

Town of Hertford
Work Session Meeting
Monday, June 23, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Horace Reid Community Center, 305 W Grubb Street

The Council of the Town of Hertford held a Work Session Meeting at the Horace Reid Community Center on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Rhonda Waters

STAFF PRESENT

Doris Walton, Interim Town Manager
Gina Durante, Town Clerk
Chad White, Public Works Director

A quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hodges called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Councilman Rouse, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Brothers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Rouse seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

None

CONTINUED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

a) **Harbor Town – Ramp to Truss from Land**

Manager Walton invited Peter Thomson from Harbor Towns to discuss the ramp the Town would like to have built from the old S-Bridge truss to Missing Mill Park with

the \$2M grant money we have left over from marina upgrades. Thomson explained that it is unknown what the cost of that ramp would be and if it could be done within that budget. He also noted that first engineering studies of the ground that will support the ramp and the ramp itself need to be done before it can be presented to Council. That study will cost approximately \$150K and could possibly take until October to complete. Council and Mr. Thomson discussed the vision and plan for the truss. Manager Walton recommended that the Town pursue the study so that we can work towards what the study shows. Council concurred to have the study completed as part of our Harbor Town \$2M grant so that Mr. Thomson can present design and pricing of the ramp following the study.

b) Budget Amendments

FY25-49

This will balance out the lines within the Electric budget for the year.

Decrease Electric Purchase of Wholesale Utilities		\$35,236.00
Increase Electric Regular Wages	52-5900-411	\$28,000.00
Increase FICA	52-5900-421	\$1,336.00
Increase Electrics LGERS Pension	52-5900-423	\$4,600.00
Increase Electric Health Insurance	52-5900-425	\$1,300.00

Councilwoman Brothers made a motion to approve Budget Amendment FY25-49. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson seconded, and the motion passed, 4-0.

c) New Boundaries for Downtown Hertford

Manager Walton stated that the current boundaries for downtown Hertford do not include our Post Office, the Municipal Building, nor the Town's Administrative Building. During the annual Downtown Hertford assessment, Manager Walton asked Charles Halsall, Main Street Program Specialist, if our boundaries could be expanded to include those buildings as they are in a one-block proximity to downtown. Including these buildings is advantageous as our Main Street Director's office will then be included in the downtown boundaries. The Main Street Program looks favorably upon the director being located within those boundaries and adds to our downtown staff count. Manager Walton presented Council with the old map and the proposed map which included those buildings. Manager Walton would like Council's approval to continue with the process of expanding Downtown Hertford's boundaries.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson motioned to approve the expansion of the Downtown Hertford boundaries as presented. Councilman Rouse seconded her motion, and it carried, 4-0.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Manager Walton told Council that she met on June 13th with the architect Council approved to renovate the Hertford State Theatre. He was at the theatre for about four hours and completed a preliminary scan of it. The scan was to gauge the integrity of interior wall structures. Original wood paneling was uncovered as well. They hope to post a rendering of what the theatre will look like so people can see progress is being made at the theatre.

Manager Walton stated that there is “something” being done at 513 W. Grubb Street. There is a large dumpster on the property and the house has been boarded up.

Public Works staff will be working modified hours this week due to the excessive hot temperatures. They will be working 6 AM – 3 PM but the Administrative Office for Public Works will be working normal summer hours, 7 AM – 4 PM.

COUNCIL CONCERNS/REPORTS

Councilwoman Brothers expressed concern for the unhoused and elderly during these high temperature days. She noted that proper hydration needs to be available to them. Councilwoman Brothers mentioned that the lot next to her home is Town-owned and is sinking.

Councilman Rouse said that although he did not attend the Juneteenth Celebration, he wanted to thank Public Works staff, the volunteers, NAACP, and people who made it a successful event.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson stated that she did attend the Juneteenth Celebration, and it was very well done – informative, educational, and great speakers. She would like to see it continue to grow and get bigger and better.

Mayor Hodges also attended the Juneteenth Celebration on June 21st, and it was a great event. He received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce requesting water on Church Street. Mayor Hodges thanked Public Works for their dedication and hard work during these extremely hot days.

Manager Walton added that she is waiting for a response from Brandon at the County Commission Office regarding a citizen's request to reduce the speed limit on Edenton Road Street. She stated that because Edenton Road Street is operated by DOT, it is their decision to reduce the speed limit, and it could be a long process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Manager Walton also reminded all the on Saturday, July 5th, there will be fireworks sponsored by the Town of Winfall at Missing Mill Park. The Town of Hertford has arranged for food trucks, slushies/icees, music, and the splash pad.

Councilwoman Brothers announced that the Smart Start Reading Program will be held July 17th thru August 5th.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion and a second were made by Councilman Rouse and Councilwoman Brothers to adjourn. The motion carried 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM