TOWN OF DUCK
TOWN COUNCIL
MID-MONTH MEETING
April 16, 2025

The Town Council for the Town of Duck convened at the Paul F. Keller Meeting Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Don Kingston; Mayor Pro Tempore Monica Thibodeau; Councilor Sandy Whitman; Councilor Brenda Chasen; and Councilor Kevin Lingard.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Drew Havens; Director of Community Development Joseph Heard; Police Chief Jeffrey Ackerman; Deputy Police Chief Melissa Clark; Fire Chief Matthew Dudek; Town Attorney Robert Hobbs; Public Information and Events Director Kristiana Nickens; Community Engagement Coordinator Betsy Trimble; Finance Administrator Lauren Creech; and Town Clerk Lori Ackerman.

OTHERS ABSENT: None.

Mayor Kingston called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF THE SALE OF SURPLUS POLICE VEHICLES

Police Chief Jeffrey Ackerman was recognized to speak. Police Chief Ackerman explained that an opportunity came up to dispose of two police vehicles in a different way. He stated that the Town generally sells them on GovDeals and he looked at what the average sale prices were over the last six months, pointing out that they have trended downward. He stated that he contacted the police chief for the Town of Edenton Police Department and found out that they desperately needed some new vehicles. He noted that the Town of Edenton was not a poor community, but they have gotten very far behind on vehicle replacements that it would be more advantageous to purchase used vehicles, get themselves to a better place and then start cycling their vehicles.

Police Chief Ackerman stated that doing it this way, he would be able to sell the vehicles for a set fee, whereas when they are listed on GovDeals, it's an auction, adding that sometimes they do well and other times they don't. He asked Council to authorize the request. He noted that it would also be a cost savings to the Town because there won't be a cost to strip the vehicles and remove the graphics.

Councilor Chasen moved to declare two police vehicles surplus and permit staff to dispose of them by selling them to the Town of Edenton Police Department.

Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 25-09, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF DUCK, NORTH CAROLINA, OPPOSING CHANGES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY IN HOUSE BILL 765

Town Manager Drew Havens was recognized to speak. Town Manager Havens stated that Council was aware of the update from the North Carolina League of Municipalities update in reference to House Bill 765. He explained that it was the latest in a series of legislation and legislation attempts that were aimed at eroding Council's authority to regulate land use. He stated that there were some in the General Assembly that do not believe that local governments were able to manage the affairs of their communities or have the best interests in the communities. He added that Council has passed other resolutions that basically stated the same thing, which was to let local government govern locally. He stated that Resolution 25-09 opposes the provisions in House Bill 765 which include some positive provisions in terms of allowances for tiny homes in some urban settings, which address the housing issue that was being felt throughout the state, but also there was language in there that hurts local governments.

Mayor Kingston stated that he met with the other mayors on April 15, 2025, and the Town of Nags Head has written a letter and the Town of Kill Devil Hills was sending a similar resolution. He added that the Towns of Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk and Manteo have not sent anything yet because they have not had a board meeting to adopt a resolution.

Councilor Whitman moved to approve Resolution 25-09 as presented.

Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND OTHER SITE IMPROVEMENTS ON THE HERRON PROPERTY

Town Manager Havens stated that staff recently sent out a Request for Proposals to remove the house and sheds on the Town's property at 101 and 103 Scarborough Lane, along with two septic tanks and some concrete slabs. He stated that he met with two contractors on the site, both of whom submitted proposals and the lower of the two came from Ben's Backyard. He stated that he was asking Council to give him the authority to enter into a contract with Ben's Backyard to complete the work. He noted that timing would be coordinated with some removal work that Councilors Whitman, Chasen and Lingard were doing. He added that the Town would need to complete an asbestos inspection which will cost approximately $1,400 and then some abatement work. He stated that the total cost to dispose everything would be approximately $10,000.

Councilor Chasen moved to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Ben's Backyard for the demolition and removal of the structures as well as other site improvements including asbestos inspection and abatement at 101 and 103 Scarborough Lane up to $10,000.

Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION OF FY 2026 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Town Manager Havens gave a presentation on a gross needs "budget" noting that it was not in balance, touching on revenues, new personnel/purchases/projects, department by department review of expenditures and the five-year forecast to Council and the audience. He noted that he was looking for direction from Council on getting the budget balanced so it can be put together in a draft ordinance to be advertised for the public hearing, which would be at Council's May 7, 2025 meeting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau noted that everyone's property valuation went up depending on the property so even though it was revenue neutral for the Town, it could affect different taxpayers differently depending on their rate of appreciation between the two valuations. Town Manager Havens agreed, adding that the Town's tax base increased by 73%. He guessed that none of Council's property went up exactly 73% as some went up more and some less. He stated that he had heard some people had over 100% increase on some properties in Duck. He pointed out that there was a wide variety and that it does average out to that 73%. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau clarified that everyone will be affected, just at a slightly different rate. Town Manager Havens stated she was correct.

Mayor Kingston clarified if the Town took the one cent for the MSDs it was almost one half million dollars per cent. Town Manager Havens stated he was correct. Mayor Kingston clarified that each one cent was worth on half million dollars if the Town raises taxes by one cent. Town Manager Havens explained that each one cent was worth $307,000. Mayor Kingston stated that he was looking at the MSDs. Town Manager Havens agreed, adding that he intentionally does not because MSDs are completely restricted revenue, so Council could not think about those in terms of what they do. He added that he thinks of them as a separate business that needs to pay its own expenditures.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau pointed out that Town Manager Havens had mentioned how the Town will receive a small advantage over the shared revenue formula in the next year. She clarified that even with that in the calculation, he still wanted to be conservative. Town Manager Havens stated she was correct, adding that it was a very small amount.

Police Chief Ackerman explained that the justification for the Police Investigator position was that the police department was not anywhere near what best practices were for investigations. He stated that they also had a "brain drain" over the years where when they started, they had veteran officers with a lot of experience, adding that a lot of them came to Duck with investigative experience, but unfortunately that trend has changed. He noted that they now have a lot of officers that were newer, the department would be losing several veteran officers due to retirement in the next few years, and it has left the department with a major hole. He stated that they were not providing the level of service that the community deserves when it comes to investigations. He added that with their patrol model, they were not able to dedicate the time or resources to every investigation to make sure it was investigated quickly, thoroughly, and exhaustive by going through the process and putting people in jail when it was warranted. He noted that it was why the department put it off for many years in order to focus on getting the patrol staff in order to have a minimum of two officers working, adding that this was the last piece of the puzzle for the police department. He stated that he did not see any future growth beyond this as it completes putting the department on the path to having a roster that meets the standards, best practices, and current trends.

Councilor Whitman asked if the investigator would be a full-time position. Police Chief Ackerman stated that there were not enough investigations to keep one person busy year-round, so when they were not handling investigations, they will be tasked with all events and community outreach as well as being a full-service police officer so anywhere there was a shortage, this individual would fill in for that hole, which the department currently does not have.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau asked if the investigator position would mean that the individual would have to have extra training or if it was seniority. She further asked if it was something that the police department would go outside to get or grow from the department. Police Chief Ackerman explained that from the experience side; in order to be a successful investigator, one has to have the street experience and at least 15 years minimum experience. He stated that, with regard to the training side, most officers do not take the number and level of classes that would be required to be a competent investigator. He added that he saw the department being able to develop a more senior officer within the department; they may not be 100% there when they go in, but with a solid plan, he believed the department could get there and backfill the position with someone that was entry-level. He noted that a lot of what the investigator would do would be desk investigations, making sure the department could go in there, whether it was an unwitnessed death or a violent crime, adding that it would be someone that could go in and investigate those cases and come in to process a crime scene and has the experience, knowledge, expertise, and training. He added that when they were testifying in court, they would have that higher level so they would be designated as a witness on the stand, where a young officer would be lost in a major investigation. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau clarified that if an investigation had to happen and it was consuming their time, it would be balanced with not putting the investigator on the backup schedule for a while to even things out. Police Chief Ackerman stated she was correct.

