

LUMBEE TRIBAL COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

For Thursday April 16, 2026 / 6:30pm
Tribal Complex/Livestreamed

Meeting Called To Order: Speaker Alex Baker

Invocation: Homer Fields

Pledge of Allegiance: Bobby Emanuel

Preamble: Larry Chavis

Roll Call: Chocajuana Oxendine

Ethics Statement read by Speaker, Alex Baker

Council Members Present at Roll Call: 19

Billy Oxendine

Harold Smith

Jody Bullard

Carrington Locklear

Larry Chavis

Rubalena Locklear

Kathy Hunt

Johnny Bell

Bobby Emanuel

Chocajuana Oxendine

Josephine Doss

Alex Baker

Homer Fields

Sharon Hunt

Sandra Dial

Mary Locklear

Larry Soles

Rudy Locklear

Eric Chavis

Quorum established

The Speaker gave a welcome to all those in attendance and those that joined via livestream.

Speaker Baker moved the Community Comments after the approval of the March Tribal Council Business Minutes & Actions, the Chairman's Report to follow.

Speaker Baker moved the Presentations to follow the Chairman's Report.

Larry Chavis made a motion to approve the agenda

Bobby Emanuel 2nd the motion

VOICE VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR

CARRIED

Jody Bullard made a motion to approve the April Mins. and Actions

Eric Chavis 2nd the motion

VOICE VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR

CARRIED

Community Comments

JoAnn Lowry - Proposed Changes to Gaming Authority and Tribal Governance. Express a strong emphasis on preserving Tribal Council authority, ensuring clarity in governance language, and safeguarding tribal sovereignty from external influence.

Andrew Jacobs – Spoke on the amendment to the Lumbee Tribal Constitution authorizing gaming is supported. It aims to secure a sustainable future for the tribe by providing consistent revenue and enhancing tribal sovereignty.

Bosco Locklear – Spoke on the amendments and the power it takes away from the people, membership.

Dr. Andrea Blackburn- Spoke on her perspective as a primary care physician who has served the Lumbee Community for several years, speaking in regard to why self-determination and options outside IHS are imperative. Heart disease in relation to Lumbee people as well as diabetes and substance abuse and the opportunities outside IHS funding (help for our people).

James Locklear – Moment of silence Durant Cooper, greatest baseball player of all time. Recognition of community members.

Gary Strickland – LTE Board member thanked the council for the work done on Federal Recognition.

The amendment and the opportunity that it could bring for economic growth.

Robin Branch – Spoke on recent actions and potential actions, recommendation to place on the ballot for the upcoming special election “do you as and eligible tribal voter authorize the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina to engage in gaming activity as permitted by federal and state law, yes or no”. Our focus should be on delivering essential services rather than territorial expansion. Diminishing the memberships voting right on initiatives, recall and term limits.

Eddie Moore – Proud of the work that council and chairman has done to achieve Federal Recognize tribe. Concern of changing the constitution without a better understanding or footing with just becoming Federally Recognized.

Frank Cooper – Spoke on the amendments that are up for vote, Expansion of jurisdiction, removes gaming and business taxation as fundamental rights requiring referendum vote and grants.

Presentations

Tribal Council Honored Reverend Bob Mangum as an honorary tribal member (*pictures were taken*)

Trillium Health Resources representatives presented the Lumbee Tribe with a check in the amount of one million dollars to help build a health and wellness center. (*pictures were taken*)

Ms. Celeste Hunt, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation, presented the first official Senior Ms. Lumbee silver crown (made by Ponce Chavis Jr.). The crown was presented to the current Sr. Ms. Lumbee Wendy Chavis. (*pictures were taken*).

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman gave updates on Enrollment create a fillable form renew form and submit thru the tribal portal and the process of maintaining tribal contact. Thanked the council for bringing the ordinance forth for gaming. Spoke on the process if the ordinance passes and the opportunity of Economic Development.

Committee Reports

CONSTITUTION AND ORDINANCE – RUDY LOCKLEAR

CLLR-2026-0416-01 "NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY" (*SunSarae Harrell*)

ROLL CALL VOTE

19Y0NO0ABS

CARRIED

Item came out of committee

CLLO-2026-0416-01 "AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE LUMBEE MEMBER PORTAL FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND BUSINESS MEETING ACCESS AND ESTABLISHING LIVESTREAM ACCESS POLICY OPTIONS"

ROLL CALL VOTE

18Y1NO0ABS

CARRIED

Item came out of committee

CLLR-2026-0416-02 "RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE FREEDOM & EDUCATION (SAFE) PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZATION OF SUPPORT TO SUSTAIN AND EXPAND SERVICES"

ROLL CALL VOTE

18Y0NO1ABS

CARRIED

Item came out of committee

CLLO-2026-0416-02 "TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO AUTHORIZE GAMING AND OTHER PURPOSES"

ROLL CALL VOTE

17Y2NO0ABS

CARRIED

Calendar Review

Review of April and March calendars were set for District Community Meetings and Committee Meetings.

A motion was made to adjourn

There were no objections

Eric Chavis gave the Benediction