

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

**AUGUST 23, 2021
7:15 PM**

**REMOTE REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hildebrand called the remote regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:15 p.m. The meeting was held by simultaneous communication and was streamed live via the Town's YouTube channel.

INVOCATION

A moment of silence was observed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Cline led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

COUNCIL PRESENT

The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Wendell Hildebrand and Council Members Derek Cline, Cole Herrell, Mike Smith and Terry Weaver. Council Member Ben Honeycutt was in attendance via telephone.

STAFF PRESENT

The following staff members were present: Attorney Redmond Dill, Town Manager Logan Shook, Town Clerk Alice Sanders, and Finance Officer Fredrick Rankins.

**CITIZENS & MEDIA
PRESENT**

See attached sheet.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Honeycutt made a motion to approve the June 21, 2021 special meeting minutes and the June 28, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
REVIEW AND
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
OF THE TOWER**

Chris Bathgate, P.E., VP, SKA Consulting Engineering, was in attendance via telephone. He provided a summary of the engineering review of the tower to Council. His full report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment A).

Mr. Bathgate stated that the estimated cost to make the tower structurally safe is at least \$400,000 not including

additional routine maintenance expenses every three to five years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following citizens spoke in favor of keeping the tower: Jeremy Chapman, Sandy Elliott, Debbie Greenhill, Harold Greenhill and Stephanie Higdon.

Debbie Greenhill spoke about a lack of safety of some of the Town's sidewalks.

Mackie Johnson and Joe Hartman spoke about renovation details of the tower.

OLD BUSINESS:
DISCUSSION OF TOWER
RENOVATION PROJECT
AND STRUCTURAL
ENGINEER REPORT

Council Member Herrell stated that Council has spoken to numerous people about the passion of the community to save the tower. Numerous Council Members have voted to save the tower. He stated that nobody wants to tear it down. He stated that when the stairs fell, the tower was boarded up and it could not be determined what the damage was until the renovation work began. He suggested waiting two weeks before making any decisions. Council Member Herrell made a motion to call a remote special meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. in the Council's Chamber to continue discussions on the tower. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Council Member Herrell stated that he felt Council should also address payment for the tower renovation project. Council was in agreement.

Council Member Herrell made a motion to approve payment to Lail Builders in the amount of \$41,000. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Council Member Herrell made a motion to approve payment to Icard Architecture in the amount of \$9,000. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Council Member Herrell made a motion to approve a budget amendment for maintenance work on the tower located at 206 S Center St in the amount of \$50,000. The

motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None. A copy of the budget amendment is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment B).

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION FOR
BUILDING REUSE
APPLICATION FOR
PROJECT HUSKY
II/SYNERGY LABS

Town Manager Shook stated that a resolution was presented for approval for a building reuse application for Synergy Labs. They came to Hildebran in 2019 and successfully fulfilled an initial Building Reuse Grant in just 15 months. The company currently has 72 full-time employees. With this next grant, Synergy Labs plans to spend nearly \$2.8 million to renovate approximately 20,000 square feet of space in order to free up more manufacturing area.

The company plans to hire 60 new, full-time employees by the end of 2022, with an average annual wage of more than \$44,300.

Council Member Herrell made a motion to approve the Authorization Resolution Building Reuse Application for Project Husky II/Synergy Labs with the condition that the Town of Hildebran and the County of Burke equally split a minimum 5% cash match for an application up to \$500,000 grant. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment C).

DISCUSSION OF FALL
FESTIVAL

Town Manager Shook stated that he had not been able to meet with Calvin Reyes. He stated that Council should take into consideration the increasing cases of upper respiratory illnesses and COVID cases. Another issue is the lack of use of the municipal parking lot. It was the consensus of Council to not hold a fall festival or fall community yard sale in 2021 and to revisit the Christmas Craft Show at its September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:
FY 2020-2021 AUDIT
REVIEW

The Town's Auditor, S. Eric Bowman, P.A., presented the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Council Member Herrell made a motion to approve the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 as presented. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None. A copy of the

summary audit report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment D). The final report will be filed in the Town's records.

