



**TOWN OF HERTFORD  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
BUDGET PRESENTATION  
MONDAY, MAY 25, 2021 @ 6:00 P.M.  
HERTFORD COMMUNITY CENTER**

The Town Council of Hertford held their Budget Presentation on Monday, May 25, 2021 by Town Manager Hurdle at the Town of Hertford Community Center. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Earnell Brown at 6:00 p.m. The invocation was offered by Councilman Mimplitsch.

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges, Mayor Earnell Brown, Councilman Frank Norman, Councilman Mimplitsch Councilman Jackson arrived late and left early (due to sickness).

**STAFF PRESENT**

Manager Pamela Hurdle, Clerk Olga Simpson, and Chief Brown.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Murielle Harmon, Tim Brinn, Kim Brinn, Facebook, and Zoom viewers.

**QUORUM**

The meeting began with a quorum of 4 and increased to 5 when Councilman Jackson arrived.

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

The purpose of the meeting was the presentation of the Recommended Budget for the fiscal year of 2021-2022 by Mayor Pamela Hurdle. Mayor Brown laid the ground rules for discussion and questions regarding items of the budget presentation. Council was asked to hold their questions until after the completion of the presentation. Citizens will have an opportunity to speak or ask questions at the Public Hearing on June 7, 2021.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Manager Hurdle presented the recommended budget by section and line items. A letter to the Council will be given to Council at the end of the presentation. Manager Hurdle requested that all questions be held until the end of the presentation. If anyone would like to speak to her regarding the budget, they may schedule a meeting with her to answer any budget questions they may have.

Manager Hurdle began with a summary of the budget and later gave a line-by-line detailed information regarding budget items. Manager Hurdle was interrupted with objections to the rules for the meeting and discussion. Councilman Norman questioned the cuts that were made in the budget and had unanswered questions. Mayor Brown reiterated the rules and purpose of the meeting and asked Manager Hurdle to continue with the budget.

**Point of Order:** Councilman Jackson-asked Clerk Simpson to read back the minutes where Council members made any motions or vote on Manager Hurdle's request. Mayor Brown stated, to keep the meeting moving in a professional manner, there was no motion. The purpose of the meeting was for the governing board to hear the town manager's budget presentation.

Councilman Jackson Motioned to Override Mayor Brown. Councilman Norman Seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Councilman Mimlitsch (Nay)

Councilman Norman (Yay)

Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges (Nay)

Councilman Jackson (Yay)

Mayor Brown (Nay).

The Motion to Override the Mayor failed (3-2).

**Point of Order:** Councilman Jackson-It is not the point of the agenda item, but the question is how the rules of procedure of Hertford Town Council are being conducted.

Councilman Mimlitsch Motioned to accept town manager's request to present the budget without interruption and answer our questions at the end. Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges Seconded.

**Point of Order-**Councilman Jackson-The rules of procedure cannot be changed without having a read-ahead. Councilman Jackson Motioned to Table. Councilman Norman Seconded

**Roll Call Vote:**

~~Councilman Mimlitsch (Nay)~~

Councilman Norman (Yay)

Councilman Jackson (Yay)

Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges (Nay)

Mayor Brown (Nay)

The Motion to Table failed (3-2).

**Roll Call Vote on Councilman Mimlitsch's Motion:** to accept town manager's request to present the budget without interruption and answer our questions at the end. Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges Seconded. All in favor of the manager to complete her presentation for the Town of Hertford.

Councilman Mimlitsch (Yay)

Councilman Norman (Nay)

Councilman Jackson (Nay)

Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges (Yay)

Mayor Brown (Yay).

The Motion to accept town Manager Hurdle's request to present the budget without interruption passed (3-2).

Councilman Jackson asked Councilman Mimlitsch if he would amend the motion to state the meeting will not be adjourned until all questions are answered. Councilman Mimlitsch declined to allow an amendment to be made on his motion.

**Point of Order: Councilman Jackson** Motioned to Adjourn the Meeting. Councilman Norman Seconded. Council continued discussion regarding rules of procedure, budget, spending, and the challenges of the meetings, and council members missing meetings.

**Point of Order: Councilman Jackson-**There is a motion to adjourn.

**Point of Order: Councilman Norman-**Explained, if absent from a meeting, it was a meeting that was called up or he had other plans. Absence from Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges town hall meeting was to keep it from becoming an official meeting. He has a problem with meeting being adjourned, when he has something to say at the end of a meeting. Councilman Norman requested the record state, Mayor Brown and Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges lie directly on this dais on a consistent basis. There were not five

meetings for this budget. One of the meetings scheduled was cancelled by the manager. Council voted and he did not see the vote. If the vote to cancel a meeting was as a written vote, all of Council had the right to know who said what. That didn't happen and further stated, Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges was beyond the lack of integrity and doesn't know what to say about Mayor Brown.

