

**TOWN OF HILDEBRAN
AUDITORIUM
ALBERT PARKHURST
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

**MARCH 26, 2018
6:00 PM**

**SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hildebrand called the special meeting of the Town Council to order at 6:03 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Wendell Hildebrand and Council Members Cole Herrell, Ben Honeycutt, Theresa Messer, Mike Smith and Jody York.

STAFF PRESENT

The following staff members were present: Attorney Redmond Dill, Town Manager Thomas Drum, Town Clerk Alice Sanders, Finance Officer Fredrick Rankins and Administrative Support Specialist Laurie Brawley.

**CITIZENS & MEDIA
PRESENT**

See attached sheet.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Messer made a motion to approve the agenda. All voted in favor.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:
COMMENTS FROM THE
PUBLIC REGARDING
IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE
OF THE TOWN**

Karen Robinson

- Upgrade rental properties, especially the community room, which is dull. Requested more tables and chairs be purchased for the community room. Stage properties to entice more rentals.
- Recreation department and other activities for the youth.
- Place notice on website and digital signs that nonprofits are allowed to advertise their events in Town on the digital signs.
- Determine short and long-term goals that benefit the citizens of the Town.
- Work with Greenway Transportation to provide transportation for citizens to the senior center and library.

Theresa Hunt

- Landscape the property along the railroad at Hwy 70A.
- Replace bridge on North Center St. at the fire department.
- General cleanup around town (trash, brush, etc.) Get volunteers to help seniors or those disabled.

Council Member Herrell discussed the Community Earth Day event scheduled on April 23, 2018 hosted by the library.

Council Member York stated that the railroad needed to be contacted to give the Town permission to maintain the area along Hwy 70A.

Stephanie Higdon

- Cleanup trash in front of Town Hall.
- Hire a part-time maintenance worker.
- Place a flag on the flag pole at the Albert Parkhurst Municipal Complex.
- Provide programs for the youth.

Mayor Hildebrand asked those present how they felt about the Town helping repair the pool. It was clarified that the pool was owned by a nonprofit, not the Town. No comments were provided.

Council Member Herrell stated that repair estimates will be discussed at the following regular meeting. He stated that Council wanted to know how the public felt about tax money being spent to help repair the pool.

Unknown Speaker

- Would like to see the pool opened. Keep the youth here. Suggested to apply for grants to help with the pool.

Calvin Reyes

- Define the Town and what the future looks like (look and feel) in order to attract people to the area.

Council Member Herrell thanked everyone for their input, including those in attendance that were not Town residents.

Unknown Speaker

- Update on the apartment complex to be built at 304/306 Main Ave East.

Mr. Drum stated that ground work is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2018 and open in the spring of 2019. It was not known if the owner, Mark Morgan, had purchased the property yet.

Mayor Hildebrand polled those in attendance and asked how many would like to see the Town spend tax dollars on renovating the pool. The Clerk was unable to get an exact head count, however, the majority of people raised their hands.

Mayor Hildebrand then asked how many people would like the Town to do a 50/50 match with Hildebran Icard Community Development Council (HICDC), the owner of the pool, to renovate the pool. The Clerk was unable to see everyone, however, the majority did not raise their hands.

Council Member Herrell asked how many people would like the Town to not use Town tax money to renovate the pool. The Clerk was unable to see everyone, however, at least one person raised her hand.

Council Member Herrell stated that he had people comment to him that they would like to see a dog park, more restaurants, retail spaces and food trucks. He asked if there were any type of businesses that the public would like to see to let the Council know.

Harold Greenhill

- Blessed to have nonprofits that benefit the Town and wants Council to support them.
- Open the pool.

Unknown Speaker

- Asked how much money would the Town put into renovating the pool and had concerns that a lot of money could be spent and it not be fully repaired.

Council Member Herrell stated that an indebt discussion of the pool and costs will be discussed at the following regular meeting.

Unknown Speaker

- If the Town were to do a 50/50 match to renovate the pool, would it be for one year or would the Town take over the pool?

Council Member Herrell responded that the Council's concern is that it wanted to consider long-term options, not just one year at a time. He explained that operating the pool is more of a service to the kids and does not make a profit. Council is considering making a contribution

financially and allowing the HICDC to oversee it, or to take over the property.

Unknown Speaker

- How much is the park used and how much is spent on the park?
- There is a lot of money required for security deposits when renting the depot/pavilion and it's a long turnaround time to get the deposit money back.

Council Member Herrell responded that \$47,000 was allotted in the FY 16-17 budget for the park. \$42,000 was allotted in the FY 17-18 budget. He stated that Council has had discussions on ways to make the park more attractive. Part of the low attendance lately is due to the park being closed due to the storm damage from the October 23, 2017 weather event.

Karen Robinson stated that the park was partially funded by a PARTF grant and must remain as a park for at least 25 years or the grant money that the Town received will be required to be paid back.

Barry Hildebrand

- Status on redoing the tower/breezeway at the Albert Parkhurst Municipal Complex.

Mayor Hildebrand replied that this topic is on the agenda for the following regular meeting.

Council Member Herrell asked those in attendance for suggestions on what to do for the youth (outside of the pool). Someone asked why not build a new building for the youth like the new library and senior center. Mayor Hildebrand clarified that Burke County paid for that building, not the Town. The Town could request a youth center from the County.

Jerry Hunt

- Place grills at the park to allow for cookouts.

Mr. Drum stated that in general, insurance companies do not like grills at parks due to the fire liability. The insurance cost would most likely increase if grills were allowed. Someone suggested putting the grills on concrete pads.

Unknown Speaker

- Do not raise taxes.

Council Member Herrell stated that he would do everything that he could do to not raise taxes.

Calvin Reyes

- What research has been done to see what tax paying young professionals want in a town in order to make educated decisions on what's going to attract people from ages 22-35 years of age? No research has been done. He then stated that it would be good to do research to see what will attract young people to want to live in Hildebran before any money has been spent.

Council Member Honeycutt stated that he would like to see residents and businesses clean up their areas or require fences.

Council Member Herrell stated that the Council and administration should partner with the Town Planner and the Planning Board and review current ordinances for enforcement for cleanup.

Council Member York stated that the Town did not get into the condition that it's in overnight and will not get fixed overnight. The current Council will get a plan and move forward, but it will take some time.

ADJOURN

All business being concluded, Council Member Herrell made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. All voted in favor.

I attest these are the approved minutes of the Board.

Alice Sanders, Town Clerk

Wendell Hildebrand, Mayor