

Town of Hertford
Regular Session Meeting
Monday, February 9, 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, February 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Ashley Hodges, Mayor
Sara Winslow
Evan Copeland
Connie Brothers, Mayor Pro Tem
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 6:01 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Brothers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Copeland seconded the motion, and it carried, 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of 1) January 12, 2026 Regular Session Minutes; and 2) January 26, 2026 Work Session Minutes was made by Councilwoman Winslow. Councilman Copeland seconded, and the motion passed, 5-0.

CITIZENS CONCERNS

Ann Barber, Pastor of New Birth Christian Ministries, addressed Council regarding a property on South Edenton Road Street that needs renovation. Twenty years ago, church services were held there. Her group is interested in making that building habitable as there is much sentiment for her. They have been doing community outreach in Hertford. They would like to renovate the building and hold ministry services there.

Kennedy Barber, a retired police officer, bishop at New Birth Ministry, and husband to Pastor Barber, spoke about the same property as Ann Barber. He has a construction person and a group of people doing clean up at the property on Edenton Road Street, focusing on safety to the workers and community and doing major removal. There has been a lot of progress. He will have the Building Inspector come out and provide guidance for what to do next with the structure and foundation as they progress in the cleanup. He will bring future updates to Council. Mr. Barber asked if there is anything they need to bring to Council and Mayor Hodges instructed him to connect with Manager Walton. She stated that he can call or come to her office and she can walk him through the permitting process. Mr. Barber thanked Council.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

a) Adopt Ordinance for Speed Limit Changes

Manager Walton explained that Ordinance FY26-10 is required to be adopted as the Town changes speed limits on various roads, both Town and NCDOT maintained roads (see exhibit A attached). NCDOT was delayed in sending Manager Walton the documents to be completed for the modifications adopted by the Town. Before he can make the formal request to NCDOT, the approved ordinance stating the changes and certified minutes approving the ordinance will be sent so our request can be processed. Manager Walton reminded Council that these changes were approved unanimously at our January 12th Regular Session. Councilwoman Winslow commented that this Ordinance will correct any discrepancies in posted speed limits with the DOT. Manager Walton confirmed that the Ordinance will repeal old incorrect speed limits and make the adjustments Council approved. Mayor Hodges thanked Marc Christian for initiating this process.

Councilwoman Winslow motioned to approve Ordinance FY26-10 Establishing and Amending Speed Limits on Town-Maintained Streets and Adopting Speed Limits on NCDOT-Maintained Streets and Repeal Old Existing Ordinances That Are No Longer Correct. Mayor Pro Tem Brothers seconded her motion, and it passed unanimously, 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Budget Amendments

FY26-12 – Move funds for the Hertford State Theatre Feasibility Study that Council approved at the January 26, 2026, Work Session.

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|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Decrease Grant Match | 10-5610-571 | \$20,000.00 |
| Increase Professional Services | 10-5610-511 | \$20,000.00 |

Councilman Copeland made a motion to approve Budget Amendment FY26-12. Mayor Pro Tem Brothers seconded, and the motion carried, 5-0.

b) Update on Harbor Towns Work on Docks and Truss Ramp

Manager Walton began by informing Council that she was made aware of an article in the Albemarle Observer regarding information on Harbor Town.

Manager Walton reached out to Pete Thomson to get an update on our projects in Hertford, dollar figures regarding our budget, the schedule of work and when we will see progress. She stated that there has been work done on the docks, we have seen surveys being conducted, and engineers have been here to see what needs to be done, we haven't had anything concrete done, nor have we received anything in writing from Harbor Cruises. Mr. Thomson informed Manager Walton that they need to conduct surveys of the land and the water before CAMA permits can be obtained, they have to do Geotech on both veins, they have to get a licensed engineer to draw up the project, and they have the firm that's going to do the camera permit request, and they're waiting for the camera. Manager Walton has a follow-up call with Mr. Thomson tomorrow. Chris Morris of AR Chesson has said that he will have ramp pricing for the truss in a few days. It seems Manager Walton is getting conflicting information from Mr. Thomson and the Albemarle Observer. She will update Council on tomorrow's conversation with Mr. Thomson.

