TOWN OF HOCHATOWN
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 1st, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
Hocha Town Hall - 101 Rock Oak Lane - Hochatown, OK 74728

AMENDED MEETING MINUTES

All items on this agenda, including but not limited to any agenda item concerning the adoption of any ordinance, resolution, contract, agreement, or any other item of business, are subject to amendment, including additions and or deletions. This rule will apply to every individual agenda item without exception, and without providing the same amendment language with respect to each individual agenda item. Such amendments should be rationally related to the topic of the agenda item, or the governing body will be advised to continue the item.

The governing body may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, amend, strike, or continue any agenda item. When more information is needed to act on an item, the governing body may refer the matter to staff, attorney or to the recommending Board, Commission or Committee.

1. **Pledge to the Flag.**

   Led by Trustee Howard Haggard.

2. **Opening Prayer.**

   Led by Trustee Howard Haggard.

3. **Call to Order.**

   Who ordered: Mayor Chad Sargent
   Time: 1:02 p.m.

4. **Roll Call of Board of Trustees.**

Trustee Name	Present	Absent
Howard Haggard	Y	
Dian Jordan	Y	
Todd McDaniel		Absent
Chad Sargent	Y	
Brenda Walters	Y	

   A quorum was present.

5. **Recognition of Guests.**

   Mayor Chad Sargent recognized the guests and thanked them for their attendance.

6. **Public Comment:** *Audience may address the Board in accordance with the Rules and Procedures set forth in Hochatown Resolution No. 10.*

1. Speaker name: Wenda Blankenship

   Agenda item: 17 & 19.

2. Speaker name: Jaye Coleman

   Agenda item: 17 &19.

3. Speaker name: Nolen Caudell

   Agenda item: 17 & 19.

4. Speaker name: Dan Cook

   Agenda item: 17 & 19.

7. **Consent Docket:** *The following items are considered routine by the Board of Trustees and will be enacted with one motion. Discussion desired on any item, that item will be removed from the Consent Docket and considered separately.*
   a. Approval of the June 3rd, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.
   b. Approval of the June 3rd, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.
   c. Approval of the June 11th, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.
   d. Approval of the June 17th, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.
   e. Approval of Payment of Claims.

Trustee Howard Haggard requested that the June 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes be removed from the Consent Docket for correction. All remaining Consent Docket items were considered together.

Motion: To approve the Consent Docket, excluding the June 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

By: Howard Haggard

Second: Dian Jordan

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	**Vote**
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

8. **Discussion, consideration and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment and/or postponement) regarding items removed from the Consent Docket.**

Motion: The Board considered the June 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, which had been removed from the Consent Docket. It was noted that the Treasurer's Report contained a typographical error in the reported sales tax collections. The correct sales tax collection amount is $424,358.99. Following discussion, the Board approved the June 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

By: Howard Haggard

Second: Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

9. Treasurer's Report.

Town Clerk/Treasurer Julie Arrieta presented the June 2026 Treasurer's Report. She reported corrections to the printed report, including revising the sales tax collection amount to $424,358.99 and identifying a $19,600 Choctaw Nation payment separately in future reports. The report reflected total revenues of $806,413.90, including lodging tax collections of $306,379.57, sales tax collections of $461,999.06, use tax, cigarette tax, gas and motor vehicle revenues, court and police revenues, and interest earnings. The Treasurer also reported that 473 short-term rental renewal applications had been received and highlighted continued revenue growth, with sales tax increasing 8.87% month-over-month and 52.34% year-over-year, while lodging tax collections increased 101% month-over-month and 48% year-over-year.

Motion: To approve Treasurer's Report.

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Howard Hagard

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

At this point Mayor Sargent moved to agenda item 17.

10. Town Administrator's Monthly Report.

Town Administrator Adam Vossen provided a comprehensive update on ongoing municipal projects. He reported that the final lift of asphalt was being completed on Old Hochatown Road, with installation of speed bumps and pavement striping to follow. Updates were provided on Camp Ranch Road and Choctaw Hills Road projects, preparation of grant reimbursement documentation, and a forthcoming RE grant application. Staff also reported progress on the Lukfata Trail easement review, a survey of the roadway corridor, rehabilitation of Sugarberry Road, Opportunity Zone designation efforts with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, development of a community storm siren and emergency notification plan, coordination of ISO fire flow improvements, and future water infrastructure planning to improve fire protection throughout the Town.

