

**City of Hempstead**  
**Commerce and Civic Association Meeting**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 6, 2025

1. Call to Order:

The Executive Board Meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Hardwick at 6:08 P.M.

2. Roll Call of Board Members:

Board Members present were President Cheryl Hardwick, Treasurer Raul Villarreal, Board Members James Garfield and Vicki LeBlanc. Board Members absent were Vice President Melissa Hegemeyer, Secretary Katherine Ward, and Board Member Kenneth Pilcher.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the April 1, 2025, Executive Board Meeting:

A motion was made by Board Member James Garfield to accept the April 1, 2025, board minutes as presented and a second was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. Report on the Easter in the Park from Saturday, April 5, 2025:

President Cheryl Hardwick reported on the HCCA Easter in the Park. She recognized City Council Member Vernoica Klausmeyer for donating \$500.00 to the event, thanked Hegemeyer Realty for the hot dogs, chips, and drinks and Citizens Coffee and Wine Café for the chocolate chip cookies as well as Brian and Amber Trafton with Hunt for Community on giving away 80 pounds of wild game meat.

5. Report on the Easter Bags Made by the Watermelon Royalty to be Distributed during the Week of Easter for Meals on Wheels:

President Cheryl Hardwick reported that the Easter bags that were made by the Watermelon Royalty and other volunteers were given out by Jack Gibbs with Meals on Wheels on the Thursday before Easter. There was a great response from the recipients.

6. Set a Date for a Ribbon Cutting for the Citizens Coffee & Wine Café:

In the absence of Board Member Kenneth Pilcher, the date of the ribbon cutting for Citizens Coffee and Wine Café was tabled to the next meeting.

7. Approval for payment to Waller County Express in the amount of \$238.00 for advertising for the Easter in the Park Event:

A motion was made by Treasurer Raul Villareal to pay the Waller County Express for the advertising for the Easter in the Park in the amount of \$238.00 and a second was made by Board Member James Garfield. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

8. Approval needed for payment of \$59.75 to renew the license for the HCCA Float:

A motion was made by Board Member James Garfield to renew the license tags for the HCCA Float in the amount of \$59.75 and a second was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

9. Need approval to purchase a new cover for the HCCA Float in the amount of \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00:

President Cheryl Hardwick talked about the HCCA float needing a new cover for the float. She had talked to Sam with A-to-Z Rental and Floats and the float cover should be under \$1,500.00. He will pick up the float after the Memorial Day Parade to make the cover for the float and return it back before the next parade. A motion was made by Treasurer Raul Villarreal that we pay to have the float cover made up to \$1,500.00 and a second was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

10. Approval to purchase a roll of stamps for HCCA in the amount of \$73.00:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that a roll of stamps needed to be purchased to send out more sponsor packets and thank you cards for the Watermelon Festival. A motion was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc for a roll of stamps to be purchased in the amount of \$73.00 and a second was made by Board Member James Garfield. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

11. Discussion on a donation for the Juneteenth Celebration for June:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that for the last two years HCCA had donated \$500.00 to St Peters Baptist Church for the Juneteenth Celebration. A motion was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc to donate \$500.00 again this year to the St Peters Baptist Church for the Juneteenth Celebration and a second was made by Board Member James Garfield. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

12. Discussion on a donation to the Hempstead Beta Club for going to the National Competition:

The board discussed making a donation to the Hempstead Beta Club to help them make it to the National Beta Competition. President Cheryl Hardwick stated that the Beta Club still needs \$2,500.00 to make the trip to the National Competition. A motion was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc that HCCA donate \$500.00 to the Hempstead Beta Club and a second was made by Treasurer Raul Villarreal. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

13. Discussion on a donation to the Hempstead High School Cheerleaders for items needed to attend camp:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that she was contacted by the Hempstead High School Cheerleader Sponsor Eunisa Ausby about HCCA donating to help them with summer camp expenses. The board discussed if a donation was made, we would ask the cheerleaders to help with the Memorial Day Parade and Program. A motion was made by Board Member Vicki LeBlanc that HCCA donate \$500.00 to the cheerleaders as long as they do volunteer work for the Memorial Day Parade and Program and a second was made by Board Member James Garfield. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

14. Upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Program for Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Parade begins at 9:00 P.M. and the Program begins after at the downtown gazebo. Need approval to purchase one handicap porta potty. Need volunteers to put up decorations and to put out flags along the streets:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that HCCA would need to have one handicap porta potty for the Memorial Day Program at the downtown gazebo and the cost would be \$281.45. A motion was made by Board Member Vicki LeBland to pay for the porta potty in the amount of \$281.45 for the Memorial Day Parade and Program and a second was made by Treasurer Raul Villarreal. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

15. Discussion on the location of the Carnival for the Watermelon Festival:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that she had already talked with the Mayor Katherine Ward and the Chief of Police David Hartley, and they were both in agreement that the location behind Dr. Barber's Chiropractor Office and behind the new Hempstead EDC office would be a great location for the carnival. The Board was in agreement with the new location.

16. Discussion on purchasing buckles for the BBQ Cook-off for each category of meat, for a total of 5 more buckles. Each buckle cost \$175.00 each for a total of \$875.00:

The Board discussed the request from the Chairman of the BBQ Cook-Off Dustin Stanley to purchase belt buckles for all categories of the cook-off for the first-place winners. President Cheryl Hardwick gave a report on the expenditures for the previous Watermelon Festival BBQ Cook-offs. The board was in agreement to get back with Dustin Stanley to see if they will reduce the amount of the payouts to accommodate the price of the buckles. President Cheryl Hardwick will get with Dustin Stanley on the issue.

17. Discussion on the Watermelon Festival Sponsorships:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that she had mailed sponsorship packets to the previous 2025 sponsors and had also mailed out to some new businesses. We need to work on getting \$80,000 in sponsorship. Each HCCA board member on the Sponsorship Committee were given spreadsheets at the April HCCA board meeting on the businesses or individuals that they needed to contact.

18. Discussion on a location for the Saturday night Watermelon Festival Entertainment:

The board discussed moving the Saturday night entertainment to in front of the old day care center on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. President Cheryl Hardwick will contact one of the bands to see if the location will work for them. Board Member Kenneth Pilcher was not present at the meeting to discuss the location.

19. Old Business:

No old business.

20. New Business:

No new business.

21. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Board Member James Garfield to adjourn the meeting and a second was made by Treasurer Raul Villarreal. A vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 P.M.