

Minutes

Town of Ronda Regular Board Meeting

October 11th, 2022, 6:00 PM

The Ronda Town Board met on Tuesday, October 11th at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Rheajeane Bengé, Mayor Pro Tempore Sandra Simmons, Commissioner Helen Porter, Commissioner Kay Luffman, and Commissioner JoAnn Royal. Commissioner Kevin Reece was absent.

The following members of the audience were present: Colleen Knight, Mickey Cruise, Manuel Wood, Victor Varela, and Bobby Munsey.

Commissioner Porter gave the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

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

Minutes: Mayor Bengé asked for a motion to approve the Work Session and September Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Royal made the motion. Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.

Expenditures: There was no discussion.

Streets, Cemetery, and Parks: Commissioner Porter recommended “NO TRESPASSING” signs for Northside Park to help alleviate the influx of campers going into the park. Town Clerk, Tracy Romans, advised we have put up park hours and will be closing the gates at dawn and dusk.

Special Guest: Rick Lanier with US Motto Action Committee. Mr. Lanier recommended to the board to agree to passing a resolution to protect the “In God We Trust” motto on the Town Hall building. Mr. Lanier recommended to the board to hold a meeting for public input. Commissioner Royal stated she was confused about the recommendation and asked what public opinion was needed and wanted clarification on what exactly the public opinion portion of the meeting would include. Mr. Lanier advised it would be commendable to record support and opposition in the minutes. Commissioner Luffman advised she would like to table the resolution until the November Work Session. Mayor Bengé stated she would like to hear if anyone in the audience had any questions. Town Resident and Commissioner Candidate, Mr. Victor Varela, spoke out in opposition of the resolution by asking if Mr. Lanier was a “nutcase” and stated our country was founded on separation of church and state. Mr. Lanier advised Mr. Varela that separation of church and state was never intended by the Danbury Church but was intended to be a one-sided wall because the immigrants came to America to get away from the oppression coming from the Church of England; it was never intended to keep church out of government. Mr. Varela informed Mr. Lanier that yes, it was intended that way, and Thomas Jefferson’s in his autobiography said this nation was made to be free for the Jew, the atheist, and every Christian. Mr. Lanier agreed and stated the reason America is a tolerant nation is because of our Judeo-Christian values.

Mayor Bengé advised the November Board Meeting would fall on election day. Mayor Bengé asked for a motion to move the Regular Board Meeting to Thursday, November 10th. Commissioner Luffman motioned. All said aye in 4-0 vote.

ORC Report: Jeff Jones advised the Town needs to have a GPS location with parcel number assigned to the Gwyn Street property the town owns. Jeff is meeting with 2 different meter manufacturers but likes

Master Meter the best which is why he's further along with them. Commissioner Royal asked about the water spots being left on vehicles after they're washed. Jeff explained to her it's because the Town has hard water and residents need to install filters or dry their cars off after washing them.

Reports:

1. **YVSA:** No report
2. **EDC:** No report
3. **High Country HCCOG:** No report
4. **Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce:** No report
5. **Wilkes Chamber of Commerce:** No report

Board Action:

1. **Chemical Pump:** Commissioner Luffman made a motion to purchase the back-up chemical pump. Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in 4-0 vote.
2. **Community Center Rental Agreement:** After town resident, Bobby Munsey, interrupted the meeting to speak out of turn to insert himself in the commissioner's conversation, he advised he wants the new agreement to be included with the water bills and would like to publicize for resident input. Tabled for November Work Session.
3. **Yadkin River State Trail Grant:** Commissioners requested more information. Tabled.

Mayor Bengé asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM. Commissioner Porter motioned, and all said aye by standing in a 4-0 vote.

Tracy Romans

Tracy Romans, Town Clerk