11. Town Department Head's Reports.

a. Fire Chief

Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Gilliam formally introduced himself to the Board, highlighting his 18 years of fire service experience, including prior service as Assistant Fire Chief in Idabel. He thanked the Board for its support of the Fire Department and discussed the recent acquisition of the department's new apparatus. He emphasized ongoing efforts to improve the Town's ISO rating, strengthen grant opportunities, enhance fire protection planning, and provide increased support to cabin owners and the community through inspections, fire prevention efforts, and emergency preparedness initiatives.

b. Douglas Copeland

Douglas Copeland provided updates on public information, short-term rental compliance, website improvements, and economic development initiatives. He reported progress on implementation of the new Host Compliance system, continued work with CivicPlus on the Town's website, and ongoing development of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan to support future grant funding and wildfire mitigation efforts. He also introduced the proposed consulting agreement with Dr. Jorista Garrie, explaining her experience with wildfire planning and grant administration.

12. Discussion, consideration and possible action to open the "Hochatown Public Hearing" for comments and questions pertaining to the request to rezone a 2-acre parcel located at or near Lot 2 of Lukfata Trail Commercial, McCurtain County, Oklahoma, from its current Residential designation to a Commercial designation.

Motion: To open the "Hochatown Public Hearing".

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Mayor Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

Time: 2:16 p.m.

13. **Discussion, consideration and possible action to close the "Hochatown Public Hearing" for comments and questions pertaining to the request to rezone a 2-acre parcel located at or near Lot 2 of Lukfata Trail Commercial, McCurtain County, Oklahoma, from its current Residential designation to a Commercial designation.**

Town Administrator Adam Vossen explained that the property is almost entirely surrounded by commercially zoned property and that an adjacent parcel currently operating as a commercial business had remained zoned Residential due to an oversight when the zoning map was originally adopted. He further advised that both Johnson & Associates and the Planning Commission recommended approval. No members of the public spoke during the hearing.:

Motion: To close the "Hochatown Public Hearing"

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Mayor Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

Time: 2:19 p.m.

14. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) regarding the request to rezone a 2-acre parcel located at or near Lot 2 of Lukfata Trail Commercial, McCurtain County, Oklahoma, from a Residential designation to a Commercial designation.**

The Board of Trustees noted their appreciation for receiving the supporting research and staff analysis prior to the meeting. Based upon the recommendations of Town staff, Johnson & Associates, and the Planning Commission.

Motion: To follow staff & the Planning Commission recommendation to approve.

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Dian Jordan

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

15. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) to adopt Ordinance No. 28: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOCHATOWN, MCCURTAIN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING THE TOWN OF HOCHATOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 7, CHAPTER 2, VEHICLE OPERATION GENERALLY, BY ADDING SECTION 7-2-5 REGULATING THE USE OF ENGINE COMPRESSION BRAKING DEVICES ("JAKE BRAKES" OR "J-BRAKES"); PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS FOR EMERGENCY AND SAFETY RELATED USE; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING PENALTIES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING REPEALER; AUTHORIZING CODIFICATION; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The Board considered Ordinance No. 28 regulating the use of engine compression braking devices ("Jake Brakes"). During discussion, the Town Attorney identified a scrivener's error in the ordinance and explained the correction to ensure the language accurately reflected the Board's intent. Following discussion, the Board approved Ordinance No. 28 as corrected.

Motion: To approve Ordinance No. 28, as amended.

By: Mayor Chad Sargent

Second: Brenda Walters

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

16. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) to adopt the emergency clause of Ordinance No. 28.**

Motion: To approve the emergency clause of Ordinance No. 28.

By: Dian Jordan

Second: Mayor Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

17. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) regarding Ordinance No. 29, amending Title 5, Chapter 5 of the Town of Hochatown Code of Ordinances relating to fireworks; prohibiting the sale of consumer fireworks within the Town; restricting the ignition, discharge, and use of fireworks to public locations designated by the Board of Trustees or authorized public displays; establishing enforcement provisions and penalties; providing for severability, repealer, codification, and declaring an effective date.**

The Board held extensive discussion regarding proposed amendments to the Town's fireworks ordinance. Public comments and presentations from representatives of the United States Forest Service, emergency management, and the Fire Department highlighted wildfire risks, emergency response concerns, and existing federal restrictions on fireworks within National Forest lands.

Board members discussed balancing public safety, wildfire mitigation, tourism, individual property rights, and enforcement considerations. The Town Attorney advised that the ordinance would become effective upon publication and recommended revisiting the ordinance following the Independence Day holiday to evaluate its effectiveness.

Following discussion, the Board approved Ordinance No. 29 prohibiting the sale of consumer fireworks within the Town, restricting the ignition and discharge of fireworks to authorized public displays, and establishing enforcement provisions and penalties.

Motion: To approve Ordinance No. 29.

By: Dian Jordan

Second: Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	N
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

18. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) to adopt the emergency clause of Ordinance No. 29.**

Motion: To approve the emergency clause of Ordinance No. 29.

