

Stoneville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes – Budget Presentation
May 14, 2026
6:00 PM – Council Chambers

Special Meeting – Budget Presentation

Members Present: Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan and Council members Jessica Smith, Daisy Smith, Curt Bennett, Henry Thornton, Lee Shelton. Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Sands, Finance Officer Mary Ann Greer, Town Clerk Deleia Hutcherson, Public Works Director Byron Curry, Police Chief Rebecca Dixon, Fire Chief Joel Freeman. Absent: Town Attorney Eugene Russell

Welcome: Mayor Galvan welcomed the assembly and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the May 14, 2026 agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Daisy Smith. Motion carried.

Agenda Items:

Consideration of quotes to upgrade security system at Stoneville Memorial Park - Council discussed the proposed upgrades to the security camera system at Stoneville Memorial Park. Staff explained that the security vendor had confirmed the camera system could be integrated into the Town's website in the future to allow live-stream access if desired; however, the vendor did not recommend public streaming due to safety and security concerns. Council members discussed both the potential benefits and drawbacks of providing public access to the cameras. Some members expressed concern that publicly accessible camera feeds could allow individuals with harmful intent to monitor park activity and determine when individuals, particularly women and children, were alone at the park. Other members believed that public access could improve safety by allowing residents to view. Discussion also included concerns regarding limited monitoring during weekends and after-hours periods, blind spots near playground and restroom areas, and the potential value of additional surveillance in deterring criminal or suspicious activity.

The Stoneville Memorial Park project included a quote of \$2,689.26 for camera upgrades and an additional quote of \$3,027.30 for electrical and power line extensions required to support the system. Staff explained that the electrical improvements would also allow installation of a floodlight to illuminate the American flag at the park. Following discussion, Councilwoman Jessica Smith made a motion to approve the installation of security cameras at Stoneville Memorial Park for a total cost of \$5,716.56, using available Park Maintenance funds. Seconded by Councilwoman Daisy Smith. Councilman Shelton opposed the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the following votes were cast:

Yes: Councilman Thornton, Councilman Bennett, Councilwoman Daisy Smith, and Councilwoman Jessica Smith. No: Councilman Shelton. Motion carried by a vote of 4-1. Copy incorporated into minutes.

Consideration of quote for security system at Downtown Pocket Park - Council members discussed whether existing pocket park funds should instead be reserved for larger future improvement projects, including restroom facilities and other planned amenities, as staff indicated current funding would likely be insufficient to complete all anticipated improvements. Members acknowledged that restroom facilities would likely require surveillance in the future to reduce vandalism and misuse concerns. Additional discussion focused on reports of suspicious activity occurring behind nearby buildings adjacent to the pocket park and the possibility that additional cameras could assist law enforcement with monitoring activity patterns and improving safety within the area. The Downtown Pocket Park project included a quote of \$1,524.60 for the installation of security cameras. By consensus, the Council agreed to table further consideration of camera installation at the downtown pocket park pending additional review of camera placement, electrical requirements, and other project details.

Presentation of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 - Staff reported that revisions requested during prior budget discussions had been incorporated into the proposed budget document. It was explained that approximately \$202,000 would need to be appropriated from the General Fund, with approximately \$172,000 allocated toward non-recurring expenditures and approximately \$29,500 required to support recurring operational expenses. Staff reviewed several major budget adjustments, including implementation of a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment for employees, inclusion of a potential 3% merit increase, reinstatement of a \$40,000 allocation to the Fire Department for future fire truck purchases, and an increase in the motor vehicle fee from \$5.00 to \$15.00. Staff also explained that adjustments to outside water and sewer rates generated approximately \$14,000 in additional revenue, allowing the Water/Sewer Fund to balance without appropriation of fund balance.

Council discussed the impact of the proposed budget changes on the General Fund deficit and reviewed recurring versus non-recurring revenue sources. Staff explained that recent budget revisions reduced the projected General Fund deficit from approximately \$48,000 to approximately \$29,500. Council members requested that future budget presentations include explanatory notes or bullet points to better inform citizens regarding the reasons for fee increases and budget adjustments. Staff also reviewed revenue generated through water and sewer tap fees associated with new residential development and clarified that such revenues should not be considered guaranteed or recurring revenue sources.

Discussion also occurred regarding annual Consumer Price Index increases contained within certain service contracts and whether future negotiations could eliminate or reduce CPI adjustment provisions. Staff reviewed projected fund balance levels and estimated that available fund balance could decline to approximately \$800,000 following planned appropriations and reappropriations. Council reaffirmed its desire to maintain a fund balance target of approximately sixty percent. Staff further advised that the Local Government Commission had authorized the Town to pursue financing commitments related to future fire truck purchases and explained that funds allocated for fire apparatus acquisition would remain within a restricted fund balance account dedicated solely for that purpose.

Staff reviewed employee health insurance proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. It was explained that the recommended option involved transitioning from the current "gold" health insurance plan to a "silver" plan that included a Health Reimbursement Arrangement component. Under the proposal, the deductible would increase to \$4,000, with the Town contributing \$2,500 through the HRA, leaving employees responsible for approximately \$1,500 in deductible exposure. Staff reviewed projected changes involving deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums, office visit copays, emergency room costs, and prescription tiers. Discussion also included the possibility of allowing employees to remain on the more comprehensive gold plan if they elected to pay the premium difference themselves.

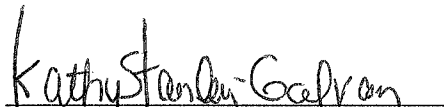
Council discussed requests to change the Town's insurance broker of record. Staff reviewed prior insurance discussions and explained that Salem Benefits had completed the Town's current insurance proposal and provided extensive supporting documentation. Council members discussed concerns regarding changing brokers when the actual insurance coverage and pricing available through Blue Cross Blue Shield would remain unchanged regardless of broker selection. Staff explained that the alternate proposal involved transferring brokerage representation from Salem Benefits in Winston-Salem to Provision Benefits Group in Greensboro, with Mr. Smith serving only as a local affiliate rather than the actual broker. Council members questioned the benefit of changing brokers after substantial work had already been completed by the current provider and expressed concern that the proposed change would merely redirect brokerage compensation without providing additional value to the Town. Staff also reviewed limitations associated with obtaining quotes from UnitedHealthcare due to State requirements applicable to municipalities and benefit differences that prevented utilization of those plans. No formal action was taken regarding this matter. By consensus, Council agreed to continue insurance coverage with the current broker as recommended by staff.

Councilman Thornton made a motion to appropriate \$29,500 from the General Fund for non-recurring expenditures to balance the budget. Seconded by Councilwoman Daisy Smith. Motion carried unanimously. Copy incorporated into minutes.

Mayor Galvan thanked everyone for coming out and announced the Public Hearing scheduled for June 2, 2026 for the 2026-2027 Budget.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilwoman Jessica Smith. Seconded by Councilman Bennett. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Mayor, Kathy Stanley-Galvan



Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

