BLACK MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

April 23, 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 23, 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 8:34 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:

• Water Operations	• Powell Bill

Noteworthy items discussed during these presentations are included below:

Water Operations

- Town Manager Josh Harrold and Public Works Director Jamey Matthews both spoke to the Council about the water operations budget. The City of Asheville, which Black Mountain currently purchases a bulk of water from to supply town customers, will be increasing their wholesale rates 33%. This creates a proposed $275,000 increase in budget expenses.
- One way to save money on water costs, would be to drill more wells within the Town that would supply adequate water to our customers without having to purchase water from Asheville. Public Works Director Jamey Matthews stated the town would need ten additional wells to make up for what the town buys from Asheville. To get news wells online, the cost ranges between $30,000-50,000 each, and each well must pass sampling tests to operate, which is not always guaranteed.
- Several council members express interest in looking into new wells in town.

Town Manager Josh Harrold stated all the previous budget expense requests are staff

recommendations with no cuts made, and the recommended budget will soon be presented to Council.

Revenue Budget Items

- Town Manager Josh Harrold then reviewed proposed revenue budget items across departments including General Fund, Planning, Fire, Powell Bill, Water, Stormwater, Police Department Forfeiture & Outreach, Penalty Fines & Forfeitures.
- A $5 per month increase for the solid waste reduction fee is proposed, bringing the total to $10 per month per customer.
- Further, there would be a water rate increase of approximately $2.40 more than current rates.
- No property tax increase proposed at this time.

The Town Manager discussed fund balance appropriations to balance the budget and the need to appropriate as little as possible from fund balance to balance the budget, as otherwise, the Town would have to look at cutting positions to help balance the budget. The Town approved $2 million to be moved from fund balance to the Hurricane Helene fund. The hope is to transfer some of these funds back to be able to help balance the budget. Also, there would be little money available to do projects with over the next FY.

The next FY 2024-25 budget workshop will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

There being no further business, Mayor C. Michael Sobol adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

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C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk