

Discover a Healthy Life KANNAPOLIS MATTERS

IMPROVED ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL FOR UTILITY CUSTOMERS COMING THIS FALL

City of Kannapolis utility customers will have access to an improved customer service portal later this year. The Kannapolis Customer Service Department has updated the online payment portal for utility customers with new and improved features. The updated portal will provide customers with the ability to conveniently monitor their

accounts, easily set payment reminders, pay their utility bills, view their monthly usage and update their account information. The improved portal is expected to ready this fall.

Existing online account customers will not have to re-register to use the updated platform. Instead, their accounts will automatically be transferred, utilizing the same account number, account log-in and password. In order to make the transition as smooth



Continued on page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- 7, 14, Kannapolis Farmers**
- 21, 28 Market** | Corner of Vance St. and Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
- 1 Movies in the Park: Inside Out 2**
8:45 p.m. | Village Park
- 2 Stories Under the Stars: Shepherd Shakespeare** | 7 p.m.
Kannapolis Library – Afton
- 2 Concert in the Park: Big & Rich**
7 p.m. | Village Park
- 5 National Night Out**
5 p.m. | Veterans Park
- 9 Cruise In** | 1 p.m. | NCRC
- 14 Thursdays on Main: Too Much Sylvia** | 6 p.m. | Veterans Park
- 16 Run Kannapolis: Cannon Ballers Shooting Star 5K**
9 a.m. | Atrium Health Ballpark

SEPTEMBER

- 4, 11, Kannapolis Farmers**
- 18, 25 Market** | Corner of Vance St. and Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
- 11 Thursdays on Main: The ToneZ**
6 p.m. | Veterans Park
- 13 Cruise In** | 1 p.m. | NCRC
- 20 Run Kannapolis: Flint's Fabulous 5K** | 8 a.m. | NCRC

*Free Admission. No pets or smoking, please.
More at kannapolisnc.gov.*



CITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 ANNUAL BUDGET APPROVAL

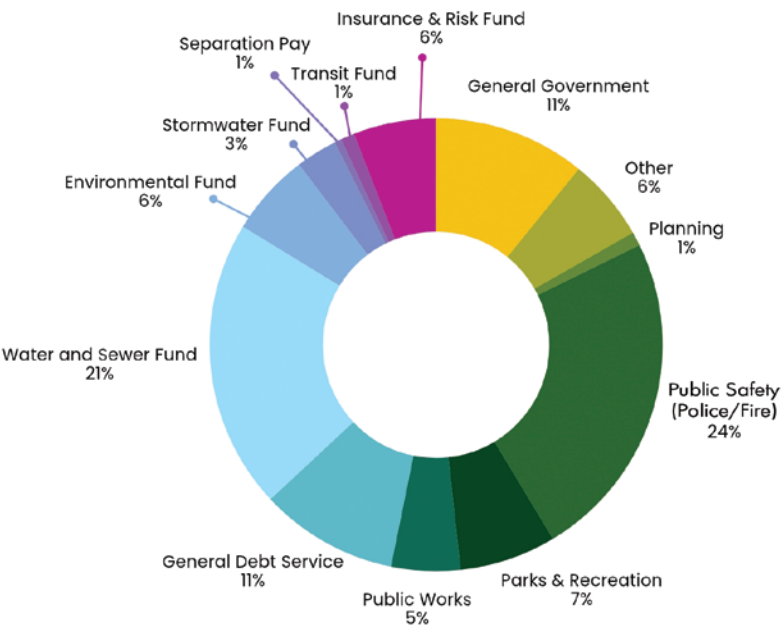
The Kannapolis City Council approved Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget with a vote of 6-1. The FY 2025-26 fee schedule was approved by a vote of 5-2. The total budget for the upcoming fiscal year is \$126,007,842, which includes all seven operating funds of the City.

The budget includes no increase in the property tax rate. The tax rate will remain at 55.95 cents per \$100 valuation.

The budget concentrates on several strategies:

1. Fiscal Responsibility – The budget was drafted with the expectation that growth in revenues will slow in the next fiscal year due, in part, to several national economic factors. Revenue streams anticipated to slow include property taxes, sales taxes, and water and sewer revenues.
2. Retaining existing employees and recruiting new people to work for the City.
3. Cash Reserves – The City has built its cash reserves (savings account) to pay for one-time expenditures versus the City issuing new debt.
4. The continued implementation of the Imagine Kannapolis Strategic Plan, which includes mapping out the next five years of initiatives and projects for the City and, subsequently, a five-year Financial Plan.
5. Maintaining Core Services with an emphasis on customer service to residents.

FY 25-26 Budget Breakdown by Department



In 2022, the City launched the Imagine Kannapolis Strategic Plan. The goal is to imagine the future of Kannapolis, especially what objectives the City would like to achieve in the next decade. Thirteen focus groups were formed, and dozens of residents participated in developing the strategic plan. Priorities were balanced with the needs the City will have during the next ten years and items Kannapolis would like to have to be a healthy quality of life and economically strong City.

In this year's budget, several Imagine Kannapolis priorities are funded, and a plan is outlined to fund additional Imagine Kannapolis priorities over the next five years. These will be subject to City Council ultimately adopting the final version

of the Strategic Plan. A re-examination of the initial Plan priorities and a discussion of potential changes are planned for the first half of the new fiscal year.

Imagine Kannapolis FY 25-26 Proposed Projects and Initiatives include:

- \$1,350,000 – Construction of a Fire Training Tower at Fire Station 1
- \$1,000,000 – Western Cabarrus Emergency Communications Tower
- \$105,000 – Fire Department Logistics Building
- \$124,500 – Downtown one-time capital and operational investments
- \$324,000 – Little Texas Sidewalk
- \$392,119 – Main Street Parking Lot
- \$100,000 – Downtown Event and Promotional Support (two part-time staff positions)
- \$100,000 – Cultural Arts/Historic Preservation Programming.

Future Imagine Kannapolis Proposed Projects and Initiatives:

- Eastside Park Construction
- Revitalization of Midway Area
- Midlake Avenue Sidewalk
- Baker's Creek Park Building Replacement
- Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway Phase II (Rogers Lake Road to N.C. Highway 3/ Safrit Park)
- Public Works Operations Center Improvements
- Westside Park Construction



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- Cabarrus Joint Public Safety Training Facility
- School Athletic Field Improvements
- Enhanced Street Paving and Sidewalk Repair.

Other highlights of the budget include:

- Recruitment and retention of employees continues to be a high priority for the City. The budget includes five percent salary increases for employees, enhancements to health insurance and retirement programs, and a pilot employee daycare subsidy.
- No new full-time positions in any departments. No new capital outlay items are included in this budget; however, \$2.1 million was included in last year's FY'25 Budget.
- The water and sewer base rate will

increase by \$3.31 per month. This represents only the second increase in six years and is required to fund improvements to the Kannapolis Lake Dam Spillway and to cover costs associated with the expansion of the Rocky River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The repairs to the dam are mandated by the state. The dam was originally built in 1940 and is in need of these repairs.

- No increase in stormwater fees.

There is a \$5 per month increase in the environmental fee, the first increase in several years. This is due primarily to an increase in recycling disposal costs and increases in collecting and disposing of garbage.

Continued from page 1

as possible, residents will also not have to re-enroll in autopay.

Additional helpful information to know before transition:

- Customers who prefer to pay with cash can continue to do so by using one of the bill pay kiosks located in the City Hall lobby or parking lot.
- Customers opting to receive paperless billing can continue to receive their statements through e-bill documents.
- Utility payment dates will not change.

Customers will receive information about the new platform in the utility bill, online on the City's social media channels, in this newsletter, and on the City website and e-newsletter.

Discover Entertainment!





CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES HONORED

Several City of Kannapolis residents have graduated from the Citizens Police Academy.

The academy concentrates on educating residents about the services and functions of the Kannapolis Police Department and provides citizens with a better understanding of what it takes to be a police officer.

Attendees participated in classes on all aspects of the department, such as patrol operations, traffic enforcement, defensive driving, firearms, K-9 operations, special operations (SWAT), felony investigations, interaction with the courts and community service programs.

Pictured left to right, front row: Elisabeth Strillacci, Bel Ray, Meaghan Wade, April Anthony, Tiffany Carroll, Deonna Bobbitt/ Back row: Chief Terry Spry, Joshua Matute, Jim Stavros, Samantha Merchak, Dylan Fortson, Theron Smoutherson, John Reeves and Deputy Chief Chris Hill. Not pictured: Beryl Torrence.

DISCOVER THE RUN KANNAPOLIS 5K SERIES!

Join us for the next run in the Run Kannapolis 5K series. Flint's Fabulous 5K will take place at 8 a.m. on September 20 at the NCRC. Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities are invited to participate.

Run Kannapolis is part of the City of Kannapolis' Discover a Healthy Life brand. Register for Flint's Fabulous 5K and the rest of the runs in the Run Kannapolis Series.

- Sept. 20 – **Flint's Fabulous 5K** | 8 a.m.
- Oct. 4 – **Race for Peace** | 8 a.m.
- Nov. 8 – **Old Armor 5K for Heroes** | 9 a.m.

Register at www.runkannapolis.com.



INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A STUDY AT THE NORTH CAROLINA RESEARCH CAMPUS?

Interested in a research study on the N.C. Research Campus? Studies are always underway by researchers as they work to develop new ways to improve health or to prevent, diagnose or treat medical conditions. Some of the studies may include reimbursement. For a complete list of studies, use the QR code.



THE CITY OF KANNAPOLIS

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