



**Town of Haw River  
Town Council Special Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 19, 2025**

The Haw River Town Council held its **special budget meeting** on Monday, May 19, 2025, in the Haw River Municipal Building at 6:00 pm.

Council Members Present: Mayor H. Lee Lovette, Mayor Pro-Tem Patty Wilson, Council Member Steve Lineberry, and Council Member Shawn Riggan.

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: Town Manager Sean Tencer, Town Clerk Lesley Gonzalez, Assistant Finance Director Karina Mendoza, Fire Chief Tyler Franklin, Assistant Police Chief Brian Philips, Public Works Director Robert Brewer, Assistant Public Works Director Cooper Dail, Parks & Recreation Director Jesus Garcia, and Town Attorney Jacob Wright.

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

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

***1. Town Manager Sean Tencer gave a presentation on the FY 2025-2026 Town Budget to the Haw River Town Council***

Mr. Lovette asked Town Manager Tencer to read his budget message to the town council regarding the upcoming 2025-2026 town budget.

Mr. Tencer started by telling the town council that the town still faces economic hardship due to reasons beyond its control, like inflation, interest rates, labor costs, material costs, supply-chain issues, and tariffs. Mr. Tencer stated that property taxes will remain at .44 cents per \$100 of valuation, sales tax prediction is at 2.8% for the upcoming budget year, according to the North Carolina League of Municipalities, but town staff chose to lower it by 1% to 1.8% out of caution. The total revenue (ad valorem and sales tax) for the General Fund will be \$2,537,671 for 2025-2026.

Mr. Tencer went over the employee benefit cost summary. Unfortunately, NCLM decided to terminate its Health Benefit Trust benefits for all participating municipalities effective on June 30, 2025. Town staff had to look into replacing the health insurance, dental insurance, and eye insurance for FY 2025-2026. This also included short-term disability and life insurance. Town staff chose to partner with HILB insurance group for medical, dental, and eye insurance, and picked Blue Cross/Blue Shield as the medical provider for 2025-2026 because they offered a similar plan compared to our old plan. The medical insurance rates increased by 6.5%. The Town chose to stay with NCLM for property and casualty insurance with an 11.25% increase. The Town will still provide the MERP program for employees to offset medical insurance premiums. A total of \$18,000 will be put back into the MERP fund for the new fiscal year. Mr. Tencer explained that the Local Government Retirement System increased rates for the seventh year in a row. Mr. Tencer also explained that there will be a 3% COLA increase for full-time staff.

Here are some other points that were made by Mr. Tencer:

- Garbage and recycling rates increased 3.8% for the upcoming fiscal year due to a CPI increase. There was already an increase last year, which we did not pass on to the customers. However, the two-year increases are too much for the town to absorb; therefore, the new rate will add \$2.06 a month per bill.
- No increase in fees for the E-911 (C-Com) (radio contracted services). The \$21,000 per year fee is split between the fire and police departments' budgets.
- The fees for the animal shelter have gone up 5.3% from \$19,000 to \$20,020 due to increased cost of operations.
- Our property and liability insurance for the Town through NCLM may increase by an estimated 11.25%, or up to a total of \$56,958.37. This line item includes employee bonds and workers' compensation. Workers' compensation should not have much of an increase from the \$37,356.05 for FY 24-25.
- The code enforcement cost will remain at \$16,500.00 from last year.
- No suggested increases in fees (park rentals, planning and zoning, stormwater, water/sewer development fees and tap fees, etc.) (Fee schedule will remain the same except for water/sewer rates and garbage/recycling – See Water/Sewer Fund)
- No major capital purchases in the proposed budget, except for a new 8' fence between the two softball fields to replace the current 4' fence. This is for safety reasons. The estimated cost was \$30,000.
- Water/Sewer fees will increase by 5% due to the City of Burlington raising its rates by 5%. The total monthly water and sewer bill, including solid waste, recycling, and stormwater fees, will increase from \$65.50 to \$69.90.

Mr. Tom Booney asked one question about the sales tax. He wanted to know what the 1% difference would be for the sales tax revenue decrease. Mr. Tencer stated around \$8,000, but the Finance Director, Lesley Gonzalez, could email him that information.

Mr. Tencer concluded his budget message and asked for town council to set a public hearing date of June 2, 2025, at 6 pm. This will be the next regular scheduled meeting for the town council.

Council member Steve Lineberry made a motion to set the public hearing date for June 2, 2025, at 6 pm, with a second motion from Mayor Pro Tem Patty Wilson.

Motion carried 4-0

**ADJOURN:**

Councilmember Riggan asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Steve Lineberry seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

Council Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



H. Lee Lovette, Mayor



Lesley Gonzalez, Town Clerk