

Meeting Minutes

Workshop – Public Hearing – FY27 Budget

Meeting Minutes

Town of Greensboro Council Meeting

Date: May 27, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Town Hall, Greensboro, Maryland

1. Meeting Overview

Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting was to introduce Ordinance 2026-0-8, hold a public hearing regarding the proposed general fund and enterprise fund budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, and establish the town tax rate.

2. Key Discussion Points

- Introduction of Ordinance 2026-0-8 Budget FY27:
- Public Hearing – Ordinance 2026-O-8 Budget FY27:
- Resident Feedback:
 - Donna Clay raised concerns about budget consistency and questioned specific budget allocations, including debt service and fines.
 - William Schaffner emphasized the importance of regular performance evaluations for town employees.
 - Leva Taylor and other residents questioned the budget's reliance on fines and certain departmental expenditures.
 - Julie Porter, a town employee, voiced concerns about employee raises and the perception of their adequacy.
 - Paula Turner and Terri Christopher highlighted the need for prioritizing infrastructure and maintaining financial reserves.
- Council Member Comments:

Councilman Ernest read a statement indicating she was not going to vote for the FY27 Budget: I have made multiple attempts to obtain clarification from staff regarding how the budget figures before us were derived, particularly given the acknowledged lack of complete and reliable financial reporting, unreconciled accounts, and the absence of finalized audits for prior fiscal years.

As council members, we are being asked to approve a budget that will guide the Town's financial operations for the coming year. To fulfill our fiduciary responsibilities, we must understand not only the numbers presented, but also the process used to arrive at those numbers.

Given that Greensboro operates under a strong mayor form of government, and that budget preparation ultimately falls under the administration you oversee, I would respectfully ask that you explain to both the Council and the public how these budget projections and expenditure estimates were calculated despite the ongoing deficiencies in the Town's financial reporting.

I would also note that many of the concerns being raised today are not new concerns. Similar questions regarding financial oversight, accountability, and transparency were raised during the tenure of the previous Town Manager. Despite repeated inquiries and documented concerns—many of which you have been copied on—we continue to face the same challenges.

In addition to concerns raised by members of this Council, many residents have also reached out with questions regarding Town operations, finances, and decision-making. Numerous residents have reported that their questions have gone unanswered or have not been fully addressed. Some have even volunteered their time, expertise, and assistance in an effort to help the Town overcome ongoing challenges, only to have those offers declined. While not every suggestion may be appropriate to implement, community engagement should be viewed as an asset rather than an obstacle.

In my view, accountability requires more than simply being informed of concerns; it requires action to address them. Ignorance is not a valid excuse, particularly when concerns have been repeatedly raised and communicated over an extended period of time. The residents of Greensboro deserve confidence that the information being used to make financial decisions is accurate, reliable, and subject to appropriate oversight.

Before I can support this budget, I believe the Council and the public deserve a clear explanation of how these figures were developed and why they should be considered reliable despite the acknowledged shortcomings in the Town's financial reporting.

3. Decisions Made

- The public hearing on Ordinance 2026-0-8 – Budget FY27 will remain open until the next meeting on June 4, 2026, allowing for further public input and council discussion. Residents were asked to email the Town manager for any concerns they have with the proposed Budget FY27.

The meeting was adjourned following the conclusion of discussions and public comments.

Minutes Prepared by: Julie Porter

Date: May 28, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Spencer", written over a horizontal line.

David Spencer, Mayor