Money has to be spent or encumbered by June, or it is reverted back to the state. Councilwoman Winslow questions if the studies, acquiring permits, and work can be completed by then. She also noted that \$13.7M was for a regional ferry network which has not been built. The two high speed ferries are docked in Edenton and are not being used. Ten million dollars was allocated to the five harbor towns, \$2M each, so there are four other municipalities affected by this, as well. Councilman Rouse is hopeful that we will get meaningful information and see something happening by spring.

Manager Walton stated that the \$2M per town was not given to the towns but given to Harbor Town LLC. She emphasized that the money was never directly given to each town. Council gave Harbor Town Cruises ideas that we would like to see done with the funds, and because our docks do not require \$2M worth of repairs, we suggested using some of those remaining funds for a ramp to the truss as it is part of the waterfront. Manager Walton will keep Council informed of her conversations with Mr. Thomson.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Manager Walton had a conversation with Chris Walkers, Regional Director from Don Davis's office, regarding dollars they have put together for projects for several towns

throughout eastern North Carolina. Mr. Walker asked Manager Walton to provide three large infrastructure projects. She gave him the write-up that she had sent to NC State Representative Ed Goodwin's office, consisting of asking for the second delivery point substation, roads in and out of the Marina Industrial Park, and remainder of the work for the Wastewater Treatment plan, which we still need additional funds to complete in addition to the \$4.3M we have received. Mayor Hodges suggested the watermain extension on West Grubb Street as that is a project to grow our tax base. Manager Walton will reach out to a developer who previously came to Council and try to get some show of support that they are interested in developing in that area of Town but the infrastructure needs to be expanded.

At our last meeting, Council asked Manager Walton to put an update together for the residents regarding the timeline of the repaving. Manager Walton distributed the draft of what will be going out in the newsletter and asked for feedback. The information will also be available on our Facebook page, website, and streaming live in the municipal building.

The audit presentation has been delayed, but the Town is still on time with our audit. Our auditing firm has hired a new partner who is reviewing our audit, and that partner has additional questions for our Finance Director, which has caused a delay. The ABC Board not giving us their audit on time, also caused further delays as the auditing firm would not move forward with our audit until they received that information. Manager Walton anticipates our audit to be completed within a week.

Manager Walton reported that during the storm we had no loss of power. On Saturday a pole broke due to wind and did cut power, but it was back on within 30 minutes. There was one resident with frozen pipes. Manager commended the street crew for doing a great job preparing for the snowstorm.

Manager Walton asked for dates of availability for our meeting with the County Manager Brandon Shoaf, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Commissioners.

COUNCIL CONCERNS/REPORTS

Councilwoman Winslow thanked the Town staff and street crew for preparation for the storm we had last week. It is time for spring!

Councilman Rouse stated that there are water leaks on Dobbs Street near Edenton Road Street. He would like to see those fixed. He noted that Brew 2 Rescue is extending their hours and will be offering a dinner night. He spoke with the new manager and discussed holding youth events there. Councilman Rouse said he is still working on getting a youth program in Hertford, which was his campaign platform.

Councilman Copeland thanked Public Work Director Chad White who took him on a tour of their facilities. The staff shared with him some of the great upgrades happening. He

expressed concern about the main power grid for the Town being located adjacent to an incredible fire hazard. He finds it concerning that it butts up against a property filled with piles of dried wood pallets. Councilman Copeland asked if anything could be done about protecting the main power grid from this hazard?

Mayor Pro Tem Brothers thanked Town Manager and her staff for their work for our Town. She thanked the citizens representing the New Birth Church for coming to the meeting tonight and their plans for the Town. She hopes to see Edenton Road Street revitalized to its former beauty. She thanked Marc Christian for his diligence on Town speed limits. She asked for prayers for former Mayor Brown and former Mayor Pro Tem Anderson.

Mayor Hodges thanked the citizens that attended the meeting and took the opportunity to engage with Council and share their ideas. He thanked Marc Christian for addressing the issue of speed limits around town and advocating for the residents. Mayor Hodges thanked Public Works for their storm preparations and complimented them on how well we fared the inclement weather. He also thanked Manager Walton and her staff for their work and pulling information together and all their work. He asked Manager Walton if she had received all needed information for Strategic Planning and she replied that she was waiting on responses from two individuals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion and a second were made by Mayor Pro Tem Brothers and Councilman Copeland to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM. The motion passed unanimously.