PRESENTATION FROM
RUSTY BUNTON,
CONTERRA NETWORKS,
SWITCHING TO FIBER
INTERNET

Town Manager Shook stated that he had met with Rusty Bunton, Senior Account Executive, Conterra Networks, who was not able to attend, concerning the Town switching to fiber internet. He stated that the advantage would be increased speed. The disadvantage is that Conterra Networks does not provide a main host for email and the Town would be responsible for transferring existing emails to the new system. Mr. Shook stated that he felt the existing email system was sufficient at this time. Council Member Herrell made a motion to not move forward with switching to fiber internet with Conterra Networks at this time. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

CONSIDER APPROVAL
FOR A PRICE INCREASE IN
RECYCLING SERVICES

Town Manager Shook stated that the Town's current recycling services provider, Simply Green, has increased its prices from \$8.00 per customer to \$10.00 per customer and a budget amendment for this increase is presented for approval. He stated that he had contacted Republic Services for recycling pricing and was informed that they charge for every resident that has trash pickup, not just for those citizens that request recycle services. Council Member Herrell made a motion to approve the budget amendment for an increase in recycling expense with Simply Green from \$8.00 per customer to \$10.00 per customer in the amount of \$9,306 as presented. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None. A copy of the budget amendment is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment E).

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF
COVID RELIEF FUND
GRANT ORDINANCE

Town Manager Shook stated that a COVID Relief Fund Grant Ordinance was presented for approval. The ordinance is to establish a budget for a project to be funded by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Council Member Herrell made a motion to approve the COVID Relief Fund Grant Ordinance in the amount of \$640,581.86 as presented. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

A copy of the ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment F).

DISCUSSION ON 2021
COMMUNITY YARD SALE
AND CRAFT SHOW

Council discussed and took action earlier in the meeting.

JULY/AUGUST FACILITIES
REPORT

The July and August Facilities Reports were provided for review.

JUNE/JULY DELINQUENT
TAX REPORT

Tax Collector Sanders provided the June and July tax reports. A copy of the reports are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment G and H).

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF
2020 TAX SETTLEMENTS

The Annual Tax Settlement for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 for the Town was submitted by Danny Isenhour, Tax Administrator Burke County. The Annual Tax Settlement for Delinquent Taxes for Tax Years 2004-2017 for FY 2020-2021 (not including licensed motor vehicles) was submitted by Alice Sanders, Tax Collector. Council Member Herrell made a motion to approve the Annual Tax Settlement for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021 and the Annual Tax Settle for Delinquent Tax Years 2004-2017 for 2020-2021 (not including licensed motor vehicles) as presented. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None. A copy of the settlements are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachments I and J).

ORDER FOR THE TAX
COLLECTOR TO COLLECT
PROPERTY TAXES FOR
2021 AND 2017 & ALL
PRIOR YEARS

Tax Collector Sanders provided the Order for the Tax Collector to Collect Property Taxes for both Mr. Isenhour and Ms. Sanders. Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the Order for the Tax Collector to Collect Taxes for 2021 for Mr. Isenhour and the Order for the Tax Collector to Collect Property Taxes for 2017 and all Prior Years (not including licensed motor vehicles) for Ms. Sanders. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None. A copy of the orders are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachments K and L).

JUNE AND JULY DEPUTY
REPORT

The June and July reports were provided for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) – Town Manager Shook stated that if approved by the Senate, the Town will be awarded \$80,000 for trail development in Hildebran. He also discussed the bridge construction at Exit 118 and gave Council three options from the DOT. Council was in agreement that the best option provided by DOT was to create a new road at Elk Products.

WPCOG Policy Board – Council Member Honeycutt stated that the Board discussed workforce development and that there will be a census workshop next week.

Burke Economic Development – Council Member Cline stated that he had emailed the report.

Recreation and Tourism Committee – No report.

Water Resource Committee – No report.

VEDIC – No report.

Library Board – No report.

OTHER BUSINESS
SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY

Town Manager Shook stated that Rebecca Bova, Assistant Director, Burke County Senior Services has requested additional funding for Senior Day due to the overwhelming response to this year's event. Council was in agreement. Council Member Herrell made a motion to approve an additional \$1,300 for the current year and a budget amendment for same and to include \$2,000 in the budget for FY 2022-2023. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None. A copy of the budget amendment is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment M).

GOLF CART ORDINANCE

Council Member Weaver requested to amend the Golf Cart Ordinance to allow the use of golf carts on Main Ave. W. beginning at the S. Center St. intersection and ending at 3rd St. Council was in agreement. Council Member Weaver made a motion to amend the Golf Cart Ordinance to allow the use of golf carts on Main Ave. W. beginning at the S. Center St. intersection and ending at 3rd St. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

Council Member Herrell made a motion at 9:23 p.m. to enter into closed session for the purpose of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Council Member Herrell made a motion at 9:30 p.m. to return to open session. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

ADJOURN

All business being concluded, Council Member Honeycutt made a motion at 9:31 p.m. to adjourn. The motion was approved by the following **roll call vote**: Ayes: Council Members Cline, Herrell, Honeycutt, Smith and Weaver. Nays: None. Absent: None.

I attest these are the approved minutes of the Board.

Alice Sanders, Town Clerk

Wendell Hildebrand, Mayor