



Regular Council - Minutes
Monday, June 2, 2025

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Mulhollem
Mayor Pro Tem Castleberry
Council Member Bruton
Council Member Jackson (Remotely)
Council Member Wilson

STAFF PRESENT:

Bryan Chadwick, Town Administrator
Marcus Burrell, Town Attorney
Kim P. Batten, Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Officer
Chris Allen, Parks & Recreation Director
Jenny Martin, Human Resources Officer/Town Clerk

COUNCIL ABSENT:

STAFF ABESENT:

Jason Kress, Town Planner

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1. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER:

a) Invocation

Mayor Mulhollem called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Jeffrey D. Barnes Council Chambers located at 14094 Buffalo Road, Archer Lodge, NC and declared a quorum present. Mayor Pro Tem Castleberry offered the invocation.

b) Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Mulhollem led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

a) No changes or additions.

Moved by Council Member Wilson
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Castleberry
Approved the Agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed; 3 minutes per person)

a) None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Approval of Minutes:**
05 Feb 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
19 Feb 2024 Budget Planning Retreat Minutes
04 Mar 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
18 Mar 2024 Budget Planning Retreat Minutes

Moved by Council Member Wilson
Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Castleberry
Approved Consent Agenda.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:
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a) Discussion and Possible Action of Adopting the Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 ~ BA 2025 03

Ms. Kim Batten presented a budget amendment to Council as a part of the annual clean up to balance the budget as it stood currently. She shared that any remaining changes will be presented at the final budget meeting for this fiscal year. Ms. Batten shared the revenues and expenditure changes that were made in each fund. Discussion followed.

The signed budget amendment is attached below.

Moved by Council Member Wilson

Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Castleberry

Adopted Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 ~ BA 2025 03

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[BA 2025 03 Signed](#)

b) PUBLIC HEARING - Proposed Annual Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

1. Mayor Mulhollem called for a motion to **Open the Public Hearing.**

2. Public Comments (Maximum of 30 minutes allowed; 3 minutes per person)

- Joshua Barbour of 420 Taftan Dr. Wendell, NC 27591 began by introducing himself to the Council and shared that in his opinion, he finds it hard to see a justification for extra money that the Town will receive by keeping the tax rate the same. He questioned what the residents of Archer Lodge will receive for the money that they pay in taxes. Mr. Barbour requested that the tax rate be reduced.
- Teresa Romano of 2308 Raintree Dr. Clayton, NC 27527 shared that she has worked with many people involved in Archer Lodge since 2014. She explained that in her experience working for the state government and having received a two percent increase to their salary, often no extra money is received by employees as often because raises were accompanied by an increase in expenses for benefits. She shared that in her opinion, it is important that Archer Lodge maintain salaries that are competitive in order to retain quality employees. Ms. Romano shared that she had pulled information to compare Archer Lodge to Wilson's Mills. She shared that of the information she compiled that Wilson's Mills is increasing their tax rate where as Archer Lodge is staying at the same rate. Ms. Romano shared that this is in relation to their population of over 2,000 whereas Archer Lodge is over 5,000. She explained that the Archer Lodge town website shows explicitly where funds are going. Ms. Romano shared departmental expenses in comparison to Wilson's Mills. She responded to a question regarding what benefits the residents receive, that the money is going into the future of our residents' children and the following generations. Ms. Romano closed her statement by thanking everyone for what they do as well as for keeping the citizens in mind while they make decisions.
- Kent Price of 14700 Buffalo Rd. Archer Lodge, NC 27527 shared that he has lived in Archer Lodge for many years. He shared that with the reevaluation of property values by the County, he would like to see the tax rate reduced. In his opinion, he shared that a more budget neutral rate would be around 19 percent. He shared that he believes that the benefits of the employees should provide the Town the most "bang for its buck". He explained that there should be cuts in areas such as training and meetings. He suggested that the Town provide training from the inside. He also recommended to cut the expenditures for grass maintenance. Mr. Price shared his opinions on

the Parks and Recreation department. Mr. Price expressed that he recommends that the Town reduce the tax rate and cut the current budget.

