BLACK MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

April 2, 2025 | Special Called Meeting | Time: 8:30 A.M.

Town Hall Council Chambers | 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, NC 28711

The Black Mountain Town Council held a meeting on Wednesday April 2, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, NC 28711. The purpose of this meeting was to hold a FY 2025-26 Budget Work Session.

Mayor C. Michael Sobol called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. with the following members in attendance: Mayor C. Michael Sobol, Vice Mayor Archie Pertiller, Council Member Alice Berry, Council Member Doug Hay, Council Member Pam King, and Council Member Ryan Stone.

The following staff members were present: Josh Harrold, Town Manager; Jessica Trotman, Assistant Town Manager; Wesley Barker, Town Clerk; Tammy Holland, Finance Director; Josh Henderson, Recreation & Parks Director; John Coffey, Fire Chief; Jamey Matthews, Public Works Director; Steve Parker, Police Chief. Several other staff members were also present.

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FY 2025-26 Budget Work Session.

This budget work session is part of a series of upcoming meetings with presentations from town departments with budget requests. The budget requests of the following departments were reviewed during this work session:

• Governing Body	• Information Technology
• Administration	• Finance
• Human Resources	• Police Department
• Public Works Admin	• Sanitation/Streets

Noteworthy items discussed during these presentations are included below:

Governing Body/Administration/Human Resources

- Town Manager Josh Harrold stated this proposed budget has a 3% cost of living increase added in for town employee salaries, across all departments.
- Due to the expenses that occurred because of Hurricane Helene to town facilities & properties, Mr. Harrold stated this budget year would be tough and there would not be a lot of fund balance to balance the budget with.
- A request to hire a Public Information Officer (PIO) position was presented for salaries ($54,000).
- $50,000 added for a facilities study for the public safety building (Police/Fire).
- A $39,900 increase in the Town's liability insurance due to claims to replace equipment.

Police Department

- The total increase in this budget is estimated to be over $118,000, but a lot of these items were out of their control, such as increases to insurance rates ($45,000) and retirement contributions ($31,900).
- Hiring of a school resource officer (SRO) is proposed and the SRO would be split between Black Mountain Elementary & Primary Schools. Total salary for this position would be $52,000. $36,700 of the salary would be reimbursed by Buncombe County (by way of the State of NC), and the town would be responsible for the remainder, plus benefits.
- One new police vehicle is requested at an estimated $60,000.

Public Works- Admin/Sanitation/Streets & Highways

- Public Works Director Jamey Matthews stated decreases would be found throughout the various Public Works-related budgets due to the temporary facilities the department would be working out of, and not their large building, which was damaged by the hurricane (e.g. electricity, water/sewer, gas, refuse disposal and building maintenance fees/equipment).
- Increase in disposal fees, electric fees (streetlights),

Town Manager Josh Harrold stated the next budget meeting would continue the expense requests for departments and would begin revenue discussions. The next FY 2024-25 budget workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

There being no further business, Mayor C. Michael Sobol adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

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C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk