TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN
APPLICATION TO FILL VACANT TOWN COUNCIL SEAT

Appointment Period: Through December 2026

Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Appointment Date: May 11, 2026 Regular Monthly Council Meeting*

Applicant Information

Legal First Name: Shane Legal Last Name: Lunsford

Residential Address: 19 Timber Park Drive

City: Black Mountain State: NC Zip Code: 2871

Mailing Address (if different): Same

Primary Phone: 828-280-9639

Other Phone: _____

Email Address: shane.lunsford@gmail.com

Eligibility (Check Yes or No)

1. Are you a registered voter in Buncombe County? ☑ Yes ☐ No
2. Do you live within the municipal limits of Black Mountain? ☑ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you 21 years of age or older? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Application Questions

1. What motivates you to serve as a member of the Black Mountain Town Council?

I am motivated by a deep love for Black Mountain and a desire to serve during a season when steady, thoughtful leadership matters. My family and I live in the Timber Park neighborhood, previously lived near Lake Tomahawk, and have been connected to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church since 2016. I see the town not from a distance, but as someone who lives here, worships here, shops here, raises a family here, and wants Black Mountain to remain a place where neighbors know and help one another.

Hurricane Helene reinforced that commitment. Through Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, I helped launch meal and supply efforts that grew into regional meal service at the Railyard and ultimately supported many area residents in a time of need. I also worked with the town and others to help coordinate supplies, funding, food-service employment, restaurant reopening logistics, temporary water needs, and

recovery support. That experience showed me how much depends on coordination between residents, churches, businesses, town staff, public safety, county partners, state agencies, and FEMA.

I believe Black Mountain can protect its small-town character while making practical decisions about recovery, infrastructure, public safety, parks, economic vitality, and responsible growth. I would be honored to serve with humility, listen carefully, and help the town move forward with trust, transparency, and common sense.

2. Describe any relevant experience you may have and why you should be selected to fill this vacancy?

I bring municipal board experience, executive leadership, state and federal systems experience, small business perspective, and a strong commitment to community service. I previously served for several years as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board for the Town of Fletcher. During that time, we helped create a 10-year parks and recreation master plan, developed two greenways, grew large community events, supported recreation programming, and focused on long-term capital improvement planning, repair and replacement needs, new revenue streams, and grant funding.

I also have direct Black Mountain community project experience. I led the KaBOOM! grant effort for Black Mountain Primary School's playground, helping raise more than $85,000 and coordinate over 300 volunteers for the community build. That project reflected what I love about Black Mountain: people showing up, working together, and creating something lasting for children and families.

Professionally, I have led complex organizations, managed budgets, built partnerships, worked with NC DHHS, Medicaid, and other state-connected systems, served as a principal investigator/project director for state and federal grants, reviewed grants for SAMHSA and HRSA, and written more than $20 million in successful federal, state, and foundation grants. That experience would help me ask informed questions about grants, compliance, timelines, recovery funding, and intergovernmental partnerships without overstepping the Council's role.

I should be selected because I would bring a steady, service-first approach, respect for the Council-Manager form of government, and a willingness to listen before forming conclusions. I believe Black Mountain needs leaders who can help rebuild trust, support accountability, pursue recovery resources, and make practical decisions that serve the whole community.

3. Describe your understanding of the Council-Manager form of government.

My understanding is that the Town Council sets policy, adopts the budget, establishes priorities, represents the public, and provides oversight, while the Town Manager is responsible for day-to-day administration and implementation. Council members should not manage staff directly or interfere in daily operations. Instead, the Council should provide clear direction through policy, budget decisions, ordinances, planning priorities, and strategic goals.

This form of government works best when Council members respect roles, ask informed questions, communicate clearly, and hold the organization accountable without micromanaging. Especially during a

time of recovery and transition, I believe Council's role is to listen to residents, set expectations, support transparency, ensure responsible use of public funds, and help create the conditions for town staff to serve the public well.

4. What are the most important elements in developing a municipal budget?

The most important elements are public priorities, essential services, long-term financial sustainability, transparency, and disciplined tradeoffs. A municipal budget should fund core services such as public safety, public works, sanitation, infrastructure, parks, planning, administration, and community facilities while also preparing for future capital needs, emergency response, and maintenance obligations.

In Black Mountain, the budget also has to reflect the realities of Hurricane Helene recovery, infrastructure repair, flood mitigation, grant compliance, utility needs, and affordability for residents. My experience with state and federal grants, large budgets, program development, and recovery work would help me review budget priorities carefully and ask practical questions about sustainability, compliance, and long-term impact.

A good budget should be understandable to the public, realistic for staff to implement, and responsible both today and years from now. It should protect essential services, pursue outside funding where appropriate, maintain adequate reserves, and reflect the values and needs of the community.

5. How would you ensure all voices in the community are represented?

I would work to ensure residents feel heard before decisions are made, not just after. That means being accessible, attending community events, listening to people who may not regularly come to Town Hall, and seeking input from families, seniors, business owners, faith communities, renters, homeowners, workers, youth, visitors, and all residents.

I also believe representation requires listening across disagreement. In a small town, decisions can feel very personal, especially when they involve property, business, recovery, growth, taxes, infrastructure, or public safety. I would try to approach those conversations with humility, ask who is missing from the discussion, and weigh decisions based on the long-term good of Black Mountain rather than only the loudest voices in the room.

Trust is built through consistency, transparency, and follow-through. I believe rules should be clear, consistently applied, and communicated early enough that residents and businesses can comply without unnecessary harm. My goal would be to help the town move forward in a way that is fair, practical, transparent, and rooted in the public interest.

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Certification

I certify that the information provided is true and complete. I further understand that if appointed, I will abide by the local governing board's code of ethics and rules of procedure, https://tinyurl.com/tobmethics, which is pursuant to N.C.G.S. §160A-86.

Signature: _____ **Date:** 5/6/2026

Submission Information

Submit applications to Town Clerk Wesley Barker by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 in the following ways:

1) In person at Town Hall, 160 Midland Ave., Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

2) Via email: wesley.barker@tobm.org and/or town.clerk@tobm.org

3) Via USPS: Town of Black Mountain, Attn: Town Clerk, 160 Midland Ave., Black Mountain, NC 28711

Contact Information for Questions:
Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk
160 Midland Ave., Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 419-9310
wesley.barker@tobm.org, or town.clerk@tobm.org

**Town Council will review the applications and will vote via ballot method at the beginning of the May 11th, 2026 regular monthly Town Council meeting, which will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Black Mountain Town Hall. At that time, following the ballot voting, the Council will formally vote to appoint the member to the Council, and they will subsequently be sworn in and participate in that meeting, if in attendance.*