

MINUTES OF MIDWAY TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION HELD ON APRIL 24, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT MIDWAY TOWN HALL, 426 GUMTREE ROAD, MIDWAY, NORTH CAROLINA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine called the meeting to order.

Councilors present were: Mike McAlpine, Robin Moon, Keith Leonard, Jackie Edwards, and Berkley Alcorn. Absent: Mayor John Byrum. Town Manager Nicholas Smith, Town Clerk Linda Hunt, Deputy Town Clerk Ree Goodson and Town Consultant Hank Perkins were present.

Each Councilor had been furnished an agenda prior to the meeting.

ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Councilor Keith Leonard, seconded by Councilor Jackie Edwards, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

General Fund Revenues

North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) reported some increases, particularly in sales tax numbers. The reported indicated steady growth of 2-3% year over year but warned that economic conditions and tariffs could change this outlook.

Sales Tax

The sales tax revenue line is increased by approximately \$150,000.

Councilor Jackie Edwards shared information from a recent meeting with NC House Representative Larry Potts, stating that the state budget is tighter than in recent years and that cities should not expect surplus money to be sent back as it had been in previous years. This is partly due to the need to rebuild the rainy-day fund and continue sending money for hurricane relief efforts.

ABC Revenue

Percentage change minimal. No significant change from first budget work session.

Solid Waste Tax

Percentage change minimal. No significant change from first budget work session.

General Fund Expenditures

Governing Board

- Special Events line item is broken out as separate line item from professional development.
- Advertising for legal notices transferred from Administration to both the Governing Board and Planning Board budgets.

Administration

- Compensation increased by \$5,000 to account for a 3% cost of living adjustment and potential merit increases for eligible employees.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine brought up issues the Town is having with the Positive Pay system and the possibility of discontinuing Positive Pay. Council was in agreement with discontinuing Positive Pay.

Group Health Insurance

- Quotes have been received as follows:
 - Two from Blue Cross Blue Shield
 - United Health Care
 - Aflac also submitted a quote but it does not include major medical.
 - Breeden Insurance (Jennifer Winebarger) has submitted a quote.
 - The Hill Group has been contacted and they will also be submitting a quote. This is the group that Town Consultant Hank Perkins had suggested.
- All the insurance companies seem to be matching well with the Town's current plan.
- Deputy Clerk Ree Goodson advised Council that she is old enough to be on Medicare and she is looking into what it will cost. She has reached out to Auditor Tony Brewer for his advice on the cost and how the premiums would be handled.

Public Safety

No changes since last budget work session.

Public Works

- Arcadia Fencing broken out as its own line item from Special Projects.

Solid Waste and Recycling

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine said that North Davidson Garbage is in the process of revamping and the Town of Wallburg is keeping their eye on that as well. He said North Davidson Garbage was a great service provider for the Town for years and he suggested staff reach out to Mark Everhart to see where he stands as far as moving forward with his business. This is another competitor with which the Town can compare prices.

Parks and Recreation

- Compensation – Increase in compensation and 3% cost of living adjustment for park staff
- Renaming some line items for clarity.

Community and Economic Development

- Grants for Schools – Council agreed to approach schools to assess needs before determining grant amounts.
- Consider establishing Grants Committee to manage the process.

Compensation Work Sheet

- Compensation for Governing Board and Planning Board discussed. Further discussion to be held at later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilor Berkley Alcorn seconded by Councilor Robin Moon, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mike McAlpine, Mayor Pro Tem

Ree Goodson, Deputy Town Clerk