

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
BUDGET WORK SESSION
May 19, 2025**

THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL held a special called meeting on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room located at 95 East Main Street Franklin, NC.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jack Horton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:
Council Members: Rita Salain, Mike Lewis, Robbie Tompa and David Culpepper arrived at 6:09 p.m.

2. EXCUSE TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE – Mayor Jack Horton

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Robbie Tompa to excuse Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey and Councilman Joe Collins. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 3-0.

3. PRESENTATION

First Tryon Advisors – Andy Smith, Managing Director and Charles Habilston, V, Vice President

Andy Smith and Chazzo Habilston, municipal financial advisors, presented the Capital Planning Model for the Town of Franklin. First Tryon assists with capital project planning (where are you going, how/when are you going to get there and how much will it cost), capital project execution (taking the project to the market – help with financing/RFPs with banks), and ongoing maintenance/monitoring.

Chazzo Habilson discussed the importance of capital planning, the Capital Planning Model Overview, inputs/assumptions, and outputs (projected General Fund/Water& Sewer Fund impacts).

There was additional discussion/demonstration on the model and what it can do.

Councilman Culpepper asked about the cost. Town Manager Owens said the cost of the model was \$25,000 and had already been purchased.

4. BUDGET DISCUSSION – Town Council and Town Staff

Councilman Culpepper clarified that the water/sewer rate increase of 10% is for the upcoming fiscal year and then the following year the increase will go back to 4%. Ms. Owens noted that if possible, rates would return to the predicted rates; however, until the actual budget preparation is completed, that could not be confirmed. He also inquired about the funds for the greenway connector boardwalk. Town Manager Owens stated the remaining funds (\$227,443) to balance the budget are listed in the Streets - Capital Outlay Recreation line-item. Town Manager Owens also noted there may be additional allocations needed for that project.

Councilwoman Salain inquired about the fireworks and what line-item those funds were in. Town Manager Owens said the fireworks are in the Festival/Events- Contract Services line-item. Councilwoman Salain also inquired about beautification projects. Town Manager Owens explained where the beautification funds were budgeted.

There was additional discussion about flowers in round-a-bouts and on Main Street. There was discussion on hiring/contracting someone to take care of the plants on Main Street. An additional \$30,000 is to be added to the budget from Fund Balance for beautification. Councilwoman Salain will work on a plan and will present at a later date.

5. ADJOURN

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to adjourn at the meeting at 7:28 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 4-0.

C. Jack Horton, Mayor

Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk