



**Town of Haw River  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 6, 2023**

The Haw River Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 6, 2023, in the Haw River Municipal Building at 6:00 pm.

Council Members Present: Mayor Kelly Allen, Mayor Pro-Tem Lee Lovette, Steve Lineberry, and Shawn Riggan

Members Absent: Patty Wilson

Other Members Present: Town Manager Sean Tencer, Town Clerk Lesley Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director Jesus Campos Garcia, Police Chief Toby Harrison, Public Works Director Robert Brewer, Fire Chief Tyler Franklin & Town Attorney Charlie Davis

Mayor Allen called the meeting to order and gave the invocation at 6:00 pm.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of the minutes from the January 9, 2023; Haw River Town Council meeting.
2. Approval of Budget Amendment - (2023-15 Sale of Fixed Asset 2005 Ford Crown Victoria) - \$2,616.00

Councilmember Lineberry made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Lovette seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. NONE

## **NEW ITEMS:**

1. Haw River Town Council to approve the two engineering service agreements for design and construction of the Lang Street pump station project and several waterline replacements projects. These projects are being funded by the American Rescue Plan Act – ARPA from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund established in S.L. 2022-74. These contracts are to award the projects to Alley William Carmen & King as project engineers and administrators. These grants are 100% funded by the State of North Carolina using ARPA funds. All ARPA funds must be spent by December 21, 2026.

Councilmember Lovette made a motion to approve the two engineering service agreements for design and construction of the Lang Street pump station project and several waterline replacements projects. These projects are being funded by the American Rescue Plan Act – ARPA from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund established in S.L. 2022-74.

Councilmember Riggan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Kelly Allen welcomed Boy Scout Troop 64. The Scout Master explained that the scouts are required to attend a public meeting for their Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

## **PRESENTATION:**

Police Chief Toby Harrison made a presentation about recruitment and retention concerns in the Haw River Police Department.

Chief Harrison made a presentation to the Town Council regarding potential recruitment and retention issues within the Haw River's Police Department. He stated that the Police Department has visited ACC's BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) classes for a total of four (4) times trying to recruit officers. Chief Harrison gave some statistics and stated that Haw River has the lowest starting salary in Alamance County. The purpose for Chief Harrison's presentation is to ask the Town Council to consider options on what can be done to retain our employees and recruit new candidates. When Chief Harrison began working for the Town in 1998, Haw River paid him more than his former employer the City of Mebane. He emphasized on how we need to take care of existing and new employees coming to work for the Town of Haw River. Town Council needs to look at adding incentives for recruitment, education, and longevity.

Councilmember Lovette stated that he would like to meet privately, one-on-one with the individual officers to go over their concerns. The Town can only have two council members at a time while meeting with the officers.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- The public is allowed to address the Town Council on any non-agenda item at this time.
- Be sure to sign in, stand and state your name and address for the minutes.
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes or less.

1. Haw River Police Sgt. Benjamin Morgan, address 5115 Dairyland Rd, Hillsborough, NC 27278. He wanted to reiterate what Police Chief Harrison presented about having recruiting issues at the Haw River Police Department. He said they did not receive many applicants to fill the 2 current vacant positions. Currently they have only 1 application in process, but he thinks this could be due to low salary pay, or not offering other incentives or bonuses like neighboring municipalities. Sgt. Morgan also explained being short staffed has put a strain on the current officers covering extra shifts.
2. Scott Thomas, 1005 E. Main Street, Haw River, NC 27258. Mr. Thomas spoke about the proposed tax increase from Alamance County's reevaluation of property values throughout Haw River. Town Council needs to consider not going revenue-neutral but consider going above revenue-neutral for increase of salaries for all town employees.

## MANAGER REPORT

1. The Town of Haw River will be receiving money from both NC DEQ – Water Infrastructure and from Senator Amy Galey for water and sewer improvement projects. The total award package is around 9.4 million dollars, and the funds will be spent for a new Lang Street Pump Station, improvements to all sewer pump stations, water system upgrades, and system studies. Engineering and professional services contracts will need to be approved by town council. **On-going**
2. Haw River Town Hall had new wiring and connections installed at town hall and the fire station. Still waiting for one more component. **On-going**
3. The Town has received \$400,000+/- of the \$800,000+/- in ARPA Federal Money. The Town sent out an RFQ for engineering services, so the Hanover Road and radio-read water meters can get underway. Funds spent on engineering and consulting can be paid out of the ARPA funds, since we sent out an RFQ for engineering services. Gavel and Dorn and AWCK are working on the engineering for the project. Both Haw River and Graham approved the new sewer agreement for Hanover Road, so we should be moving forward. **The Town will be bidding this project out within the next few weeks** The next project will be the radio-read water meters. **On-going**

4. ~~The Town is looking to remove the fire antenna on the side of the building and relocating the devices onto the roof of town hall. This is in lieu of installing a fence around the antenna to prevent access to the roof by unauthorized personnel. The Town has gone with Alamance Fencing to install the fence on top of the brick wall for \$4,750. **Completed**~~
5. ~~The Town will be working with the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce on requesting assistance from the non-profit organization, Golden LEAF Foundation to identify potential industrial sites in communities that do not currently have a quality industrial site to market. This grant was not approved by Golden LEAF Foundation. **Completed**~~
6. The Town will be purchasing new fire bay doors due to one of the old doors rubbing on the brick wall. The repair company said that the door can't be fixed. The bay doors are the original doors from 1973. We decided to replace both bay doors so they will match, and to take advantage of today's pricing. I spoke with everyone on the phone for consensus to go ahead with the project. **Bay doors are set to be installed in March 2023. On-going**
7. The Town has received \$50,000 from Impact Alamance to replace the playground at Red Slide Park. **Carolina Parks and Play has placed the order and will be ready to install soon after that. On-going**
8. The Town has submitted grant applications to DWR for the three water and sewer projects that was mentioned at the last council meeting. Council passed a resolution applying for these projects. 1. Roma Road waterline improvement (upsized line), 2. South Spray Street water-line improvement (water-line connection from Stone Street to South Spray Street under railroad track to improve water pressure. 3. Slip-lining sewer lines throughout town. **On-going**
9. Town staff is still working with Tyler Technologies on switching computer software. This is an on-going process and should be completed for the new budget year. **On-going**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Manager Tencer stated we need to consider replacing the backhoe since it is leaking diesel fuel. Public Works Director Robert Brewer has received 3 quotes to replace this. We can use some of the Powell Bill Fund to cover some of this cost.

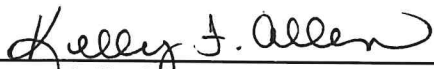
Councilmember Lineberry and Councilmember Riggan asked if the backhoe could be repaired? Public Work Director, Robert Brewer stated no because the Town has already made several repairs to the backhoe in the amounts of \$30,000-\$40,000; a new backhoe will cost around \$120,000.00.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Allen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Riggan made the motion to adjourn. Council Member Lineberry seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

Council Adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

  
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Kelly Allen, Mayor

  
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Lesley Gonzalez, Town Clerk