



Life. Well Crafted.

**A = Approved, A1 = Approved First Reading, A2 = Approved Second Reading, D = Deferred, NA = No Action, PH = Authorized Public Hearing, AD = Approval Denied**

## ACTION AGENDA

Hickory City Council  
76 North Center Street

April 4, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation by Rev. Jay Robison, Baptist Minister and Adjunct Professor at Lenoir-Rhyne University
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
- NA** A. Presentation of a Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. **(Exhibit IV.A.)**  
  
Mayor Wright read and presented a Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week to Telecommunicators with Hickory Police Department.
- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard
  - A. Mr. Don Baldwin, 4008 Pinecrest Drive, Hickory, spoke about the significance of the Hickory Aviation Museum. He requested wayfinding signs for the Hickory Aviation Museum.
- VI. Approval of Minutes
  - A** A. Regular Meeting of March 21, 2017. **(Exhibit VI.A.)**
- VII. Reaffirmation and Ratification of Second Readings. Votes recorded on first reading will be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading unless Council Members change their votes and so indicate on second reading.
  - A2** A. Approval to Amend the Traffic Ordinance to Reduce the Speed Limit on Main Avenue SE, from 17<sup>th</sup> Street SE to 21<sup>st</sup> Street SE, from 35 mph to a 25 mph Zone.
  - A2** B. Budget Revision Number 20. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Item IX.
  - A** A. Approval of a Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. **(Exhibit VIII.A.)**
  - A** B. Approval of a Proclamation for Lineman Appreciation Day. **(Exhibit VIII.B.)**
  - A** C. Approval of the Appointment of Patsy Scott to City of Hickory Tax Collector for a Two-Year Term. **(Exhibit VIII.C.)**

April 4, 2017

*The City of Hickory's Finance Department is currently responsible for tax bill printing, mailing, collecting, answering taxpayer inquiries, advertisement, and enforcing collections procedures for the City of Hickory locations within Burke and Caldwell counties. Catawba County remains responsible for the billing and collecting of all other City of Hickory locations within the Catawba County taxing district. In order to comply with Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes, which is commonly known as the Machinery Act, the City should appoint a designated Tax Collector for the municipality to cover any additional tax duties at the City level. The City appointment will have no impact on the current Catawba County Tax Collector designation for all other City of Hickory taxes. Patsy Scott was hired as the City's new Senior Accountant effective March 1, 2017. She replaces the former City Tax Collector, Sandy Jones, who resigned from the City of Hickory in October 2016. The City's Tax Collector responsibilities include coordinating Ad Valorem tax administration with Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba counties. Patsy will begin attending courses at UNC School of Government in Chapel Hill in August 2017. These necessary courses are educational requirements for the North Carolina Tax Certification program. Staff recommends approval to appoint Patsy Scott as City of Hickory Tax Collector. Upon appointment, Patsy will complete the educational requirements to become certified as a North Carolina Tax Collector.*

- A D. Approval to Close Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and the Ridgeview Branch Library from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2017 for Staff In-Service Training. **(Exhibit VIII.D.)**

*Public library staff regularly interact with the public and to provide the best possible customer service it is necessary to periodically provide training opportunities in which all staff participate at the same time. This year staff will receive training to allow them to better use technology and to prepare for summer reading programs for all ages. Customer service training specific to each library department will be included. All library staff, both full-time and part-time, interact on a daily basis with the public and, therefore, need periodic opportunities to participate in staff development training to re-energize and motivate themselves, acquire new skills, and learn to work together as a team. To ensure that this happens, it is necessary to schedule the training during a workday. Staff determined that Friday, May 19, 2017 is a date that the libraries could be closed and that would create as little disruption as possible in service to the public. Staff recommends the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and the Ridgeview Branch Library be closed on Friday, May 19, 2017 to allow time for all library employees to participate in staff training.*

- A E. Special Events Activities Application, End AIDS Walk & Community Fun Day, Christina Kliesch, Executive Director, ALFA-AIDS Leadership Foothills Area Alliance, April 8, 2017, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Taft Broome Park. **(Exhibit VIII.E.)**

- A F. Special Events Activities Application, Good Friday, James Matthew Taylor, Creative Arts Pastor, Vintage City Church, April 14, 2017, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Union Square Sails. **(Exhibit VIII.F.)**

- A/PH G. Call for a Public Hearing – Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of Charlotte Murdock and Spouse John Murdock Property, Located at 427 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Containing .527 acres. **Authorize Public Hearing for April 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building.** **(Exhibit VIII.G.)**

- A1 H. Approval of the Community Relations Council's Spring 2017 Grant Recommendations. **(Exhibit VIII.H.)**

*As part of the City of Hickory Community Relation Council's work plan and annual budget process, the Community Relations Council (CRC) receives funds to disperse during the fiscal year through the CRC grant process. Non-profit agencies working with diverse populations in Hickory are eligible for grant funding. The grant proposal must show how the program under consideration fits into the CRC goals and mission and how the program will serve to improve human relations in the Hickory area. For the "Spring 2017" grant cycle, the CRC received eleven grant applications for projects totaling \$14,530 and*

is recommending approval of five of the grants totaling \$6,150. The five recommended recipients: Special Olympics NC – Catawba County, \$1,500; OUTright Youth of Catawba Valley - \$1,500; Safe Harbor Rescue Mission, \$1,000; Catawba Valley Quilters Guild - \$1,500; and Rising Hope Farms - \$650. Funds are available in the CRC budget for the recommended grant approvals. The Community Relations Council recommends City Council's approval for funding of the five grants totaling \$6,150.

