



Town Council Regular Meeting - Minutes

Monday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 30 S. Main St. Weaverville, N.C.

The Town Council held a regularly scheduled workshop meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, 30 S. Main Street, Weaverville, N.C.

1. Call To Order

Mayor Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons and Vice Mayor John Chase, Councilmembers Doug Jackson, Catherine Cordell, Michele Wood, Peter McGuire, and Dee Lawrence.

Staff members present: Town Attorney Michael Frue, Interim Town Manager Scottie Harris, Planning Director James Eller, Public Works Director Dale Pennell, Water Plant Superintendent Randall Wilson, Finance Director Tonya Dozier, Town Clerk Tamara Mercer, Planner Graham Crawford, Community Center Director Mike DeSerio, Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Jackson, and A/V Coordinator Lauren Ward.

2. Pre-Budget Overview

Interim Manager Harris provided an overview which included the following topics: (a) budget officer's statutory responsibilities; (b) current conditions and projections including aging building and increases in call service levels, examples of supply chain and equipment delays, entry level training/certification timing, current and projected housing and population numbers, current level of staffing and personnel growth by department, and organizational charts; (c) lasting impacts of Hurricane Helene; (d) concentration on sustainability and resiliency, and (e) review of requested capital projects, equipment, and personnel [see PowerPoint slides attached].

3. Pre-Budget Revenue Estimates, Tax Rate and Fund Balance Information

Finance Director Dozier provided preliminary information concerning: (a) revenue estimates for North Buncombe Fire District taxes, property taxes, sales tax, interest income, ABC profit distribution, Community Center private rentals, water rates and associated revenue, and water system development fees.; and (b) tax rate and fund balance information [see PowerPoint slides attached].

4. Town Council Conversation and Preliminary Input

Interim Manager Harris requested that Town Council have some general conversation on budget related matters and indicated that input to staff on the following items would be helpful in development a recommended budget:

- Service Delivery Expectations
- Use of Fund Balance

- Tax Rate Increase
- COLA/Merit Increase
- Staffing Presence in Reems Creek Area
- Pre-Ordering Fire Rescue Truck (Limited FY26 Budget Impact)
- Community Center – Private Rental Revenue
- Recreation Complex – Restrooms, Storage, Shelter Project
- Street Program / Sidewalk Program Funding
- Recycling – Bi-Weekly Pickup or Cost Increase
- Municipal Elections – Odd Year Elections/Early Voting and Cost
- Eller Cove Watershed Trails Project
- Town Council Wishes and Expectations

Town Council discussed/requested: requested information on the number of Town residents with long term issues related to Hurricane Helene; municipal elections and requested cost information if elections were switched to even years; Community Center programming and indicated that the facility was not built to be a primary revenue source, indicated a wiliness to increase fees and add fees for setup and tear down services, requested demographic data on private rentals; requested information on the number of residential dwelling units in the Reems Creek area; received information from Chief Oberlin on the use of their electric vehicles and charger needs; received information on recycling services and the possible switch to bi-weekly collection in order to keep customer costs down; and conversion to cellular read meters.

Town Council was encouraged to continue these preliminary budget conversations and input at their regular meeting on March 24, 2025.

5. Next Steps

Town Council was encouraged to reach out to the Interim Town Manager or Finance Director with questions concerning budget. The upcoming budget calendar was also reviewed:

- Interim Town Manager’s Presentation of Budget/Budget Message – Workshop #2, April 15 at 6 pm
- Budget Workshop #3 and Public Hearing on Budget, May 13 at 6 pm
- Budget Workshop #4, June 3 at 6 pm
- Budget Workshop #5 and Adoption, June 17 at 6 pm

9. Closed Session

Attorney Frue requested that Town Council go into closed session as allowed by: N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged; and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5), to establish or instruct the public body’s staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract.

Motion to enter into closed session citing N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5) at approximately 7:18 p.m.

Moved by: Catherine Cordell

Aye Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Catherine Cordell, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Michele Wood

Carried unanimously. 7-0

[CLOSED SESSION]

Moved to exit closed session and to re-enter open session at approximately 7:38 p.m.

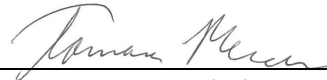
Moved by: Patrick Fitzsimmons

Aye Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Catherine Cordell, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Michele Wood

Carried unanimously. 7-0

10. Adjournment

There being no further business and without objection, Mayor Fitzsimmons adjourned the regular meeting at 7:38 p.m.



Tamara Mercer, Town Clerk



Patrick Fitzsimmons, Mayor