not necessarily focusing on the details. The Town Manager said the themes discussed in this meeting will equip staff to help guide the budget in that direction. The Town Manager said that one thing that will help with this is the knowledge that the Town of Ranlo excels at securing grant funding. The Town Manager said the faithful execution of that grant money is the next step of that process. The Town Manager said that despite managing State and Federal money with different compliance mechanisms, the staff is excited to ensure this is done properly.

The Town Manager said that this year, staff also found redundancies within the budget. The Town Manager said that clean-up was done on the Public Works department side in salaries. The Town Manager said some themes identified in the prioritization meeting included public safety, roads, infrastructure, and aging facilities and buildings. The Town Manager said a major change revolved around what Gaston County has provided the Town in terms of projections for the re-evaluation that occurred based on year-to-date actuals.

The Town Manager said one change he has proposed is a new officer for the Police Department. The Town Manager said the police department is currently running below the International Association of Chiefs of Police standard for officers per resident. The Town Manager said that these standard captures that if X number of residents live in a town, then y amounts of police officers should be present. The Town Manager said we are currently running below that standard. The Town Manager said that in his short time as Manager, the town had had a tornado, a catastrophic storm that required 24-7 response from the town, and the heartbreak from the loss of the officers in the town's neighboring jurisdictions last month. The Town Manager said he believes public safety is a pillar of a municipality to provide strong public safety, so increasing our police department with another officer allows us to provide a more robust public safety output for our residents. The Town Manager said this year's budget does not include a tax increase. The Town Manager said this new officer is being done without a tax increase to the Ranlo residents.

The Town Manager said the Town of Ranlo is a purchase system for water and sewer utilities, meaning that the town purchases water from Two Rivers, which is in the City of Gastonia, and that the Town of Ranlo pays to have its wastewater treated. The Town Manager said that this fiscal year, Two Rivers has voted and approved increasing its utility cost by 7.5% for water and 7.5% for sewer. The Town Manager said that Rural Water has done a rate study because, as a purchase system, the town knows that if Two Rivers goes up 7.5% on both water and sewer, the town's expenditures on water purchase and sewer purchase will also go up. The Town Manager said the rate study allows us to see what it would mean to offset that cost. The Town Manager said that Rural Water told the town that if the board decides not to make any current water or sewer rate changes, operating July 1st, 2024, after five years, the town would be running at a two hundred-and-fifty-six-thousand-dollar deficit would not include the cost of inflation or depreciation. The Town Manager said the cumulative addition, estimated to be at an eight- and sixteen-thousand-dollar deficit in five years, is not included as well.

The Town Manager said that in the spirit of honesty and transparency, to the Board and to the residents of Ranlo, it is not his goal or want to ever increase rates. The Town Manager says he knows it is not a popular thing and is not a decision he is looking forward to. The Town Manager said he was selected by this board to provide the town with sound business knowledge and advice, and in that stance, he is unwavering and steadfast in this recommendation. The Town Manager said he has a responsibility to sustain this organization, and without any change to the billing rate, the Town of Ranlo's enterprise fund would cease to exist. The Town Manager said that at that point, the town would not be able to provide water and sewer or run a functioning government.

The Town Manager said he recommends the town increase the water and sewer rate without re-increasing the tax rate within the following structure. The Town Manager said that a 3.25% increase in water and a 3.25% increase in sewer rates effective 2024 is what he recommends. The Town Manager said, based on the study, this will allow the town to not operate at a deficit during the first year. The Town Manager said following this, staff can look at the actuals following this year to see if that increase sustained the operating costs. The Town Manager said this would allow the town to not operate at a deficit in the Enterprise Fund. The Town Manager said that the town's Enterprise Fund must be run separately from the town's General Fund. The Town Manager said any surplus from the General Fund cannot be transferred over to the Enterprise Fund to cover any deficit incurred. The Town Manager said this decision would not prevent additional rate increases, as Two Rivers could increase their cost of business again.

The Town Manager said that he would like to underscore, for the Board and for residents, that it is not apples to apples when one hears about the 7.5% increase from Two Rivers. The Town Manager said a 7.5% increase would increase the town's expenditures by that amount, but the town would generate too much revenue if a 7.5% increase was put

directly on the price of water and sewer for residents of the Town of Ranlo because it would impact every tier and rate. The Town Manager said that instead of raising the billing rate by 7.5% on every tier, the town can do 3.25% on every rate and allow us to reach operating costs.

