SHALLOTTE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
JUNE 18, 2026
5:15 P.M.

The Shallotte Board of Aldermen met for their Budget Public Hearing on June 18, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. in the meeting chambers located at 110 Cheers Street with Mayor Art Dornfeld presiding.

Aldermen present: Larry Harrelson, Karmen Custer, Gene Vasile, and Bobby Williamson

Aldermen absent: Jimmy Bellamy

Staff present: Mimi Gaither, Robert Waring, Paul Dunwell, Dan Formyduval, Megan Bellamy, Isaac Norris, Jeremy Dixon, Natalie Goins and Kirstie White.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dornfeld called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Karmen Custer seconded by Gene Vasile to open the meeting. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.

II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

III. AGENDA AMENDMENTS & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

1. A motion was made by Bobby Williamson seconded by Gene Vasile to open the public hearing. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.
2. Town Manager Mimi Gaither presented a summary of the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget. The following highlights were covered:

   Financial Overview
   • Balanced budget with no property tax increase
   • Tax rate remains at $0.31 per $100 valuation
   • General Fund Budget: $10,246,410
   • Enterprise Fund Budget: $4,563,903
   • Maintains the Board's commitment to fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability

Growth & Development
• Population estimate in 25-26 4,992 residents with increase project expected in July 2026
• Approximately 3,851 residential units in various stages of development
• 157 single-family permits issued in FY 2025–2026
• Brunswick County remains one of the fastest-growing counties in North Carolina and the nation

Fiscal Responsibility
• No new General Fund debt obligations
• Strategic use of fund balance for non-recurring expenditures
• Continued pursuit of grants and partnerships
• Municipal recycling services discontinued to avoid a tax increase and preserve core services

Employee Investment
• Proposed 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
• Possible 2% merit adjustment
• Continued investment in employee benefits and retirement programs
• Focus on recruitment and retention of qualified personnel

Public Safety Investments
• Funding for one additional Police Officer (January 2027)
• Funding for one additional Firefighter (January 2027)
• Purchase of a Fire Department rescue boat
• Vehicle replacement program continues
• Planning initiated for a future third fire station

Infrastructure & Capital Projects
• Riverwalk Expansion Phase II
• Completion of Price Landing at Mulberry Park
• Municipal Complex/Town Hall planning and design refinement
• Riverfront development planning
• Street resurfacing and stormwater improvements
• Continued investment in parks and recreational facilities

Sewer System & Enterprise Fund
• Maintains 84 miles of sewer lines, 1,560 pump stations, and 35 lift stations
• Sewer rate increase of $1.96 per 1,000 gallons due to regional biosolids project costs
• Continued investment in sewer infrastructure and system reliability

The Town Manager commended department staff for their disciplined budget preparation and acknowledged Finance Director Isaac Norris for his substantial efforts throughout the budget process.

3. Public Comments/Questions
4. Board Comments/Questions
   Board members expressed appreciation for the work of Town Manager Mimi Gaither and all department heads in producing a responsible budget.
5. A motion was made by Karmen Custer seconded by Gene Vasile to close the public hearing. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.
6. A motion was made by Gene Vasile seconded by Larry Harrelson to approve Ordinance 26-07, approving the 2026-2027 Fiscal Budget for the Town of Shallotte. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.
7. A motion was made by Bobby Williamson seconded by Karmen Custer to approve Resolution 26-07, revising the current fee schedule for the Town of Shallotte. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Karmen Custer seconded by Bobby Williamson to approve the following consent agenda items. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.

A. Budget Amendment BA 25-26-8: $592,541.78

B. Personnel Policy Amendments
   Article VII Holidays & Leave of Absence

   Section 12 – Sick Leave
   The following provision has been added:

   "Employees serving a probationary period following initial employment may accumulate sick leave but shall not be permitted to take sick leave during the first six (6) months of employment unless approved by the Town Manager."

   Section 30 – Attendance & Absence Notification
   Section 30 has been added as follows:

   "Employees who are unable to report to work or who will be late must notify their supervisor as soon as possible, but no later than their scheduled start time. If an employee is unable to make the notification personally due to an emergency, a family member or other responsible party may contact the supervisor on the employee's behalf. Notification of an absence or tardiness does not automatically excuse the absence.

Failure to report to work and failure to notify the supervisor of an absence before the scheduled shift is considered a no call/no show and may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination."

VI. GARNET PLACE SEWER DEDICATION

1. A motion was made by Larry Harrelson seconded by Karmen Custer to approve the Sewer Indemnity Agreement. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.
2. A motion was made by Gene Vasile seconded by Bobby Williamson to approve Resolution 26-01 accepting dedication of Garnet Place sewer system. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.

VII. DISCUSSION

1. America 250 Proclamation

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Aldermen present: Larry Harrelson, Karmen Custer, Gene Vasile, and Bobby Williamson

Staff present: Mimi Gaither, Robert Waring, Dan Formyduval, Isaac Norris and Natalie Goins

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3), a motion was made by Karmen Custer seconded by Gene Vasile to go into closed session at 5:50 p.m. to consult with the Attorney in order to protect the attorney-client privilege. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.
Attorney Matt Bouchard joined the meeting via Teams to discuss the Town's options regarding the remaining uncompleted work under Cinderella's contract for the Price Landing project. It was noted that a meeting was scheduled with Cinderella the following Monday, and staff would report outcomes to the Board at the July 7th meeting. A motion was made by Gene Vasile seconded by Karmen Custer to resume regular session at 6:48 p.m. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Gene Vasile seconded by Karmen Custer to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Motion carried 4 yes 0 no.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Goins, Town Clerk