

Minutes

Town of Ronda Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting

August 9, 2022, 6:00 PM

The Ronda Town Board met on Tuesday, August 9th at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Rheajean Benge, Mayor Pro Tempore Sandra Simmons, Commissioner Helen Porter, Commissioner Kevin Reece, Commissioner Kay Luffman, and Commissioner JoAnn Royal.

Public Hearing

Mayor Benge asked those in the audience who signed up to speak during the Public Hearing to address the board in favor or opposition of the Sanctuary for Life Resolution. Members of the community came out in support of a resolution recognizing Ronda as a Sanctuary for Life town. Those who spoke in support of the Resolution and encouraged the board members to pass the resolution were:

NC Senate Elect Eddie Settle, Mickey Cruise, Chris Nelson, Ron Baity, Peter Baergen, Matthew Foster, Alan Bushell, Curtis Ponder, Kevin Blevins, Ronnie McMillian

There were no voices of opposition. The public hearing ended at 6:45 PM.

Mayor Benge called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:45 PM. Commissioner Reece gave the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

Agenda: Commissioner Reece made a motion to pass the agenda; motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Reece asked to have Part Time Maintenance Hours and cemetery Mowing Agreement added to the agenda. The board approved.

Minutes: Mayor Benge asked for a motion to approve the minutes from June 14, June 30, July 12, and July 30. Commissioner Luffman motioned to pass the June 14th; passed 5-0. Commissioner Royal motioned to pass the minutes from June 30th, July 12th, and July 30th; passed 5-0.

Expenditures: There was no discussion.

Streets, Cemetery, and Parks: There was no discussion.

Reports:

1. **YVSA:** Mayor Benge attended the YVSA meeting. Woodie Faulk was elected to Chairperson. Anita Darnell as Vice Chair, Rheajean Benge as Secretary, Wayne Moore as Treasurer. On July 7th there were 2 inflow and infiltration spills due to excess rainfall: Ronda Park with 750-gallons and Jonesville Station with 225-gallons. The YVSA received a grant of \$251,537 from the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program for damage at Sandyberry Creek in Jonesville. Ronda, Jonesville, and Elkin have been paid off the balance of their start-up loans.
2. **EDC:** No report
3. **High Country HCCOG:** Commissioner Reece attended the stated the HCCOG Board Meeting consisted of further discussions about the digital infrastructure and broadband which will provide internet services for those in rural areas.
4. **Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce:** No report
5. **Wilkes Chamber of Commerce:** No report

Board Action:

1. **Resolution R2022-07: Sanctuary of Life:** Commissioner Reece motioned to approve and pass the R2022-07 - Sanctuary for Life Resolution There was no discussion. The board voted in favor of the resolution 5-0.

Mayor Bengé called a 10-minute recess. The board members were called back in at 7:12 PM to resume the meeting.

2. **Maintenance Applications:** Agenda item was consolidated with item #7.
3. **Beanie Taylor Book:** Commissioner Royal inquired whose idea it was for the book about Ronda. Mayor Bengé opened the floor up to Beanie and asked she address the board by explaining her proposal which includes extensive interviews with current and former board members, town citizens, town staff, and others. Mayor Bengé asked to table the book idea until September to allow the board time to process the requested information.
4. **FirstNet Mobile Service (AT&T):** Commissioner Reece made the motion to switch the Town's Mobile service from Carolina West to AT&T FirstNet service and allow all board members the option of a town-paid cell phone and town staff required to have a town-paid cell phone. The motion carried in a 5-0 vote.
5. **Beautification Award:** Mayor Bengé asked for the board members nominations. Ms. Claudia Combs had the most nominations and was presented with the Beautification Certificate.
6. **Consideration for Cemetery Mowing Agreement:** Commissioner Reece made a motion to contract Ladd & Sons Lawn Care to mow and weed eat the Town Cemetery for \$115 per mow. The motion carried in a 5-0 vote.
7. **Part-Time Maintenance Help:** Commissioner Reece motioned to allow the part-time maintenance employee to have 30 hours a week instead of 20. The motion carried in a 5-0 vote.

Additional Comments: There were no additional comments.

Mayor Bengé asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Simmons motioned, and all said aye by standing in a 5-0 vote.

Tracy Romans

Tracy Romans, Town Clerk