The Town Manager said the recommended budget seeks to ensure that the town is positioned to continue to maintain the operational needs of our departments while inflation continues. The Town Manager said the expenditure includes a \$12,500.00 increase for new trash cans, as the town is running to the end of its inventory. The Town Manager said that effectively collecting trash is a pillar of a clean and healthy community. The Town Manager said this increase ensures that the town will have trashcans for residents in the coming years.

The Town Manager said that the budget includes a roughly \$13,000.00 increase in operating costs for the Police Department within different line items due to the increased cost of firearms and ammunition, vests, and more. The Town Manager said he would like to underscore that the increase comes at no tax increase to residents and provides staff with the essential equipment for what we consider a very high level of service.

The Town Manager said the recommended budget has been drafted to maneuver through necessary updates to the town's fee schedule. The Town Manager said our current water meter fee is \$250.00. The Town Manager said that new construction could require the installation of a new water meter. The Town Manager said that in the past year, however, the town had one million dollars in grant money that allowed the town to update its water meters. The Town Manager said these electronic upgrades have been an incredible asset for staff, but the cost of these new meters is a little bit higher than the original meters when this fee schedule was put together. The Town Manager said the proposed fee for the new water meters will be \$700.00 and then staff will continue to monitor if this is the correct number. The Town Manager said this increase will allow the town to support development and continued growth. The Town Manager said that if major development were to occur under the previous fee schedule, the town would not be able to support the difference between the cost of the meters and the current fee.

The Town Manager said the recommended budget was created in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 159.11. The Town Manager said forecasting revenue projections for the upcoming year were based on previous audits, actual trends, and annual projections from the North Carolina League of Municipalities. The Town Manager said he is proud to report that the town is in the strongest financial position that it has seen in years. The Town Manager said this is thanks to the previous four years, and his goal is to keep the financial standing the same way. The Town Manager said he aims to continue the town's strong financial standing and to keep the momentum going in securing State and Federal funding in confluence with lean budgeting practices.

The Town Manager said the public hearing will be held in the June regular meeting at the Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. The Town Manager said any person wishing to comment or ask questions is welcome to do so. The Town Manager said the budget will be available for public review here in the Town of Ranlo, on the Town's Website, and published in the Gaston Gazette.

Commissioner Conner asked the Town Manager what the additional fee included with the new meters is. The Town Manager said the cost includes the labor of the individual who installs the new meter.

Mayor Black asked if the cost of updating the Police Department is included in the budget. The Town Manager said it is not due to the decision to add an additional officer. The Town Manager said that if the board wishes, he is happy to make something work and try to put some money into that project. The Town Manager said, in collaboration with Chief Lunsford, a new officer was prioritized.

XII. Consideration of July Regular Meeting of the Board date from July 11th to July 18th

The Town Manager said his previously scheduled family vacation fell on July 18th before the planning. The Town Manager said that, as such, he would request that the July Regular Meeting be moved to July 18th.

Commissioner Moore called for a motion to move the July Regular Meeting of the Board from July 11th to July 18th. Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

XIII. Discussion of upcoming vacant Commissioner seat

The Town Manager said Commissioner Fowler resigned yesterday and shared his letter. The Town Manager said he and Town Attorney Tosco will go into what that means after reading the letter. The Town Manager said Commissioner Fowler asked him to read his letter publicly and honoring that wish, proceeded. The Town Manager said,

“As some of you may know, my father passed last year. This has presented a life decision for me and my family. We have made the decision to relocate to Oklahoma to be closer to family. So effective May 15th, I will resign my seat on the Board of Commissioners. It has been an honor to serve the fine people of Ranlo.

It is my heart felt wish that I have served the people with integrity, transparency, and wisdom. Looking at my five years of serving with the Board, we have tackled the the town's financial issues that plagued the town then. We have went from losing over

\$300,000 annually to replacing the loss of the prior four years to adding substantial increases to the fund balance. This should almost insure Ranlo is taken off of the Unit Assistance List.

