

The Hiawatha History Commission met on February 19, 2026, at Hiawatha City Hall in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Council Conference Room with Pat Semelroth as Chair calling the meeting to order at 9:07 A.M. Members present: Pat Semelroth, Marilyn James, Lynda Hembera and Janet Van Hoeck. Chuck Graybill was absent. Dixie Carothers and Tom Patterson were guests.

**Interview** – None.

**Business:**

Semelroth asked to amend the agenda to add discussion about the history book and past interviews.

Hembera moved the approval of the amended agenda, seconded by James. Motion carried.

Van Hoeck moved the approval of the December 18, 2025 minutes, seconded by James. Motion carried.

**Review Ordinance 607**

Semelroth distributed the Ordinance for the group to review. Semelroth read the mission statement for the group to review. She then explained how the history book came to be and how holding the interviews during the scheduled meetings, these stories become part of the official record. She also explained the reason behind holding a yearly birthday celebration. Hembera stated it was unfortunate they just tore down the building at 101 Fisher Street, it would have been a good historic building to house the history commission. She went on to explain the buildings history and that her parents ran a grocery store out of it.

**Goals for 2026**

Semelroth asked the commission if anyone came up with any ideas for the year. Hembera stated that the birthday party is a nice idea, especially if you have it in the Insight's so people know when it's happening. It was also decided to keep writing articles for the Insight's and to keep interviewing people. Van Hoeck suggested a working meeting to go through and make an inventory of all the items in the vault.

**Possible Interviews**

Semelroth asked if anyone came up with any names of people that would make for good interviews. Hembera said she would ask her cousin if they'd be interested and a girl that she went to school with.

**History Book**

Semelroth informed the group that the history book was printed by SPS Printers who are no longer in business but she was able to reach out to the sales rep that worked with them and was able to get a PDF copy of the book.

Next meeting is March 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Hembera moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m., seconded by James. Motion carried.

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Pat Semelroth, Chair