

**THE TOWN OF HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL SESSION/RETREAT**  
March 1, 2025, 9:00am to 3:00pm  
Albemarle Commission Auditorium  
512 South Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944

The Council of the Town of Hertford held a Special Session/Retreat Meeting at the Albemarle Commission Auditorium on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ashley Hodges, Mayor                      Sandra Anderson, Mayor Pro Tem  
Keith Rouse                                      Connie Brothers

**STAFF PRESENT**

Doris Walton, Interim Town Manager  
Gina Durante, Town Clerk  
Ashley Eure, Director of Finance  
Sarah Nixon, Executive Assistant  
Chad White, Public Services Director  
Earline White, Customer Services Director

Manager Walton opened the Retreat with a team building exercise. Town Manager, Council, and all staff present participated.

Manager Walton asked Council members to write short term changes (6 months), long term changes (their tenure on Council), and obstacles. They were then posted under their respective topics for discussion.

**SHORT TERM**

- 1) Roadside Cemetery fence/signs
- 2) Crosswalk at Hyde Park and Dobbs
- 3) Harris Shopping Center cleanup
- 4) Have Town Hall Meetings in various areas
- 5) Bi-yearly community cleanup
- 6) Edenton Road Street beautification
- 7) New residents moving to Hertford
- 8) Activities for our youth
- 9) Sound system
- 10) Change in approach and enforcement with difficult property owners
- 11) More clearly communicated utility policy and education of residents (HHA)
- 12) More effective communication with residents

## **LONG TERM**

- 1) Youth/teen center in Town
- 2) Roadside Cemetery fence and signs
- 3) Dilapidated homes
- 4) Extended Christmas décor
- 5) Funding for restoration of buildings
- 6) More weekend activities in Hertford
- 7) More places to eat after 5 PM in Hertford
- 8) Add a stoplight at the 17 and Wynne Fork intersection
- 9) Parking
- 10) Increase revenue with decreased burden on residents (utilities and taxes)
- 11) Increase the number of businesses to residents
- 12) Eliminate blighted structures (commercial and residential)

## **OBSTACLES**

- 1) Location Funding
- 2) Compassion for clients to be served
- 3) Slumlords
- 4) Volunteers
- 5) Funding
- 6) Double taxation (town and county) discourages new businesses and residents
- 7) Harbor Town not releasing our funding
- 8) Need to freeze utility rates
- 9) Competitive and adversarial relationship with County
- 10) Declining federal funding for underserved community climate
- 11) Limited community organization capacity
- 12) Competition with Elizabeth City and Edenton
- 13) Effective legislation on funding, policy

Manager Walton's presentation coincided with the discussion of the items Council posted for discussion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Special Session/Retreat adjourned was adjourned at 2:30 PM with all scheduled business completed.