I am pleased that I will be leaving the town in a strong financial situation. I know this because we conducted the financial audits for the prior four years and have remained current each year since. We have passed financially responsible budgets each year as well. We have secured over \$25 million in grants to repair our crumbling infrastructure. We have plans to repair or replace water and sewer lines, repair roads afterwards, and have upgraded both parks and the Lodge. We are currently progressing with the Ranlo Avenue extension that will open up our community's walkability and decrease response time in the event of emergencies. I am pleased I will be leaving Ranlo with funds to modernize our infrastructure.

In regards to public safety, we have fully funded the needs of our police officers and public works so they can safely do their jobs in serving the people of Ranlo. In regards to the administration of the Town, we have upgraded the software to help in the more efficient execution of the town's business such as the smart meters, online bill payments, direct deposits, online presence, and other things. We also replaced the staff with people who were qualified for the positions they hold. I am very satisfied in knowing we have great department heads who do their jobs with the utmost professionalism. We have had two of the best town managers in the county. Their results speak volumes to their dedication to the town.

I also would like to take a second to give my most heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the elected officials I have had the privilege to serve alongside. Prior Commissioner Katie Cordell, and Commissioners Doug Moore and Robin Conner, you guys truly serve to better the town with your visions of Ranlo's future. To prior Commissioner Locklear and Commissioners Laws and Morton, we may not have always agreed on things but more often than not we did. I wanted to say thank you because you guys have always treated me with respect and it was appreciated. Ranlo is far better off today than five years ago and the next few years look promising. Under the right leadership, Ranlo's future is bright. Thank you to the people of Ranlo for allowing me this opportunity.

Respectfully,
Commissioner Jamie Fowler”

Commissioner Laws called for a motion to accept Commissioner Fowler’s resignation from the Town of Ranlo’s Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Moore called for a motion to appoint Diana Palmer to the Town of Ranlo's Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Conner seconded the motion. The motion failed with a 3-2 vote against.

Commissioner Moore said he appreciates it when people tell him they are going to vote with him but fail to do so.

The Town Manager said that he can now go into some potential ways to solicit a nomination.

Town Attorney Tosco said that state law does not outline a specific process for filling the vacant seat. Town Attorney Tosco said the Town of Ranlo's charter does not outline a way either, only that the Town of Ranlo's Board of Commissioners is responsible for filling the seat. Town Attorney Tosco said that the School of Government advises that the best way to fill the seat is through a nomination and ballot method. Town Attorney Tosco said that there are two main reasons for that. Town Attorney Tosco said that one reason is that there is a statute that says that if you do not have a process laid out, the preference is to follow the rules of Parliamentary Procedure of Robert's Rules of Orders. The Town Attorney said that the process would involve applicants or individuals who become nominees for it, stating their preferences for that, and the board voting on a list of nominations. Town Attorney Tosco said that the Board can also designate anybody who applies as a nominee. Town Attorney Tosco said that it is the board's decision how to do that. Town Attorney Tosco said that the Board could then vote through a ballot, which allows the board to work through a list of potential applicants rather than voting on each individual through a motion. Town Attorney Tosco said that is the preferred method, but there is nothing that requires the board to do so.

The Town Manager said a reasonable timeline would be from now until the June meeting to seek individuals who would be interested because it would be the board that gives nominations at that time. The Town Manager said that, at the June meeting, the town would open the floor for nominations. The Town Manager said the Board can nominate as many people as they see fit.

Town Attorney Tosco said there is not a statutory or charter timeframe, but other governmental bodies follow 60 days.

Commissioner Conner asked how residents and potential applicants would know about this. Town Attorney Tosco said you are the best advocates for letting that be advertised and the Town Manager can also advertise for the opportunity.

Mayor Black said Commissioner Fowler disclosed that his house would be under contract and that Commissioner Fowler would be moving. Mayor Black said he spoke with a

previous individual who would want to be on the board and was in the past. Mayor Black said her name is Ephie Locklear. Mayor Black said he would like to hear from her. Commissioner Conner said everyone who comes to mind can come speak at the June meeting.

The Town Manager said this recommended framework would give everyone a month to gauge interest and put the opportunity on the website.

