

**Minutes of the Public Hearing Meeting of
The Town Board of Commissioners
Town of Hamilton, NC
Monday, June 17, 2024**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hamilton met in a Public Hearing meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 06:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 109 North Front Street Hamilton NC 27840.

PRESENT

Mayor: Ervin Williams.

Commissioners: William Freeman, Tamika Council, Brandon Raynor, Larry Jackson

Town Clerk & Finance Officer: Allison Roebuck

ABSENT: NONE

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:36PM and called upon Rebecca Barr to present the draft audit for 2022-2023 via zoom.

REVIEW 22-23 DRAFT AUDIT PRESENTATION BY REBECCA BARR VIA ZOOM

Rebecca Barr reviewed the financial highlights of the draft audit states the assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town of Hamilton exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the fiscal year by \$3,565,170 (*net position*). The government's total net position decreased by \$139,428, due to a larger decrease in business-type activities partially offset by an increase in governmental activities. Approximately 31.63 percent of this total amount, or \$335,302, is restricted. At the end of the current fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$724,635 or 164% of total general fund expenditures for the fiscal year. The Town of Hamilton's total debt decreased by \$21,000 during the current fiscal year. The key factor in this decrease was due to principal payments on long-term debt. The Town of Hamilton uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The Town of Hamilton's revenue bonds decreased by \$20,000 during the past fiscal year, primarily due to principal payments on prior debt. The Town Management and Staff have made a concentrated effort to reduce expenditure as much as possible. Barr requested the board to review the current rates for the Water and Sewer for collections to continue to have a positive balance. Barr also requested that the bond payment to our Town's savings needs to be paid as agreed upon by the town. Finance Officer Roebuck let the board and Mrs. Barr know the upcoming budget will cover the missed payments for years prior. Barr asked the board if they had any questions or concerns with the draft audit, board of commissioners had no questions or concerns at this time. The board requested more information and review of the documents presented by Barr before motion for approval. *Motion to approve the fiscal year 2022-2023 draft audit was tabled until the next Special Call meeting scheduled on Monday, June 24, 2024, at 6:30pm.*

PUBLIC HEARING

DRAFT BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 SET COLA

The board of commissioners began reviewing the presented draft budget by the finance officer Roebuck. At this time the board wished to review the increase for Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) as presented was from 3% to 5%. After discussion they requested to increase the

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COLA for all town employees that would vary from three four or five percent.

Motion to have the Cost-of-Living Adjustment approved for all town employees to increase 4% for the upcoming fiscal year and begin these rates as of July 1, 2024, by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Finance officer Roebuck presented to board of commissioners the fiscal year 2024 – 2025 Budget Message and Budget Ordinance for their review. The board reviewed the documents as presented and requested to table the motion for approval until the upcoming meeting scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2024, at 6:30pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Williams asked for public comments, No public attendance at the public hearing. The board of commissioners then discussed the last time the board has had an increase to their commissioners pay. Mayor Williams states after concluding the increase was over 10 to 12 years prior. The board decided to increase the commissioners’ pay for their service to the town. The new budget to be presented will also include an increase in the amount of \$250 each commissioner pays for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-2025. The board also discussed raising rates for the Water & Sewer base rates by 6% for the upcoming fiscal year.

Motion to increase the Town of Hamilton’s Commissioner pay in the amount of \$250 per Commissioner for the fiscal year 2024-2025 made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Council. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion to increase the new Water & Sewer base rates by 6% for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-2025 made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried 4-0.

Finance Officer Roebuck will update the new request for the changes including 4% COLA for all employees; Commissioner pay increase of \$250 per commissioner and include the water sewer base rate increase to reflect a 6% increase.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mayor Williams entertained a motion to adjourn if there is no other business to cover at this time.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried 4-0.

Submitted By:

Allison Roebuck, Town Clerk & Finance Officer

Approved By:

Ervin Williams, Mayor