

Minutes

Town of Ronda Regular Board Meeting

February 14th, 2023, 6:00 PM

The Ronda Town Board met on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023, 6:00 PM with the following members present: Mayor Rheajeane Bengé, Commissioner Helen Porter, Commissioner Kevin Reece, Commissioner Chris Nelson, and Commissioner JoAnn Royal.

Commissioner Royal led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

The following members of the audience were present: Mickey Cruise, Geraldine Foster, and Shawn Pruitt.

Agenda: Commissioner Royal motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote. Agenda was passed.

Minutes: Mayor Bengé asked for a motion to pass the minutes. Commissioner Royal made a motion, Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.

Expenditures: There was no discussion.

Streets, Cemetery, and Parks: Commissioner Nelson received an email about Northside Park becoming a dog park. He asked if anyone has done any research on converting it to a dog park. He feels not enough residents would use it as a dog park and things camping sites would bring more people in. Commissioner Simmons feels we should focus on Ronda Memorial Park first. The board asked to discuss further at the next work session.

ORC Report: All leaks have been fixed. Slade Harvin with the Wooten Group is talking to vendors about moving forward with projects. The resident at 241 Cemetery Street has removed their spigot the Town uses to collect water samples to send to the state. This location is an approved MRT site and Jeff is working with Jonathan Corbett and the NCDEQ to get the MRT site switched.

Reports:

1. **YVSA:** Mayor Bengé was unable to attend.
2. **EDC:** Commissioner Simmons was unable to attend.
3. **High Country HCCOG:** There was no meeting in January 2023.
4. **Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce:** Commissioner Nelson was unable to attend.
5. **Wilkes Chamber of Commerce:** Commissioner Royal was unable to attend.

After the meeting reports, Mayor Bengé advised the council out of the 2022 meetings, attendance was as follows and stated how important these meetings are for our Town representatives to attend.

1. YVSA: Out of 10 meetings, Mayor Bengé attended 8.
2. EDC: Out of 10 meetings, Commissioner Simmons attended 2.
3. HCCOG: Out of 10 meetings, Commissioner Reece attended 7.
4. Yadkin Valley Chamber: Out of 10 meetings, Commissioner Luffman attended 2.
5. Wilkes Chamber of Commerce: Out of 6 meetings, Commissioner Royal attended 3.

Open Forum:

Town Resident Geraldine Foster requested additional time to pay her excessive water bill. The Board agreed to allow Ms. Foster to be put on a payment plan at the Clerks discretion.

Board Action:

1. **Cass Davis to repair Cemetery Monuments:** Mayor Bengé requested from the board up to \$1,000 to repair the stones. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Royal seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.
2. **LEO Research Findings:** Michael Boaz advised the board there isn't enough tax base to support a police department. Commissioner Nelson recommended starting a community watch program. The items was tabled for the March Work Session.
3. **Northside Park Usage:** Commissioner Nelson stated the park isn't located inside Town limits. Commissioner Reece advised he would like for it to be within Town limits. The board asked Michael to research to make this happen. This item was tabled until the March Work Session.
4. **PARTF Grant:** Town Clerk, Tracy Romans, advised the application is due May 1, 2023 and the board really needed to decide what they wanted to do at Ronda Memorial Park or Northside and advised this be discussed in depth at the March Work Session. This item was tabled.
5. **Town Hall Rental Agreement:** Michael advised he needed to know exactly how the board wanted to approach the free rentals for elected officials. Commissioner Reece motioned for up to 12-times per year. Commissioner Nelson seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.
6. **ORC Field Trip:** Town Clerk, Tracy Romans, advised the ORC Field Trip will be on Thursday, March 9th at 3:30 PM. There were no objections.
7. **Meter Audit:** Commissioner Nelson recommended we perform a meter audit to ensure we have all meters in our system for accuracy. After discussion, the board advised the Clerk to send a letter to former employee, Darrell Combs, requesting assistance with training new employees. Commissioner Reece made a motion to utilize Jeff Jones at the Mayor's discretion. Commissioner Nelson seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.
8. **Community Building Upgrades with 10 Commandments Addition – WCC Art Students:** Town Clerk advised she has reached out to the WCC Art Department and is waiting for their response. This item was tabled.
9. **Travel Reimbursement Policy:** Commissioner Reece requested information on purchasing a Town Vehicle and asked Michael Boaz to research. This item was tabled.
10. **Locking of Northside Park Gate:** The board requested to have town resident Mickie Cruise lock the gate daily. Mayor Bengé requested duplicate keys be made for the office and her.
11. **Spring Clean Up Dates:** Town Clerk proposed May 8th through May 12th for Spring Clean Up. Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve the dates. Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.
12. **Elkin Booster Station Pump Quotes:** ORC Jeff Jones advised he is still waiting on more quotes. This item was tabled until the March Work Session.
13. **Mayor Pro-Tem Revote:** Mayor Bengé advised when the motion was made for Commissioner Royal, the motion was made by then-commission Kay Luffman. Due to the swearing in of the new commissioners at the December Board Meeting, the motion was void due to Luffman no longer serving on the Board after the oaths were taken. Commissioner Nelson advised to consider who left in the middle of a meeting and those who do not attend Regular Board Meetings. Commissioner Reece made a motion to appoint Commissioner JoAnn Royal as Mayor Pro Tem. Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Reece made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:34 PM. Commissioner Nelson seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Nelson motioned to convene Regular Session at 7:55 PM. Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.

1. Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve a requested salary raise for Tracy Romans, Town Clerk of \$5,000. Commissioner Royal seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.
2. Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve a \$1.00 raise, additional 10 hours per week, and title change from Assistant Clerk to Deputy Clerk. Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.

Mayor Bengé asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. Commissioner Nelson made the motion. Commissioner Royal seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.

Tracy Romans, Town Clerk