

City of Hempstead
Commerce and Civic Association Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 16th, 2026

Call to Order:

The HCCA Monthly June meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by President Cheryl Hardwick.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

Board Member James Garfield gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Treasurer Raul Villarreal.

Roll Call of HCCA Board Members:

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

Welcome Members and Visitors:

President Cheryl Hardwick welcomed the HCCA members and visitors to the meeting.

Sign In Sheet for Attendance and Door Prizes:

President Cheryl Hardwick asked everyone to sign in so we would have a record of their visit and to sign up for the door prizes.

Approval of the May 2026 Monthly HCCA Monthly Minutes:

Board Member Vicki LeBlanc made a motion to accept the monthly May 2026 HCCA minutes, and Board Member James Garfield made a second motion to approve. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Approval of the June 2026 HCCA Treasurers Reports:

Board Member Vicki LeBlanc made a motion to approve the HCCA June 2026 treasurers report, and Treasurer Raul Villarreal made a second motion to approve. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Presentation of a donation of \$500.00 to the Greater Saint Peter's Baptist Church for the Juneteenth Celebration:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that the HCCA is proud to support community events that celebrate our history, heritage, and unity. We are honored to present a donation of \$500.00 to the Greater St. Peters Baptist Church in support of its Juneteenth Celebration. Juneteenth is a significant occasion that commemorates freedom, resilience, and the enduring contributions of

African Americans to our nation and community. HCCA is pleased to partner with Greater St. Peters Baptist Church in helping make this celebration meaningful and successful for all who attend. We commend the church leadership, volunteers, and organizers for their dedication to preserving this important history and bringing the community together. We wish everyone a joyful, educational, and memorable Juneteenth celebration. The HCCA Board presented the check to the church and a picture was taken. This was the third year for HCCA to donate to the Juneteenth Celebration.

Recognize and Honor the Participants from the Memorial Day Parade and Program:

President Cheryl Hardwick thanked the participants of the Memorial Day Parade and Program. On behalf of everyone who attended our Memorial Day Parade and Program, we extend our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who generously gave their time, talents, and energy to make this event a success. Your dedication behind the scenes and willingness to serve helped us honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. From planning and organizing to setting up, greeting the guest, and ensuring everything ran smoothly, your efforts made a meaningful difference. Because of commitment and community spirit, we were able to provide a dignified and memorable tribute to our fallen heroes and their families. Your service reflects the very values of patriotism and honor that Memorial Day represents. Thank you for your hard work, your generosity, and your support. We are truly grateful to each of you and proud to have volunteers who care so deeply about preserving the memory of those who gave their lives for our freedom. May God bless you and your families and thank you for helping make this Memorial Day remembrance a meaningful and successful event. Recognized were:

Trey Duhon Waller County Judge

Walter Smith County Commissioner Precinct 2

Sean Whittmore Waller County District Attorney

James Garfield Retired Army Sargent with the Hempstead VFW Post 4007

Allyson Cardenas Hempstead High School Band Student

John Brandt Paster of the First Baptist Church of Hempstead

Barbara Bezub and Susan Winfree Parade Committee

Recognize Angela Hoppe, the new owner of We Brand It Promotions:

President Cheryl Hardwick introduced Angela Hoppe the new owner of We Brand It Promotions. She congratulated her and wished her great success as she begins an exciting new chapter. Her investment in our community is appreciated, and we look forward to seeing her business grow and thrive. May her hard work, creativity, and dedication bring many opportunities and

continued blessings for years to come. She wished her best wishes for a bright and successful future. Ms. Hoppe was presented with a gift bag, and a picture was taken with the HCCA Board.

Recognize and honor the Hempstead Theatre Company members and their director for winning the second runner up at the UIL Conference 3A One Act Play Competition:

President Cheryl Hardwick congratulated the talented students at the Hempstead High School Theatre Company and their director Gabriel Arias on earning the title of the Second Runner-Up at the Texas UIL Conference 3A One-Act Play Competition. She stated that their hard work, dedication, creativity, and countless hours of rehearsal truly paid off. This remarkable achievement is a reflection of your passion for the performing arts and the excellence you continue to bring to the state. Thank you for representing Hempstead with pride, professionalism, and talent. Our community celebrates this incredible accomplishment and looks forward to seeing all that you will achieve in the future. Bravo on a job well done! A gift bag was given to everyone, and a picture was taken with the HCCA Board.

Lord of the Flies (Abridged)

A Play by Nigel Williams

Produced by Faber and Faber

Director – Gabriel Arias

Cast and Crew

Ralph – Montrel Criggler

Percival – William Canchola

Piggy – Tanay Dalwadi

Sam – Christian Vega-Stephens

Jack – Tristan James Allen

Eric – Miguel Montero

Simon – Braylon Allen

Maurice – De’Querian Boulds

Roger – Octavio Lozoya

Officer – Jayson Mewis

Stage Manager – Damian Vega-Stephens

Lights – Josue Cardenas

Atmosphere – Emely Hernandez

Cres – Jazmin Arellano

Recognize and Honor the Hempstead High School Students that participated in the State UIL Speech Competition:

President Cheryl Hardwick congratulated the students at Hempstead High school who proudly represented our community at the State UIL Speech Competition. Your hard work, dedication, confidence, and commitment to excellence have earned you the opportunity to compete among the best students in Texas. Reaching the state level is an outstanding accomplishment

and a testament to the countless hours you spent preparing, practicing, and perfecting your skills. You have represented your school, your families, and the Hempstead community with pride and distinction. Whether you brought home awards or simply earned the privilege of competing on the state stage, your achievement is something to celebrate. Congratulations to each competitor, your coaches, and everyone who supported your journey. We are proud of your success and wish you continued excellence in all your future endeavors!

