Council Member ___ made a motion to approve the following resolution. A vote of ___.

TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN

ADOPTING PRINCIPLES OF RECOVERY TO GUIDE DECISION-MAKING AND PROJECT EVALUATION

RESOLUTION NO. R-25-75

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain experienced widespread and unprecedented damage during Tropical Storm Helene (DR-4827-NC), resulting in destruction of critical infrastructure, public facilities, parks, and community assets; and

WHEREAS, the Town's recovery is a multi-year effort involving federal, state, and local agencies, nonprofit partners, and residents, requiring clear alignment of priorities and a consistent decision-making framework; and

WHEREAS, recovery from a major disaster extends beyond rebuilding physical infrastructure, it includes restoring the Town's capacity, resilience, and community wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes the need to adopt guiding principles of recovery to ensure all recovery, mitigation, and redevelopment activities are evaluated through a shared lens of safety, equity, resilience, and fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, adopting a set of recovery principles will promote consistency, transparency, and accountability in the evaluation and prioritization of projects, programs, and funding decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN THAT:

The following Principles of Recovery shall guide the Town's decision-making and serve as an evaluation tool for all recovery and resiliency initiatives:

1. Life Safety and Risk Reduction

Projects and policies shall first and foremost protect public safety, reduce flood risk, and enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Actions that mitigate repetitive loss or remove people and assets from harm's way will receive highest priority.

2. Regulatory Compliance and Resilience Standards

All recovery work shall meet or exceed applicable FEMA, NFIP, NCEM, and local floodplain standards, ensuring that rebuilt infrastructure and facilities are stronger, safer, and more resilient than before the disaster.

3. Equity and Accessibility

Recovery investments shall promote equitable outcomes across neighborhoods and population groups, ensuring that vulnerable and underserved residents have access to safe housing, services, and public spaces.

4. Fiscal Responsibility

Decisions shall balance long-term recovery needs with fiscal stewardship, prioritizing cost-effective solutions, maximizing use of external funding, and minimizing local financial burden.

5. Functionality and Continuity of Operations

Essential Town functions, including public safety, water, and infrastructure, shall be restored or relocated in ways that ensure operational continuity during future emergencies.

6. Environmental Stewardship

Projects shall respect and restore the natural environment, utilizing nature-based solutions such as flood storage, stream restoration, and green infrastructure to improve resilience and ecological health.

7. Strategic and Phased Implementation

Recovery actions will be planned and executed in logical phases—stabilization, restoration, mitigation, and long-term improvement so the Town can remain adaptable as conditions and funding evolve.

8. Transparency and Community Engagement

Residents, business owners, and partner agencies will be informed and engaged throughout recovery. The Town will maintain open communication channels and provide regular updates on progress, funding, and decision criteria.

9. Partnerships and Collaboration

The Town will collaborate with state and federal agencies, regional councils, nonprofit organizations, and local stakeholders to align resources, share data, and advance shared recovery goals.

10. Long-Term Resilience and Adaptation

Recovery is not a return to the status quo but a transition to a more resilient community. Every decision shall be evaluated for how it strengthens the Town's ability to adapt to future disasters, climate impacts, and changing community needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- These Principles of Recovery shall be used by staff and Council as a decision-making and evaluation framework when considering projects, funding requests, and policies related to recovery and resiliency.
- Town staff shall include a Recovery Principles alignment statement in future Council agenda items and project recommendations where applicable.

- These principles will guide the work of the Office of Recovery and Resiliency and be revisited annually to ensure they remain relevant as the Town transitions from response to long-term recovery.

Adopted this the 1st day of November 2025.

_____

C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

Attest:

_____

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk