



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

**BUDGET WORKSHOP
April 5, 2025**

Board of Commissioners Present:

Mike Allen, Mayor
Chuck Bost, Mayor Pro Tem
Ryan Merrill, Commissioner
Hunter Smith, Commissioner

Board of Commissioners Absent:

Morgan Mehler, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Athina Williams, Town Manager
Sharon Niemann, Town Clerk
Brenda Williams, Finance Clerk
Brenda Hewlett, Admin. Support Specialist
Jim Bucher, Director of Parks and Recreation
Chad Staradumsky, Town Planner
Kerry Wooding, Deputy Finance Officer
Ian McLeod, Events Coordinator
Richard Trexler, Human Resources, Finance Clerk
Kemmy Goodson, Town CPA

Others Present to Address the Board:

Teresa Nelson, Executive Director, Brunswick Community College Foundation
Kyle Abrams, Executive Director, Brunswick Family Assistance

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Allen led the invocation asking for protection of law enforcement, military, and guidance to make the best decisions for our town.

ACTION – Commissioner Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Agenda.
VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to excuse Commissioner Morgan Mehler. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**



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Mayor Allen thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ITEM #2 - PRESENTATIONS

a. Donation Requests –

1. **Teresa Nelson Executive Director of Brunswick County Community College Foundation** (BCC Foundation) thanked the board for our previous contributions and told the board that it means so much to the Brunswick Community College Foundation, helping to fund scholarships to students who really need them.

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen **MADE THE MOTION** to donate \$4,000 to BCC Foundation. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS** by the three other board members voting.

2. **Kyle Abrams Executive Director of Brunswick Family Assistance** told the board that they serve families who are in crisis situations and try to help them so they can be self-sufficient. He detailed that they have helped over 330 families and 1,175 individuals, given over \$31,000 for rental assistance, and have helped many with utility assistance. Mike Allen commented that we like to help those in need, and he is glad we have Brunswick Family Assistance to help support those individuals.

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen **MADE THE MOTION** to approve \$2,000 in donations to Brunswick Family Assistance. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

3. Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern North Carolina

While no one from the Boys and Girls Club was present, Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost (who is on the executive board of the Boys and Girls Club) commented that the budget is significant, and the need is great. They are asking for a minimal donation of \$2,500.

ACTION – Mayor Allen **MADE THE MOTION** that we donate \$2,500 to the Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern North Carolina. Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost abstained from the vote, and **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS**, from the other three board members voting.

ACTION - Mayor Mike Allen called for a 20-minute recess at 2:18 p.m.

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen called the Budget Workshop to order and back in session at 3:00 p.m.

b. CONTRACT REQUESTS

Town Manager Athina Williams reported that we have three contracts to review.



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1. Goodson & Taylor, CPA's.

Kemmy Goodson addressed the board and indicated he would like to extend his contract for accounting services, for overseeing the accounting system, making sure things are posted, payroll preparation, and working with auditor requests, and providing monthly reports. Mayor Allen said Kemmy has been longer than any of us, and we appreciate you always being there.

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen **MADE THE MOTION** to renew the accounting contract of Goodson & Taylor. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

2. Johnson Environmental

On the question of Johnson Environmental, Mayor Mike Allen expressed that the debris removal contract is important because they are always here immediately when we request them, and have been very responsive to get debris out of the way as expeditiously as possible. He believes the price of \$4,368. is reasonable.

3. Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A.

Town Manager Williams also described the Audit services which are expected not to exceed \$21,500 for the year.

ACTION – Mayor Mike Allen **MADE THE MOTION** to accept both the accounting contract from Goodson & Taylor, and the audit contract from Thompson, Price, Scott Adams & Co., P.A. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

c. ADVISORY BOARD REQUESTS –

1. Parks and Recreation Board – Brenda Hewlett, Secretary

Parks and Recreation Board Secretary Ms. Brenda Hewlett informed the board that we are asking for more money this year as we are adding events. Ms. Hewlett described that our four main events are Founders Day, the Fall Festival, and Christmas Festival and the Food Truck Rodeo. The money is put in the budget, but usually sponsorships will cover the cost of each event, and we have to put very little out. Athina Williams, Town Manager, explained we also have the cost of labor and materials in each event. Discussion ensued.

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to table this decision to next month. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

2. ABC Board Report - Richard Trexler is representing the ABC Board and wanted to thank the Board of Commissioners for their support so far. We are expecting our annual distribution of



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proceeds to the Town this year to be \$350,000. With the increase in tariffs, we are expecting some costs to go up, so this year may be different. Discussion ensued over the road closure and effect on ABC revenues.

