

**TOWN OF HILDEBRAN
HILDEBRAN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
SANCTUARY**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

**SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

*Prior to the meeting, Mike Long and Cecil Huffman, from the Burke County Fire Marshall's office, gave an update on the fire at the Town Hall complex.

- CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Cook called the special meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- INVOCATION** Tony Bowman, Pastor at Hildebran United Methodist Church, said a prayer.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Mike Long led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.
- COUNCIL PRESENT** The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Virginia Cook, Council Members Brenda Banks, Barbara Lowman, Lee Lowman and Jody York. Leon King was not present.
- STAFF PRESENT** The following staff members were present: Attorney Redmond Dill, Town Clerk Alice Sanders and Finance Officer Fredrick Rankins.
- CITIZENS & MEDIA PRESENT** See attached sheet.
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA** Council Member B. Lowman made a motion to amend the agenda by removing "Mayor authority to spend up to \$10,000 for fire-related emergency management approval" and "budget amendment for fire-related emergency management approval" from the agenda. All voted in favor. Council member B. Lowman made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. All voted in favor.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Council Member Banks made a motion to approve the December 21, 2015 regular meeting and closed session minutes; the January 11, 2016 special meeting; and the January 29, 2016 special meeting and closed session minutes. All voted in favor.
- OLD BUSINESS:
SPECIAL EVENTS
AND CRUISE IN
DISCUSSION**
- Mayor Cook reported that fireworks, a band and a cruise in have been booked for the Memorial Day event. The September 24, 2016 festival is scheduled and Ms. Isenhour will provide more information at the April meeting. The Easter Egg Hunt is planned and Mayor Cook asked for volunteers to help hide the eggs.
- Mayor Cook provided a list of potential cruise in dates. She reported that Rex Lail will be doing his cruise ins on the second Saturday of

each month. Council Member L. Lowman made a motion to hold the Town cruise ins on the fourth Saturdays of the month to include June 25th, July 23rd, August 27th, and September 24th. All voted in favor.

UPDATE ON THE
VACANT FIRST
CITIZENS BANK

Attorney Dill reported that all Council members have toured the bank and he has submitted a tentative proposal with the listing firm subject to inspections, an architectural review and environmental inspections.

UPDATE ON THE
PART-TIME
ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Cook informed Council that a special meeting has been called for Monday, February 29, 2016 as a joint meeting with the Town of Catawba at the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) in room A1 and A2 which will be led by the WPCOG.

NEW BUSINESS:
TAX REFUND
REQUEST (VICKI
SHIPMAN)

Mayor Cook reported that Vicki Shipman owns the property located at 3101 Rondel Childres St, which is not within town limits. Tax documents received from the County indicated that the property was within town limits and as a result, the town generated tax bills for 2012-2015. Ms. Shipman, unknowingly, paid these bills via escrow. She has officially requested a refund, following the proper procedure outlined in General Statute 105-381. Her defense to the enforcement of the collection of taxes assessed upon her property is that the taxes are an illegal tax because the property falls outside town limits. The total amount she paid for the four years is \$1,384.33. The agenda packet contains her letter, the General Statute, a report showing she paid the taxes, a printout from the GIS system showing the location of the property, a printout from the County showing that town taxes are not to be billed for Ms. Shipman moving forward, and the email from the County indicating that she should not have gotten billed and that they have corrected the problem. Council Member B. Lowman made a motion to refund Ms. Shipman \$1,384.33 for the illegal tax on her property. All voted in favor.

SEWER ACCOUNT
ADJUSTMENT
REQUEST
(RONDEL
CHILDRES)

Attorney Dill reported that the property owned by Rondel Childres, located at 9455 Wilson Road, Hildebran, used to be a rental property which has a very old, delinquent sewer balance. A past tenant allowed the sewer bill to remain unpaid and then vacated the property. The Town, in reviewing delinquent accounts, sent a notice to Rondel Childres informing him that his balance will be sent to the debt setoff program. Mr. Childres and his family requested a hearing. Attorney Dill served as the Hearing Officer and his recommendation was provided to Council in the agenda packet. He indicated that the Town will most likely not receive any money from the debt setoff process. Attorney Dill recommended that \$661.75 be released, leaving a balance of \$864.00. Council Member Banks made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer to release \$661.75. Council Member Banks, B. Lowman and L. Lowman voted in favor.

Council Member York stated that she could not hear the explanation. Attorney Dill explained the situation to Ms. York. Mayor Cook reminded the Board that a motion was on the floor by Council Member Banks to accept the recommendation from the Hearing Officer. Council Members Banks, B. Lowman and L. Lowman voted in favor. Council Member York voted against the motion. The motion passed.

Council Member York made a motion to reject the Hearing Officer's recommendation and release the bill in full. Council Member York voted in favor. Council Members Banks, B. Lowman and L. Lowman voted against the motion. The motion failed.

Mayor Cook requested that a copy of the letter submitted by Rondel Childres become a part of the minutes. A copy of the letter and a copy of the Hearing Officer's recommendations are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachments A and B.)

PRAYER AT
COUNCIL
MEETINGS

Council Member B. Lowman reviewed with Council her discussion with Leon King about prayer at council meetings. Ms. Lowman made a motion to open council meetings with prayer by any religious group. All voted in favor.

FACILITIES
REPORT

No report at this time.

JANUARY TAX
REPORT

Tax Collector Sanders gave her report for the month of January 2016. A copy of the report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Attachment C.)

DEPUTY REPORT

Deputy Towery provided his report for the month of January 2016 in the agenda packet.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS AND
UPDATES

Transportation Advisory Committee (COG) – Mayor Cook reported that exit 105 is now complete and exit 104 should be completed by early Spring. The Department of Transportation has started planting and seeding at exit 119. There should be more funding available for additional sidewalks in thirteen months and Mayor Cook has requested that Main Ave West be added to the list for consideration.

Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board – Council Member B. Lowman reported of the challenges of job fulfillment in the manufacturing area. The Hickory Housing Authority will be taken over by the WPCOG. New applications for Section 8 housing will be taken in April. Bike route signs will have a new logo added to the signs. Next meeting will be March 22nd.

Burke Economic Development – Mayor Cook reported that Hope Hopkins and Bryan Steen are working on bringing businesses to the area. Due to cost factors, businesses are looking at areas around exit 116 and 113 instead of Hildebran. The Adden building in Hildebran has the potential to bring one or two businesses to the building.

Recreation & Tourism Committee – Council Member York reported that soccer is in season and baseball signups will be open soon.

Water Resource Committee – No report.

VEDIC (Valdese) – Mayor Cook reported that all of the meetings were held in closed sessions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Mayor Cook announced that early voting is March 3rd through March 12th with election day on March 15th. She encouraged everyone to support the Connect NC bond. Burke residents are now able to pay their County water and sewer bills in Hildebran located at the office beside the Library.

PUBLIC COMMENT Richard Bell expressed his views on the Town hiring an administrator.

ADJOURNMENT All business being concluded, Council Member L. Lowman made a motion to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST I attest these are the approved minutes of the Board.

Alice Sanders, Town Clerk

Virginia Cook, Mayor