

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HICKORY CREEK TOWN HALL
1075 RONALD REAGAN, HICKORY CREEK, TEXAS
MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025**

MINUTES

Call to Order

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present:

Mayor Lynn Clark

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Kenney

Councilmember Randy Gibbons

Councilmember Nick Wohr

Councilmember Chris Gordon

Councilmember Ian Theodore

Also in attendance:

John M. Smith, Jr., Town Manager

Kristi K. Rogers, Town Secretary

Carey Dunn, Chief of Police

Trey Sargent, Town Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. And Texas Flags

Mayor Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas Flags.

Invocation

Mayor Pro Tem Kenney gave the invocation.

Presentation of Awards

1. 2025 Female Athlete of the Year

Mayor Clark presented the 2025 Female Athlete of the Year award to Kasey Mack.

2. 2025 Male Athlete of the Year

Mayor Clark presented the 2025 Male Athlete of the Year award to Jadon Jones.

3. 2025 Scholars of the Year

Mayor Clark presented the 2025 Founders Classical Academy Scholar of the Year award to Sophia Valderrey and the 2025 Lake Dallas High School Scholar of the Year award to Amelia Banyaga.

Proclamations

4. National Police Week

Mayor Clark proclaimed May 11th – May 17th, 2025 as National Police Week in the Town of Hickory Creek. Chief Dunn accepted the proclamation.

Items of Community Interest

There were no items of community interest.

Public Comment

Adam Peabody, 508 Carlisle Drive, Lake Dallas, Texas stated he proudly served his community on the Lake Dallas City Council, Place 5 from 2021-2024 helping to lay a foundation Lake Dallas is now implementing and yet at the end of his term the community treated him with disdain and ridicule. He tried to resolve an issue with his government and again was treated with disdain and ridicule. He is left with a community and government that does not want him and at this point he no longer wants them. He is tired of the anger and dysfunction that resonates from all aspects of his city. He wants to live in a community that supports its residents and the residents support the community. He would love to be a part of the Hickory Creek community.

John Grosskopf, 131 Oakwood Lane, stated he takes no pleasure at all delivering these remarks, but the Town Council and the public need to hear them. Hickory Creek has precipitously declined in Big D magazine's best suburbs in Dallas ratings from a top 10 in 2008 to number 56 out of 63 in 2024 while on the watch of Mayor Clark, John Smith, Chris Gordon, Paul Kenney and Ian Theodore. Many citizens are growing increasingly concerned about the Parks and Recreation Board and our parks and trails as does Mr. Grosskopf. During a time of unprecedented Town growth the Parks and Recreation Board has cancelled meetings. The Cedar Trail is unpassable six months of the year due to down trees, washouts and poisonous snakes. Although there have been improvements to some of the parks, most have declined since he has lived in Hickory Creek. Trails are overgrown, many decrepit picnic tables and lack of pet waste stations. Many citizens feel it is past time to inject new blood and new thinking into the Parks and Recreation Board. Chris Gordon has been the council liaison for a very long time. The leisure center and observatory projects have very serious problems and issues requiring immediate professional attention and possible intervention. There are many other issues facing the Town.

Consent Agenda

5. April 2025 Council Meeting Minutes
6. April 2025 Financial Statements
7. Consider and act on a resolution designating Kasey Mack as the 2025 Female Athlete of the Year.
8. Consider and act on a resolution designating Jadon Jones as the 2025 Male Athlete of the Year.

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9. Consider and act on a resolution designating Sophia Valderrey as the 2025 Founders Classical Academy Scholar of the Year.
10. Consider and act on a resolution designating Amelia Banyaga as the 2025 Lake Dallas High School Scholar of the Year.
11. Consider and act on a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas hereby authorizing the Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas to execute an interlocal cooperative agreement between the Town of Hickory Creek and the County of Denton concerning police radio communication services.
12. Consider and act on a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas hereby authorizing the Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas to execute an interlocal agreement between the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas and Denton County, Texas concerning dispatch services.
13. Consider and act on a resolution authorizing the Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas to execute an agreement by and between the Town of Hickory Creek and Denton County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas for ad valorem tax collection.
14. Consider and act on a resolution authorizing the Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas to execute an agreement by and between the Town of Hickory Creek and Denton County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas for Hickory Creek Public Improvement District No.1 assessment collection.
15. Consider and act on a resolution authorizing the Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas to execute an agreement by and between the Town of Hickory Creek and Denton County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas for Hickory Creek Public Improvement District No. 2 assessment collection.
16. Consider and act on a resolution authorizing the Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas to execute an agreement by and between the Town of Hickory Creek and Denton County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas for Hickory Farms Public Improvement District assessment collection.

Motion made by Councilmember Gordon to approve consent agenda items 5-16, Seconded by Councilmember Wohr.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda

17. Consider and act on a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas, canvassing returns and declaring results of a General Election held May 3, 2025, for the purpose of electing Councilmembers to Place 1, Place 3, and Place 5.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Kenney to approve a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas, canvassing returns and declaring results of a General Election held May 3, 2025, for the purpose of electing Councilmembers to Place 1, Place 3, and Place 5, Seconded by Councilmember Wohr.

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Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

18. Presentation of Certificates of Election and Administration of Oaths of Office to candidates elected.

Mayor Lynn Clark presented Certificates of Election and administered Oaths of Office to Councilmember Randy Gibbons, Councilmember Chris Gordon and Councilmember Ian Theodore.

