BLACK MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

May 8, 2025 | Agenda Workshop + FY26 Budget Workshop | Time: 5:00 P.M.

Black Mountain Town Hall | 160 Midland Ave., Black Mountain, NC 28711

The Black Mountain Town Council held their agenda workshop and FY26 budget workshop meetings on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Black Mountain Town Hall, 160 Midland Ave., Black Mountain, NC 28711.

Mayor C. Michael Sobol called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.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, Council Member Ryan Stone.

The following staff members were present: Josh Harrold, Town Manager; Jessica Trotman, Assistant Town Manager; Tammy Heide, Finance Director; John Coffey, Fire Chief; Steve Parker, Police Chief; Jamey Matthews, Public Works Director; Josh Henderson, Recreation & Parks Director; Shannon Hensley, Human Resources Specialist.

May 8, 2025 Council Meeting Agenda Review: Town Manager Josh Harrold reviewed the proposed agenda items for the upcoming May 8, 2025 Regular Town Council meeting.

Some discussion took place regarding the agenda item for the Fire Department Cost Recovery Program by Fire Chief John Coffey.

Council Member Alice Berry spoke about reserving September 27th for the one-year remembrance of Hurricane Helene, possibly consider a town-sponsored event and reserving the Town Square for that day.

With no additional comments, Vice Mayor Archie Pertiller made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

****

FY26 Budget Workshop

The Council was provided with a financial report ending April 30, 2025, that showed accounts activities, balances, revenues and expenses.

Town Manager Josh Harrold then reviewed some of the proposed budget items for FY26 that he has cut. These include several newly proposed positions, various department training line-item amounts, and a fire boat. A full list is included on the following page:

FY25-26 MANAGER BUDGET

Req Position	Salary	Department
PIO	$92,151	Admin
Building Insp	$98,308	Planning
Finance	$99,024	Finance
SRO	$45,084	Police
Sanitation	$65,325	Sanitation
Meter Reader	$65,325	Water Finance
Firefighter	$72,578	Fire
Training Officer	$89,990	Fire
Total	**$627,785**	

	Garbage Fees	Revenue	Tax Rate
	$5	$255,950	0.321 unchanged
	$10	$511,900	

FY24-25 Total Budget	**$22,005,610**
FY25-26 Total Budget	**$19,595,410**
	$2,410,200
	10.95% decrease

Manager Cuts		
Finance	$99,024	Finance
PIO	$92,151	Admin
Training Officer	$89,990	Fire
Total	**$281,165**	

$346,620 Salaries remaining of proposed new salaries.

Manager Cuts		
Fire boat	$40,000	Fire
Training	$2,000	HR
Training	$8,600	Finance
Training	$1,000	PW Admin
Training	$2,000	Parks/Rec
Training	$1,000	Pool
Training	$3,000	Planning
Total	**$57,600**	

=$338,765 Total cuts

Current FB App. **=$304,650**

3% COLA **=$216,000**

Water Rates Average user will see $0.65/month increase due to the bond fee ending

County Tax Rate Proposed 3.26 cent tax increase *(by the County, not Town)*

**For a home valued at $300,000, the property taxes will increase approximately $97.80/year*

MSD 5% increase

These figures reflect adding the July 4th fireworks back into the budget and adding in $30,000 for a part-time communications specialist/PIO after cutting the full-time position request.

Some discussion took place about requested positions, notably the meter reader position. Council Member Hay stated he advocates for more cuts as needed across departments but suggests holding off on this meter reader position for now and evaluating once the sanitation employee comes on board. After additional discussion, the Council was at a consensus to remove this position from the proposed budget ($65,325).

Discussion ensued on the garbage fee increase. A consensus was reached by Council to lower this proposed increase from $10 to $8. This would result in approximately $409,520 in revenue, down from $511,900 if the rate was set at $10.

It was noted that there was currently no proposed property tax increase by the Town, but the County has proposed a 3.26 cent tax increase, which would impact everyone's tax bills. Also, MSD (Metropolitan Sewerage District) has proposed a 5% increase.

Town Manager Josh Harrold stated with the change of garbage fees to $8, the current Fund Balance appropriation needed to balance the proposed budget would be $408,450, up from the presented $304,650.

There being no further business, Mayor C. Michael Sobol adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

_____
C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk