

**TOWN OF HOCHATOWN
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

August 2, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Hocha Town Hall

9983 N. U.S. Hwy 259, Ste. A - Hochatown, OK 74728

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order.

Who ordered: Mayor Dian Jordan

Time: 1:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Board of Trustees.

Trustee Name	Present	Absent
Janet Cress	Y	
Howard Haggard	Y	
Dian Jordan	Y	
Todd McDaniel	Y	
Chad Sargent	Y	

A Quorum was present.

3. Recognition of Guests.

Mayor Jordan recognized the guests and thanked them for their attendance.

4. 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 July 5, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- b. Approval of the July 25, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.**
- c. Approval of Payment of Claims.**

Mayor Jordan asked if there were any corrections to be made or discussion on the July 5 Regular Meeting Minutes, the July 25 Special Meeting Minutes or the Payment of Claims. There was none brought forth. She then asked if there was a motion regarding this item.

Motion: To approve the July 5, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, the July 25, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes and the Payment of Claims.

By: Chad Sargent

Second: Howard Haggard

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

The Motion carried.

5. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action regarding items removed from the Consent Docket.

As there were no items removed from the Consent Docket, Mayor Jordan continued on to Agenda Item 6.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Discussion:

Treasurer Charles Ward led a brief discussion on the P&L. He explained that expenses shown were authorized last month, and then explained the balance sheet. Janet Cress asked regarding returned check fees, as the first returned check had been received. There was a brief discussion regarding the need for fees, and then Mayor Jordan asked to implement a returned check fee, as Hochatown expects to continue to accept checks for payment. She noted that the fee should be at least enough to recover what bank has charged for a returned check fee. There was no action on this discussion.

Janet Cress then asked regarding the issuance of credit card to buy office supplies, etc. There was a brief discussion regarding the timing of issuing credit cards, which will be a future capability.

Mayor Jordan then asked if there was a Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Motion: To accept the Treasurers Report.

By: Howard Haggard

Second: Todd McDaniel

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y

Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

The Motion carried.

7. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action regarding the 2023-2024 Estimate of Needs and Financial Statement of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Discussion:

Howard Haggard began the discussion by explaining that the two documents – the 2023-2024 Estimate of Needs and the Financial Statement for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 were the result of the engagement with the Crawford firm. He further explained that the Financial Statement must be filed with the Clerk and the State Auditor. Regarding the Estimate of Needs, he explained the formula used to determine the funds that Hochatown has available for the rest of the fiscal year. He furthered that if the needs increase, there is the ability to submit supplements.

Mayor Jordan asked if there was a Motion regarding this item.

Motion: To approve the 2023-2024 Estimate of Needs and Financial statement of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

By: Todd McDaniel

Second: Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

The Motion carried.

The meeting was briefly interrupted by a floral delivery and Howard Haggard asked the board for indulgence as he presented them to his wife, who was in attendance, in honor and celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary. The Board and the Mayor all wished them congratulations for their happy occasion.

8. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action regarding the Rental Space for the Hochatown Town Hall.

Discussion:

Mayor Jordan explained that the Town Hall’s Landlord, Voiija Reed, has asked that Hochatown vacate the current Suite A and move into Suite G at the same building complex, with no other changes for the duration of the lease contract. The Suite G will be a larger facility, and will be able to accommodate the Library System’s installation of Hochatown’s Reading Room, and will provide more space for the Town Hall functions.

There was a brief discussion regarding the physical moving of the Town Hall’s furnishings, whereby Janet Cress offered to locate persons to hire. Mayor Jordan also noted that the move needed to happen as soon as possible.

Mayor Jordan asked if there was a Motion regarding this item.

Motion: To move the Hocha Town Hall from Suite A to Suite G.

By: Todd McDaniel

Second: Howard Haggard

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

The Motion carried.

9. Discussion only regarding Waste Water Management update.

Discussion:

Todd McDaniel informed the Board that the Choctaw Nation has received the information they needed regarding the addition of Hochatown’s Highway 259 business corridor to their waste water management operation that they are building for their Choctaw Landing Hotel and Casino. Hochatown will now wait for the Nation to review the information and decide. Todd confirmed that the waste water management inclusion would only be available for the Hochatown’s Highway 259 business corridor.

As that discussion ended, Mayor Jordan asked to skip ahead on the Agenda to Item 11 “Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Resolution 6 – Authorizing Application for Rural Economic

Action Plan Grant” as it coincides with the waste water topic. The Board moved its attention to Agenda Item 11.

10. Discussion only regarding U.S. Highway 259 Improvement and Possible Bypass.

Discussion:

Todd McDaniel spoke regarding a possible bypass, and noted he is still waiting on Weyerhaeuser to determine if they will make land available to either donate or sell, which will determine if the bypass will happen. He adds that regardless of the bypass, or the 3 lane vs. 5 lane improvements, Hochatown needs detours designated to move traffic before any road improvement work begins. He further states that existing roads will need to be upgraded for detours west of town to manage traffic away from 259 and appropriate detour signage is also needed.

Janet Cress added that she has spoken with U.S. Forestry regarding a Hochatown Evacuation Plan. The Plan is currently stuck in the legislative pipeline, but should be in place by the April 2024 solar eclipse event.

Chad Sargent notes that ODOT is willing to talk about an evacuation plan and that there is another meeting coming in the Fall. He notes ODOT’s comments that ‘today’s surge will be tomorrow’s normal’, and that ODOT envisions another 6,000 – 10,000 people on the road in Hochatown with the completion of the Choctaw Landing Casino and Hotel.

11. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action regarding Resolution 6 – Authorizing Application for Rural Economic Action Plan Grant.

Discussion:

Mayor Jordan explained the purpose of the proposed Resolution 6 would be to authorize her to sign the Application for Rural Economic Action Plan Grant from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, on behalf of Hochatown, to apply for grant funds for Hochatown to be used for waste water management which would benefit the residents of Hochatown.

Mayor Jordan asked if there was a Motion regarding this item.

Motion: To approve Resolution 6 – Authorizing the Application for Rural Economic Action Plan Grant.

By: Chad Sargent

Second: Todd McDaniel

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

The Motion carried.

The Board returned its attention to Agenda Item 10.

12. Discussion only regarding Hochatown.gov.

Discussion:

Howard Haggard announced that ‘Hochatown.gov’ is done! He offers a big thanks to Skip Copeland, who notes that Hochatown.org will be redirected to Hochatown.gov, which is a more secure site. Howard also noted that there will be an on-going monthly bill for the .gov site.

13. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action regarding Flock Safety Falcon LPR Cameras.

Discussion:

Mayor Jordan explains the Flock cameras are license plate readers, which if one were to be placed on the North and South entrance into town, she feels data collected could be used to help deter and prosecute crime, but also believes the data could be used for other purposes, i.e., traffic and tourism. The Mayor shared her vision of Hochatown being a ‘technology town’, using technology to take care of ourselves. She furthers that Hochatown subdivisions may want to install cameras to help with crime prevention and prosecution, as well.

Howard Haggard notes that he is not opposed to the purchase, but has questions and asked to table the matter for now before a decision is made as he would like to speak with Crawford and Liz George regarding if a bid process is required. Mayor Jordan notes that the purchase amount is not large enough to require a bid.

Discussion continued regarding the Town purchasing two of the cameras, for either end of town. Howard Haggard asked that the motion include a caveat that the purchase would be approved if there are no bid requirements.

Motion: To approve the purchase of two (2) Falcon cameras on contingency that there are no bid requirements.

By: Todd McDaniel

Second: Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

The Motion carried.

14. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action regarding Ryan Consulting Services.

Discussion:

The Board had a very active discussion regarding the services agreement. Janet Cress asked about the timeliness of updates. Chad Sargent noted the arrangement appeared modest, and that Ryan Services could set up processes to hire full time staff. Todd McDaniel noted that for the sake of moving forward, there is a need to hire full-time staff – especially for grant writing. Howard Haggard questioned that the laws governing the agreement would be the State of Texas. Charles Ward questioned the month-to-month arrangement after the September 2023 contract end date.

At this point, Maher Maso of the Ryan Consulting services, who was in attendance, rose to answer the Trustee’s various concerns. He noted that the laws governing the agreement were State of Texas because that is where the Ryan organization is based. He also noted that the Ryan organization would be in place to help Hochatown ‘get on your feet’, and predicts by end of year that Hochatown would be able to hire a full-time administrator and clerk. Mr. Maso also assured Charles Ward that there would be no change in rates when the agreement continues as month-to-month.

Todd McDaniel asked that the Ryan organization update the Trustees on their activities and progress at each monthly meeting. Mr. Maso agreed.

Mayor Jordan asked if there was a Motion regarding this item.

Motion: To approve the Ryan Consulting Services Agreement.

By: Todd McDaniel

Second: Janet Cress

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

The Motion carried.

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

Discussion:

Mayor Jordan asked if there was any additional business. Janet Cress distributed material on the 2024 Eclipse preparation meetings. She also noted that a new CERT training session is being planned for September and invites all to participate.

16. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Adjourn.

Mayor Jordan asked if there was a Motion for this item.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

By: Todd McDaniel

Second: Chad Sargent

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Name	Vote
Janet Cress	Y
Howard Haggard	Y
Dian Jordan	Y
Todd McDaniel	Y
Chad Sargent	Y

The Motion carried and the Meeting adjourned.

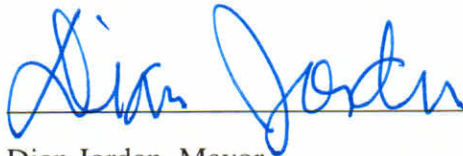
Time: 2:24 p.m.



Janet Cress, Trustee



Howard Haggard, Trustee



Dian Jordan, Mayor

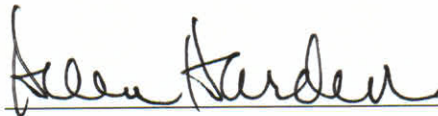


Todd McDaniel, Trustee



Chad Sargent, Trustee

Attest:



Helen Harden, Town Clerk

