



**Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.**

Mayor O’Cain called the Special Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. on March 7, 2023, electronically through Zoom and in person.

The following members attended in person at Town Hall, 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park NC 28739:

- Mayor Carey O’Cain
- Commissioner George W. Banta
- Commissioner Kristin Dunn
- Commissioner Deb Bridges
- Town Manager Alex Carmichael
- Town Clerk Tamara Amin
- Assistant to the Town Manager Jordan Jones
- Police Chief Bobbie Trotter
- Public Works Supervisor Brandon Johnson
- Parks Technician Bryan Hensley
- Fire Chief Tim Garren
- Will Buie- WGLA

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Hansen moved to approve the agenda. Mayor O’Cain asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Will Buie of WGLA presented Council with different numbers and scenarios for road repairs. Council asked Mr. Buie to decreasing the lifecycle and increase resurfacing by changing the sufficiency rating.

Commissioner Banta asked to get an example of putting in \$600,000 for roads in the next five years.

Mr. Buie then explained that if the Council is wanting to accelerate paving, they also need to accelerate culvert repairs.

Mayor O’Cain asked Town Manager Carmichael to get together with Mr. Buie for the various scenarios to get back to Council in a Special Meeting by the end of the month.

Mr. Will Buie departed the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Town Manager Carmichael said the rising costs have really been significant in this upcoming budget year. Examples included:

- Fire Protection – 17.7%
- Garbage Collection – 6%
- Pensions – .74% Reg / 1.2% LEO
- Ecusta Trail – 100%
- Yellow Book Audit – 18.92%
- Legal Expenses

Town Manger Carmichael also said there are additional priorities that need to be addressed in the new fiscal year budget. Examples included:

- Roads - \$600,000
- CIP - \$235,536
- Parks & Greenways - \$34,300
- Parks/ Public Works Employee - \$56,888
- COLA/ Merit - \$57,553.25/?
- Centennial - \$20,000
- US 64 Landscaping - \$30,000

Total = \$1,034,277.25

Mr. Carmichael said the Consumer Price Index as increased by 6.9% for the Southeast Region.

Later, Mr. Carmichael presented Council with the different tax rate scenarios and the effect it will have on the budget.

Council discussed the new living wage and bringing the bottom employees up.

Council also discussed the need to increase the State mandated Stormwater fee that the City of Hendersonville collects for the Town. Currently the Town charges a fee of \$5 for a total revenue of \$75K. The Town will need to get the revenue above \$100K.

Council asked Mr. Carmichael for the following:

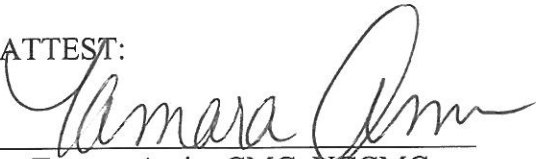
- Compare tax rate to the City of Hendersonville.
- Where are the taxes going to, i.e. fire protection and rescue, trash, etc.
- What can department heads go without
- Where is the most money going
- How much increases in the last two years
- What percentage of the budget goes where

- Sit with Commissioner Banta to discuss budget numbers and scenarios
- Schedule another Special meeting

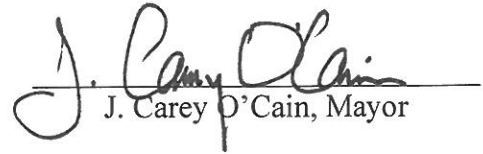
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Bridges moved to adjourn at 11:07 a.m. Mayor O’Cain asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

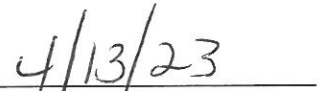
ATTEST:



Tamara Amin, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector



J. Carey O’Cain, Mayor



Date