- Sonia Wolk of 457 Barrette Ln. Archer Lodge, NC 27527 thanked the Council Members and the Staff. She shared that there are open seats on the Council coming up for election. Ms. Wolk shared that she personally is against the tax rate and put out flyers. She shared that in her opinion, the public has expressed concern for the budget, specifically the 401K. Ms. Wolk shared that, in her opinion, the Town is in need of its own police department and water and sewage. She explained that the fire department receives a large portion of the taxes. She encouraged all in attendance to voice their opinions to the County. She shared, in her opinion, the Town pays the employees well and questioned whether the Town needs longevity or employees with lots of experience. She suggested seeking new-graduates that can grow with the Town. Ms. Wolk commended Chris Allen for his hard work. Ms. Wolk thanked Council Members for their dedication and shared that, in her opinion, the Town should have never been incorporated.
- Hearbert Locklear, a member of the Planning Board, shared that in his opinion, the budget is good but there are small things than can be changed. He shared that in his opinion, if Archer Lodge's Staff were not working in Archer Lodge, they would be working in the neighboring towns and communities. He emphasized that, in his opinion, it is important to compare Archer Lodge's benefits and salaries to those surrounding areas in order to stay competitive and keep quality staff members. Mr. Locklear said that in his opinion, the Town cannot be run by staff from the bottom of the barrel.

3. Mayor Mulhollem called for a motion to **Close the Public Hearing.**

Moved by Council Member Wilson

Seconded by Council Member Buzzelli

Approved to Open the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Castleberry

Seconded by Council Member Bruton

Approved to Close the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c) Discussion and Possible Action of Approving Future Meetings in June

Mr. Bryan Chadwick shared that the current meeting schedule has the upcoming work session scheduled for June 16th; however, many Council Members will not be present. He recommends that the work session be re-scheduled for June 9th. Council also discussed adding a special meeting on June 30th to vote for the budget.

Moved by Council Member Wilson

Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Castleberry

Approved Work Session be Rescheduled from June 16, 2025 to June 9, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

- a)** Attorney Burrell thanked all in attendance for coming to the meeting and welcomed the citizens' involvement. He encouraged citizens to come every Monday night to ensure that the Council can be informed of their opinions and to stay involved.

7. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- a) Mr. Chadwick reminded citizens that the Staff is always here. He encouraged people to stop by the Town Hall and voice their opinions as Staff is here for the citizens. Mr. Chadwick reminded everyone that the Johnston County Fire District meeting is scheduled for June 10th at the new public safety building. He agreed to forward that information to Council Members. Mr. Chadwick shared that on June 25th a Johnston County Development meeting will be held at Town Hall.

8. PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- a) Mr. Chris Allen shared that there was a baseball tournament this past weekend and that he received positive reviews of the park. He reminded the Council that Archer Lodge will be hosting little league championships June 13th-June 18th as well as the state tournament in July. Mr. Allen shared that he received an email Friday evening informing him that the department received a \$3,500.00 NC Amateur Sports Grant to go towards fence covers and disc golf. He shared that construction is underway for the Phase II bathroom facilities and hopefully will be done by July. Mr. Allen shared that irrigation and lighting for Phase II is set to begin in the coming months. He shared that he is looking forward to the progress.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT:

- a) Mayor Mulhollem thanked everyone for their attendance to the meeting.

10. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMARKS:

- a) Council Member Wilson shared that he has served for 12 years on the Council and is considering retirement. Council Member Wilson shared that he will serve for the rest of his term but is not planning on seeking re-election. He thanked his family for their support and the citizens.
- b) Council Member Buzzelli thanked all in attendance for coming to the meeting and encouraged citizens to attend future meetings.
- c) Mayor-Pro Tem Castleberry thanked all in attendance and reminded all that the budget process started in February. He reminded everyone that when the Town first incorporated, the Council Members didn't want to change anything unless they had to but acknowledged that the citizens have grown and the Town cannot be the same as before. Mayor-Pro Tem Castleberry reminded everyone of Noelle's story and what the Parks and Recreation department did for her before her passing. He shared that those types of gestures show what kind of town Archer Lodge is.
- d) Council Member Bruton thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked Council Member Wilson for his years of service.
- e) Council Member Jackson shared that he was happy to hear people come forward to share their opinion. Council Member Jackson explained that Archer Lodge has a big place in his heart and the Town itself, in his opinion, has a big heart. He shared that the Town does the best that they can with what they have. He explained that in his opinion, the budget process is significant and that it was done better this year. He shared that he is grateful for the members of Staff and the Council.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

a) Having no further business, Mayor Mulhollem called for a motion to adjourn.

