



DECEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM
RUTH TOWN HALL

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

David called meeting to order.

INVOCATION

David offered an Invocation

ROLL CALL

Mayor David Guy, Commissioners Goode and Piper, Manager Hanaway all participated.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Nick offered a motion to adopt agenda as presented, Jenny seconded. Passes unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

No guest speakers petitioned to speak in advance, nor are any present.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Citizens present and their comments:

William Steppe-No Comments

Anita Buchanan-Anita stated she was in attendance on behalf of her 92-year-old father who resides on Northview Dorsey Street. Her comments revolve around the street parking, drug activity and side effects of both. One of the most important side effects, with potential federal implications, is impeding mail delivery. Several neighbors to the property in question have had their mail deliveries stopped for weeks at a time due to the street parking. Denver Buchanan said the post office has communicated they will not deliver if there are obstacles within 15ft of either side of the mail receptacle. The town has been told by several citizens their mail delivery has been stopped for extended periods due to street parking. One of those neighbors affected is Commissioner Goode. Anita continued she had reached out to the Town for assistance in this matter two months ago; at that time Manager Hanaway reached out to the property owner, the Sheriff's Department, and to the Narcotics Task Force Team. Manager Hanaway reported to the board the great results over the next several weeks. She had not received any negative feedback since that intervention until tonight. Anita added more details of the increased traffic, especially after midnight, on the hour every hour; cars circling the block repeatedly, honking the horn, garage occupant meeting the cars for handoff; cars continually turning around all hours of the night in her back driveway.; the car traffic placing headlights all through the night into her fathers bedroom, preventing him from rest. She said when she called before she was instructed to get as many photos and tag numbers as she safely could without doing anything out of the ordinary or putting herself in harms way. She communicated she has one tag number as they have gotten smart and are removing the tags, backing up rear to rear so you cannot see the tag, etc. Many of these cars have no hoods, doors, much less a tag. She communicated once the Town reached out to the authorities and the homeowner, things improved for a week and a half or so. Then right back to normal operations. She lastly shared a frightening story from two months ago of a potential break-in/disturbance across the street and next to her dad's. She said there was a thump at the house next door, she looks out the window, she saw a female at the back of their house. She and her husband confront the female; She had climbed over the fence and fallen into the yard. She was heading toward their shed. Her husband questioned her, the girl responded she was looking for the resident in question. He had to escort her out because she didn't know how to get out of the fence, she had climbed to get in. This brings great fear to the neighbors. Amie says please send the tag numbers and any pictures; she will share all of this with the Narcotics task force team. Mayor Guy says he will call the Sheriff and Task force and have a sit down with them to discuss further action.

Andrew & Nancy Brunette- Andrew voiced concerns of two sections he feels have right of way infringement. Church street last house on right if headed toward 64, Shadywoods and Sherry Street. He communicated if meeting cars in opposite direction in either location would cause damage to your vehicle; he continued, in either place there is no where to go if meeting oncoming traffic but into branches and debris. Mayor Guy communicated he felt this was not right of way and is property ownership. Andrew will get photos and video to send to Town. Amie will reach out to homeowners for assistance, consult with our landscapers, measure for right of way clearances. What falls within right of way will be addressed.

Denver Buchanan-Denver has a couple issues he would like to bring to the forefront, 1. Stop signs and their condition (on the agenda tonight) he shares they do not meet the code of 5ft from bottom of sign to the ground, they are also not straight. He feels this enforcement should be better and corrected. 2. He would like signage added to Young's drive stating no 18 wheelers allowed in development. The change of traffic flow due to road construction has brought several big rigs into the neighborhood, destroying sidewalks, stop signs, ditches, pavement, blocking residential traffic, needing assistance to exit. Commissioner Goode personally helped two out. 3. The condition of the town roads needs assessment and attention. He pointed out several areas in the Northview Park Subdivision of particular concern. Amie will enlist potential vendors to have an assessment/evaluation and stage the needs, highest to lowest priority.

Meghan Seals-Meghan has contributed to the ongoing residential street parking congestion and drug traffic. She also voiced concerns over the intersection of Youngs Drive and HWY 64 when exiting Northview Park Subdivision. The board communicated the continued issues of landownership, right of ways, state maintenance, etc. Amie asked Meghan to get photos of the specific area of concern; Amie will reach out to homeowner for assistance, consult with our landscapers, measure for right of way clearances. If within right of way the Town will clear. The 64 HWY side is State maintained, Commissioner Goode communicated they will not cut behind a ditch line. This overgrowth is behind the ditch line and on the State maintained side. Amie will have the landscapers address the growth around the stop sign on the Youngs Drive side and any area on Youngs drive that is within right of way.

Jeff Seals-Jeff expressed concern over the lack of responsibility and responsiveness of GDS to correct and rectify oil leaks routinely left behind on our roadways. Amie reminded them of her constant communication with GDS and potential remedies for this issue. There was familiarization of contributing factors: garages disposing of motor oil and parts in residential waste cans, GDS hydraulic leakages, GDS trucks losing oil. Meghan highlighted the oil patterns following the trucks and circular deposits at each residential stop. These citizens have taken photos for Amie over several months and she has shared these with her contact at GDS. Jeff pointed out they did come out after one of those conversations and deposited cat litter, he felt a day late and dollar short. Amie will reach out to her contact tomorrow to share this feedback and push for further action. Amie mentioned watching GDS all day and how fast they were going. She's going to communicate this to GDS as well. Jeff feels diverting expense for automation of gates/flags should be spent on roadways.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES

No changes, additions, or deletions to last meetings minutes.

