

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council
Budget Work Session
May 27, 2025

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council held their budget work session on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. The work session was held at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Council Members Cat Perry, Melissa Pickett, and Pete Gherini. Others in attendance were Town Manager Shane Fox, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Planning and Inspections Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Nathan Kirk, Public Works and Utilities Director Matt Blackburn, IT Director Thomas Steele, Landscape Director Cory Cathcart and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner, who recorded the minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Matheson was unable to attend, but joined via Zoom. Council Member Harwood was also unable to attend.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sellers called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

OTHER

Representative Ray Pickett gave an update on House Bill 306, this bill ran into some issues and won't currently continue. Representative Pickett asked that any questions about this bill be asked directly to him. House Bill 765, has been slowed up, but it's still being looked at and Representative Pickett wanted to make Council aware to keep an eye on that Bill.

DISCUSSION

Town Manager Shane Fox reviewed the budget outline and discussed with Council at length, highlights to the proposed budget. Some items discussed in detail were:

- No proposed property tax increase
- Sales tax revenue modest increase
- TDA revenue – continues to be steady
- Salaries – 2.5% COLA
- 6% increase in retirement
- 5% increase in health insurance
- Debt payment is flat, but total debt going down
- Continuation of the Capital Plan
- Proposed 7 % increase in water rates (average bill increase of \$8 bi-monthly)

ADJOURN

At 4:35 p.m. Council Member Pickett made a motion to adjourn the work session, seconded by Council Member Gherini. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR _____ **ATTEST** _____
Charlie Sellers **Hilari Hubner, Town Cler**