

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
June 4, 2019

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council held a Public Hearing followed by a Budget Work Session on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. to present the Proposed Budget to the public. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock, N.C. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Albert Yount and Council Members Jim Steele, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson and Virginia Powell. Others in attendance were Town Manager Shane Fox, Finance Officer Nicole Norman and Town Clerk, Hilari Hubner, recorded the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sellers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Mayor Sellers asked for a motion to go into Public Hearing. Council Member Matheson made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved.

Finance Officer Nicole Norman presented via PowerPoint an overview of the budget process, priorities of the budget in detail, revenue streams, expenses. Some of the highlights of the budget including a \$0.03 tax increase to be split in half for bond debt and operational costs, a COLA of 3% for wages/salaries, Employee Advancement & Educational Incentive Program, increase in water/sewer minimum rate, one time cost for Code of re-codification, payment to Watauga County of 70% of the Ad Valorem vs. Per Capita sales tax proceeds, continued funding of the School Resource Officer, replacement funding for two Police vehicles, various facility improvements, reserve funding for Memorial Park and Devant field restroom upgrades and restroom construction for Annie Cannon Garden. Ms. Norman explained meetings were held with department heads and Council to discuss upcoming needs for the FY 2019-2020 Budget and the proposed budget was originally presented to Council May 28th. Ms. Norman advised two (2) separate work sessions were planned, the first following the budget presentation and the other was June 18th to discuss details associated with the budget. **Attachment FY 2019-2020 Budget PowerPoint – Attachment A**

Mayor Sellers asked for Public Comment.

Mr. Tim Gupton presented a PowerPoint Presentation with his observations regarding the FY 19-20 Budget. **Tim Gupton's PowerPoint -Attachment B**

Council Member Steele made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved. No action was taken.

Council took a 15-minute recess before starting the Budget Works Session.

DISCUSSION

Town Manager Shane Fox reviewed each department's General Fund Expenditures.

Town Manager Fox reviewed in length the highlights in the FY 19-20 proposed budget.

Council discussed at length and detail, the purposed COLA, Employee Advancement & Educational Incentive Program, vehicles and equipment need for the various departments.

Town Council discussed at length the needs of the Town, including operations, Capital Improvement Plan, General Obligation Bond and the briefly the proposed tax increase.

Council directed staff to clarify and provide additional information on a few items that they will discuss further at the next budget work session.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m. Council Member Steele made a motion to recess the work session, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved. The meeting was recessed to continue at 6:00 p.m. on June 18, 2019.

MAYOR _____
Charlie Sellers

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

FY 2019-2020 Budget PowerPoint - Attachment A
Tim Gupton's PowerPoint – Attachment B