BLACK MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

April 9, 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 9, 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 8:30 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; Angela Reece, Project & Facilities Manager. Several other staff members were also present.

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FY 2025-26 Budget Work Session.

This budget work session continued presentations from town departments with budget overviews and requests. The budget requests of the following departments were reviewed during this work session:

• Fire Department	• Golf Course
• Recreation & Parks	• Planning & Development

Noteworthy items discussed during these presentations are included below:

Fire Department

- Fire Chief John Coffey presented the proposed Fire Department budget to Council. Overall, this department's budget would be down more than $58,000, even with continuing inflation impacts.
- Chief Coffey requests an additional firefighter position, who will also serve as a training officer and community outreach coordinator. With this position, and accounting for the proposed 3% cost-of-living adjustment for all employees, the salaries line item for the Fire Department has an increase of $247,000.
- A $10,000 increase in the training line item for employees and Chief Coffey stressed the importance of these training opportunities.
- A new line item for emergency disaster preparedness requests a $20,000 one-time expense. This is to get the Town set up with materials that we would need to have a better functioning emergency operations center in the event of another emergency. Discussions on radio

communications also took place.

Recreation & Parks

- Recreation & Parks Director Josh Henderson stated his department budget would be about $24,000 less than the previous year due in part to decreases in program and event expenses, such as Park Rhythms concert series, which would be going from eight to four shows this year, and moving to Town Square from Veterans Park.
- The Lakeview budget is proposed to be down approximately $35,350 due to an eliminated part-time position in salaries and decrease in utilities expense since the building is only being used by a few staff currently (e.g. no rentals for events or senior activities taking place).
- The Black Mountain pool budget has decreased by $13,000, but there is a $15,000 increase in specialty operating supplies to fully fund the swim team, so they do not have to fundraise to be fully operational, as other town athletic programs aren't asked to fundraise.

Golf Course

- Golf Operations Manager Brent Miller presented the budget for the golf course, which was down more than $256,000. This was due to a staff vacancy, which affected salaries and benefits line items, utility expenses and overall course maintenance expenses, as the golf course would not be fully operational over the next FY.
- Mr. Miller stated the golf course is going to operate nine holes, which are the back nine holes and will hopefully be open by summer. Additionally, it is proposed that a driving range be created on the front nine holes, until they can be reopened. This driving range would help with revenue. Additionally, the golf carts have been paid for, which leaves more than a $57,000 decrease in debt principal for the golf course.

Planning & Development Services

- Assistant Town Manager Jessica Trotman presented the proposed Planning & Development budget. Overall, the budget was down over $68,000, but there is a proposed $92,000 increase in the salaries line item to accommodate the incoming Planning Director and move the part-time building inspector to a full-time position. Employee benefit costs would also see a slight increase due to these shifts. If made full-time, that building inspector position would also work in code enforcement, and the Town would not need to contract with Alliance Code Enforcement to perform code enforcement needs, thus saving money on the contract service line item.

The next FY 2024-25 budget workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

There being no further business, Mayor C. Michael Sobol adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

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C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk