

**TOWN OF WALLACE
BUDGET RETREAT
March 1, 2024**

The following Governing Body members were present:

Jason Wells, Mayor
Council Member/Mayor Pro-tem Francisco Rivas-Diaz
Council Member Frank Brinkley
Council Member Jason Davis
Council Member Tasha Herring
Council Member Penny Thorne

The following member of the Governing Body was absent:
NONE

Also present were:

Rob Taylor, Town Manager	Taylor Johnson, Fire Chief
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Ben Jones, Airport Manager
David Bizzell, Parks & Recreation Director	Weston Padgett, Police Captain
Brent Dean, Public Services Director	Jennifer Raynor, Librarian
Rod Fritz, Planning Director	Joseph Trollinger, Finance Director

Town Manager Rob Taylor started the day with highlights from the 2023 Audit, reviewing 23/24 goals and objectives and what was achieved with a few things not completed. He discussed the overall economic outlook, employment trends and how some rates and fees compare to neighboring towns. He also spoke of challenges the Town is facing.

Human Resources

Town Clerk, HR, Jackie Nicholson talked about retention, salaries, employee performance and safety.

Police Department

Administrative Captain Weston Padgett provided some statistics for the department and went into some detail regarding what it takes to conduct a criminal investigation, such as a homicide. He spoke about their wellness program and accreditation.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Taylor Johnson shared 2023 statistics for incidents, training and membership. He talked about increasing community outreach, new radios, equipment and the upcoming State inspection in 2025. The department will remain volunteer for as long as possible.

Airport

Airport Manager Ben Jones presented an overview of activities at the Airport. Jones talked about the airport projects on the horizon, the ways in which it serves the community. He indicated that the fuel farm needs rehabbing or replacing.

Planning Department

Planning Director Rod Fritz stated that the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) and Land Use Plan were updated this year but the UDO requires some maintenance and the Administration Manual needs to be completed. Both commercial and residential growth is increasing and will put pressure on the Town's infrastructure and staff.

Finance Department

Finance Director Joseph Trollinger provided a profile of the Finance Department, and he outlined the steps to achieve short- and long-term goals. Trollinger referred to the new financial software and touched briefly on the current state of the budget.

Library

Librarian Jennifer Raynor spoke about their services, increased hours and Saturday hours, re-establishing some programs and adding programs such as Spanish Story Time. She reported that becoming a Passport Acceptance Facility and offering passport photos has been successful.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Director David Bizzell talked about his staff, facilities and programs. He discussed goals to increase fall program participation and create more special programming.

Public Services

Public Services Director Brent Dean talked about projects and issues in each of his divisions:

Water/Sewer – 830 project, well, meter replacement, asset inventory, Tin City lift station
Issues- keeping up with growth and the age of the infrastructure.

WWTP – grit removal system, decanter

Issues – permitting for plant expansion, air diffuser system.

Street – Little Rockfish Creek and Currie St. projects completed, stopped closing in storm drains.

Issues – age of system, paving, Powell Bill funds are not enough.

The Mayor and Town Council shared some final thoughts and Manager Taylor made a few announcements.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Wells, Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk