

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Town Council**  
**Mid-Year Retreat**  
**June 24, 2025**

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council held their Mid-Year on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The meeting was held at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Matheson, Council Members Cat Perry, David Harwood, Melissa Pickett, and Pete Gherini. Others in attendance were Town Manager Shane Fox, Finance Director Tasha Brown, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Nathan Kirk, IT Director Thomas Steele and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner, who recorded the minutes.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Consent Agenda**

- Budget Amendment
- Project Ordinance – Hurricane Helene

Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

**Update on Projects and Debt Issuance Timeline**

- Main Street Water and Sewer Project – replaced 9,200 linear feet of 8-inch water main, new hydrants and meters. Sewer; 1,150 linear feet of 8-inch sewer, new manholes, new service connections, NCGA – thanks to Ray Pickett and Deanna Ballard. Project is complete – on time and under budget (\$500K) – with budget savings it allowed for Maple Street, Hwy 221 and Green Street work. Paving is taking place now on Main Street with Green Street and Maple Street following.
- Memorial Park Project – new playground piece completed and in use, volleyball court opened and in use, work continues and is scheduled to be completed in September.
- USDA Loan - \$4.56M with 3.5% interest for forty (40) years. Project scope: replacement of the Mayview sewer lift station & force main, WTP equipment replacement – high service pumps, flocculators, finished water pump, valves, piping. WWTP equipment replacement, bar screen, influent pump, aeration equipment, structural leak repairs. Design, bid and construction – bid 2025 (interim loan)

- FEMA work from Hurricane Helene - All work has been completed minus Valley View – soil samples are in and scope and bid. All monies have been recovered from FEMA.
- Hwy 321 – Safety – Meeting was held with NCDOT to discuss dangers of Aho Rd intersection as well as the Watauga County Aho Convenience Center site. Another dangerous area is the Speedway location near Shops on the Parkway. The council consensus was to add a Highway Safety Resolution to the July 8<sup>th</sup> agenda to go forward with next steps to hopefully extend the median to eliminate left turns out of the Speedway location.
- Loading Zones – Discussed options for putting a loading zone on Main Street and Sunset Drive.
- Parking/Shuttle Next Steps – Council discussed various shuttle/parking options. The Council agreed they need to get a better understanding of the parking need and may need to look at forming a committee. Consensus was there is still work to be done on what next steps look like.
- Food Trucks – Discussed the need, especially during busier times in Town as restaurants have a hard time accommodating everyone in town. Manager Fox would like Council to provide some feedback to determine what next steps will be.
- Cemetery – Next Steps/Options – Council consensus was to have staff reach out to the local funeral homes as well as Adam Rhyne to see if any are interested in doing a partnership with the town to expand for columbarium's or something of that nature.
- Code of Conduct – Council asked Manager Fox to send the draft to Town Attorney Joey Petrack for his review and/or input. Any changes or feedback from Council send to Manager Fox.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 4:00 p.m., Council Member Perry made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11.6 – personnel matters, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

## **ADJOURN**

At 5:00 p.m. Council returned to open session. With no further action, Council Member Gherini made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_ **ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_

Charlie Sellers Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

**Attachments**

Budget Amendment – Attachment A

Project Ordinance – Hurricane Helene – Attachment B