

BANNER ELK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 24, 2025

Reconvened June 9th Meeting

MINUTES

The Banner Elk Town Council met on Monday, June 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members present: Mayor Brenda Lyerly, Mike Dunn, David Lecka, Robert Tufts, and Charles VonCanon.

Staff present: Town Manager Rick Owen and Attorney Eggers.

Call Meeting to Order

At 6:00 pm Mayor Lyerly reconvened the June 9th Town Council meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lyerly led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Council Member VonCanon opened the meeting with prayer.

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Discussion and Adoption of 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance

Manager Owen introduced the changes to the budget. The Town lost coverage of Life and Long term Disability through the League of Municipalities and picked it up from another company. With the savings there, the Town also changed dental plans and that actually had the net effect of not changing any of those line items. For the Property and Liability insurance policies have an estimated cost based on the average costs overall.

The Council discussed specific numbers and items with Manager Owen, but he stated that the budget is what they have seen previously with the exception of these two changes.

The Council discussed the COPS Golf Tournament. Most of the funds for the Tournament from last year was donated when the Tournament didn't happen. There will not be a Tournament this year because the golf course is not yet rebuilt.

Council Member Dunn asked for clarification about FEMA monies on the budget and Manager Owen stated that they are not on the budget because there isn't a clear line item to be created at this time. Council Member VonCanon asked for clarification about funds for items like building maintenance and Manager Owen explained that specific line items are within Streets and Public Works and can be found whenever requested.

Council Member Lecka made a motion to approve the budget as written and was seconded by Council Member Tufts. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Micro Purchasing Resolution

Manager Owen asked the Council to adopt the resolution for Micro Purchasing for fiscal year 2025-2026. This will allow the Town to have more power to accept and spend federal money which is particularly helpful during recovery from Hurricane Helene.

Council Member VonCanon made a motion to adopt the Micro Purchasing Resolution for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and Council Member Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Budget Amendments

Manager Owen explained the amendment under expenses for an increase over \$12,000. This reflects the interest on the HBES Site Project loan when it was interest only and it is now part of the permanent loan. Other items are under administration, the bulk of which is related to Helene, and an HRA-centered line item that is related to health reimbursement. He stated that the professional services line item is for both Attorney Eggers and Riley. The public building and utilities are an increase in utilities costs in public works. The police department had overtime hours that will be submitted to FEMA and can be reimbursable as can the costs associated with a police vehicle that was damaged and had to be repaired. Manager Owen further listed the capital outlay line item which represented the water line work that had to be conducted on the HBES. He explained that under water and sewer the line items include postage for processing the bills and several items that are directly related to Hurricane Helene. For the HBES he highlighted the need for an amendment in professional services for the pictures that were donated to the Town and then given to the GBEHF, credit card fees for Art on The Greene, and making up the difference for the Book Exchange expenditures and what was raised in donations.

Council Member Tufts made a motion to accept the Budget Amendment 20250624 and Council Member Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager Owen detailed a budget item brought to the Town from the auditor. He showed the Town two budget amendments that the Council had adopted previously and asked them to rescind those amendments. He asked them to adopt two new amendments in place of those. One will change to accurately represent where money is moving, although the dollar amounts will remain the same and the second will change the amount to accurately balance according to how money flowed.

Council Member VonCanon made a motion to rescind budget amendments #1 and #2 and Council Member Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lecka made a motion to adopt Amendment 20250624-1 and Council Member Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Dunn made a motion to adopt Amendment 20250624-2 and Council Member Tufts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Manager Owen explained that the ABC Board needs to clarify the terms of their Board members. Both the primary and alternate members from Banner Elk have been appointed to the Board but the schedules for reappointment have become skewed. The terms are not on the correct schedule and need to be adjusted. To correct this, Manager Owen is asking the Council to recognize that Robin Dunn is the primary member of the Board who is one year into a three-year term and her term will expire in 2027. The Council would then need to recognize that Rob Corn who serves as the alternate member, would be reappointed now beginning to serve a 3-year term.

Council Member VonCanon made a motion recognizing that Robin Dunn is serving a three-year term that will expire in 2027 and Rob Corn is appointed to be serving the current alternate member term, Council Member Lecka seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about sign ordinances including the feather flags appearing around town. They are not allowed, and work is being done to correct. The town had been somewhat lenient with businesses after the storm as they tried to let people know they were back open.

Manager Owen shared the progress of the Elk River Wastewater Treatment Plant hearings with the Board of Adjustments.

Council Member Lecka stated that he would like to recognize and honor former mayors of the Town. Some work has been done to gather names, pictures, and terms.

Council Member Tufts suggested that something should be done to recognize the contributions and service of Roy Krege. Mayor Lyerly stated that a resolution could be made and Council Member Lecka highlighted the more permanent installation ideas that could be made. The Council discussed the need to recognize people who have contributed to the Town, particularly those who are deceased. Dana Rominger was mentioned for his long history of keeping the Town clear of litter. There was agreement that a proclamation for Roy would be a good and appropriate place to start.

Adjourn

With no further business, Council Member Tufts motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Council Member Dunn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting ended at 6:58.

Approved: _____
Mayor Brenda Lyerly

Attested: _____