Mayor Kingston asked Town Manager Havens if he continues to shop medical insurance. Town Manager Havens stated that he does, explaining that the Town works with a broker. He stated that the plan date was December 1 of each year, which was after the new fiscal year. He added that since he has worked for the Town, he has looked every year and asked the brokers to come in with some suggestions and because the Town is on a grandfathered plan, the Town cannot get anywhere close in terms of cost and coverage. He pointed out that to get the same coverage that the Town currently has, under the Affordable Care Act, the costs increase quite a bit because there were things that the Affordable Care Act requires that were not required under the grandfathered plan. He stated that the current plan the Town has was affordable not only for the Town but also for the employees that pay for a portion of their spouse/family coverage.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau asked if the 20% increase in medical and dental that was being projected was attributed to the plan increasing as well as the size of the workforce and the benefits to the families. Town Manager Havens stated that it included one additional staff member, adding that he factored in a 12% increase for medical and dental costs. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau clarified that overtime has not been as big because the Town is now better staffed or if it was something that was budgeted for each year. Town Manager Havens explained that he always budgets for overtime in Public Safety, adding that the Administrative staff do not receive overtime, but they do receive compensatory time.

Councilor Whitman stated that the past two years he brought up the historical signs. He stated that there were supposed to be 10 that would be erected on the street. He asked if there was any way to ask for donations like what the Town did for the benches. Town Manager Havens stated that it could be done. Councilor Chasen clarified that it would not be a lifetime thing. Town Manager Havens stated that it would not be like the benches were. Councilor Lingard thought they would be close to businesses and felt that the businesses closest to the historical signs would be happy to purchase them. Town Manager Havens noted that Director Heard had talked to Community Planner James Gould about it and it was a matter of getting it teed up for Planner Gould. He added that it was an item that was easy to take out from the draft budget, but it could still get done but would be completed using a different revenue source.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau pointed out that with the Duck Trail repaving, nothing was completed last year. She clarified that Senior Planner Sandy Cross was keeping a close eye on the next steps for asphalt that needs to be replaced with concrete. Town Manager Havens stated she was correct. Director Heard explained that his staff was looking at the next phases of completing an area in Town and then shifting back. He added that it was based on need and if staff were witnessing root intrusion. Town Manager Havens noted that it was up near the Sanderling subdivision.

Councilor Chasen asked if the living shoreline item was monitoring the sound project that was just completed. Director Heard stated that it was. Town Manager Havens stated that it was someone from the outside coming in and using different technology. He added that it was about the growth of the plants. Director Heard stated that it monitors the growth of the shoreline and how much it was capturing as well as the types of plants that were there so staff were seeing how they were maturing with the natural vegetation.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau clarified that the monitoring that was being completed of the nourished beach was captured in Professional Services in the draft budget under Environmental Protection. Director Heard stated she was correct.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau stated that, with regard the five-year forecast, Town Manager Havens had stated with regard to moving out five years that it was an unknown, but Council does know that some of the projects had to do with Public Safety. She added that Council did not know exactly where the numbers will be but they know that they were trying to complete some big projects in the near future.

Councilor Whitman asked where the generator replacement was on the sheet that showed items that were cut. Town Manager Havens explained that it wasn't on the sheet because it was not cut. He added that the yellow sheet that Council had in front of them were items that were reduced from the budget. Councilor Whitman clarified if the hoses and nozzles were cut by $3,000 or $10,000. Town Manager Havens stated that it was reduced by $3,000. Councilor Whitman stated that, out of everything that has been reduced or put off until next year or future years, he would like to see a list of those items before Council starts reviewing what was being asked for this year. Councilor Chasen asked if Councilor Whitman was talking about the prior year. Councilor Whitman stated that he was. Town Manager Havens stated that he understood the request. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau asked Councilor Whitman if he was looking at what was deferred from last year. Councilor Whitman stated she was correct, pointing out that some of the items have been deferred a number of times. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau pointed out that the playground équipment was one of the items. Councilor Whitman agreed, adding that it has been deferred four times now. Town Manager Havens agreed, adding that it was the playground equipment and the Town Park shoreline project. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau stated that the shoreline project was beyond the Town's control because permitting was not obtained. Town Manager Havens explained that in Fiscal Year 2025, the Town funded Phase 1 but not all of it. He added that the year before it was in the CIP and $0.00 was funded. He stated that last year as Council was going through this process, it was decided that Phase 1 would be funded and then Phase 2 would be funded in Fiscal Year 2026. He noted that the Phase 1 funds in Fiscal Year 2025 will still be spent but will be spent in Fiscal Year 2026, so this year's money will be encumbered and carried forward into Fiscal Year 2026 and added to the Phase 2 money that was built into the budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and the entire project would be done as one. He pointed out that there was a delay and had the Town had Phases 1 and 2 funded in Fiscal Year 2025, there would still have been a delay, but the money would have been there.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau asked when the Town encumbers money and has not spent it for Fiscal Year 2025 for the revetment, how it would show up on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Town Manager Havens stated that in the new fiscal year, he would bring forward a budget amendment which will bring in purchase order carryovers from the prior fiscal year. He noted that it was something typically done every July because there will be funding leftover that was committed in the prior fiscal year and it will be brought in as a budget amendment the first part of the new fiscal year.

Mayor Kingston clarified that Town Manager Havens was not estimating any Fund Balance contribution for this year. He further clarified that there was no opportunity to move things from next year to this year. Town Manager Havens stated that he has some ideas on how to balance the budget, adding that he would not share his opinion unless Council asked for it. He stated that, in order to balance the budget, he would suggest the following:

1. Cut the west side trail. While it is a really nice thing to have, Duck Trail does run north to south. This could be deferred for a year, saving $270,000.
2. Restore the cut of $35,000 for the land use planning for the Herron property and move that to Fiscal Year 2025.
3. Move the following projects that were currently in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget to the current year:
    a. Server virtualization project - $10,750
    b. Police drone program - $30,000
    c. Replacement of the SCBA Cabinet – $6,750
    d. Replacement of the Town marquee sign - $16,000
    e. Amphitheater repairs - $8,000
    f. Picnic shelter improvements - $6,000
    g. Purchase of an additional water fountain by Four Seasons - $5,000

Town Manager Havens explained that, regarding the use of the Fund Balance, it was a non-recurring revenue source and as long as the Town was using a non-recurring revenue source for a non-recurring expenditure, it was appropriate. He added that if Council told him to use the Fund Balance to pay for the Police Investigator position, he would tell them that it was an inappropriate use. He recommended tying an appropriation of the Fund Balance in the amount of $385,300, which was the cost of Phase 2 of the shoreline protection project in order to finish the project. He stated that if Council told him not to use the Fund Balance and if he could not figure out how to complete the project without cutting other items, he would go back to the Department Directors and ask them to find the money. He added that this project could not be delayed anymore. He pointed out that this would be an appropriate use of the Fund Balance, adding that it would not dip below the minimum required.

Town Manager Havens stated that his final recommendation was a tax rate of $.18 in order to finish balancing the budget. He noted that this will always be the last thing he recommends because it was asking the taxpayers to write a bigger check, which would equal $.04 off revenue neutral and will generate enough money to balance the budget with an extra $3,000. He went on to show a chart of how taxpayers would be affected by a tax increase.

Mayor Kingston stated that he liked Town Manager Havens' option, adding that it made sense to take this year while the Town could. He stated that his concern was, for two years in a row, there will be no contribution to the Fund Balance and letting it start to drop down. He asked if there was anything in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 planned that could be delayed in order to have a savings. He pointed out that hiring additional personnel could always be delayed in order to have a savings. He asked if there was anything that the implementation could be delayed. Town Manager Havens explained that the Town will add to the Fund Balance in Fiscal Year 2025 by $100,000, based on where the Town currently was. He added that for Fiscal Year 2026, as far as planning to add to the Fund Balance, the Town was currently over the minimum of 50% and it could be added to, but the Town will need to expense to the Fund Balance. He thought the way to do that would be to not use the Fund Balance for anything. He added that he was planning to reduce the Fund Balance by $385,300. He stated that Council could decide not to use Fund Balance for that, which will freeze the Fund Balance and it will grow or hold steady. He reiterated that the Town was above the 50% minimum but below the 75%.