19. Consider and act on appointments to the Arts and Culture Board.

Motion made by Councilmember Gordon to reappoint Melissa Stone, Suzanne Ortolano and Chandra Govite to Places 1 ,3 and 7, Seconded by Councilmember Theodore.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

20. Consider and act on appointments to Board of Adjustments.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Kenney to approve the appointees for the Board of Adjustments, Joey Hernandez, David Jones, Smita Pascual and Dennis Day, Seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

21. Consider and act on appointments to the Code of Ethics Board.

Motion made by Councilmember Theodore to approve the appointments to the Code of Ethics Board, Councilmember Gibbons – Derek Funkhouser, Councilmember Gordon – Michael Gividen, Councilmember Theodore – Rick Carruth, Seconded by Councilmember Gibbons.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

22. Consider and act on an appointment to the Economic Development Corporation.

Motion made by Councilmember Gordon to appoint Brett Kulesza as Place 2 on the Hickory Creek Economic Development Board, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kenney.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

23. Consider and act on appointments to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Kenney to approve the appointees for the Parks and Rec Board, Christi Kulesza, William Wann, Mandy Larkin and Dinah Stults, Seconded by Councilmember Theodore.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

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24. Consider and act on appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Kenney to approve the appointees for Planning and Zoning, Dustin Jensen, Brenda Kihl, Collin Johnson and David Gilmore, Seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

25. Consider and act on a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas hereby authorizing the Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas, to execute an agreement by and between the Town of Hickory Creek and Halff Associates, Inc. concerning Hickory Creek Leisure Center Phase 1.

John Smith, Town Manager, provided an overview of the agreement and answered questions from the Town Council.

Motion made by Councilmember Gordon to approve a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas authorizing the Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas, to execute an agreement by and between the Town of Hickory Creek and Halff Associates, Inc. concerning Hickory Creek Leisure Center Phase 1 not to exceed \$122,000.00, Seconded by Councilmember Theodore.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

26. Consider and act on a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas, nominating one candidate to a slate of nominees for the board of managers of the Denco Area 9-1-1 District.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Kenney to approve a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas, nominating one candidate, Mr. John Smith, to a slate of nominees for the board of managers of the Denco Area 9-1-1 District, Seconded by Councilmember Wohr.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

27. Consider and act on appointment of Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion made by Councilmember Gibbons to appoint Paul Kenney, Mayor Pro Tem, Seconded by Councilmember Theodore.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

28. Consider and act on appointing councilmembers as liaisons for various boards and commissions.

Councilmember Gibbons, Police Department; Councilmember Wohr, Parks and Recreation; Councilmember Gordon, Planning and Zoning; Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, EDC and Councilmember Theodore, Board of Adjustments.

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Motion made by Councilmember Theodore to approve the appointments for councilmembers as liaisons for various boards and commissions as stated, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kenney.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

29. Receive update from Chief Carey Dunn, regarding the event held on April 26, 2025 at Westlake Park and discuss same.

Chief Dunn provided an update regarding the event held on April 26, 2025 at Westlake Park including collaboration with the Corps of Engineers, increasing personnel and an EMS post for future events and answered questions from the Town Council.

30. Receive update from John Smith, Town Manager, regarding the amphitheater construction and discuss same.

John Smith, Town Manager, provided an update regarding the amphitheater construction including timeline for completion, scheduling events and answered questions from the Town Council.

31. Receive update from John Smith, Town Manager, regarding the Pratt Nature Preserve & Observatory and discuss same.

John Smith, Town Manager, provided an update regarding the Pratt Nature Preserve & Observatory including the delivery of the observatory, construction of fencing around the parking area, and answered questions from the Town Council.

32. Receive update from John Smith, Town Manager, regarding Republic Services and discuss same.

John Smith, Town Manager, provided an update regarding Republic Services contract renewal and answered questions from the town council.

Executive Session

In accordance with Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 551, the Town Council convened into executive session at 7:34 p.m. to discuss the following matters.

Section 551.071

Consultation with attorney on matters in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act, or on matters pertaining to pending or contemplated litigation.

33. Litigation regarding Denton CAD Property ID# 62326.

Section 551.074

Personnel matters, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

34. Town Attorney

35. Town Manager

Reconvene into Open Session

The Town Council reconvened into open session at 8:45 p.m.

36. Discussion and possible action regarding matters discussed in executive session.

Litigation regarding Denton CAD Property ID# 62326.

No action taken.

Town Attorney

Motion made by Councilmember Gordon to accept the resignation of the Town Attorney and authorize the Town Manager to retain an interim Town Attorney and instruct the Town Manager to bring forth a recommendation for a new Town Attorney, Seconded by Councilmember Theodore.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager

Motion made by Councilmember Gordon to approve a five year contract as discussed in executive session in regard to the agreement for professional services and employment of John Smith, Town Manager, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kenney.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

Future Agenda Items

The following items were requested: council liaison to LDISD, municipal election rules and procedures.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Kenney to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Councilmember Wohr.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Kenney, Councilmember Gibbons, Councilmember Wohr, Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Theodore. Motion passed unanimously.

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The meeting did then stand adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Lynn C. Clark, Mayor
Town of Hickory Creek

Kristi K. Rogers, Town Secretary
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