By: Dian Jordan

Second: Mayor Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	N
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

19. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) to designate authorized public locations within the Town of Hochatown where the ignition and discharge of fireworks may occur pursuant to newly adopted Section 5-5-1 of the Town Code.**

The Board discussed locations within the Town where public fireworks displays would be authorized under the newly adopted ordinance. After discussion with legal counsel, the Board designated Choctaw Landing and Mountain Fork Brewery as authorized locations for public fireworks displays occurring between July 2 and July 4, 2026, as permitted by the event organizers.

Motion: To designate Choctaw Landing and Mountain Fork Brewery as authorized public fireworks display locations for July 2–4, 2026.

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Dian Jordan

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	N
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

20. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) to enter into a Master Service Agreement with Michella Copeland for website administration, social media management, and digital creative services, for a term commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, with a total amount not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00).**

Motion: To approve the Master Service Agreement with Michella Copeland.

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Howard Haggard

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

21. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) to enter into a Master Service Agreement with Dr. Jorista Garrie, PhD, for consulting services related to wildfire planning, trails planning, grant administration, and related project support, for a term not to exceed one (1) year and a total amount not to exceed Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000.00).**

Motion: To approve the Master Service Agreement with Dr. Jorista Garrie, Ph.D.

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

22. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) to award a contract for the Town of Hochatown Municipal Complex Information Technology Infrastructure Installation Project, including network equipment, wireless access systems, security camera systems, cabling, configuration, testing, and related services, based upon proposals submitted by BNB Technology in the amount of $28,259.02, J&S Cabling, LLC in the amount of $29,019.60, and Grice Computer Consulting in the amount of $47,500.00, and authorize the Town Administrator to execute all necessary documents.**

Staff reviewed the proposals received from BNB Technology ($28,259.02), J&S Cabling, LLC ($29,019.60), and Grice Computer Consulting ($47,500.00). After reviewing the proposals and staff recommendation, the Board selected BNB Technology as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and authorized the Town Administrator to execute all necessary documents.

Motion: To approve the contract to BNB Technology in the amount of $28,259.02 and authorize the Town Administrator to execute all necessary documents.

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Dian Jordan

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	**Vote**
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

23. Discussion, consideration and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) to convene into Executive Session as follows:

a. **Pursuant to Title 25 of Oklahoma Statute, § 307(B)(1), discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, demotion, promotion, disciplining, or resignation of Douglas Copeland and Christopher Williamson.**
b. **Pursuant to Title 25 of Oklahoma Statute, § 307(B)(3), for the purpose of discussing the sale, purchase, lease, acquisition, or appraisal of real property for the Town of Hochatown.**
c. **Pursuant to Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, § 307(B)(4), to discuss confidential communications between the Town and the Town's Attorneys concerning a pending investigation, claim, or action which the Town, with the advice of the Town's Attorneys, has determined that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the Town to process the claim or conduct the pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest in compliance with its duty of confidentiality. (related to possible legal action regarding marketplace facilitators/lodging booking companies).**

Motion: To convene into Executive Session.

By: Howard Haggard

Second: Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	**Vote**
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

Time: 2:40 p.m.

24. Discussion and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) to reconvene in open session.

Motion: To reconvene in open session.

By: Howard Haggard

Second: Brenda Walters

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

Time: 4:18 p.m.

25. Statement of executive session minutes.

The Mayor Chad Sargent announced that the Board met in Executive Session for the purposes to:

a. Pursuant to Title 25 of Oklahoma Statute, § 307(B)(1), discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, demotion, promotion, disciplining, or resignation of Douglas Copeland and Christopher Williamson.
b. Pursuant to Title 25 of Oklahoma Statute, § 307(B)(3), for the purpose of discussing the sale, purchase, lease, acquisition, or appraisal of real property for the Town of Hochatown.
c. Pursuant to Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, § 307(B)(4), to discuss confidential communications between the Town and the Town's Attorneys concerning a pending investigation, claim, or action which the Town, with the advice of the Town's Attorneys, has determined that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the Town to process the claim or conduct the pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest in compliance with its duty of confidentiality. (related to possible legal action regarding marketplace facilitators/lodging booking companies).

No action was taken.

26. Discussion, consideration and possible action (approval, rejection, amendment, and/or postponement) on any discussion from Executive Session.

Motion: To approve the employment agreement for Douglas Copeland providing an annual salary of $120,000 and an annual performance bonus of $20,000.

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Dian Jordan

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

27. New Business: any matter not known or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the agenda.

No new business was brought forward.

28. Discussion, consideration, and possible action to adjourn.

Motion: To adjourn.

By: Brenda Walters

Second: Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Absent
Chad Sargent	Y
Brenda Walters	Y

The motion carried.

Time: 4:21 p.m.

Howard Haggard, Trustee

Dian Jordan, Trustee

Absent

Todd McDaniel, Trustee

Chad Sargent, Mayor

Brenda Walters, Trustee

Attest:

Julie Arrieta, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL TOWN SEAL
HOCHATOWN
OKLAHOMA