Mayor Kingston stated that he was concerned about the future. He pointed out that Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau had made the point that there were some big projects coming up, including beach nourishment, with the scope and cost being an unknown. He stated that he would like to see if there were any opportunities to delay any expenses during the year that would gain the Town some leverage for next year. He pointed out that he did not have an issue with moving things from the Fund Balance and getting projects completed. He added that he did not have an issue with a tax increase and thought that there will most likely be a tax increase from all of the towns. He stated that the Investigator position was not a big expense but thought they could be hired in October instead of June. He wondered if there were any other opportunities along those lines where costs could be deferred for a period of time. Town Manager Havens explained that if the police Investigator was hired on January 1, which was half a year and equated to $45,000, the Town would save $45,000 off the bottom line this year, but it would still hit next year in Fiscal Year 2027 in its entirety. He thought it would save some money this year but it didn't help in future years. He added that a lot of expenditures were being delayed until Fiscal Year 2027. He thought the Town gets to a point where it has projects that were really well planned and very well-reasoned, adding that the shoreline project was an excellent example. He stated that Director Heard had built that into the CIP three to four years ago and it was something that was needed and now it was something that the Town has to do.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau agreed that there was no question regarding the need for the shoreline project, adding that the permitting alone was three to five years in the making. She pointed out that the rocks had to be delayed because of the timing. She agreed that the project needed to start. She appreciated Town Manager Havens discussing meeting the needs which were laid out thoroughly. She stated that she was concerned about the gap in the future with the predictions where Council knew there were some big projects coming up. She noted that the Town bought a piece of property recently for future use and were getting ready to pay off the other property. She thought things were still being cut close even with a tax increase proposal, which was not giving a lot of breathing room.

Councilor Lingard agreed with Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau's comments, adding that he did not see anything else that would make a huge difference that could be cut. He pointed out that the Department Directors did a great job, but the Town could not keep deferring projects. He stated that he could not see any option other than going with the tax increase. He added that he did not like it but it is what it is.

Councilor Whitman pointed out that Council keeps putting off projects for future years, but the future years will start adding up. He pointed out that at the special meeting earlier in the day, Council saw how construction costs are increasing. He felt that now was the time to do it instead of waiting another year or two. He pointed out that the Town kept losing that land and would not get it back.

Councilor Chasen agreed with Councilor Whitman's comments. She added that she was in favor of increasing taxes slightly more just so the Town has the ability to put it into the Fund Balance because there were so many large ticket projects, projects have been deferred, and they need to be done now. She thought with the revaluation, the Town could still take it back from the 20/25, but not down to the 18. She noted that it wasn't a great answer, but she did not know any other way to come up with the money, adding that the Town keeps cutting back while pushing forward.

Town Manager Havens wondered if Council could go another penny for the tax increase and take the $300,000 to put into the Fund Balance, adding that they could use that $300,000 to pay for some projects. He pointed out that the westside trail was the first thing that was eliminated, adding that Phase 1 was $270,000. He added that it could come back.

Councilor Chasen stated that the westside had a lot of safety features that were involved with it in that it kept people on one side of the road, adding that there were a lot of reasons to keep that in the budget.

Town Manager Havens stated that, philosophically, he did not like taking money out of anyone's savings account and putting it into the Town's. He pointed out that the there was revenue in excess of expenditures at the end of the year and the Town was maintaining somewhere in Council's range of 75%.

Mayor Kingston reminded Council that the tax increase was defensive because the other towns would be increasing taxes as well. He added that if Duck did not increase taxes, it would be hurting next year and the year after. Town Manager Havens stated that the Town's shared revenue proportion would drop. Mayor Kingston stated that Duck needed to have a defensive tax increase. Town Manager Havens explained that the Town of Southern Shores was increasing their taxes by three cents just for adding a fire department. Mayor Kingston pointed out that the Town of Kitty Hawk was discussing an increase, the Town of Manteo was having difficulties, and he suspected that the Town of Nags Head would be increasing their taxes. He reiterated that if the Town did not increase taxes, it would be hurting in future years. Town Manager Havens agreed, adding that, realistically speaking, the Town's expenses weren't static and if Duck went with Revenue Neutral, in an environment where shared revenues were not growing, which they weren't, the Town would be falling behind by the rate of inflation. He added that the only lever Council had was the Ad Valorem tax.

