

**TOWN OF HILDEBRAN
COUNCIL'S CHAMBER
ALBERT PARKHURST
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

**February 23, 2026
7:00 PM**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER	Mayor Hildebrand called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
COUNCIL PRESENT	The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Wendell Hildebrand and Council Members Ben Honeycutt, Mike Smith, Mike Stroupe, Terry Weaver, and Jody York.
STAFF PRESENT	The following staff members were present: Town Manager Logan Shook, Town Clerk Alice Sanders, Finance Officer Fredrick Rankins, Events Coordinator Haven Ward, Building and Grounds Maintenance Worker Gary Towery, and Town Attorney Jared Amos.
CITIZENS & MEDIA	See attached sheet.
INVOCATION	A moment of silence was observed.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Mr. Towery led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Mayor Hildebrand stated that a special presentation should be added before Old Business for a proclamation. Council Member Honeycutt made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. All voted in favor.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the February 4, 2026 special meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor. Council Member Stroupe made a motion to approve the February 4, 2026 closed session minutes as presented. All voted in favor.
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Bill Jones stated that the radiators in the auditorium basement are leaking and he requested that the Town cap off the lines and remove all radiators in the basement.
SPECIAL PRESENTATION BOBBIE JEAN LINDSAY HONEYCUTT PROCLAMATION	Mayor Hildebrand read his proclamation to Bobbie Honeycutt wishing her a happy 94 th birthday and declaring February 15, 2026 as Bobbie Jean Lindsay Honeycutt Day in the Town of Hildebran.

OLD BUSINESS:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR TOWN EVENTS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Town Manager Shook stated that the budget amendment request for Town events is lower than originally requested last month. The time capsule opening and America 250 celebration will now be held at the May Cruise In. He reviewed the other planned events. There being no discussion, Council Member Stroupe made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented for Town events through June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$3,900. All voted in favor. A copy of the amendment is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment A).

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AUDIT CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

There being no discussion, Council Member Honeycutt made a motion to approve the Amendment to Contract to Audit Accounts with Lowdermilk Church & Co., LLP to extent the date the audit will be submitted to the Local Government Commission from December 31, 2025 to March 31, 2026 for year ending June 30, 2025. All voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY

A list of items that were in the auditorium basement that were damaged beyond repair was presented to declare them surplus and of no value. It was clarified that there was a duplicate item, 50 chairs, and the resolution will be revised. There being no discussion, Council Member York made a motion to approve the resolution as amended authorizing the disposition of certain personal property, a list of items damaged in the auditorium basement flood, and declare the items as surplus and of no value. All voted in favor. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment B).

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF QUOTE TO REPLACE DOOR LOCKS AT THE AUDITORIUM AND GYM

Town Manager Shook stated that staff obtained a quote for new door locks at the gym and auditorium that will allow staff to code the locks for renters by date or a specific timeframe. He stated that a different vendor had ordered a lock for the gym door after it broke a few months ago. That lock is the same as the old system that doesn't allow for remote coding like the new lock in the quote. He stated that Council can approve the quote without the gym lock included. Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the quote with P.R.E. Security to only include the auditorium lock. All voted in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF QUOTE FOR NEW SOUND BOARD IN THE AUDITORIUM

Town Manager Shook stated that the existing sound board for the auditorium was stored in a room in the auditorium basement while the auditorium was being renovated. Unfortunately, it was completely submerged in water after the basement flooded. Staff obtained two quotes from Stage Rage. The first quote is for an exact replacement and the second quote is for an upgraded sound board. Council Member Honeycutt made a motion to approve the quote with Stage Rage to replace the sound board and equipment to what the Town previously owned in the amount of \$15,605.27. All voted in favor. Mr. Shook stated that insurance should reimburse the Town for replacement costs.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PAVILION AT ROYAL PARK

Town Manager Shook stated that the plans for a pavilion at Royal Park were removed from the park project with the intent for the Town to add the project at a later date. He stated that there are a few building options that include wood, steel, and iron, or any combination of those components. The wood versions were more expensive and the iron versions were the cheapest. Some Council Members preferred to go with the pole barn style and asked for quotes. Council also wanted to increase the size of the pavilion from 30' x 50' to 60' x 60' in order to provide more seating. Council directed staff to obtain quotes for a 50' x 60' and a 60' x 60' pavilion.

Mr. Shook stated that while doing the project, there are two other requests that the Town has received. The first is to add a sidewalk around the back side of the concessions building. The second is to add a dance pad at the stage. He also stated that a smaller pavilion at the concessions stand is an option in the future.

FACILITIES REPORT

The February facilities report was provided for review.

DELINQUENT TAX REPORT

Tax Collector Sanders provided the January tax report. A copy of the report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment C).

DEPUTY REPORT

The January deputy report was provided for review.

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Events Committee report was provided for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) – No report.

WPCOG Policy Board – Council Member Honeycutt stated that he was unable to attend the last meeting.

Burke Development Inc. – Town Manager Shook stated that BDI is in the process of hiring a new President and CEO.

Recreation and Tourism Committee – No report.

Water Resource Committee – No report.

VEDIC – Karen Robinson stated that the Board reviewed its financial overview highlighting the profit and loss statement and the balance sheet. A delinquent report and technical assistance report were provided with no issues to report. The Board approved a new loan application in the amount of \$106,000. They are working on updating the VEDIC guideline on policies and procedures. VEDIC employees will be attending the Catawba Leadership Conference in March. VEDIC received a \$175,000 RBDG grant.

Library Board – No report.

**OTHER BUSINESS:
CARPET SAMPLE FOR
BURKE CO DEPUTIES
OFFICE**

Deputy Towery stated that staff has picked a sample carpet for the Burke County Sheriff's Office in the municipal complex and asked if Council wanted to review it. Council chose not to review and instructed staff to use the sample they picked out.

**LAWN AND SNOW
REMOVAL CONTRACTS**

Council Member Weaver asked staff to put out to bid the lawn maintenance and snow removal contracts. He asked that some of the mowing be redirected to Mr. Towery and removed from the contract. He stated that he did not want the Town to have to pay a contractor's insurance for snow removal.

Mr. Shook stated that the lawn maintenance requires the contractor to have appropriate licenses and one of the licenses is one that not many people have. In a 4-county area, only 11 people meet the requirements. He stated that the existing contracts expire June 30, 2026.

Council Member Stroupe asked that staff provide bid specs to Council for review prior to bidding out the work.

Council Member Weaver stated that he wanted the contractor to perform work all 12 months of the year. During the off season, the contractor can pick up trash, etc.

CLOSED SESSION

Council Member York made a motion at 7:45 p.m. to enter into a closed session according to NCGS 143-318.11 (5) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. All voted in favor.

Council Member Honeycutt made a motion at 8:04 p.m. to return to open session. All voted in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Stroupe stated that he would like to address the radiators that Mr. Jones brought up under public comments. Council was in agreement to remove the radiators and preferred to remove all of them at the same time. Council directed staff to obtain a quote to remove all the radiators in the auditorium basement.

ADJOURN

All business being concluded, Council Member Honeycutt made a motion at 8:08 p.m. to adjourn. All voted in favor.

I attest these are the approved minutes of the Board.

Alice Sanders, Town Clerk

Wendell Hildebrand, Mayor