

SHALLOTTE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MAY 1, 2025
5:15 P.M.

The Shallotte Board of Aldermen met for a budget workshop on May 1, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in the meeting chambers located at 110 Cheers Street with Mayor Walt Eccard presiding.

Aldermen present: Gene Vasile, Bobby Williamson, Jimmy Bellamy, Larry Harrelson and Karmen Custer (5:18).

Staff present: Mimi Gaither, Robert Waring, Isaac Norris, Natalie Goins, Adam Stanley, Robert Gravino, Paul Dunwell, Justin Ward and Ashley White.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eccard called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Jimmy Bellamy seconded by Bobby Williamson to open the meeting. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.

II. AGENDA AMENDMENTS & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Gene Vasile seconded by Larry Harrelson to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.

III. ANCILLARY BENEFITS

1. Insurance Plan Comparison

Human Resources Manager Ashley White presented an overview of the insurance plan comparison between the Town's current plans and the proposed plans from The Robert Taylor Group. A motion was made by Bobby Williamson seconded by Gene Vasile authorizing the Town to approve The Robert Taylor Group for ancillary benefits. Motion carried 5 yes 0 no.

IV. DEPARTMENTS

1. FIRE

Town Manager Mimi Gaither and Fire Chief Paul Dunwell reviewed the Fire department budget.

- 2.5% COLA
- The addition of a full time employee based on the department study recommendations (would help with achieving critical task completion benchmarks)
- Professional services line item includes \$21,000 merger feasibility study and annual physicals
- Consideration of SAFER grant for staffing

POLICE

Town Manager Mimi Gaither and Police Chief Adam Stanley reviewed the Police department budget.

- Increase in salaries
- Insurance costs increase, particularly for police departments
- Building insurance increase
- Continuation of vehicle leasing program (add 6 vehicles to rotation)
- Sell 3 older Explorers
- Transfer truck to Maintenance dept.
- AXON mobile & body cameras (cloud based)

V. DISCUSSION

- May Work Session meeting
 - Updates on the town hall building project and cost-cutting measures
 - Request from Brunswick County Conservation group regarding the Little Church
- It was the consensus of the Board for staff to calculate the difference between 2.5% and 3% COLA increase for further consideration.

VI. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Gene Vasile seconded by Bobby Williamson to adjourn at 6:11 p.m.

Motion carried 5 yes 0 no.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Goins
Town Clerk