



BUDGET WORKSHOP

Wampee Conference Center, 2213 Pinopolis Road,
Pinopolis, SC 29469
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Workshop was called to order by Mayor Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr. at 10:00 a.m.

Present:

Mayor Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem David A. Dennis, Jr.
Council Member Leroy S. Dingle, Jr.
Council Member James N. Law, Jr.
Council Member Latorie S. Lloyd
Council Member Chadwick D. Sweatman
Council Member James B. Ware, III

Staff Present:

Jeffrey V. Lord, Town Administrator
Marilyn M. Baker, Administrative Services Director/Clerk to Council
Justine H. Lovell, Finance Director

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to go into executive session to discuss a proposed contractual arrangement related to Downtown TIF. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ware and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware

Out of Executive Session:

Motion was made by Council Member Sweatman to go out of executive session and reconvene to the special meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ware and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware

Lunch: Council recessed for lunch at 11:56 a.m.

Reconvene to Executive Session:

Council reconvened the Executive Session after lunch at 12:52 p.m. Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to go back into executive session and reconvene the

meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Law and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware

Out of Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Dennis to go out of executive session and reconvene to the special meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ware and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware

Mayor Hamilton announced that no action was taken during executive session.

Council reconvened to the Budget Workshop at 1:38 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

2. Discussion: FY 2027 Budget Discussion

Administrator Lord and Finance Director Justine Lovell presented highlights of the proposed FY 2027 as follows:

- No Tax Increase
- Community Works Program – This proposal was to establish an employer assisted housing program for Town employees through a partnership with Community Works. - Not approved
- EAP - (Employee Assistance Program) & (FRAP) - First Responders Assistance Program - \$8500 - Approved
- Fee increases:
 - Fire Report from \$20 - \$25
 - CPR Training Fees from \$25 - \$50
 - False Alarm Fees for Fire
 - 1st – 2nd Alarms) - Free per calendar year
 - 3rd Alarm) \$100 per calendar year
 - 4th Alarm) plus \$200 per calendar year
 - Plan Review Fees (Commercial)
 - Up to 999 sq. ft \$75
 - 1,000 to 2,499 sq. ft. \$100
 - 2,500 to 9,999 sq. ft. \$150
 - 10,000 to 49,999 sq. ft \$200
 - 50,000 plus sq. ft. \$300
 - Re-Inspection Fees (All Types)
 - 1st Re-Inspection \$50
 - 2nd Re-Inspection \$100
 - 3rd and subsequent Re-Inspection increase in \$50 Increments.
- By Department - The following new positions and equipment were approved:
 - Administration
 - HR Director

- Payroll Specialist
 - Grants Manager
- Community Development
 - Code Enforcement Officer for Licensing
 - Planning Technician
- Economic Development (New Department)
 - Economic Development Director
 - Capital Expense – Vehicle \$35,000
 - Department Operation Expense- \$196,688
- Fire Department
 - 3 Battalion Chief Positions
 - Arctic Custom Compressor for Station 2 – Grant Funded @ \$70,198
The Fire Department has applied for a grant to fund. If the grant is not approved the expense will not be funded.
- Information Technology
 - Software/Applications & Web Administrator
 - Network NAS Storage (All Town Data) \$10,500
 - Asset Manager Software \$3,800
 - Ipads for Town Council – Not approved
 - Tyler Technology Financial Software Upgrade \$129,565
 - ALPR Cameras \$11,000 – Upgraded surveillance cameras and license plate readers at Berkeley High School.
 - IPads for Council – Not approved
- Police Department
 - Traffic Lieutenant Position
 - SRO Sergeant Position (Subject to School District Approval)
 - Reclassification of Corporal position to Sergeant
 - 2 Patrol Officers Positions
 - 3 Police Tahoes \$105,558 ea. – Funded out of Impact Fees
 - Badge Replacement and Upgrade \$29,700
 - CALEA Accreditation \$28,000
- Public Service Department:
 - LED Conversion of Field 3 at the Youth Fields \$50,000
 - Bucket Truck (Used) \$65,500
 - Ford F150 4x4 \$57,000
 - 72in Diesel Exmark Zero Turn \$\$25,000
 - 7-ton Trailer with electric brakes \$8,500
 - Concrete Repairs at Fire Station I, \$16,000 and Station II, \$11,000
- Recreation
 - Youth Field Renovations \$29,250
- Sanitation Department
 - Garbage Truck - International HV607 SDA Loadmaster 25 yd body@ \$318,000 – Funded out of Impact Fees
- Storm Water
 - Stormwater Inspector Position
 - 6' Bypass/transfer trailer mounted pump \$55,000
 - Chevy Colorado \$40,000
 - Main St/Lacey Park (RIA & Stag Grant) \$3,178,000

In conclusion, the proposed FY 2027 budget except for the Community Works program and iPads for Council was approved as presented. Council will move forward with first reading during the July 21st meeting of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis and seconded by Council Member Lloyd to adjourn the workshop of Council. Motion was approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Law, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware

The workshop was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

A copy of this meeting's agenda was posted on the Municipal Complex bulletin board and Town website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Minutes Approved and Adopted:

Marilyn M. Baker/Clerk to Council

August 18, 2026

DATE