



JANUARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM

RUTH TOWN HALL

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

David Called Meeting to Order

INVOCATION

David offered an Invocation.

ROLL CALL

Participating from Local Government are Mayor Guy, Commissioners Goode and Piper, Town Manager Hanaway

AGENDA ADOPTION

Amie asked the board to consider amending the proposed agenda to include one new item of business. Nick made a motion to adopt amended agenda. Jenny seconded. Passes unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

1. Town Auditor attending via electronic link to review audit report with the Board.

C. Randolph presented the audit report to the Board reviewing the highlights. She highlights the terrific report, no FPIC's to respond to; She communicates to the Board what a terrific year we had. She thanked the Board for the opportunity as well as sharing with the Board Amie's competence.

COMMUNITY FORUM

No Citizens in attendance.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES

2. Last Meeting's Minutes attached

No changes, deletions, additions to minutes, they stand as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Stop Sign Project is underway. Awaiting supplies and manpower.

Nothing to report tonight as awaiting materials and labor.

4. Town of Ruth Sign Project is underway, awaiting revisions to designs.

No updates tonight as we are awaiting revised renderings. Jenny inquired about the specific signs being revised. She commented the best sign is what we call the sailboat sign. Jenny reminded after sign installation she's interested in the "rose bud project" proceeding, with volunteered manpower already in place. Amie mentioned a ground cover she had seen, wondering if it might be a lower maintenance, more durable option. It was a low ground cover, looked like ivy, purple/green/bluish in color, gorgeous and holding up in these temperatures. David also mentioned adding back the wildflowers on the trail bank.

5. Street Parking-Amie has received zero feedback from improvements or lack there of since previous meeting.

Assume all is good as we have had no feedback to the contrary. David said the area is still being patrolled. He shared they are cracking down across the County and Ruth is in the rotation.

6. Trailhead litter problems- Amie awaiting measurements from David so she can price options for Board approval.

Awaiting measurements for opening so solutions might be offered for Board approval. David shared the litter has appeared again. We need a solution. He will measure.

7. Trail Safety and Surveillance Project-This has many layers, it is underway with a vendor meeting today, another before month's end.

Amie met with a surveillance company today. They walked the trail for quoting purposes. It wasn't a job this vendor felt his company could handle, however he works with others whom he will refer. Once potential vendors referred, Amie will reach out to explore options.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

8. Financials-Reports forwarded earlier are attached for review. Amie will discuss highlighted items.

Amie reviewed the financials, first directing the Board to the Property Tax Collection line item. She verified with Rutherfordton Finance Officer they did receive a different value from the County Tax Office prior to billing; billing invoice is correct. Upon this verification, Amie contacted the County Tax Manager on 1/8/26 for explanation. It was communicated the Manager is still on leave, however, they are in communication with him and he will have an answer. Today is 1/20/26, still no feedback. Amie will reach out again for follow-up. Amie highlighted the Fire Tax line item account will also need revision as it is based on the County valuation number. Once she hears back from the County, she will present a Budget Amendment Ordinance to the Board for approval.

Jenny reminds about a Spring Fling and would like to see this proceed. Amie will add it to next month's agenda. Amie reminded the Board they should submit they're agenda requests a week before the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Roadway Concerns-Surveying roadways in order of need will be underway soon. No repairs will be done during winter months.

We are scheduled for street review in order of need, however it won't be active until the weather warms. List will be provided to board with quotes as soon as appraisal is complete.

10. Right of Ways-Andrew Brunette sent final pictures 1/10/26, haven't received pictures from Megan Seals for other areas of concern. Amie has forwarded received pictures for quoting while awaiting exact demarcations of easements.

Awaiting clarification of right of way easements. Assessments of interference being documented as we wait for measurements. Amie has and will circulate areas of concern for quote while awaiting exact easement distances. Amie will reach out to surveyors for review as well.

11. Trail Safety Wiring/Tunneling Project-Attached is a ballpark quote Amie will discuss the details as she knows them to date.

Amie highlighted this tunneling project will be fine tuned to show materials, machinery, manpower. It is a detailed and laborious job. The main stimulus for this is safety and liability. As the quote is fine tuned she will supply the detailed itemization. This is general ballpark for Board review, discussion, potential approval. Details of tunneling include equipment/machinery, the wire for distances necessary, the panels in need of upgrade, pouring concrete anchoring floodlights. Amie mentioned this would also be supportive for any surveillance and lighting equipment, anything requiring wiring and power in the future, not exclusive to Christmas. Amie referenced the line items where we have budgeted for these safety upgrades. Amie talked about the layers for this project, David talked about the layers. Goode made a motion to proceed, Piper seconded. Passes unanimously. Amended agenda Item is a quote from WNC Surveillance to upgrade our faulty Town Hall equipment and upgrade the hub which will include expansion slots should they be necessary. The quote was circulated for details. Goode made a motion to approve quote, Piper seconded, passes unanimously.

12. Hazard Mitigation Plan Review-Amie will review this item. See attached template resolution.

Amie will dig deeper into this, talk to the company assisting, forward to the lawyer for proofing and reassurance. David comments he is very familiar and comfortable with this template, he feels it can't hurt to have lawyer look, however he doesn't feel it's necessary. Amie will customize and send for signature and forward to appropriate parties.

ADJOURNMENT

Nick made a motion to adjourn, Jenny seconded, passes unanimously.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons who need accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Town Hall at (828) 287-7943 within 48 hours prior to the meeting to request such assistance.