

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council
Budget Work Session
May 27, 2016

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council continued their annual budget work session on Friday, May 27, 2016. The work session was held at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Mayor Pro-tem Albert Yount, Council Members Jim Steele, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson, and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Fogleman, Finance Officer Nicole Norman, Fire Chief Kent Graham and Interim Town Clerk Hilari Hubner.

CALL TO ORDER

DISCUSSION

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Town Manager Fogleman began the work session with a recap of items from the previous two work sessions that needed further information or discussion. The first item discussed was Fire Department part time funding. Fire Chief Kent Graham was present to answer questions from Council regarding the requested part time funding increase. After further discussion it was the consensus of Council to proceed with the funding as presented in the budget with the Town covering half of the total part time funding needed, or \$137,500, of the total needs of \$275,000.

Council discussed the In-Lieu parking fee with the consensus to leave the charge at \$15,000. Mayor Pro-Tem Yount requested that a business coming into Town have the option to propose to Council that as part of their project consideration that the fee be lowered.

Town Manager Fogleman presented, per request, to Council an example of what the vehicle license fee would look like with the vehicle license fee added. Council discussed the options and decided not to add the fee at this time.

Council further discussed the 5% water and sewer fee increase as well as the recycling cart/fee. It was the consensus of Council to raise water and sewer fees as proposed to cover General Obligation Bond debt service and raise the recycling fee from \$6.00 bi-monthly to \$8.00 bi-monthly.

Council agreed to move forward with adding the two new proposed positions, Landscape Assistant and Administrative Assistant.

Council Member Sweeting briefly recapped a few of the Quick Budget Highlights not yet discussed including the third increment of the class and pay study, increasing the 401K contribution from 4% to 5%, additional funding for new LED street lights and purchasing a used street sweeper. Council consensus supported funding these items.

In closing the meeting, the parking deck space counters and electronic kiosks budgeted to be purchased via TDA funding were briefly discussed.

ADJOURN

The work session was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Interim Town Clerk