Narrows Town Council Meeting
June 17, 2026

Mayor Tom Spangler called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Jonathan Creger and Alicia Lane. Council Members John Hale and Sara Bowles participated remotely. Councilman John Mills was absent.

Attorney Mike Bedsaul was present.

Staff members present included Terry Nicholson and Debbie Thomas.

Councilmember Sara Bowles participated remotely while on vacation in Emerald Isle, North Carolina.

Councilman Hale participated remotely from Mount Crawford, Virginia, while traveling on personal business.

Mayor Spangler gave the invocation.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendment to the Agenda

Terry Nicholson noted several corrections incorporated into the budget exhibits since the prior meeting:

- A Christmas police donations carryover item had been listed in expenditures but not in revenues; this was corrected, resulting in a $4,000 improvement.
- The library books and tapes line item had been reduced from $6,500 to $4,500. As this represents state funding designated for that purpose, it was restored to $6,500, offsetting $2,000 of the above improvement.
- The fire department line item had been entered incorrectly in the working spreadsheet. The town had already approved an increase to $18,624 per year in a prior action; the spreadsheet reflected a lower figure of approximately $14,000, which had then been bumped to $16,000. This was corrected to $18,624 at level funding, reducing the net improvement by an additional $2,624.

- A reduction of $2,000 from the line item for Christmas light displays was included. The separate electricity costs in that line item for operating the lights remains unchanged. As a result, no new light display fixtures will be purchased this year.

These adjustments result in a net addition of $1,376 to line item 10-6401-1020 (transfer to the general fund), bringing that transfer to $84,490. Total revenues and expenditures remain balanced. The budget also includes approximately $234,000 transferred into utility fund general reserves, with the combined transfers representing the beginning of a two-year effort to rebuild approximately $600,000 in cash reserves drawn down over the prior two years.

Attorney Bedsaul advised that the agenda as published contained two errors: the budget item was listed as the FY2026 budget rather than the FY2027 budget, and the tax item was listed as a meals tax increase rather than a real estate tax rate.

Councilmember Lane made a motion to amend the agenda to reflect approval of the FY2027 budget, the water and sewer rate increase, and the real estate tax rate. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.
Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Lane
Nays: None Motion
Carried 4-0

Approval of FY2027 Budget, Water and Sewer Rate Increase, and Real Estate Tax Rate

Attorney Bedsaul advised that all corrections are incorporated into the exhibits attached to the ordinance and that council may act on the ordinance, including all exhibits, in a single motion. He further advised that the language "not to exceed" in the proposed rate column of Exhibit B should be stricken, so as not to suggest approval of an indefinite tax rate for real property.

Councilmember Lane made a motion to approve the ordinance concerning the FY2027 budget and all of its exhibits, with the amendment to strike the language "not to exceed" from Exhibit B. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.
Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Lane
Nays: None
Motion Carried 4-0

Revenue Anticipation Note

Terry Nicholson advised that this item was not ready for action. He reported that Davenport had been contacted that afternoon and that the bank had not received the revenue anticipation note paperwork in time for action at this meeting. The paperwork is expected to be received the following day. The plan is to pay off the current note on June 30th and execute a new note on

July 1st to provide operating revenue for the upcoming fiscal year. He indicated that a brief special called meeting would be scheduled once the details are confirmed, and that council would be contacted to arrange the timing.

This item was tabled.

Communications from the Town Manager

Terry Nicholson distributed a copy of the ICMA (International City/County Management Association) Code of Ethics for council's reference. He noted that under the section addressing elections, the code provides that, while town managers share with fellow citizens the right and responsibility to vote, they shall not participate in political activities to support the candidacy of individuals running for local office. Specifically, managers shall not endorse candidates, make financial contributions, sign or circulate petitions, or participate in fundraising activities for individuals seeking elected office. He explained that this is the reason he has been unable to sign council members' candidate petitions when asked, and that the restriction exists to protect both the manager and the council from any appearance of favoritism. He noted that additional provisions of the code address personnel matters and the respective roles of staff and council.

Council expressed appreciation for the clarification.

Adjournment

Councilmember Lane made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Creger seconded the motion.
Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Lane
Nays: None
Motion Carried 4-0

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Clerk, Debbie Thomas Mayor, Tom Spangler