



TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

BUDGET WORKSHOP #2 TOWN HALL

Monday, April 20, 2026 @ 1:00 pm

The Kure Beach Town Council held budget workshop # 2 for the proposed FY26-27 budget on Monday, April 20, 2026.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Allen Oliver
Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) David Heglar
Commissioner Mark Dirks
Commissioner Byron Ashbridge
Commissioner Connie Mearkle

COUNCIL MEMBER NOT PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Finance Officer (FO) – Arlen Copenhaver
Director of Administration – Mandy Sanders
Town Clerk – Beth Chase
Police Chief – Brandon Bailey
Fire Chief – Ed Kennedy
Public Works Director – Jimmy Mesimer
Recreation Director – Nikki Keely
Building Inspector – Bethany White

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Oliver called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF REVISED DRAFT OF FY26-27 BUDGET

Finance Officer Copenhaver presented assumptions and revisions to the draft FY26-27 budget from the first budget workshop. Said presentation is herein incorporated as part of these minutes.

Assumptions and revisions General Fund:

- No changes in services provided or level of services provided
- No change to tax rate
- No change to General Fund fees
- No changes to water & sewer rates
- Inclusion of projects requested at Council Retreat (e.g., paving, boardwalk, water/sewer improvements, etc.)
- No General Fund Contingency
- No transfer from the General Fund to the Beach Protection Fund
- No changes to full -time headcount



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- Employee Compensation
 - COLA: 2.8%
 - Merit: 1.5%

General Fund: Shortage in the amount of \$953,195 on March 26, 2026

General Fund is currently \$0 short

Water/Sewer Fund: Shortage in the amount of \$859,866 on March 26, 2026

Water/Sewer Fund is currently short \$

Stormwater Fund: Over on March 26, 2026 in the amount of \$

Storm Water Fund is currently over \$159,545

Storm water Fund is currently \$0

PROPOSED TOWN COUNCIL GOALS FY 2026

1. Work smarter to maintain and improve our quality of life in Kure Beach
 - Implementation of approved CAMA Land Use Plan
 - Continue to work with Department of Defense Land Use Plan (MOTSU) to retain current town owned assets
 - Implement the Bike/Ped Master Plan d. Implementation of approved Beach Management Plan
 - Continue to work with leaders of the General Assembly to address the needs of the Town
 - Explore the following areas for funding for future capital projects (i.e. Bike/Ped, Sandman Park, Joe Eakes Park, Atlantic Avenue boardwalk, replacement of CAMA beach accesses). Council will prioritize each project based on potential source and community PARTF (state) 2. CAMA grants (state) 3. New Hanover County Endowment (county) 4. Friends of Kure Beach (private)
1. Ensure the integrity of Town financial data and maintain financial stability in all Town funds
 - Be fiscally responsible
 - Set tax and water/sewer rates that support the expected level of service by the citizens of the Town



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2. Enable an optimum working environment for staff to produce high levels of service to the Town
 - Ensure policies are fair (morale)
 - Enhance procedures to retain and attract Town personnel
 - Update and adjust the Salary Plan as needed to keep employees fairly compensated
3. Provide all departments with the support to maintain a safe working and living environment
 - Support camera program
 - Use technology to support Town functions
 - Continue to improve employee safety plan
 - Support K9 program
 - Provide necessary tools for safe working environment

CONSENSUS- Town Council agreed to these proposed FY2026 Goals



Allen Oliver, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Beth Chase, Town Clerk

NOTE: These are action minutes reflecting items considered and actions taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. An audio recording of the meeting is available on the town's website at www.townofkurebeach.org, under government/kurebeachcouncil.