- A** I. Adoption of a Resolution to Award the Contract in the Amount of \$1,258,867.94 for the Construction of the Falling Creek Road Bridge Replacement to Eastern Structures, LLC. **(Exhibit VIII.I.)**

Staff requests City Council adopt a Resolution to award the contract to Eastern Structures, LLC for the construction of the Falling Creek Road Bridge replacement in the amount of \$1,258,867.94, contingent upon North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) approval. The City of Hickory participates with NCDOT in the evaluation of bridges for structural integrity. The Falling Creek Road Bridge was evaluated and determined to be structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. NCDOT engaged Thompson, Gordon and Shook (TGS) Engineers to design the replacement structure and bid process for replacement of the structure. Due to the condition of the structure, the project was placed on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for replacement and granted designation B-5549. With the designation, 80 percent of the replacement cost including professional design services will be provided by Federal funds and 20 percent will be borne by the City of Hickory. TGS Engineers, Inc. provided plans and bid documents for the replacement structure and managed bid opening. Four responsive contractors submitted quotes on the project: Eastern Structures, LLC - \$1,258,867.94; Dane Construction Inc. - \$1,606,288.29; Miller Engineering Company, Inc. - \$1,620,923.55; and Dellinger, Inc. - \$1,881,295. TGS Engineers, Inc. evaluated the bid packages and found Eastern Structures LLC to be the lowest responsible bidder and recommends acceptance and award of the project to Eastern Structures LLC. Staff recommends City Council adopt a Resolution to award the contract to Eastern Structures, LLC in the amount of \$1,258,867.94, contingent upon North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) approval.

- A1** J. Budget Revision Number 21. **(Exhibit VIII.J.)**

1. To recognize \$8,000 in donations / sponsorship revenues for the 2017 Senior Games.
2. To appropriate \$80,500 from General Fund Balance and transfer the same into the Capital Projects Fund (Fund 061).
3. To establish a Grant Project Ordinance for Pedestrian Signal Upgrades by accepting the transfer of \$80,500 from the General Fund. The City has received a grant award under the Surface Transportation Program – Direct Allocation (STP-DA), which is federally funded and administered through NCDOT. The total project cost is \$402,500 to be funded by an 80/20 cost sharing agreement between NCDOT and the City of Hickory. The City will pay \$80,500 while the grant will cover the remaining \$322,000.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

- NA** A. Report of Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt's Travel to the NC Main Street Conference, Shelby, NC, March 15, 2017, (Meals - \$41.00; Mileage Reimbursement - \$41.41). **(Exhibit X.A.)**

XI. New Business:

- A. Public Hearings

B. Departmental Reports:

A 1. Legislative Update

City Council approved Resolutions Opposing North Carolina House Bill 64/Senate Bill 206 and North Carolina Senate Bill 94.

A1 2. Approval and Acceptance of the North Carolina Department of Transportation Project Agreement for the Pedestrian Signal Upgrade in the Amount of \$402,500 and Approval of Associated Budget Revision. **(Exhibit XI.B.2.)**

(a) *The City of Hickory applied for and received approval for a Surface Transportation Program – Direct Allocation (STP-DA) grant to upgrade about 40 signalized intersections throughout the City with new pedestrian signal heads and audible pedestrian push buttons. This grant is federally funded and administered through North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The intersections chosen will complete pedestrian corridors to have new pedestrian signal heads at signalized intersections where they do not currently exist. Also, signalized intersections near schools will be upgraded to audible pedestrian push buttons where regular push buttons currently exist. Other signalized intersections will be upgraded to countdown pedestrian signal heads. The total project cost will be \$402,500, with a cost share of NCDOT at \$322,000 (80 percent) and City of Hickory at \$80,500 (20 percent). The funds for this project will be taken from Fund Balance. Staff recommends Council's approval and acceptance of the NCDOT Project Agreement documents for the pedestrian signal upgrade 80/20 matching grant in the amount of \$402,500.*

(b) *Approval to establish a Grant Project Ordinance for Pedestrian Signal Upgrades by accepting the transfer of \$80,500 from the General Fund. The City has received a grant award under the Surface Transportation Program – Direct Allocation (STP-DA), which is federally funded and administered through NCDOT. The total project cost is \$402,500 to be funded by an 80/20 cost sharing agreement between NCDOT and the City of Hickory. The City will pay \$80,500 while the grant will cover the remaining \$322,000. **(See Exhibit VIII.J.)***

NA 3. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Ward 4 (Guess Appoints)

