BLACK MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

January 5, 2026 | Special Called Meeting Agenda | Time: 8:30 AM

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

Black Mountain Town Council held their special meeting agenda on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 8:30 AM in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor C. Michael Sobol called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members in attendance: Mayor C. Michael Sobol, Town Council Member Alice Berry, Town Council Member Doug Hay, Town Council Member Pam King, and Town Council Member Ryan Stone. Vice Mayor Archie Pertiller was absent.

The following staff members were present: Wesley Barker, Town Clerk and Susan Russo Klein, Attorney.

2. CLOSED SESSION - NCGS 143-318.11 (A)(3) CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY, ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE; AND NCGS 143-318.11 (A)(6) PERSONNEL RELATED.

Council Member Pam King made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged., and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6): to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer. A vote of 4-0 in favor. Vice Mayor Archie Pertiller was absent. The time was 8:33 a.m.

Council returned from closed session at 8:40 a.m.

Council Member Pam King made a motion to exit closed session now that the purpose pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged., and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6): to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character,

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fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer, has been accomplished and to without a general account of such closed session so long as releasing the same would frustrate the purpose thereof. A vote of 4-0 in favor. Vice Mayor Archie Pertiller was absent.

3. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON INTERIM TOWN MANAGER & AGREEMENT.

Town Council Member Ryan Stone made a motion to appoint Richard Hicks as Interim Town Manager and the proposed employment agreement. A vote of 4-0 in favor. Vice Mayor Archie Pertiller was absent.

4. REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRMS FOR THE TOWN MANAGER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR HIRING PROCESS.

Attorney Susan Russo Klein updated the Town Council on the executive search firms and the inquiry into adding the search for Finance Director as well.

Discussion ensued among Council Members on search firm proposals and top preferences from the seven proposals received, that could be narrowed down to two to three choices.

After further discussion, it was requested that the attorney work with Piedmont Triad Regional Council and MGT asking them to send pre-recorded videos, so that Council can review before making a final decision. These video reviews would occur at the January 8th, 2026 Agenda Review& Special Meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT.

With no further business to be discussed, Mayor C. Michael Sobol adjourned the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

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C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

Attest:

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Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk

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