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## **BUDGET MEETING MARCH 11, 2026**

The Town Council of the Town of Pineville, NC met in a Budget Workshop on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in Town Hall Council Chambers.

### Attendance:

Mayor: Amelia Stinson-Wesley

Mayor Pro Tem: Nick Gallo

Council Members: Danielle Moore, Josh Simelton, and Ed Samaha

Town Manager: Ryan Spitzer

Asst Town Manager/Finance Director: Chris Tucker

Town Clerk: Lisa Snyder

Mayor Stinson-Wesley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, Chris Tucker, began the budget meeting by welcoming Town Council to Budget Work Session #1 and set the stage on what will be covered. He stated that at the next meeting, they will be discussing the Public Safety budget with Chief Hudgins.

Mr. Tucker explained Fund Accounting Methodology and how it is used by Governmental Accounting, which includes non-profits, churches, and HOA's. There are four types of funds: Government, Propriety, Fiduciary, and Internal Service. They are three types of governmental funds: General Fund, Special Revenue Fund, and Capital Project Fund (for multi-year projects).

The Town's major funds are: General Fund, Electric Fund, Telephone ILEC-Enterprise, and Telephone CLEC-Enterprise. Mr. Tucker explained the CPF (Capital Project Funds), which include the Johnston Drive project, the new Fire Station, McCullough Greenway, and two Electric operations items. He further explained that Fund Balance equals reserves, savings, equity, and earnings.

The Town has a new Fund Balance policy range in the general fund of 24 – 32% Fund Balance to current year expenditures. The Town's current ratio is 50% of Unassigned Fund Balance. This amount represents about six months of expenditures.

There are five types of Fund balance. They are non-spendable (leases), restricted (Powell Bill), committed (stormwater and tourism), assigned and unassigned. Mr. Tucker reviewed the Enterprise Funds and noted that Fund Balance = Unrestricted Net Position, which is the term used in Electric.

He further explained, particularly to our newest council members, that the local government Budget & Fiscal Control Act requires local governments to develop and adopt a balanced budget by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year and will go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Spitzer is the Budget Officer for the Town. He develops the Budget Message and presides over the presentation of the final recommended budget.

The budget ordinance creates the budget. This is the budgetary level at which council approves. Public Safety is 50% of the entire budget. The fee schedule and electric rates are also included at the end of the budget ordinance. Mr. Spitzer added that he anticipates a 3% increase in revenues this year. New revenues are needed in order to create new initiatives. Revenues received from property taxes made up about 49% of FY25's actual revenue. Fiscal Year 2025 will be the next revaluation. He also noted that Pineville is 66% commercial.

Mr. Spitzer presented "outside organization funding." The following organizations have made requests for financial support in the past: Pineville Neighbors Place, PCAA, Downtown Merchants, James Polk Site, Arts & Sciences, Hope Soccer, and Pineville Players. Town Council made the decision to sponsor the following groups:

Pineville Neighbor's Place	-	\$100,000	(Council requested two scenarios of \$100K or \$125K from
PCAA	-	15,000	Town Manager Spitzer and see which amount they can do)
Downtown Merchants	-	10,000	
Polk Site	-	10,000	
Arts & Science	-	<u>10,000</u>	
TOTAL	-	\$145,000	

In order for a group to be considered, their organization must be of benefit to everyone.

Mr. Spitzer reminded Council of the goals that they discussed at the Town Council Retreat earlier this year. Mayor Pro Tem Gallo would like to see something done with the empty gas station at the corner of Main Street and South Polk. He believes it's an eyesore to the town. Mayor Stinson-Wesley said that she would like to widen the sidewalk in front of the Garrison and eliminate the parking on that side of the street. Council Member Simelton asked about the possibility of expanding the Belle Johnston Center in the back of that building. He feels an update is long overdue. Town Council would like to look at getting an expansion study completed.

Mr. Tucker reminded Council that the next budget meeting is Monday, March 16th at 6:00 pm and will be held in the Town Hall Council Chambers. This session will deal with Public Safety with Chief Hudgins attending.

Council Member Moore moved to adjourn the meeting followed by a second made by Mayor Pro Tem Gallo. All ayes. Adjournment was at 9:00 pm.

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Mayor Pro Tem Nick Gallo

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk Lisa Snyder