

Minutes

Town of Ronda Work Session

September 8th, 2022, 6:00 PM

The Ronda Town Board met on Thursday, September 8th at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Rheajean Bengé, Mayor Pro Tempore Sandra Simmons, Commissioner Helen Porter, Commissioner Kevin Reece, Commissioner Kay Luffman, and Commissioner JoAnn Royal.

Mayor Bengé made a public statement requesting no public comments from the audience and stated moving forward, the board would conduct all meetings according to the Open Meetings Law and North Carolina General Statutes.

1. Resolution: Emergency Preparedness Month, September 2022:
 - a. BOARD MEETING AGENDA
2. Proclamations: Constitution Week (Sept 17-23), Fire Prevention Week (Oct 9-15), Red Ribbon Week (Drug Free Oct 23-31)
 - a. BOARD MEETING AGENDA
3. GFL Environmental: Mayor Bengé asked for more quotes. Commissioner Reece disagrees with GFL policy about dogs and spoke about the inconsistency of time and the boards duty being to Ronda citizens and not to GFL. Commissioner Reece would like to explore the costs of the Town taking over trash/recycling pick up and asked to table until OCTOBER WORK SESSION
Commissioner Luffman stated the board voted on letters going out to residents needed to be voted on. Commissioner Reece said the letter went to a mother who made a complaint about town maintenance may feel we are picking on her. Mayor Bengé asked the clerk to refrain from sending correspondence.
4. Beanie Taylor – Book about Ronda: Mayor Bengé asked Ms. Taylor to refresh the boards memory about proposal. She stated the project would take approximately 100-hours of work for \$5,000.00. The fee will be for a completed project but does not include the actual printing. Ms. Taylor quoted about \$5.00 per book. Commissioner Reece advised the board that Ms. Taylor would like to se tup an interview table at the Ronda Roundabout Festival. If we space out the \$5,000 throughout the year then it works out to \$450/month, which really isn't that much. Commissioner Reece also spoke about how important it is for Ronda to preserve it's history. Mayor Bengé asked the board if they would like to vote on approving the proposal during this work session, to which they all agreed. Commissioner Reece made a motion to accept Ms. Taylor's book proposal. Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in 5-0 vote.
5. Ronda-Clingman PTO Sponsorship: Commissioner Luffman is concerned if we are going to sponsor RCES then we would need to sponsor the other local schools. The board decided on no action at this time.
6. FMS Payment Center Upgrade: Commissioner Royal made the motion to approve the FMS payment Center upgrade to allow the office to process any and all payments within the customer retention database. Commissioner Simmons seconded. All said aye in 5-0 vote.
7. Utility Policy Amendment – Maintenance Cell Phone Number: Town Clerk noticed the listed number for maintenance is Darrell Comb's personal cell phone number. Commissioner Luffman made a motion to change the number in the policy to the actual maintenance cell phone number (336) 426-1616. There was no seconded. All said aye in 5-0 vote.

8. Commissioner Simmons: Request for a recorder: Commissioner Simmons asked the board to consider purchasing a new recorder due to the Town not having one. Town clerk advised we do use a recorder as well as the town cell phone as a back up in case the recorder stops working. Commissioner Reece agrees we need a better recorder. Mayor Bengé asked town clerk to purchase a new one.
9. Clerk: Staff/Elected Officials ID Requirement: Town clerk advised other government buildings require their employees and staff to don an ID badge. Mayor Bengé asked the clerk to schedule the appointment.
10. Lakeview Street Paving: Ms. Betty Blackburn has been asking when the Town was going to pave the other half of Lakeview Street. Commissioner Reece recommended cutting the vegetation away from the road before we pave. The board requested the clerk take care of getting the right-of-way cleared and getting a new quote from Carl Rose & Sons for tar and gravel. Commissioner Reece informed the board that the new ramp at the end of Main Street and First Street has really helped out the crowding at Ronda Park. He did advise the Town should look into having gravel and tar put down from the end of the street to the river.
11. Commissioner Royal Town
 - a. Storm Drains: Commissioner Royal stated the storm drains should be cleaned every other month. She saw Mr. Buddy Willis cleaning out a drain and felt that was not in the town's best interest.
 - b. Calvary Road water: Citizens on Calvary Road signed a petition for water service and Mr. Ron Niland promised those residents they would get water. Commissioner Royal knows of families who want town water. Mayor Bengé asked Michael Boaz if any of the grant money can be used to extend to Calvary Road. Michael Boaz informed Mayor Bengé there are very few restrictions on infrastructure, and he suggest upgrading the existing system and tanks first. Commissioner Reece doesn't want to spend \$300-\$400 thousand on out-of-town customers. Commissioner Luffman stated she agrees with Michael and the town should supply those in Pleasant Hill with meters before we run any new lines.
 - c. Bingo Upgrades: Commissioner Royal wants better prizes. Commissioner Reece would like the clerk to reach out to his friend who runs bingo for a living for some ideas.
12. AIA & On-Call Engineering Services: AIA Grant is to study the water system and to find problems to determine when to fix them. Michael recommends the board go with The Wooten Group for both the AIA and \$3.5 million state funds. Mayor Bengé asked for a motion to hire The Wooten Group. Commissioner Reece motioned and Commissioner Luffman seconded. All said aye in 5-0 vote.
13. Citizen Appreciation: The board was asked to nominate a town citizen for this award.
14. Fall Clean Up October 17-21: APPROVED
15. Ronda Roundabout Festival Update/Essay Winners: Board is expected to give assistant clerk their final decisions.

Mayor Bengé asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 PM. Commissioner Royal motioned, and all said aye by standing in a 5-0 vote.

Tracy Romans

Tracy Romans, Town Clerk