3. Planning Board FY 25-26 Work Plan – Planner Chad Staradumsky presented the FY 25-26 Work Plan that was recommended for approval by the Planning Board in March 2025. Dean St. John listed on the Agenda was not present. Mr. Staradumsky reviewed the Plan and reiterated that some items were on previous plans as low priority items, and got carried over to this plan. On the Work Plan as a high priority is the codification and Unification of Ordinances (UDO). This would take our four stand-alone ordinances and organize them into one unified document. I have tried to stretch this out over a two-year period, as the price tag is high, The preliminary costs I have requested are about \$50,000 per year for two years. Discussion ensued. Due to costs, Chad explained that he recommends delaying the Land Use Plan until later. Mr. Staradumsky covered the other items on the Work Plan. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Hunter Smith posed the question, how much of a benefit is this to the developers? Town Manager Athina Williams offered an example that Westport Lofts came into the Town, which is a \$40,000 increase in tax dollars. She announced that this project would go out for bid, as it is over \$50,000. Commissioner Hunter Smith stated that what you have to look at is how much value it would bring to the Town. Chad Staradumsky projected that this project could start in August if approved. Revising the off-street parking is also on the Work Plan.

Commissioner Ryan Merrill asked for a 20-minute recess to offer emergency assistance.

Mayor Mike Allen called the meeting back to order.

ACTION – Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to table the Planning Board Work Plan decision to next month. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.** Mr. Chad Staradumsky will send the board a link so they can look at a UDO.

ITEM #3 – 2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Town Manager Athina Williams listed some of the accomplishments this year.

Mr. Kemmy Goodson, Town accountant, supplied the projected amounts of Revenue:

Revenues

Property Tax:	\$ 365,000 (this is an estimate, and a more realistic figure will follow)
Ad Valorem Tax	\$ 17,000
Sales Tax	\$ 1,019,000

Restricted

Powell Bill	\$ 60,000
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Powell Interest	\$ 1,500
Grants	\$ 1,014,000
PARTF Grant	\$ 500,000
Stormwater	\$ 5,000
NC133 Crossing	\$ 150,000
<u>Unrestricted</u>	
Total without ABC	\$ 105,000
ABC proceeds	\$ 350,000

Capital

Other Revenue

Total	\$ 57,000	
Fund Balance	\$ 450,000	
Fund Balance	\$1,782,992	
Total General Fund Revenues		\$ 5,426,492

Mayor Allen asked about the Powell Bill Funds. Town Manager Athina Williams replied that funds are allocated to the Powell Bill, and every year, we need to spend a portion on improvements.

While we do not currently charge a car tax, we have listed the vehicle tax and property tax from other municipalities for comparison.

Considering all things, Mayor Allen wanted to know what an increase in \$.04 cents, (which would make our property tax rate \$.15 cents), would yield. He opined that even if we have this increase, we would still have one of the lowest tax rates in the North End of Brunswick County, and inquired if it would be enough revenue to start a Town Hall, and cover the Unified Development Ordinance? Town Manager Athina Williams calculated that a \$.04 cent increase in tax rate per \$100 would yield approximately \$132,000.

Town Manager Athina Williams reviewed the anticipated Expenditures: Departments - nothing out of the ordinary.

Questions – COLA (cost of living adjustment) for you or any other board members?

Capital Outlay - \$10,000 set aside. If anything happens that needs repairs

Variables – waiting on Riverwalk construction bids.

Our Deputy Finance Officer Kerry Wooding is going to provide you with an overview of Health Insurance and other benefits. Kerry Wooding addressed the Board. As you may know, the NC



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League of Municipalities, who were formerly providing our dental, life, short-term workers compensation, is no longer offering these services, as there was a 10 to 15% increase. Kerry stated he is working with our current Broker to get prices on these services. We have coverage until the fiscal year end June 30th. The costs per employee have risen from about \$56 to \$372. That is a huge increase. Mr. Wooding offered that bundling the health package may provide lower prices, so if Blue Cross and Blue Shield provided everything. Town Manager Athina Williams replied that we intend to get pricing from other providers. Some towns may rally together to get better prices. She explained that last year NCLM was more expensive with health benefits, so we changed over to BlueCross BlueShield, which was a better value for the employees. Now, we have to find providers for the other services as well.

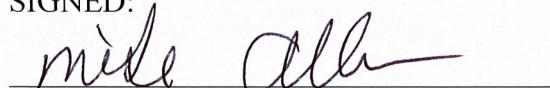
She asked the Board if there were any special projects that you want us to work on for the budget. The Budget for the Town is fiscally responsible. At the current rate, we only have \$442 left over after all the Revenues and expenses projected.

Mayor Allen indicated that he appreciates all the Town has done to prepare for the budget meeting. This year is full of new possibilities. Mayor Allen thanked the staff for their hard work.

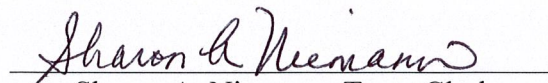
ACTION – Commissioner Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to adjourn the meeting.
VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

Minutes Compiled by Sharon A. Niemann

SIGNED:


Mike Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharon A. Niemann, Town Clerk

