



**Town of Haw River
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 5, 2023**

The Haw River Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023, in the Haw River Municipal Building at 6:00 pm.

Council Members Present: Mayor Kelly Allen, Steve Lineberry, Patty Wilson, and Shawn Riggan

Members Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Lee Lovette

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 Jacob Wright

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

Mayor Allen asked if anyone wanted to discuss an item on the consent agenda, hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as shown. Mr. Lineberry made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and it was seconded by Mrs. Wilson.

Motion carried 4-0

The items on the **consent agenda** were as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes from the May 1, 2023 Haw River Town Council meeting.
2. Approval of Budget Amendments – 2023-22 – (Reimbursement (1/2 cost) from City of Graham to replace 2” broken water valve on Wilkins Road/Highway 70) - \$13,131.00.
3. Reappointments for three Planning Board Members (ETJ) to another 4-year term - Herman Johnson, Susan Jacaruso, and Phillip Morgan.
4. Town Council will consider approving the yearly audit contract with Cobb, Ezekiel, Loy, and Company, P.A.
5. Town Council will consider a request for town staff to have the authority to make appropriate adjustments and amendments to the 2022-2023 budget to prepare for year-end closeout.

Mayor Allen mentioned that there were no public hearings scheduled and proceeded to have Manager Tencer give the FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget presentation.

NEW ITEMS:

- 1. Haw River Town Staff presented the FY 2023-2024 Town of Haw River Annual Budget and the FY 2023-2024 Fee Schedule (Documents were provided at the meeting).**

Manager Tencer began to read the budget message as given to all of the Town Council members regarding the FY 2023-2024 Town of Haw River Annual Budget. Some highlights of the budget consisted of the following:

- 1. The proposed annual budget totals \$5,622,357, a 20.4% increase over FY 2022-2023.*
- 2. The Ad Valorem tax rate is recommended to be \$.44 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to maintain the same levels of service to the town.*
- 3. One penny on the tax rate is estimated to generate \$25,110 in the upcoming year based on a 98% collection rate.*
- 4. No increase in stormwater fees is proposed.*
- 5. Solid waste and recycling bills will increase by \$5.05 a month due mainly to increases in the higher costs of recycling.*
- 6. The Code Enforcement program started last year, as a contracted service for \$15,000 will be increased to \$16,000 in this budget.*
- 7. A 5% increase to water and a 5% increase to sewer are being proposed. This cost is being passed directly from the City of Burlington to all end-users in town. This does include our largest customer, Orange-Alamance Water Authority. Since property taxes and recycling fees are increasing, town staff does not feel comfortable raising the water and sewer rates beyond the increases being passed on from the City of Burlington.*
- 8. This budget does include a five percent (5%) cost of living adjustment (COLA), and the mid-point adjustments made to employee salaries in accordance with the pay plan study.*
- 9. Employee Health Insurance premiums increased by 2.5% this year. Short term disability will increase by 3.7%: life insurance will remain the same, and there will be no change in dental insurance.*
- 10. A mandatory employer contribution increased from 12.10% to 12.85% for regular employees, and from 13.10% to 14.10% for sworn police employees to the Local Government Retirement System (LGERS) is included.*

11. *An addition of \$10,000 has been included for the MERP (Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan), restoring the reserve to \$22,274.*
12. *The General Fund Balance or the Water and Sewer Fund Balance will not be used to balance the budgets in this proposal.*
13. *Plan to fix light pole at park (\$25,000) and new truck for Jesus.*

Mayor Allen mentioned that once the budget was presented to Town Council that there has to be a minimum of ten (10) days between the budget presentation and a public hearing because of North Carolina General Statutes. Since, ten days from the June 5th council meeting will be either a Thursday or Friday, she suggested having the public hearing on the budget to be scheduled for Monday, June 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Allen asked for a motion to hold the hearing on the 2023-2024 budget on Monday, June 19th at 6 pm. Mr. Riggan made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Mrs. Wilson.

Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Allen moved onto "New Items" on tonight's agenda.

- 2. Town Council reviewed and considered approving a resolution accepting \$525,000 in grant funding (ARP) from NC DEQ to assist on infrastructure upgrades to several lift stations owned and operated by the Town of Haw River.**

Mayor Allen asked if any council member had a question regarding this item. No one replied.

Mayor Allen asked for a motion to approve agenda item #2.

Mr. Lineberry made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Mrs. Wilson.

Motion carried 4-0

- 3. Town Council approved the yearly audit contract with Cobb, Ezekiel, Loy, and Company, P.A.**

Mayor Allen asked if anyone had any questions or concerns? No one had any questions or concerns, and Mayor Allen stated that Cobb, Ezekiel, Loy, and Company have done a real good job for the Town since taking over.

Mayor Allen asked for a motion to approve agenda item #3.

Ms. Wilson made a motion to approve, and Mr. Riggan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

Public Comments:

4. None

- 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.

Manager Report

Mr. Tencer went over the Town Manager's report as provided in the agenda packet.

Announcements

Mr. Riggan mentioned that he went and looked at the new playground at Red Slide Park and it looked good. Mayor Allen agreed with Mr. Riggan, and she saw a Facebook post showing a child playing on it already.

Mr. Tencer stated that his contribution to the playground was picking the color red for the playground slides to match the park's name, Red Slide Park.

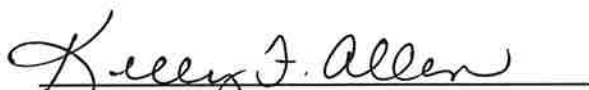
Town Council members had no other comments.

Adjourn


Mayor Allen asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lineberry made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Riggan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

Council Adjourned at 6:21 p.m.



Kelly Allen, Mayor



Lesley Gonzalez, Town Clerk