**Rebuttal: Councilman Jackson**-rebutted comments regarding the budget, spending, and the missing of meetings. Meetings that were missed because no one knew about it or was not conducive to his work schedule.

**Roll Call Vote on the Motion to Adjourn the meeting:**

Councilman Mimplitsch (Nay)

Councilman Norman (Yay)

Councilman Jackson (Yay)

Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges (Nay)

Mayor Brown (Nay)

The Motion to Adjourn the Meeting failed (3-2).

Manager Hurdle continued with the budget presentation and requested a spokesperson to be the liaison for the budget. Councilman Mimplitsch Motioned Councilman Hodges be appointed as the spokesperson. Councilman Hodges Seconded.

**Point of Order: Councilman Norman**-Questions would be entertained after Mayor Hurdle finished.

Councilman Norman Motioned to Table until after the discussion about the budget. There was no Second. Mayor Brown proceeded with the roll call vote to appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges as the spokesperson.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Councilman Mimplitsch (Yay)

Councilman Norman (Nay)

Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges (Yay)

Mayor Brown (Yay)

The Motion to Appoint Pro Tem Hodges as the Spokesperson passed (3-1). Councilman Jackson was not in the room for the vote.

**Point of Order: Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges.** He thought there was one piece of information missing from Manager Hurdle's presentation regarding electric water and sewer rates. If they are going up, from what to what? Manager Hurdle answered the question and continued presenting the budget.

Councilman Norman stated for the record that the reason for the town's is in the red is because the former council put the town in debt in some areas. There is not enough money to run it and pay the debt too. Citizens are being unfairly charged and suggested a tiered system. Businesses and institutions should pay more. Councilman Norman requested both a physical and electronic copy of the proposed rate and the proposed 5 years that you want to recommend so that Council can have that discussion prior to us having another meeting about this. Councilman Mimplitsch also questioned the rates Winfall pays and agrees that issue needs to be revisited. Councilman Jackson is not going to vote for any increase in water, sewer, and electric rates. Councilman Jackson made a formal request for department heads to present their own budgets and that the IT of the building be available for all council members and not for a select few.

Mayor Brown called a recess at 8:33.

Council reconvened at 8:42.

Councilman Norman addressed several concerns and received answers regarding the governing board operating expenses, removing insurance for council members, professional services, the police department, and contingencies. Councilman Norman requested the record to reflect that in the couple of meetings that were cancelled, these were some of the things he had written down to ask about and they were cut. It was not his fault that when a meeting of the governing board was called, no one shows up. He apologized for the frustration he caused Manager Hurdle to experience with this governing board not being able to meet and get things done on a timely manner.

**Point of Clarity: Councilman Jackson** requested clarity regarding the election of the governing body person. That item was added to the agenda and the vote was taken while he was out the room. Manager Hurdle clarified the vote was for a person for the governing body and the budget. Based upon Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges statements, Councilman Jackson Motioned to retain the Hertford Police Department, suspend all conversations, and Manager Hurdle identify an interim chief as part of chief of police hiring process, and include the police department in this year's budget. Councilman Norman Seconded.

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Council further discussed taxes, sheriff department coverage and costs for law enforcement services, the actions of the sheriff's office, the 911 bill, and payment and discussions with the attorney. Mayor Brown called Councilman Norman's attention to the time he'd taken for discussion.

**Point of Order: Councilman Norman**-How many minutes do we get?

**Rebuttal: Councilman Jackson**-discussed the estimated costs of county's enforcement service and the motion made to talk to the county. No one is allowed send anything from the governing board to the attorney without a motion and second from the council. Councilman Jackson requested all attorney bills. Councilman's Jackson's motion was restated and brought to a vote.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Councilman Mimlitsch (Nay)

Councilman Norman (Yay)

Councilman Jackson (Yay)

Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges (Nay)

Mayor Brown (Nay)

The Motion to retain the Hertford Police Department, suspend all conversations, and Manager Hurdle identify an interim chief as part of chief of police hiring process, and include the police department in this year's budget failed (3-2).

Councilman Norman discussed IT proposals and requested Manager Hurdle send him what packet the information came in and formally requested information from Mr. Sanchez. Councilman Norman suggested a plan for marking the cemetery plots and will bring the information to Council at the next meeting. Councilman Norman reminded the council about Mr. Jenkins and his proposal to use the building as his office. He recommended that the town make a deal with Mr. Jenkins for his lawn services in relation to the graveyard. Councilman Norman requested Council's permission to explore the option (the building and Mr. Jenkins). Councilman Mimlitsch reminded Council there can be no bartering, there must be a contract or the submission of a bid. Councilman Norman will discuss this with the attorney and school of government. Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges, Councilman Jackson, and Councilman Mimlitsch agreed. It doesn't matter to Mayor Brown.

