

Town of Hertford
Regular Session Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026 – 6:00 PM
Horace Reid Community Center, 305 W Grubb Street

The Council of the Town of Hertford held a Regular Session Meeting at the Horace Reid Community Center on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Ashley Hodges, Mayor
Sara Winslow

Connie Brothers, Mayor Pro Tem
Evan Copeland

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Keith Rouse

STAFF PRESENT

Doris Walton, Town Manager
Gina Durante, Town Clerk
John Leidy, Attorney

A quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hodges called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Brothers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Copeland made a motion to approve the agenda, and Mayor Pro Tem Brothers seconded his motion. The motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Brothers motioned to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: The meeting minutes from December 8, 2025. Councilwoman Winslow seconded the motion, and it carried, 4-0.

CITIZENS CONCERNS

- 1) Henry House addressed Council regarding cones on Market Street and the pavement for the infrastructure work that has not been filled in adequately. He stated that the cones on Market Street eliminate one parking space on Market Street, and the trench on Grubb Street has a 1-2 inch gap making it significantly uneven with the road. He feels that these issues are not being addressed in a timely manner.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

a) Discussion and Approval of Recommendations from NCDOT on speed limits Throughout Town

Manager Walton met with Jason Davidson of NCDOT last week to address the speed limit changes. She provided Council with maps highlighting the speed limits on Edenton Road Street, Grubb Street, Church Street, and Dobbs Street. Secondly, she provided a map highlighting speed limit recommendations. After much discussion, Council agreed to support the following DOT proposed changes, with one exception:

1. Drop the speed limit on Edenton Road Street from 45 mph to 35 from the stop signs at Wynne Fork/Ballahack to just past the high school
2. The speed limit on Edenton Road Street beyond the high school to Grubb Street, Dobbs Street towards Church Street, and Grubb Street towards Church Street will be reduced to 25 mph
3. Reduce the speed limit at the bend on South Church Street at Raccoon Creek Bridge approaching downtown from 35 mph to 25 mph.
4. North Church Street between Market Street and Grubb Street will remain 20 mph, and North Church Street between Grubb Street and the S-Bridge will remain 25 mph.

Councilwoman Winslow made a motion to approve the recommendations with the one exception agreed upon by Council. Councilman Copeland seconded her motion, and it passed unanimously, 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Approval of Recommendation of Award to CC&R Land for Phase I Culvert Hyde Park Project

In November last year, the Town received three bids for work on Phase I of the culvert at Hyde Park Street. The work is being funded through the \$650,600 Golden Leaf Grant that the Town was awarded. Bid packages from the three contractors were thoroughly reviewed. The recommendation from Withers Ravenel and Manager Walton is to accept CC&R Land's bid.

Mayor Pro Tem Brothers motioned to accept the bid and award the contract to CC&R Land for the construction of the Phase I Culvert at Hyde Park Project. Councilman Copeland seconded the motion, and it passed, 4-0.

b) Adopt Resolution for Acceptance of Great Trails State Program Funds

The Town received EDA funds in the amount of \$300K, which was comprised of \$180K from EDA and County and Town matches of \$120K, to support work on our Riverfront Boardwalk. The total cost of the work exceeded the grant and match, and the Great Trails State Program grant we were awarded can be applied to the additional expenses the Town incurred. Council needs to approve the resolution accepting the GTSP grant.

Councilman Copeland made a motion to adopt Resolution FY26-6 to accept Great Trails State Program grant funds. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Winslow. The motion carried, 4-0.

c) Re-Appointments to PZBOA – Town Appointments

1. Milton Long – December 2028
2. Gracie Felton – December 2028

Both Milton Long and Gracie Felton's terms on the PZBOA expired at the end of December 2025. Both have agreed to serve another 3-year term.

Mayor Pro Tem Brothers made a motion to reappoint Milton Long to the PZBOA. His new term will expire in December 2028. Councilwoman Winslow seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

A motion and a second were made by Councilwoman Winslow and Mayor Pro Tem Brothers to reappoint Gracie Felton to the PZBOA. Her new term will expire in December 2028. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Attorney Leidy interjected that with a unanimous vote, Council can approve adding Budget Amendment FY26-11 to the agenda. Councilwoman Winslow motioned to add Budget Amendment FY26-11 to the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Brothers seconded her motion, and it passed unanimously. Budget Amendment FY26-11 will be added under New Business, item 7e.

d) Accept Donation of Property at 306 King Street

The Haste sisters would like to donate their property at 306 King Street to the Town. This property would be used for future improvements to the Town and will not be sold. The donors will be doing the legal work to donate it so there is no cost to the Town for accepting this donation.

Mayor Pro Tem Brothers and Councilman Copeland made a motion and second to accept the property donation at 306 King Street from the Haste sisters. The motion carried, 4-0.

e) Budget Amendment

FY26-11

| | | |
|--|-------------|------------|
| Decrease Sewer Collections Contingencies | 51-5860-577 | \$4,432.19 |
| Increase Sewer Collections Permits | 51-5860-552 | \$4,432.19 |

Transfer funds from Contingencies to Permits to cover the cost of a Notice of Violation from the NCDEQ at the wastewater plant.

Councilman Copeland motioned to approve Budget Amendment FY26-11. Councilwoman Winslow seconded the motion, and it carried, 4-0.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Manager Walton stated that the Town offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. She will be at the office that day as our modem is being replaced to prevent another internet outage like the outage the Town had last week. She asked Council to bring topics to the next meeting that they would like to discuss at our annual retreat. Manager Walton will also bring multiple dates to the next meeting that the Albemarle Commission is available for our retreat. Lastly, she informed Council that she and the Finance Director are having their first pre-budget meeting on Friday, January 16.

COUNCIL CONCERNS/REPORTS

Councilwoman Winslow had no report but noted that the dip on North Church Street where the waterline was replaced at the S-Bridge urgently needs to be fixed.

Councilman Copeland suggested writing a letter to our local representatives regarding the wastewater violation our Town received and policy enforcement.

Mayor Pro Tem Brothers wished all a Happy New Year. She thanked Henry House and the vendors who participated at his Grubb Street Market Thursday. Mayor Pro Tem Brothers thanked Councilwoman Winslow for attending the Community Brunch at the 252 Grill on Sunday to improve community relations and give back to the Town.

Mayor Hodges thanked Mayor Pro Tem Brothers for organizing the Community Brunch on Sunday at the 252 Grill. He spoke with some of the downtown business owners this morning. The owners suggested that the Town put up the lighted television screen sign (that used to be on the corner of Church and Market Streets) on the side of the Hertford

State Theatre (facing Woodards) to attract people to shop downtown and advertise events or sales. That screen was obtained by the Town through a grant. We will need to confirm that it is operable. Prior to Christmas, Mayor Hodges met with Representative Ed Goodwin regarding funding for the Hertford State Theatre and how to approach the legislature for additional funding. Although the Town received an \$850K grant, another \$2M or more is needed to complete the renovation. Manager Walton and Janice Cole are going to work together on reaching out to the legislature. Mayor Hodges offered to help as needed. The Rotary Club contacted him, and they would like to tour the Wastewater plant. Mayor Hodges also met with a developer who may be interested in doing something with the spray field, and at this time the developer prefers to remain anonymous.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, January 12th, marks Manager Walton's three-year anniversary working for the Town of Hertford.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion and a second were made by Mayor Pro Tem Brothers and Councilwoman Winslow to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.