Commissioner Conner asked if applicants would have to write to the Town to be considered a nominee. Town Attorney Tosco said it could be an application. Town Attorney Tosco said the Board can also choose to mandate that interested parties submit a letter of intent. Town Attorney Tosco said the City of Charlotte had this happen in 2021 and they had 148 applicants and they had an application process, but that may not be necessary here. Town Attorney Tosco said, as the town's attorney, he would like to caution the board that this is subject to public records and the board cannot have meetings about this outside of the town's format. Town Attorney Tosco said he would like to underscore that.

Commissioner Moore asked where all these people interested in becoming a commissioner have been before now. Commissioner Moore said people have not previously shown interest in the town until an empty seat comes up. Commissioner Conner said Diana comes to every single meeting and has been involved in the town ever since she has lived here. Commissioner Moore said he thinks it is wrong for somebody to suddenly show interest in the town when an empty seat comes up after never engaging with the town prior. Commissioner Laws said he does not think that applies to Ephie because she was on the board for decades. Commissioner Moore asked Commissioner Laws where she had been for the last five years.

Mayor Black called for order.

Commissioner Laws called for a motion to appoint Ephie Locklear to the Town of Ranlo's Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Morton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote.

Commissioner Moore asked Commissioner Morton what happened to Commissioner Morton telling Commissioner Moore that he would support Diana Palmer. Commissioner Conner said Commissioner Morton is a flip-flopper. Mayor Black said let us not be ugly. Commissioner Moore said Commissioner Morton said yes, right in front of us. Mayor Black said let us not be ugly. Commissioner Conner asked who is being ugly. Mayor Black said Commissioner Conner is calling people names. Commissioner Conner said who called somebody names. Mayor Black said Commissioner Conner just called

Commissioner Morton a flip-flopper. Commissioner Conner just said she called Mayor Black a flip-flopper.

Mayor Black said Ephie Locklear would be our next replacement for Jamie Fowler. Commissioner Moore said the town is going in reverse.

XIV. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager said he would like to thank the City of Lowell and Town Manager Scott Attaway for helping during the devastating storm that happened last week. The Town Manager said you do not usually see two neighboring jurisdictions getting along so well, which I think is great. The Town Manager said he would like to thank our Public Works Department and Police Department for working so diligently to get the town cleaned up. The Town Manager said he would like to thank Gaston County for providing the Town of Ranlo with extra resources when we needed them.

The Town Manager said the Carolina Thread Trail had a meeting up at the lodge earlier this month with their board of directors. The Town Manager said he had the opportunity to talk about Ranlo while at the meeting. The Town Manager said exciting stuff is coming up for when the Carolina Thread Trail starts calling Spencer Mountain home.

The Town Manager said our engineers have sent off plans for the Ranlo Avenue Extension to the state and we will soon put it out to bid. The Town Manager said once we get the approval, we will be moving forward after that.

Corey Creech said he has not been present because he has been running for State Senate. Corey Creech asked the board of commissioners if that is the final decision on who will fill the vacant seat. The board said yes. Mayor Black said it is unfortunate that Jamie had to resign and move. Corey Creech said that the display was really unprofessional. Commissioner Moore said it was really unprofessional. Mayor Black said we have done it this way in the past and that is the way we chose to do it again.

Comments from the Mayor and Board

Mayor Black said during the storm, there was no siren due to a Duke Power surge. Mayor Black said, following the event, that he got the siren repaired and that he does run an electrical company. Mayor Black said he understood the Town had a power outage, and that the generator would not operate the three-phase unit, so it would not have worked anyways. Mayor Black said it is operational now.

Mayor Black said he was grateful for how the community pulled together. Mayor Black said there were many traffic issues, but people were patient. Mayor Black said our fire department was awesome in working overtime to clear the roads and the town used the fire department as a command center. Mayor Black thanked the Town Manager for having a great time. Mayor Black also thanked Duke Power for working diligently. Mayor Black said a couple of days without power was not too bad.

Mayor Black called for a motion to move into Closed Session. Commissioner Laws motioned to move into closed session. Commissioner Morton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

ATTESTED TO:

Mayor Lynn Black

Antonia M. Christou | LEAD FOR NORTH CAROLINA FELLOW

Recorder and transcriber of the minutes for the Monthly March 2024 Meeting.