



AUGUST TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM

RUTH TOWN HALL

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

David called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

David offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL

David announced active and simultaneous virtual/telephonic participants. David also ensured all attendees signed in. David reviewed with any participants during community forum to come close to the microphone and state their name and address prior to speaking.

Present: Mayor David Guy, Commissioners William Steppe and Nicholas Goode, Town Manager Amie Hanaway.

Guests: NCDOT Representatives-Mr. Dominique Boyd, Nathan Moneyham, and Hannah Cook.

Citizens in attendance: Mr. Jeff Seals

AGENDA ADOPTION

William made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, Nick seconded, passes unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

NCDOT is represented to present their CTP. Specific speakers are Mr. Dominique Boyd, Mr. Nathan Moneyham, Ms. Hannah Cook.

1. NCDOT to present the CTP for the Foothills region, which includes Ruth. You can find the draft CTP (including embedded hyperlinks) and the CTP webpage connected to this line item below.

DRAFT_Foothills_CTP_DRAFT_REPORT_04132022.pdf (ncdot.gov)

https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/Pages/CTP-Details.aspx?stude_id=McDowell-Polk-Rutherford (Foothills) Regional CTP

NCDOT via Mr. Boyd, communicated the following during their presentation: Mr. Boyd handed out a packet including the Foothills Regional Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Their goal is to seek and procure adoption of the recommendations for the Town of Ruth. Mr. Boyd highlighted specifics of the presented report as follows:

- This is a plan they have been working on for two and a half years now, even through COVID.
- What is the CTP? Long range multimodal plan for transit per following modalities-highway, bikeways, pedestrian, public transportation, railway; not to exclude air travel or any other mode of transportation.
- How long is long range? A long-range plan is for a scope of 25-30 years out. The first three-year plan is to collect data to bring back for a "vision plan". Mr. Boyd communicated this is a cooperative plan which informed the steering committee selection and formation.
- How the Regional (RPO-Rural Planning Organization) and Divisional (DPO-Division Planning Organization) committees are chosen and formed.
- The NCDOT also tries to incorporate any community plans, as well as statewide goals while under development. They want to capture as much information as possible.
- Mr. Boyd reviewed the statues for CTP
- They look to provide the safest utility possible; as well as a needs-based plan; usually includes community consensus and participation.

- Planning is the first step, then prioritization process (scored & ranked), then program development (funding), project planning (minimizing impacts), next is design phase (blueprint of the road, right of ways, etc.), then construction phase, then maintenance.
- Mr. Boyd reviewed the history of this project. This is included in the report presented (also attached to our website for perusal).
- They are currently at the local adoption phase. These will be delivered to the NCDOT and once approved the CTP portion of the project will be closed out. This was slated for late 2022, however he knows some local units have postponed until early 2023.
- Highway facilities type- In Ruth various systems; Recommendations for Ruth are delineated in the report, please review for specifics. They include highway and bike/pedestrian recommendations. Highway includes RA US221, RB Rutherford Bypass, R18 US 64, R20 US 74; Bike/pedestrian (multiuse) is R9A, R9B, R17, R33.

Mr. Boyd concluded by reminding of the purpose of his visit, local adoption.

Mayor Guy asked the question regarding R18 & R20 highway recommendations when is the start date? These have not competed or been funded, so there is no date available.

Amie Hanaway asked for their expectation for local adoption? Are they expecting this tonight? Mr. Boyd communicated it depends and has varied based on other municipalities. Amie also asked if they have a sample resolution and how she can access that template? Mr. Boyd will ask Alan Toney-(RPO chair) to email this sample resolution to the Town. Amie asked for each of the NCDOT reps to sign the sign in sheet being certain to provide their email addresses.

Amie asked the board what their preference is regarding the request to adopt? The board would like to table it until next months meeting, providing all the information will be sent to Amie before that date.

The board thanked the NCDOT representatives, stating they know there time is valuable and they appreciate their attendance.

COMMUNITY FORUM

The following attendees spoke: Jeff Seals has some budget questions:

The line item for Ruthridge right of ways? He wants to know what this line item covers, and why is there no such item for the other areas of Ruth?

