

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024, MAKING REVENUE ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR SAME.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:

A. SOURCES OF FUNDS

That for the support of the Town Government and its General Fund, for the tax year beginning on January 1, 2023, all taxes, fees, charges and penalties shall remain as heretofore set out by Ordinance, Resolution or other appropriate action of the Town Council except as the Town Council may establish or amend herein.

B. FUND ACCOUNTING

That the following projected sources and use of funds are hereby approved as the FY24 Town of Amherst budget and approved appropriations for the respective funds.

Estimated Revenues

General Fund	\$1,690,856
Water Fund	\$1,417,969
Sewer Fund	\$1,207,829
Garbage Fund	\$163,436
EDA Fund	\$36,421

Estimated Expenditures

General Fund	\$1,690,856
Operations	\$1,489,894
Capital Projects	\$200,962
Water Fund	\$1,417,969
- Operations	\$975,651
- Debt Service and Capital Projects	\$442,318
Sewer Fund	\$1,207,829
- Operations	\$803,985
- Debt Service and Capital Projects	\$403,844
Garbage Fund	\$163,436
EDA Fund	\$36,421

C. TAX RATES

The proposed budget includes a continuation of the real estate tax rate at \$0.00/\$100.00 of assessed value and the personal property tax rate at \$0.00/\$100.00 of assessed value.

The proposed budget includes a continuation of the meals and beverage tax included in the Town Code at 6%.

The annual vehicle license fee for passenger motor vehicles, trucks and motorcycles shall be \$25/year for cars, 11.00/year for motorcycles and 8.00 for trailers

The rate for Business and Professional Occupational License Taxes shall be set at:

- Contractors: \$0.16 per \$100 of gross receipts
- Financial, Real Estate and/or Professional Services: \$0.50 per \$100 of gross receipts
- Retailers: \$0.10 per \$100 of gross receipts
- Wholesalers: \$0.04 per \$100 of gross receipts
- Repair, Personal, Business and other services: \$0.31 per \$100 of gross receipts
- The rate for Itinerant Merchants and Peddlers shall be set at \$20/year for door to door peddlers, \$200/month for itinerant merchants (\$500/yr max) and peddler of fresh produce \$50/year

D. UTILITY AND ZONING RATES AND CHARGES

See attached Utility Rate and Fee Policy for rates related to water and sewer. The FY 24 budget holds all water and sewer rates and fees at the same level since fiscal year 2018.

The attached Zoning Fees sheet is included in this budget and holds all fees and charges at their current level.

E. DONATIONS

That donations to the following organizations are hereby authorized for the purposes listed subject to the conditions noted. These funds are to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis upon delivery of appropriate receipts:

Amount	Organization	Purpose/Conditions
\$15,000	Amherst Fire Department	Operating Costs, including water, sewer, electric, training, equipment.
\$3000	Village Garden Club	Civic Beautification
\$3000	Amherst County Museum and Historical Society	Utilities, Programming and repairs to the Museum building.
\$2500	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	Supplies for Food Bank
\$23,500	Total Donations	

F. FUND BALANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Town of Amherst maintains a Fund Balance Policy to ensure that the Town has adequate funds to address emergency situations and ensure the Town’s credit worthiness. Required balances for the FY24 fiscal year are as follows:

General Fund Permanent Fund	\$	422,714
General Fund Contingency	\$	50,726
Water Fund Permanent Fund	\$	672,731
Sewer Fund Permanent Fund	\$	591,340

Garbage Fund Permanent Fund		\$	40,859
-----------------------------	--	----	--------

G. PERSONNEL

To maintain the work that has been done to keep salaries fair and competitive, the budget includes a Cost-of-Living increase for all employees of 5%, with a merit increase of 2% for employees with a satisfactory evaluation. Additionally, five employees have been designated for raises, and will receive neither the 5% nor the 2% raises but will get a raise designed to bring them closer to market rate.

Additionally, employees may receive raises during the year commensurate with their completion of career development goals.

Health insurance costs went up by approximately 8% and plan choices remain the same this year from last year.

H. CONDITIONS

The intent being to authorize spending according to this budget, all appropriations articulated herein are declared to be maximum and conditional such that outlay shall be made only in the event the aggregate revenues collected and other resources available to the Town in the respective funds are sufficient. All debts of the Town shall be paid in full when due and payable. All expenditures shall be made in accordance with the Ordinance, the Town Charter, Town Code and Purchasing Policy and administrative rules and procedures.

This Ordinance was passed by a vote of the Amherst Town Council on the 14th day of June 2023 and reflects the complete budget for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council