Mayor Kingston asked if there should be a small increase for beach nourishment and the MSDs for future protection as well as helping with the shared revenues. Town Manager Havens stated that it would be the only reason. He stated that it was revenue over expenditures, adding that where the Town currently was, it was flowing positive in that the Town was receiving money from tax revenue, and putting some money out in order to prepare for the next nourishment project. He stated that the beach nourishment fund continues to grow and the way the modeling works, the MSD rates would be left exactly where they were at revenue neutral, so in Fiscal Year 2026-2027, the Town would add to it, in Fiscal Year 2027-2028, the Town will draw from it for the renourishment and then it will stay level because the debt service would increase.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau clarified that Town Manager Havens was stating that the \$3.19 million would be coming off from Fiscal Year 2027 to Fiscal Year 2028 and that the Town was holding a balance of \$4 million, then the Town pays out the \$3 million. Town Manager Havens stated she was correct. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau asked where financing would come in or if the Town was not financing. Town Manager Havens stated that the Town would be financing. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau clarified that the Town had financing plus it would be using cash, which was the Town's decision to make. Town Manager Havens stated she was correct, adding that the Town could borrow all of it and not use cash. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau pointed out that that was what the original MSD rates were for and now the Town has a savings and a buffer. Town Manager Havens stated she was correct.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau thought what Council has done by keeping the MSD rates flat throughout the whole process has shown a growth. She felt it was wise to have some balance in there, adding that she wasn't sure if she agreed with raising the MSDs in anticipation of an unknown when the Town has a healthy balance in there. She added that when they were first set up, it was done to take care of debt. She reiterated that she would not be in favor of adjusting the MSD rates. Town Manager Havens explained that one penny would change the levy by \$90,000.

Councilor Lingard stated that he wasn't sure if the MSD rates should be increased. Councilor Whitman reminded Council that when the Town starts the next beach nourishment project, there will be an increase in the cost no matter what, adding that the Town would either be paying it now or later. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau pointed out that it was an unknown at this point. She thought Council should plan once they know something and then adjust it. Councilor Lingard thought Council should know by this time next year. Town Manager Havens stated that he would have a better idea on the construction costs when it's closer to the time of issuance.

Mayor Kingston asked if the Town will have an expense of approximately \$150,000 for 300 lots. Town Manager Havens stated he was correct. Mayor Kingston thought that could be covered. Town Manager Havens agreed. Mayor Kingston pointed out that one cent would cover that and it was all related. Town Manager Havens agreed, adding that there were adequate funds within the fund to do it. He noted that he did not model that expense. Mayor Kingston stated that it was just a suggestion.

Town Manager Havens clarified that Council wanted to see the next draft of the budget with the changes discussed. He pointed out that he had forgotten to mention that he was recommending adding the restoration of the Duck Trail repaving, which was initially eliminated. Councilor Lingard asked what the amount was for the repaving. Town Manager Havens stated that it was $130,000. Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau clarified that it would be taken from the Fund Balance. Mayor Kingston stated that it would be. Town Manager Havens disagreed, explaining that if Council moved forward with the $.18 increase, the Town would be able to include the repaving of the Duck Trail within the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget, assuming that the Town could use Fund Balance to pay for the shoreline project and then move the $117,500 of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget expenditure into the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Councilor Whitman asked if any more money would be coming in for the BRIC project. Town Manager Havens stated that there would be. Councilor Whitman clarified that it would go back into the Fund Balance. Town Manager Havens stated he was correct. Councilor Whitman asked where it would put the Town. Mayor Kingston stated it would be at 70%. Town Manager Havens stated that it would help get rid of the $2.8 million that was in the negative in Fiscal Year 2024 and would return the Fund Balance to where it was plus a little more.

Mayor Kingston asked Town Manager Havens to review his changes with Council in order to get consensus. Town Manager Havens reviewed his changes with Council and the audience. It was ***consensus*** of Council to have the suggested changes made.

Town Manager Havens explained that the next step will be the public hearing on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 and then a work session at Council's mid-month meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, if needed.

Mayor Kingston thanked Town Manager Havens for his presentation.

Mayor Kingston noted that the next meeting would be the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Whitman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 5-0.

The time was 3:39 p.m.

Lori A. Ackerman, Town Clerk

Approved: May 7, 2025

Don Kingston, Mayor

TOWN of DUCK
NORTH CAROLINA