With regard to Winfall rate hikes, Councilman Norman Motioned to 1. Pull all contracts up, and want to be part of that party, find out what we can and cannot do. 2. Do a rate hike preparation for the town of Winfall. 3. Report it to LGC for fairness. 4. Have madam manager to begin to explore having a meeting about this and other joint meetings with the Town of Winfall. If the Town of Winfall refuses to meet with us on a timely enough basis, we will revert to our best choices out of what we have already prepared. Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges Seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Councilman Mimlitsch (Yay),  
Councilman Norman (Yay)  
Councilman Jackson (Yay)  
Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges (Yay)  
Mayor Brown (Yay).

The four points of the motion to address Winfall rate hikes passed unanimously (5-0).

**Other Council Concerns:**

- The Rescue fund not being represented in the budget (it may offset some of the costs in the budget that is being cut) Will get copies to be shared with all the governing board.
- Augmenting salaries out of the electric fund
- How the town pays for and when it receives the smart meters
- Connection fees and who sets the rates.
- Councilman Jackson would like it in writing to get our downtown road back.
- The pay study policy needs to be reviewed.
- Placing Health Insurance in the budget for Council members
- The Safety of senior citizens and the county keeping its word
- Removal of the Police Department Budget (should not have been removed from the budget until we no longer have one). It should be placed back in the budget.
- Winfall Contract (Council needs to review it)

Councilman Jackson Motioned the Town of Hertford send an official letter to the county that we are withdrawing from the Communication's Contract. Councilman Norman Seconded and amended the motion to add (send a second Notice of intent to exit the contract).

**Roll Call Vote:**

Councilman Mimlitsch (Yay)  
Councilman Norman (Yay)  
Councilman Jackson (Yay)  
Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges (Yay)  
Mayor Brown (Yay)

The Motion to withdraw from the Communications Contract passed unanimously (5-0).

The budget numbers will be discussed and finalized on June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Brown Motioned to Adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges Seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Councilman Mimlitsch (Yay)  
Councilman Norman (Yay)

Councilman Jackson (Yay)

Mayor Pro-Tem Hodges (Yay)

Mayor Brown (Yay)

The Motion to Adjourn the meeting passed unanimously (5-0).

The Budget Presentation Adjourned at 11:06.

**Attachments: Citizen's Comments**

Thank you, Mayor Brown and members of the Hertford TC for the opportunity to speak.

I have spent a considerable amount time reviewing the proposed budget and current fiscal year expenditures. It is my understanding that a budget freeze went into effect in the later part of March but essential spending was still allowed. The line item budgets for the current fiscal year (expend YTD – April 15) show in many instances up to 50% or more remaining, with only two and half months left in the fiscal year. Others show significant overages. Yes, I know that you will be dealing with a budget amendment next week to balance these out.

The total projected revenue increase for 2021/2022 is less than \$220K, compared to 2020/2021. The proposed salary increases for employees is 6.3% - I'm certainly not saying that they do not deserve it – total +\$230K, which does not cover fringe.

Water/Wastewater Revenue – not sure if the rate increase was in the Manager's proposed budget. In Water – How can revenue only increase by \$1,500? Then for Sewer revenue decreases by \$5,600?

Professional Services – increase by \$9,200 per department - \$186K. Includes – Audit (\$20K), IT (\$50K), Attorney (\$70K), Granicus (\$7K) and may be others.

The monies that were previously budgeted to HPD will allow some of the budget items to be covered. However, it is going to take strict spending, monitoring and wise management. We have so many major issues (water, sewer, streets, town of buildings, etc.) that have been neglected and not maintained for years!

Sara E. Winslow

102 Phelps Street

6/7/21



July 12, 2021

Thank-you, Mayor Brown & members of the Town Council for the opportunity to speak. Over the past 3 1/2 years, I have addressed the TC relative to meeting minutes and their availability - concern and lack thereof. The February 9, 2021 meeting are the last ones posted on the Town's website. As previously cited the requirements of NCGS, TOW Charters and Ordinances - the requirements are specific and clear. Many sets of minutes have been approved since February. I was going to submit a Public Records Request - but link on Website - Page Not Found. Went to print out 2021/2022 Approved Budget - Page Not Found

When is the 2019/2020 Audit going to be released? Now time for another!

Does the TOW have the liability for the S-Bridge Draw?

- Who & How - refurbished
- Environmental Issues

Sara E. Winslow  
102 Phelps Street

