

**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