

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
RETREAT/ PLANNING SESSION  
FEBRUARY 21, 2025**

**THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL** held a special strategic planning session on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Cope Hall at Andy's Trout Farm, Otto, NC.

**1. Call to Order- Mayor Jack Horton**

**Mayor Jack Horton called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with the following members present:**

Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey, Council Members David Culpepper, Joe Collins, Robbie Tompa, Mike Lewis and Rita Salain.

Staff members present: Town Manager Amie Owens, Finance Director Sarah Bishop, and HR Director/Town Clerk Nicole Bradley.

Mia Overton from The Franklin Press was also present.

**2. Recap of FY 23/24 and Mid-year Update- Amie Owens, Town Manager and Sarah Bishop, Finance Director**

Town Manager Owens gave a recap of FY 23/24 and a mid-year update.

There was discussion about the tree removal/replacement on Main Street. Town Manager Owens will work with Macon County.

Town Manager Owens discussed the need for Mission, Vision, Values and Goals for the Town. This will be discussed further on Saturday morning.

There was discussion about adding a cross walk on Iotla Street/Church Street. Town Manager Owens will reach out to NCDOT.

There was discussion on a separate board for the Fire Department since Town Council is the Board of Directors for Franklin Fire and Rescue.

Finance Director Sarah Bishop gave a revenue update. She noted that the property tax collection rate was on track to collect the 97% collection rate goal for FY 2024/2025. She also noted that the local option sales tax collection was up, but it's not projected to continue trending upwards. The Fire Revenue Fund has 3.27% left to collect and the Water/Sewer Fund is a little behind in collections for the fiscal year, with 44.15% left to collect. She stated the expenses were right in line with where they should be mid-year.

Finance Director Bishop discussed the Town's Fund Balance and Fund Balance Policy. She gave Town Council an estimate of funds available based on the parameters set by the Fund Balance Policy (See Exhibit A).

### **3. Discussion of topics for February 22, 2025 session**

Town Council made a list of topics for Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> discussion.

- Town Website
- Beautification (Roundabouts)
- Interlocal Agreements (LBJ Sewer Line)
- Housing – incentives/partnerships
- Greenway Connector (Allman Drive)
- Planning Board Process (Notifications for rezonings)
- Speeding (Downtown)

### **4. Recess Meeting**

**Mayor Jack Horton recessed the meeting at 8:08 p.m.**

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C. Jack Horton, Mayor

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Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk



## Saved the Best for Last...

### Fund Balance

Unassigned general fund balance available: **\$6,757,172**

80% threshold - 2,183,372

90% threshold - 1,611,647

100% threshold - \$1,039,922

(estimates are made based on an assumption of budget increase of 10% for FY 25-26 and no funds rolled in current year)

**Exhibit A**