1. November Meeting Minutes-See attached for review

OLD BUSINESS

2. Zoning for the Town of Ruth-Amie wanted to share the increased calls she's been receiving from billboard companies. She imagines it's due to the new road flows. Wants to know how the board would like for her to proceed. With researching on how to restrict or control the signage or continue with permit process alone. After discussion the board is unanimous in its agreement to not pursue zoning. Item is moot.
3. Stop sign repurpose project-Amie let the board know this is in flux as she coordinates manpower. She'd like the board to verify throughout the boundaries for an accurate assessment of how many signs and supportive materials are needed. Once reviewed/properly assessed, she will procure the materials needed, once on hand she will enlist the manpower.
4. Town of Ruth Sign Project-This project has been tabled until January when Amie can get with the design team and modify the renderings as preferred by board.
5. Residential Street Parking-Amie has received several positive calls regarding the improvement in street parking and nefarious activities since our intervention until tonight's forum. The local authorities and narcotics teams had been supportive and watchful. However, for a very brief period based on tonight's

feedback. Mayor Guy has requested to meet with Sheriff Ellenburg and Hunter Haynes of the Narcotics Task Force Team before meetings end. Hopefully more long-lasting results will be close at hand.

6. Litter problem at Trail Head-David would like to find a solution that would prevent the littering at the trail head. He believes signage and a planter in space of the hole, would help these efforts. Amie said if he measures the opening and suggests what artificial plant he would like she can certainly order.
7. Spring Fling-Commissioner Jenny Piper would like for the board to keep this opportunity on their radar as we round the new year. This way they can begin planning and preparing for the event. Commissioner Piper shared her thoughts on timing being end of March, having a cookout with hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. David would like a BBQ contest. David asked Nick for his thoughts, he said, " Go for it". David asked for a motion to form a committee for the Spring Fling, Jenny made a motion to form a committee, Nick seconded. Passed unanimously. Amie asked for qualification of who is going to organize/form this committee? David responds it's the board's job to go to the community and ask people to help. Jenny hopes our website will be fully operational and migrated to the new platform by then so we can reintroduce it to the community during this event.
8. Automatic flag apparatus-Amie has researched remote enabled flag devices so the flag may be raised and lowered remotely. They do exist; the challenge is connectivity. She believes this will be an easy task to complete once the camera enabled lighting is installed as they will need a cellular gateway for this to work. The remote flag mechanism can utilize the same gateway. Amie reminded the board they had enlisted Conner Computers (CCC) to see if they could install a cellular gateway; they did a site visit and felt it was not a job they wanted to take on.
9. Trail Cameras, Security Lighting, Gating-These items are tabled, however there are updates. Amie will be meeting with Verkada again on Friday to suss out viability for camera surveillance locations at the mall area. The board is interested not only in terms of security, but also in terms of safety. Amie reminded the board of the vandalism we have already experienced this year at the mall area. She will continue to report back on her findings which will include cost of project as well. Additionally, she and Commissioner Goode took a trip to Bass Pro Shops to look at their trail cameras. Pictures of examples were placed on the display and will be attached here for consideration. Amie believes it best to see what Verkada has to offer before investing in GPS Cellular trail cameras.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10. Financial Reports Review-Amie reviewed the financial reports noting the adjustment voted last month for the RRDC late billing and the adjustments/reclassifications of Insurance and Bonds to Department Supplies, Town Hall furnishings, Town Grounds (preapproved RRDC), and Sales Tax other. She notes this will leave a positive variance of \$1,292.36 in Insurance and Bonds for future reclassifications, if necessary, before adjusting it to actual by years end. Nick made a motion to reclass/amend budget as reflected in the attached proposed budget ordinance. Jenny seconds. Passes unanimously.

Amie asked the board to specifically look at the Contracted Fire tax line item 10-530-45. She asked the board to reference their packets for the attachments related to the discussion. Those attachments include the estimate from Rutherford County Tax Administrator on April 28th, the email of the estimated fire tax charge from Rutherfordton Finance Officer's email dated June 4th, the subsequent invoice from Town of Rutherfordton for fire protection last of September. The estimate given to Rutherfordton Finance Officer by Rutherford County Tax Administrator in June, matched what was supplied to us April 28th, at a value of \$65,103,110. Fire tax is computed as follows, Rutherfordton's fire department rate of \$0.11 per \$100 valuation. This calculation, reflected in our budget, is \$71,613.42. This figure matched Rutherfordton's estimate from June 4th email. FO said in that email she would check back with RCTA after August and before billing to ensure those values remained. The invoice we received and paid in September was based on an estimated value of \$54,013,135, not \$65,103,110. That is a value difference of \$11,089,975 less, within three months. Amie is investigating whether our estimates dropped or if it was a billing error from Rutherfordton. If it is an estimate drop, she will be analyzing how to avoid this in the future. She will investigate how other municipalities avoid these vulnerabilities, make these discoveries. The County Tax Office does not communicate differences, significant or otherwise. She sent an email to Rutherfordton Finance Officer, followed by a phone call leaving voicemail. She will reach out to County Tax Administrator once there is a determination no billing error has occurred. It is compelling as our tax revenues, hence levies, are significantly and proportionately based on this estimate. After the past two years of incorrect attributes/inflated values, financial performance alerts and the like, it's frustrating the lines of communication to Ruth haven't been fine-tuned yet. The board was

particularly interested and eager for the follow up. Amie will continue to reach out and report her findings to the board.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Nick made a motion to adjourn, Jenny seconded, passed with unanimity.

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.