VACANT

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Other Minority (Council Appoints)  
Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT  
VACANT

**HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments)  
(Appointed by City Council)  
Burke County (Mayor to Nominate)

VACANT

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)  
(2) Positions

VACANT

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Ward 4 (Guess Appoints) VACANT

**PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)  
Position 9 VACANT

**RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) VACANT  
Ward 4 (Guess Appoints) VACANT  
At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
  
St. Stephens High School Representatives 1 Position VACANT  
At-Large Representatives 1 Position VACANT  
Challenger High School Representative 1 Position VACANT

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

XII. Matters Not on Agenda (requires majority vote of Council to consider)

XIII. General Comments by Members of Council, City Manager or City Attorney of a Non-Business Nature

Alderman Seaver mentioned Robert F. Smith came to Hickory this past weekend with his traveling companions. He commented that Mr. Smith's father was O.C. Smith who sang the song Little Green Apples, one of the guys who made it successful, among others Frank Sinatra was another one. He was on a mission to throw the first pitch at every major league and minor league ballpark in the country. Alderman Seaver advised he had been on this mission for about a year. Alderman Seaver showed them around Hickory on Sunday afternoon. They were so excited about Hickory. He advised that two of the gentlemen were blind and they explained to them what was going on. They were so excited and they couldn't believe how hospitable the citizens in Hickory are. He thanked all of the citizens whether they had seen him or not, or even saw him out there anywhere. He advised he would be at the Crawdads game on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Friday night. He invited everyone to come out to the ballpark and support Mr. Smith and his mission called "The Little Green Apples Project". He commented it is going to culminate at the Field of Dreams. They were talking about at the end of the video Robert Smith was going to walk back into the cornrows with the old players. They had everything set up for that, that is the culminating thing. He didn't know when that was going to be. The Legislation in the State of South Carolina presented him with a plaque commemorating his visit there. Alderman Seaver had talked to Mayor Wright and they were going to present him with a key and a Resolution from the City of Hickory if they couldn't get it from the Legislature of North Carolina to present at the game.

Mayor Wright commented let's get both if we can. If South Carolina can do it we can.

Alderman Seaver wanted to pass that along to the citizens that they were so impressed with the way they were treated and the hospitality shown all around. He also gave a special thanks to the Hampton Inn for putting them up for a night.

Alderman Tarlton congratulated the UNC Tarheels for winning the National Championship.

Mayor Wright was also glad that Carolina won. It was good for the State and the ACC. He advised this was Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt's last meeting as acting Interim City Manager. He commented she had done a wonderful job at what had been a trying time. She was given a standing ovation. He also thanked staff members Rodney Miller, Yaidee Fox, Claudia Main, Kyle Butler, everybody. Council knew that everybody had pitched in and they appreciated it. The City had not missed a beat. He also thanked Kevin Greer, Finance, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police, Airport, Planning, IT, Library, Clerks Office, Cari Burns, the

Attorney's office, and Arnita Dula. He stated that everybody had done a great job. They had held this thing together. The boat is in the water. Warren Wood doesn't know how great he has got it. He mentioned he had a couple of hours debriefing that might change his mind. He stated that Council would officially swear him in at the next Council meeting, but on Monday morning before he makes a decision he will swear him in at City Hall so he will be legal first decision he makes. Mayor Wright mentioned Bob Vollinger who was in attendance and commented that he wished there was some money in the \$400,000 for some different traffic signals, mast arms, and some underground lines. Mayor Wright had never known, only a handful of people had he known, that had been as consistently persuasively identified with an issue as Bob Vollinger.

XIV. Adjournment

**\*Hickory City Code Section 2-56. Public Address to Council:**

**“When conducting public hearings, considering ordinances and otherwise considering matters wherein the public has a right to be heard, when it appears that there are persons present desiring to be heard, the Mayor shall require those opposing and favoring the proposed action to identify themselves. Each side of the matter shall be given equal time. Those opposing the proposed action shall be allowed 15 minutes for presentation, followed by 15 minutes for those favoring the action, with the opponents then to have five minutes for rebuttal and the proponents to then have five minutes for surrebuttal. Those persons on either side shall have the right to divide their allotted time among them as they may choose. The Council, by majority vote, may extend the time for each side equally. On matters in which the person desiring to address the Council does not have a legal right to speak, the Council shall determine whether it will hear the person. The refusal to hear a person desiring to speak may be based upon grounds that the subject matter is confidential, that its public discussion would be illegal, that it is a matter not within the jurisdiction of the Council or for any other cause deemed sufficient by the Council. Any person allowed to speak who shall depart from the subject under discussion or who shall make personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks, or who shall become boisterous while addressing the Council shall be declared out of order by the Mayor, or by vote of the Council, and barred from speaking further before the Council unless permission to continue shall be granted by a majority vote of the Council, under such restrictions as the Council may provide.”**

**The City of Hickory holds all public meetings in accessible rooms.  
Special requests for accommodation should be submitted by individuals  
with disabilities at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.  
Phone Services (hearing impaired) – Call 711 or 1-800-735-2962**