

BADIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET RETREAT
April 30, 2025
BADIN TOWN HALL

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Demar Huntley, Mayor
Charles Council, Mayor Pro Tem
Deloris Chambers
Dale Ward
Gary Rife

STAFF PRESENT:

Jay Almond, Town Manager
Amanda Bowers, Town Clerk
Stephen Smith, Police Chief
Terry Eudy, Public Works Director

Mayor Huntley reconvened Badin Town Council meeting from April 8, 2025.

MANAGER’S BUDGET LETTER

Almond presented manager’s budget letter and budget process for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The proposed budget is balanced as presented, includes staff compensation, Powell Bill street projects, and operational expenses. Operating expenses are on tight margins.

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET

- Almond presented current budget.

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION

Almond presented the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed budget.

Town Staff

- Administration: 2 full-time employees.
- Public Works: 3 full-time, 1 seasonal part-time.
- Public Safety: 3 full-time, 1 part-time with 2 vacant full-time and vacant part-time officers.

Fund Balance

- Fund balance for FY 2024 was approximately \$792,115 excluding grant funds.

Tax Data

- Base value estimate for FY 2025 after revaluation is \$88 million, up from \$68 million.
- Tax rate is \$.4475.
- Sales & Use tax is approximately 60% of municipal revenue as of FY 2025.

Business:

- Almond presented council a balanced Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Proposal.
- Proposed budget estimates \$380,000 Revenue from Property Taxes.
- Sales & Use Tax estimates \$675,000.
- Total revenue for GF expected to be \$1,146,400 and Powell Bill \$83,850.
- ARPA and Badin Conference Center grants are closed.
- Badin Waterfront Park (PARTF) reimbursable grant budget \$440,000.

Expenditures

- \$21,050 budgeted for Parks and Rec.

- \$535,900 budgeted for Public Safety.
- \$311,900 budgeted for Public Works.
- \$277,550 budgeted for Administration.
- \$83,350 budgeted for Powell Bill.
- \$440,000 budgeted for Waterfront Park (PARTF) grant.
- Proposed budget includes 3% COLA adjustment for full-time employees.

Revenue

- Revenue: property tax, sales & use tax, utility franchise tax, sales tax reimbursement, gas tax reimbursement, federal excise tax, occupancy tax, alcohol tax, and solid waste disposal.

Grants: \$505,000 total

- \$440,000 Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)
- \$110,850 Powell Bill – Street, Sidewalk, Infrastructure

Powell Bill Project Recommendations

- Street repaving
- Christmas Pole Lights

DISCUSSION

Town staff has not yet received medical insurance proposals so budgeted amount is an estimate. FY25 Legal & Audit fees went over budget due to auditor fees. Travel & Meetings is over budget due to hosting Stanly County Council of Governments.

Almond concluded the proposed budget presentation.

Mayor Huntley called for a 10-minute recess.

Council reconvened the meeting.

Council discussed Powell Bill funds. Decided to add \$85,000 for street maintenance repair including \$10,000 for sidewalk repair/tree removal and \$75,000 for Sherman? Street repaving.

Storm water project estimates will follow engineering scope of work which is expected soon.

Council appropriated \$11,500 for new Christmas Pole lights.

Verify remainder donation for library and add it, if any left, to Library/Museum Building line item.

Council discussed West Badin Park. Rife would like to look into a small portable restroom for West Badin Park. C. Council, Rife and Almond discussed additional parking in West Badin Park. Public Works could boom mow and add bollards to create parking lot. C. Council will look into funding for clearing a stand of trees. Rife will look into portable restrooms. The council would like to do this by June.

Ward said alley maintenance line item has had money left in it in recent years. He suggested spending it all on gravel to repair alleys.

Ward solicited an estimate for security cameras in town hall, police department, public works, and motor pool, which was \$5,100. C. Council suggested it may be something to look into with the waterfront park. Rife asked if there has ever been an issue to suggest a need for security cameras. Rife is not in favor of cameras in the workplace. Given there's never been an issue and the budget is tight, Rife is not in favor of security cameras. Chambers said we've never had an issue and she doesn't see a need for it. Huntley said he is not in favor of it but would consider them for the waterfront park when it opens. Ward said the quote for exterior cameras is from Keith Smith. Rife suggested appropriating the \$5,100 for restrooms in West Badin Park instead. C. Council said as the waterfront park becomes more popular, we may need more security. Rife would like to appropriate funds for West Badin Park parking.

Council discussed progress on Waterfront Park and restrooms in Waterfront Park.

Rife said we need the storm water project estimates. Council decided to appropriate \$125,000 to Public Works Contracted Services line item for storm water project.

Mayor Huntley called for a lunch recess.
Council reconvened the meeting after lunch.

Council discussed Badin Conference Center. Grants will be needed to fund repairs to make it rentable. Ward will get estimates from S&D Contracting and Stokes Construction. Rife and C. Council will get an estimate packet together. Almond, Huntley and Chambers will explore grant options.

Council discussed property tax. Ward asked about criteria for tax foreclosure on delinquent properties and if burned houses qualify. Almond said that would be a question for the tax administrator. Council consensus is to leave the tax rate alone.

Motion to retain the current .4475 tax rate for FY26: Rife
Second: Chambers
Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Three percent cost of living adjustment is included in the proposed budget compensation totals.

Motion to include three percent cost of living adjustment with no merit increase in the FY26 budget:
Chambers
Second: Rife
Vote: Passed/Unanimous

During recess Huntley received a call from the maintenance contractor for Silver Eagle. Huntley asked Ward to meet with this contractor regarding the shoreline maintenance. Ward will meet with him and will speak to Jody Smet and Karen Baldwin at the upcoming ALCOA meeting in May.

Rife has looked into prefab restrooms and hopes to have something ready by the May council meeting.

C. Council would like to set a date to auction surplus items. Huntley will schedule a meeting with the auctioneer.

ADJOURNMENT:

Huntley called for a motion to adjourn.
Motion: Chambers
Second: Rife
Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Minutes approved May 13, 2024
Minutes Prepared by: Amanda Bowers