Moved by Council Member Wilson

Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Castleberry

Approved to adjourn meeting at 7:26 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Matthew B. Mulhollem, Mayor



Jenny Martin, Town Clerk



Town of Archer Lodge
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025



Budget Amendment # BA 2025 03
Date: 02-Jun-25

Gen Fund/Cap Res Fund/Park Reserve Fund/Public Safety Res Fund

Account	Account Number	Budget	Amendment	Amended Budget
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Revenues:

Gen Fnd/2024 Property Taxes	10-3124-0000	1,150,000.00	50,000.00	1,200,000.00
Gen Fnd/2024 Vehicle Taxes	10-3124-0120	175,000.00	30,000.00	205,000.00
Gen Fnd/ABC Profits Johnston Co.	10-3337-0000	20,000.00	(5,000.00)	15,000.00
Gen Fnd/Permits and Fees	10-3340-0000	5,000.00	2,000.00	7,000.00
Gen Fnd/Parks & Recreation Rentals	10-3351-0000	20,000.00	(9,000.00)	11,000.00
Gen Fnd/PEG Channel Support	10-3461-0000	60,000.00	37,000.00	97,000.00
Gen Fnd/Miscellaneous Revenues	10-3800-0000	5,000.00	2,000.00	7,000.00
Gen Fnd/Investment Earnings	10-3831-0000	60,000.00	(14,000.00)	46,000.00
Gen Fnd/Fund Balance Appropriated	10-3990-0000	353,955.00	(56,000.00)	297,955.00
Cap Res Fnd/Transfer from General Fund 10	30-3900-3910	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	-
Park Res Fnd/Investment Earnings	31-3831-0000	1,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
Public Safety Res Fnd/Investment Earnings	32-3831-0000	1,000.00	15,000.00	16,000.00
Public Safety Res Fnd/Transfer from General Fund 10	32-3900-3910	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	-
Public Safety Res Fnd/Fund Balance Appropriated	32-3990-0000	224,000.00	10,000.00	234,000.00

Total Increase (Decrease) in Revenues

14,000.00

Expenditures:

Gen Fnd/Gov Body/Supplies-Gov Body	10-4110-2000	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
Gen Fnd/Gov Body/Legal Advertising	10-4110-3700	3,000.00	(1,000.00)	2,000.00
Gen Fnd/Admin/Medical/Dental/Vision	10-4120-1830	29,000.00	(1,800.00)	27,200.00
Gen Fnd/Admin/Supplies-Admin	10-4120-2000	2,500.00	1,000.00	3,500.00
Gen Fnd/Admin/Postage	10-4120-3250	500.00	800.00	1,300.00
Gen Fnd/Public Bldgs/Professional Fees	10-4190-1900	13,850.00	(10,000.00)	3,850.00
Gen Fnd/Public Bldgs/LP Gas	10-4190-3320	2,500.00	500.00	3,000.00
Gen Fnd/Public Bldgs/Small Equipment & Furnishings	10-4190-5000	1,000.00	13,000.00	14,000.00
Gen Fnd/Public Bldgs/Building Permits	10-4190-5900	5,000.00	(3,500.00)	1,500.00
Gen Fnd/PEG Media Partners - EWT	10-4200-3500	60,000.00	37,000.00	97,000.00
Gen Fnd/Public Works/Road Signs/Banners	10-4510-3590	10,000.00	1,000.00	11,000.00
Gen Fnd/Public Works/Installation Street Lights	10-4510-5000	2,000.00	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
Gen Fnd/PZ/Salaries (Part-Time)	10-4910-1220	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
Gen Fnd/PZ/Contracted Services	10-4910-3500	48,500.00	(3,000.00)	45,500.00
Gen Fnd/P&R/Overtime	10-6120-1215	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	-
Gen Fnd/P&R/Salaries (Part-Time)	10-6120-1220	35,000.00	(6,000.00)	29,000.00
Gen Fnd/P&R/Contracted Services	10-6120-3500	55,240.00	7,000.00	62,240.00
Gen Fnd/P&R/Repairs & Maintenance Equipment	10-6120-3520	2,500.00	4,000.00	6,500.00
Cap Res Fnd/Transfer to Fund Balance	30-9990-0000	26,000.00	(25,000.00)	1,000.00
Park Res Fnd/Recreation Development	31-6120-5500	84,000.00	2,000.00	86,000.00

Total Increase (Decrease) in Expenditures

14,000.00

Justification for Budget Amendment:

To appropriate or reappropriate unanticipated revenues and expenditures as recorded.

Adopted this 2nd day of June 2025

ATTEST:

Jenny Martin
Jenny Martin, Town Clerk



Matthew B. Mulhollem
Matthew B. Mulhollem, Mayor

Bryan Chadwick
Bryan Chadwick, Budget Officer