Tristan James Allen, Miguel Montero, and Jayson Mewis.

Octavio Lozoya competed in the Poetry Competition

Tristan James Allen Placed 3rd Place in OAP – Honorable Mention at State OAP and 6th Place in OAP.

Recognize and Honor the 2025 Watermelon Festival Royalty and Committee:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that on behalf of the community of Hempstead and the HCCA, we extend our sincere appreciation to the Watermelon Festival Royalty and Committee for the outstanding job that everyone did representing our city throughout the year. Thanks to each of you for dedicating your time, energy, and enthusiasm to attending parades and community events in neighboring towns and cities. Your presence showcases the pride, tradition, and hospitality that make Hempstead such a special place to live. Through your efforts, you serve as ambassadors for your community, promoting the spirit of the Watermelon Festival and strengthening relationships with communities across the region. Your commitment, professionalism, and community pride do not go unnoticed. We are grateful for the countless hours that each of you have invested in representing Hempstead with grace and enthusiasm and that includes your parents. Thank you for being wonderful ambassadors and for helping keep our Watermelon Festival traditions alive and thriving. We are proud of each of you and appreciate all that you do for Hempstead. Safe travels and continued success as you represent our city with pride! Each one was introduced, a gift bag was presented to everyone, and a picture was taken with the HCCA Board.

Watermelon Queen Madison Chandler

Watermelon Princess Audrianna Rivas

Watermelon Duchess Kenedy Carlton

Little Miss Watermelon Lilliana Adams

Little Mister Watermelon Tate Di Iorio

Melissa Carter Watermelon Festival Royalty Chairman

Tassidy Contreras Watermelon Festival Royalty Co-Chairman

Julian Alvarea Watermelon Festival Official Float Driver

Upcoming HCCA Events for 2026:

President Cheryl Hardwick talked about the upcoming HCCA Events and stated that we could use volunteers for the Watermelon Festival. The Watermelon Festival is scheduled for Friday, July 17th and Saturday, July 18th, 2026. The parade will begin on Saturday at 9:15 A.M.

HCCA Membership - \$100.00 for businesses, \$50.00 for non-profit organizations, and \$25.00 for an individual:

President Cheryl Hardwick talked about becoming a member of the HCCA. She stated, "Are you looking for a way to make a difference in our community?" We invite you to become a member of the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association, an organization dedicated to supporting and strengthening our community. Through the generosity and hard work of our members, we are proud to give back to our schools, churches, nonprofit organizations, and community initiatives. Just last year, we were able to donate \$55,386.67 to support programs and projects that make a positive impact throughout Hempstead. We are also honored to welcome and recognize new businesses, celebrate the achievements of our school district, students, teachers, and individuals, and acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments that make our community such a special place to live and work. When you join the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association, you become a part of a group that is committed to service, community pride, and investing in the future of Hempstead. Together, we can continue making a difference. Join us today and help us build an even stronger community for tomorrow! You can join the HCCA by going to our website at www.growhempstead.com

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

President Cheryl Hardwick asked for prayers for the Hempstead Beta Club for safe travels to and back from the National Finals.

Next Meeting:

President Cheryl Hardwick stated that the next HCCA monthly meeting would be on Tuesday, August 18th, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. at the St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church at 811 14th Street, Hempstead, Texas. There will be no HCCA monthly meeting in July.

Upcoming Events:

- Hempstead American Legion Post 459 located at 31667 FM 1736 in Hempstead and next to the fire station. Meetings are held each month on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 P.M.

- 2026 Hempstead Theatre Company Summer Camp on June 15 – 19th from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. at the Hempstead High School Auditorium. Accepting students between grades 1st through the 8th grade.
- 36th Annual Watermelon Festival on Friday, July 17th and Saturday, July 18th, 2026.
- Hempstead Church of Christ Vacation Bible School – July 25th, 2026, for ages five to the sixth grade. Visit myvbs.org/hempsteadchurch for more info.

Door prizes and refreshments were served:

The door prizes were donated by Melissa Hegemeyer with Hegemeyer Realty and Associates and Julian Alvarez with Texas Premier Residential Services, LLC. The winners of the door prizes were Lilliana Adams, Ryan Adams, Dallas Doyle, Adrianna Rivas, Randy Rivas, and Samantha Want.

Adjourn:

Board Member James Garfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Board Member Vicki LeBlanc made a second motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

Submitted by Secretary Katherine Ward_____

Approved and signed by President Cheryl Hardwick_____

