



Town Council Workshop Minutes – June 8, 2026

The Town Council regularly scheduled workshop was held on Monday, June 8, 2026, 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 Gary D. Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Town Council Present: Gary D. Lawrence, John Chase, Peter McGuire, Jennifer Young, Phil Barnett, Mark Endries, and Andrew Nagle.

Staff Present- Town Manager Scottie Harris, Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Jackson, Finance Director Tonya Dozier, Planning Director James Eller, Public Works Director Angela Reece, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Randall Wilson, Town Clerk Tamara Mercer, Planner Graham Crawford, Police Chief Somer Oberlin, Fire Chief Ray Canafax, Community Center Manager Mike DeSerio, and A/V Coordinator Lauren Ward.

2. Notable County and Legislative Updates

Town Manager Harris provided an update to the General Assembly legislation reviewing House Bill 1089 and Senate Bill 889 which pertain to local property tax authority. The County is working with their lobbyists and area representatives to have Buncombe County exempted from Senate Bill 889 through adoption of Senate Bill 474.

3. FY2027 Proposed Budgets- Discussion, Direction, and Possible Adoption

Town Manager Harris highlighted and summarized the General Fund, Fire and Water funds proposed:

- General Fund Budget = \$10,932,421
- Fire Fund Budget = \$5,113,557
- Water Fund Budget = \$ 4,279,970
- Total Town Combined Budgets = \$20,325,948
- Property Tax Rate (with 2026 schedule of values) = \$0.32
- Use of General Fund Balance = \$1.148M
- Water Rates = 5% Increase
- Use of Water Fund Balance = \$663,568

Harris discussed the .32 cent tax rate, the added positions, the 3% COLA and health insurance increase. He reviewed the vehicle and equipment purchases and capital projects including:

- Waterline replacements
- WTP Claricone Pipe Insulation
- High Bluff Tank Backup generator
- Stormwater Improvements
- Playground Resurfacing

Further review included the salaries in the Fire and Police departments, holiday bonus and employee retention, Main Street lighted holiday tree, IT services costs, water engineering services.

Councilmember Barnett requested further consideration of outside agency contributions which included the Weaverville Business Association, senior meals, and Weaverville Economic Development Advisory Committee (WEDAC), and asked that each receive the same funding of \$6,000. He added that WEDAC requested the increase due to organization projects. There was general consensus to increase the WEDAC funding to \$6,000.

Further brief discussion included capital projects for the Fire Department and debt service for property acquisition and the Buncombe County fire tax district cost sharing formula.

Finance Director Dozier noted that the added WEDAC expenditure can be adjusted if Council wishes to consider the budget adoption. She reviewed the process as an added \$4,000 to WEDAC through an appropriation to the fund balance.

Move to add \$4,000 to WEDAC to make the total outside agency funding to WEDAC for FY2026-2027 \$6,000 and add \$4,000 to fund balance appropriation to balance.

Moved by: Phil Barnett

Aye: Peter McGuire, Dee Lawrence, John Chase, Mark Endries, Jennifer Young, and Phil Barnett, and Andrew Nagle

Carried unanimously. 7-0

In response to Councilmember Endries question regarding the new positions, Harris said due to both past and anticipated growth for added responsibilities in the Finance, Police Department and Water Treatment Plant the positions requested address traffic shift needs, safety, hours of operation, and assignments when employees are out or on vacation.

Motion to adopt and approve the Town of Weaverville Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance for the General Fund and Special Revenue Fire Fund with the adjustment to the WEDAC funding and the Fiscal Year Budget Ordinance for the Water Fund as presented.

Moved by: Jennifer Young

Aye: Peter McGuire, Dee Lawrence, John Chase, Mark Endries, Jennifer Young, and Phil Barnett

Nay: Andrew Nagle

Carried. 6-1

4. Proposed FY2027 Fee Schedules

Councilmember Young recommended amending the Public Works crew hourly rate from \$35 to \$45 to better reflect the costs.

Other discussion centered around cost for Town sponsored vs supported, supported services are contracted for personnel, WBA events and charges such as staff time.

Motion to adopt and approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Fee Schedule Ordinance for General Fund and Special Revenue Fire Fund and the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Fee Schedule Ordinance for the Water Fund, both with the Public Works hourly rate increased to \$45.00 per hour.

Moved by: Phil Barnett

Aye: Peter McGuire, Dee Lawrence, John Chase, Mark Endries, Jennifer Young, Phil Barnett, and Andrew Nagle

Carried unanimously. 7-0

5. Proposed FY2027 Pay Plans

Although the Pay Plans are in development but are not ready for adoption, Manager Harris highlighted the living wage, recruitable wage in the marketplace, pay parity, COLA, comparisons of mid-range salaries and adjustments in departments to address compression issues. Recommended pay plans will be brought to Town Council at the June 22 meeting

6. Proposed Policy Amendments and Adopting Resolution

There was a question-and-answer period pertaining to employee sick time accumulation, payroll process, unpaid leave, and accounting practices.

Review of personnel policy amendments for harassment policy and procedures, workplace violence prevention, and a ratification to the grievance policy and procedures were clarified for Council consideration.

Move to adopt the Resolution which amends the Town's Personnel Policy, Harassment Policy and Procedures, Workplace Violence Prevention Policy and ratifies an amendment to the Grievance Policy and Procedures as presented.

Moved by: Mark Endries

Aye: Peter McGuire, Dee Lawrence, John Chase, Mark Endries, Jennifer Young, Phil Barnett, and Andrew Nagle

Carried unanimously. 7-0

7. Town Council - Further Discussion and/ or Direction

Councilmember Young provided a spreadsheet calculation addressing the Town's costs in supporting the Weaverville Business Association events: Music on Main, Salute to Summer, Art in Autumn, the Candlelight Stroll, and St. Patrick's Day (discontinued event).

A brief discussion on Public Works crew overtime, Police Officer and Fire Department support costs, and actual charges for third party events and providing a projected costs statement for departmental support and actual costs of the prep and planning and implementation of services provided to events. There was agreement that the Town should provide cost information for transparency purposes even when no money is exchanged.

Motion that the Town provide statements to the WBA and other third parties with estimates of the Town's cost to support events for transparency purposes and then provide a post-event revised statement of actual event costs based on the fee schedule so that everyone can fully understand the true cost of events.

Moved by: Jennifer Young

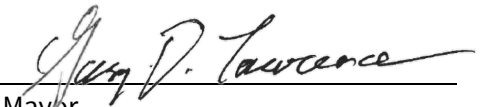
Aye: Peter McGuire, Dee Lawrence, John Chase, Mark Endries, Jennifer Young, Phil Barnett, and Andrew Nagle

Carried unanimously. 7-0

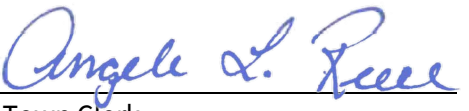
Councilmember Barnett provided an update that a grant-funded economic analysis for Weaverville will begin July 1st, that the LIFT application grant for the outdoor pickleball center at the Balcrank facility at 115 Reems Creek Road was not approved but that the Balcrank facility is filled with recreation and entertainment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and without objection, Mayor Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.



Mayor



Town Clerk