



TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP CIP MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2020

THE BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN held a budget workshop and capital improvement plan meeting on Wednesday June 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the board room of Town Hall, 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the FY2020-21 budget and capital improvement plan projects for the Town. The budget public hearing is scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Collins called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Don Collins
Vice Mayor Maggie Tuttle
Alderman Larry Harris
Alderman Tim Raines
Alderman Ryan Stone
Alderman Jennifer Willet

The following staff members were present:

Josh Harrold, Town Manager
Jennifer Tipton, Zoning Administrator

The following staff members were present via Zoom conference call:

Charlotte Sullivan/Interim Financial Services Director
Ronald E. Sneed, Attorney
Shawn Freeman, Police Chief
Scottie Harris, Fire Chief
John Wilson, Deputy Fire Chief
Jessica Trotman, Planning Director
Jamey Matthews, Public Services Director
Joshua Henderson, Recreation Services Director

Mayor Don Collins called the meeting to order and opened the floor for discussion.

Town Manager Harrold began the discussion with revenue projections stating there will be significant shortfalls in revenues due to the COVID19 Pandemic. Manager Harrold stated sales tax revenues are currently projected to come in around 30% or lower depending on the economy. Manager Harrold discussed the part-time Community Garden and Golf Course positions stating it is approximately a \$50,000 impact to the budget to keep the positions and stated he based his recommendations of not funding the positions based on revenue projections with consideration of continuing to fund essential services while presenting a balanced budget. Manager Harrold stated he believes the positions can be funded with current revenues and revisited with a budget

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amendment if revenue shortfall projections hold true in January 2021. Alderman Larry B. Harris clarified the Board or Staff did not wish to eliminate any full time positions and credited staff for their hard work on Town operations. Alderman Harris stated he and the Board also did not wish to eliminate any part time positions due to the impact on families who may be struggling as a result of the COVID19 Pandemic. Board members agreed and acknowledged the necessity of producing a balanced budget. Alderman Ryan Stone clarified the Manager's recommendation was not to eliminate the Community Garden but rather to have current recreation staff facilitate the activities at the Garden. Manager Harrold recalled budget request conversations with staff and stated cutting positions was not the first decision nor was it an easy decision to make but stated his intent was to bring the operation of the Community Garden into the Recreation Department. Alderman Ryan Stone commended the Manager for working within the parameters set by the Board of not wanting to pass costs along to the tax payers and continuing core services at the same level. Alderman Stone thanked Manager Harrold for looking into the matter and reminded the public that no one knows what future revenues will look like and cautioned everyone that changes may be necessary to reflect the financial situation in the future.

Mayor Collins stated he would like to see the Community Garden space doubled and challenged them to produce more food to donate to Bounty and Soul next year. Mayor Collins stated he feels additional staff oversight of the Garden functions is desirable.

Alderman Stone asked Manager Harrold to provide information on public safety and stated he wanted to be clear that he is not in favor of reducing their budgets and said they are valuable resources for the Town but said information would be helpful for the public to understand how their budgets are allocated.

Alderman Larry B. Harris discussed sanitation (referring to page 70 of the Recommended Budget) stating the numbers represent the total budget including debt service.

Alderman Larry B. Harris discussed the Water Fund (referring to operations on page 82) clarifying half of the personnel cost are funding public works staff who are cross trained. Alderman Harris stated other costs are included for pump stations, engineering costs, and repairs to bring the 600 new water customers online. Alderman Harris stated the additional water customers would provide approximately \$120,000 in revenue to the Water Fund annually.

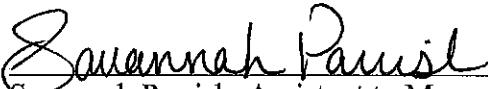
The Board will hold the Budget Public Hearing on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

There was no further discussion.

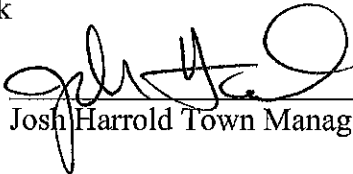
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There being no further business, on a motion by Vice Mayor Maggie Tuttle and with a vote of 5-0, Mayor Don Collins adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

ATTEST:


Savannah Parrish, Assistant to Manager/Town Clerk


Don Collins, Mayor


Josh Harrold Town Manager

