

LUMBEE TRIBAL COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

For Thursday March 19, 2026 / 6:30pm
Tribal Complex/Livestreamed

Meeting Called To Order: Speaker Alex Baker

Invocation: Graylen Mitchell

Pledge of Allegiance: Carrington Locklear

Preamble: Sandra Dial

Roll Call: Chocajuana Oxendine

Ethics Statement read by Speaker, Alex Baker

Welcome: Speaker Alex Baker recognized special guests, former Administrative Court Chief Justice, Rodney Nichols, former Superintendent of the PSORC Dr. Johnny Hunt, former Chair of the Lumbee Tribe Election Board, Shelia Beck, former Tribal Council Member, Wendy Moore, former Tribal Administrator, Ricky Harris, Mr. Ronnie Locklear, Interim Tribal Administrator, Mayor of Parkton, Mr. Ed Lowery, School Board Member, Mr. Terry Locklear, Chancellor Cummings, of UNC at Pembroke and all those attending in person and via Livestream.

Council Members Present at Roll Call: 20

Billy Oxendine

Graylen Mitchell

Harold Smith

Jody Bullard

Larry Chavis

Carrington Locklear

Rubalena Locklear

Kathy Hunt

Johnny Bell

Bobby Emanuel

Chocajuana Oxendine

Josephine Doss

Alex Baker

Homer Fields

Sharon Hunt

Nanci Locklear

Sandra Dial

Mary Locklear

Larry Soles

Rudy Locklear

Quorum established

The speaker added items to the agenda, presentations Dr. Seth Grooms, Assistant Professor with Appalachian State, an item added after the calendar review, closed session to discuss TC lawyer and Economic Development issues.

Sharon Hunt made a motion to approve the March agenda Minutes & Actions

Bobby Emanuel 2nd the motion

VOICE VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR

CARRIED

Nanci Locklear made the motion to approve the February Tribal Council Business Minutes and Actions

Carrington Locklear 2nd the motion

VOICE VOTE

ALL IN FAVOR

CARRIED

Committee Reports

FINANCE – NANCI LOCKLEAR

CLLO-2025-1223-01 "FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2025 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 LUMBEE TRIBAL BUDGET ORDINANCE" *AMENDMENT*

Jody Bullard made a motion to accept

Billy Oxendine 2nd the motion

ROLL CALL VOTE

20Y0N00ABS

CARRIED

Item came out of committee

CLLO-2025-1016-02 "CAREER READINESS AND EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT THROUGH NATIVE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT" (*CREATE*) *AMENDMENT*

ROLL CALL VOTE

20Y0N00ABS

CARRIED

Item came out of committee

CONSTITUTION AND ORDINANCE – RUDY LOCKLEAR

TCRR-2011-1215-01 "STANDING RULES OF ORDER AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DUTIES OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DECORUM OF COUNCIL MEETINGS" *AMENDMENT*

Bobby Oxendine made a motion under section 3 Committee, number one, A, to revert to the original language (3 meetings requirement)

Harold Smith 2nd the motion

VOICE VOTE

MAJORITY VOTE YES

ONE OBJECTION

Amendment with the changes

ROLL CALL VOTE

19Y1N00ABS

CARRIED

Item came out of committee

CLLR-2026-0319-01 "UNITED SOUTH & EASTERN TRIBES, INC MEMBERSHIP"

ROLL CALL VOTE

20Y1N00ABS

CARRIED

Item came out of committee

CLLR-2026-0319-02 "A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, AND EVENTS UTILIZING TRIBAL FUNDS"

Larry Chavis made a motion to send back to committee due to an ordinance already in place

Billy Oxendine 2nd the motion

ROLL CALL VOTE

10Y10N00ABS

TIE VOTE

Per Parliamentarian Item goes back to committee

Item came out of committee

CLLO-2026-0319-01 "PUBLIC NOTICE OF VACANCIES FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMITTEES"

ROLL CALL VOTE

20Y0N00ABS

CARRIED

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – JODY BULLARD

CLLR-2026-0319-03 "THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT"

Noted: Item was corrected from a Resolution to an Ordinance, a signature block for chairman is to be added.

ROLL CALL VOTE

20Y0N00ABS

CARRIED

Chairmans Report

Chairman Lowery gave the Council an update regarding recent developments following the Lumbee Tribe's full federal recognition. The update stated that the Tribal Chairman has been meeting with multiple federal and state agencies to explore available funding opportunities, services, and programs that may benefit the Tribe.

The Chairman further noted that the Tribe is pursuing new funding opportunities beyond traditional sources, exploring partnerships and joint projects, and continuing engagement with agencies including the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Transportation, Department of Justice, USDA, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, North Carolina Health and Human Services Department, and North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Additional updates included strong public interest in Tribal programs, continued re-enrollment activity, high participation in the rehab program now referred to as the hip program, and ongoing planning for upcoming 575 celebration events. The update also referenced recent community discussions with local partners regarding youth services and concerns affecting teenagers in the community.

Swearing In

Chief Justice Ms. Ronette Sutton administered the oath to Mr. Corbin Eddings who will serve on the United Tribes of North Carolina Board for a term of 2 years which will expire on March 31, 2028.

Pictures were taken

Presentations

Dr. Bell spoke about the Dr. Joy Bell ALS Walk and thanked the tribal leadership for being a fiscal Sponsor for the inaugural Dr. Joy Bell ALS walk which takes place on April 11, 2026 at the UNCP Football field.

Dr. Seth Grooms, assistant professor with Appalachian State, also a Lumbee citizen and professor of anthropology and archaeology, introduced himself to the Council and provided a brief overview of his work with the Lumbee River Archaeology Project (LRAP). Dr. Grooms stated that LRAP works to protect Lumbee ancestral lands, educate youth, and support the community through archaeology in partnership with the Tribal Institute of Preservation and Outreach (TIPO).

Community Comments

Community comments were given by members of the tribe regarding issues and concerns related to Community Building in Union Chapel District 8. Dr. Jeff Collins, spoke on Federal Recognition and how it impacts and benefits the county and business. Mr. Terry Locklear with the School Board advocate for the Process and ensure that the Lumbee people have the opportunity to weigh in on the issues that could shape future generations such as gaming. Jarette Sampson, spoke on Nation Building, Wendy Moore, spoke on support of the Rape Crisis Center. Grady Hunt, spoke on purchasing property for Eco. Development, Federal Recognition has cost over the years more time than money and relationships to achieve Federal Recognition. Nancy Chavis, introduced the 2026 Lloyd Oxendine Artisan Residence, Ms. Tanya Holy Elk. She created an art work that stays with the museum to showcase, she wrote a Poem that focuses on Federal Recognition (the poem was read by Ms. Elk). Dr. Robin Cummings, spoke on collaborations and opportunities that Federal Recognition brings and what we are going to do with it, advocating for UNCP. County Commissioner Faline Dial spoke on the support of Federal Recognition from the county and gave thanks for all that the Lumbee Tribe is giving and providing to the communities.

Calendar Review

Review of March and April calendars were set for District Community meetings and committee meetings.

A motion was made to go into closed session and was seconded by Billy Oxendine. There were no objections.

Meeting Adjourned