William responded explaining budget line items, how they are earmarked and absorbed. Amie asked to interject, she communicated Mr. Seals must have an old budget because that line item is no longer present in the budget. She also communicated in the history of that line items existence, it had never been expensed. Hence, the reason the line item was removed as it was not labeled appropriately and has been reclassified as snow/ice, and tree removal. Jeff informed he printed the budget from the website, Amie said she is responsible and had failed to upload the recently adopted budget to the site. She will correct that as soon as possible. She thanked Jeff immensely for looking over the budget, having an interest, and his willingness to ask. She assured him there is no preferential treatment for Ruthridge. Mayor Guy shared the right of ways in Ruthridge are the responsibility of the property owners. Amie communicated 10-560-23 Ruthridge right of ways and 10-560-24 Ruthridge Beautification have been eliminated from the current budget. He inquired about the 10-580-44 recycling line item, the answer is the same, it is no longer an item in the current budget.

There was brief discussion regarding the air conditioner. The board communicated the new system even though there are kinks has been installed. Jeff shared the recent power fluctuations have caused three Ruth homeowners near him to replace their air con units as well. Jeff communicated Duke came out, explained it is possible the solar grids switching back couldn't handle the surge. Duke dispatched a unit who came out and repaired this and it hasn't happened again. Amie shared with Jeff our air con unit was over twenty years old and had several major Freon leaks. The price of repair was not equitable for purchasing a new unit.

Amie reiterated to Jeff she would email the current budget, she appreciates his eyes, and to please stay interested.

David asked if there is anything disallowing us to remove those line items all together? Amie shared they are not on the current budget sheet at all. She went on to say regarding the budget vs actual reports, our system requires a year (or two) of inactivity before they can be deactivated. That's why they show up as zero on the budget vs actual monthly reports.

Amie apologized again for it not being on the website, it was an oversight. William said hey we are only a month into this and our meeting last month was canceled. Amie appreciates the support.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES

William made a motion to approve last meeting's minutes as presented. Nick seconded that motion, passes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

2. The board has already indicated via email and text, their support of reappointing Josh Krigbaum to Ruth's board seat of the BRWA (Broad River Water Authority). Josh has done a terrific job filling in for the remainder of Jamie Yelton's term and we'd like to see him continue. So this is a formality to officially appoint him and document this appointment.

William made a motion to reappoint Josh Krigbaum to Ruth's seat on the BRWA board. Nick seconded, it passes unanimously.

3. I have attached the county's animal control document, with the restraint (leash) section highlighted.

The following discussion ensued over this topic. This county ordinance has been emailed prior, and attached to the packet; Amie also highlighted the section regarding leash rules. Amie shared the question always comes back to one of enforcement. David agrees we have no way to enforce. Amie shared her viewpoint of this being equivalent to a duke power call from a citizen. The end user usually contacts the service directly. She feels this is the same, the citizen with the complaint or concern should call animal control.

David shares according to the county ordinance its within the prevue of the animal control officers to enforce these ordinances within the county, which includes Ruth. Amie shared she occasionally receives calls about this and wants to know she is properly conveying the position of the board. Amie reviewed her response, recommending they call animal control; we adhere to the county's ordinances. William and Nick state they feel they all should go to animal control. David says he agrees, the county controls the county law and we would follow under that especially since the Town has no ordinances more restrictive than the counties. They are welcomed to call us and report, making us aware, however they need to contact animal control. The boards stance is the county ordinance supersedes anything the board would do so no action is necessary on this item.

There was discussion regarding ALL the calls from citizen's of neighboring jurisdictions regarding their tax bills and the significant increases. The board hopes it encourages people to relocate to Ruth.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. Financial reporting will be reviewed. All documents have been emailed in advance to the board.

Amie reviewed the reports with the board. They were per usual emailed in advance to the board for review prior to the meeting with notes. Amie shared there are five items highlighted, two in revenues, three in expenses. She reviewed the legend on the report, two of the three expense items are highlighted in gray, indicating they are fulfilled for the current fiscal year. Having said that Amie communicated before moving on she attached an budget amendment ordinance she would like approval on. She stated she's recommending amendment rather than reclassing for future budget planning. She feels it is a cleaner more accurate way to manage the budget numbers. She recommended amending the budget in the following way:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the Town of Ruth, North Carolina, the following amendment is made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023:

Section 1: as follows:

Acct No. Account	Decrease Increase	Amount
10-399-00 Appropriated Fund Balance	Decrease	\$ 243.30
Total	Increases	\$ 0.00
Total	Decreases	\$ 243.30
Grand Total adjustment	Decrease	\$ 243.30

This will result in a net **Decrease** of **\$243.30** in the Revenues of the General Fund.

Section 2: To amend the General Fund, the appropriations are to be changed as follows:

Acct No. Account	Decrease Increase	Amount
10-410-54 Insurance and Bonds	Decrease	\$ 281.00
10-530-45 Fire Department Contracted Service	Increase	\$ 37.70
Total	Increases	\$ 37.70
Total	Decreases	\$ 281.00
Grand Total adjustment	Decrease	\$ 243.30

This will result in a net **Decrease** of **\$243.30** to the expense appropriations of the General Fund.

Section 3: Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, the Budget Officer, and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this 16th day of August 2022

Notes for Amendment to the Budget Ordinance:

1 This assumes that for budgeting purpose, the city used an estimated collection rate in line with the amount established by state law [G.S. 159-13(b)(6)] and that the un-amended collection rate is equal

to or less than the allowable limit.

2 Many revenues are not fully collected until June 30. To revise estimates mid-year requires careful analysis to ensure that revenue estimates will not be overestimated. Most revenue amendments are for new revenues; however, these are not new revenues.

William made a motion to amend the budget per the ordinance, Nick made a second. Passes unanimously.

Amie continued explaining the revenues with their highlighted notes. Amie explained the journaling per the notes. These should be journaled as prior year dividends.

Amie communicated regarding motor vehicle she hasn't received June's yet and it's August. She cannot close year until this is resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Nicholas would like to bring this item up for discussion.

Nick wanting to discuss this item. Nick has thoughts regarding this sign we spent almost \$4,000.00 on not being utilized. He feels we should get it going, or better yet sell it if we can. William communicated this sign has been his albatross hanging around his neck. He understands and agrees with Nick. Nick wanted to be clear and specific with William he understands his position and desire to assist and agrees. William asks how hard it is from an accounting standpoint for us? Amie said as long as it is depreciated properly, and she will clear it with the auditors. The board would love for the local small towns to have an option due to delivery. David said if any body wants he will deliver it himself.

William made a motion to initiate the process to sell the device. Nick made a second. Passes unanimously.

6. Amie sent three items for review to the board in advance of this meeting for purchase. One is a outdoor mailbox, second is a location tracking device for said box. Third is remote switches. She will explain why each of these steps might need to be taken.

Amie reviewed with the board the challenges of getting the Town verified for multiply services without a mailbox solution. She researched the best option for our small town. She forwarded the box, along with tracking beacon device(s) to the board for review.

Amie shared one of the big issues with the ARP funding is you must be verified, and in order to be verified you must have a physical address, not a P.O. Box. Amie feels if she can put a box there at 199 via post office approval of course, this would help satisfy the problem. If it works, we might even be able to do away with the expense of the PO box. The box she is recommending has awesome reviews, it has tracking beacon, it has a camera, two-way audio, remote access. She explained many use if for amazon or ups so they can deliver remotely. Amie believes this is worthwhile and it is \$399.99. She also believes we should get an air tag for additional tracking. These are very reasonable @ 28.99 for one, or \$99.00 for a four pack. We would put the box on the front for visibility.

The other request Amie has is smart switches for the lights at the town hall. This is the most requested item she receives calls about. Especially when the rental hall is used, if there is a light left on, we can control it remotely. She received a quote from Jason with Camp electric of \$70.00 per. Amie asked if the board agrees she would like them to verify the count of outlets. There are 12, this extends as \$840.00.

William made a motion to approve the mailbox, air tag, and remote switches for \$1,270.00 not including shipping and handling and tax to Town hall improvements/furnishings 10-410-60. Nick seconded this motion, passes unanimously.

7. Amie will update the board on the AC unit.

Amie updated the board on the AC install and reviewed the request to update the thermostat back to an integrated ADT solution. The board agrees to replace the ADT thermostat.

ADJOURNMENT

Nick made a motion to adjourn, William seconded, passed 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.