



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

February 21, 2017
7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation by Rev. Whit Malone, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
- NA** A. Presentation by Community Groups Requesting Appropriations from the City Council during the Next Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017. **(Exhibit IV.A.)**

The Council will not take action tonight. Action will be taken when the Council considers the City's annual budget in May or June. These presentations are made so Council Members can ask questions or make comments about the requests. Presenters will be allotted no more than five (5) minutes to make their presentations to Council.

Organization	Presentation By	Amount Requested
Catawba County Economic Development Corporation	Scott Millar	\$155,620
Friends of Hickory	Allison Holtzman	\$50,000
Habitat for Humanity of Catawba Valley	Mitzi Gellman	\$5,440
Hickory Downtown Development Association	Connie Kincaid	\$55,000
Hickory Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau	Mandy Pitts Hildebrand and Bruce Eckard	\$47,000
SALT Block Foundation	Kimberly George	\$100,000
United Arts Council of Catawba County	Bonita Ferretti	\$40,374
YMCA of Catawba Valley	Gerry Knox	\$9,000

- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

Mr. Robert Russell addressed City Council regarding the proposal previously made by Billy Sudderth for the Multicultural Resource Center. He discussed issues in the Ridgeview Community and problems with trash and rodent infestation. He suggested that he had a program that could fix the problems in the area.
- VI. Approval of Minutes
 - A** A. Regular Meeting of February 7, 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. Acceptance of the Bid and Award of the Contract to Kelly-Creswell, Inc. in the Amount of \$144,380 for the Purchase of a Kelly-Creswell Model MV3-AL Truck Mounted Striper (Paint Truck). **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- A2** B. Approval of a Community Appearance Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by The Block 108, LLC Located at 108 South Center Street in the Amount of \$5,000. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- A2** C. Approval of a Community Appearance Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by Rahe Bryce, LLC Located at 117 Government Avenue SW in the Amount of \$5,000. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- A2** D. Approval of a Landscape Incentive Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by The Block 108, LLC Located at 108 South Center Street in the Amount of \$2,500. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- A2** E. Approval of a Landscape Incentive Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by Century Furniture Located at 401 11th Street NW in the Amount of \$2,329. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- A2** F. Approval of the 2017 Loan Agreement with the National Museum of the United States Air Force under their Static Display Program of Loan of Aircraft to the City of Hickory. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- A2** G. Acceptance and Award of the Agreement with Willis Engineers, Inc., in the Amount of \$65,000 for Evaluation and Design of the Lenoir-Rhyne University Area Waterline Improvements Project. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- A2** H. Budget Revision Number 16. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- A2** I. Acceptance of a Right-of-Way Dedication Non-Warranty Deed from OHM Holdings, L.L.C. (Transportation Insight) to the City of Hickory. **(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. Special Events Activities Application, Hickory Hops, Connie Kincaid, Executive Director for Hickory Downtown Development Association, Government Avenue and 2nd Street SW. Set-up Begins April 21, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-up will end April 22, 2017 at 11:00 p.m. Event time 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on April 22, 2017. **(Exhibit VIII.A.)**
- A** B. Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations for Assistance through the City of Hickory's Housing Programs. **(Exhibit VIII.B.)**

The following request was considered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on February 2, 2017.

The following applicant is being recommended for approval for assistance under the City of Hickory's 2016 Urgent Repair Program. This program provides qualified low income citizens with assistance for emergency-related repairs not to exceed \$8,000.

➤ *Shelley Tribble, 730 9th Avenue Drive SE, Hickory*

The Citizens' Advisory Committee recommends approval of the aforementioned request for assistance through the City of Hickory's housing assistance programs.

- A1** C. Approval to Amend the Parking Ordinance for the Farmer's Market. **(Exhibit VIII.C.)**

The Traffic Division analyzed and recommends Council's approval to amend the Traffic Ordinance by prohibiting parking in the Union Square lot to facilitate the Farmers Market. Parking will be prohibited in the spaces south of Union Square along the north side of the parking lot road connecting the east and west parking lots as well as along the west parking lot to incorporate the first three angled parking spaces. Parking will be prohibited on Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. from April 15, 2017 through November 25, 2017 (excluding Saturday, October 14, 2017 which is Oktoberfest weekend, and Saturday, November 11, 2017 which is Shuck-n-Peel). Towing will be enforced. Parking Ordinance Number 16-08 will become null and void. Staff recommends approval of a new parking ordinance reflecting the change.

A1 D. Approval of Hickory International Council's Recommendations for Grant Funding. (Exhibit VIII.D.)

As part of Hickory International Council's (HIC) work plan and annual budget process, the Hickory International Council receives funds to disperse during the fiscal year. The HIC offers grants to community organizations that provide programs supportive of the goals, purposes, and projects of the HIC. Grants may be awarded to individuals, non-profit organizations, or community organizations. Grants may be requested at any amount up to a maximum of \$500 and may be given as either "seed money" or for operational costs of a program or project. At least one grant will be awarded each year to individuals or organizations that operate within the City of Hickory. Other grants can be awarded to individuals or organizations that operate anywhere within Catawba County. If there are no grant applications from the City of Hickory, grants can be awarded to applicants from Catawba County. Grant proposals must indicate how the project or program supports the goals, purposes and mission of the Hickory International Council. For the FY 2017 grant cycle, the HIC received a number of grant applications and after review, followed by a member vote at the January 19th HIC monthly meeting. The grant recipients selected were: Lenoir-Rhyne University Startup Academy: The Startup Academy or La Academia de Emprendimiento de Negocios - \$250; Leaderes Comunidad: Leaderes Comunidad of North Carolina Citizenship Preparation Educational Program - \$500; and Hickory Crawdads: Hispanic Heritage Night - \$500. The HIC recommends approval of these three grants totaling \$1,250. Funds are available in the HIC budget for the recommended grant approvals.

A E. Approval to Apply for a Federal Historic Preservation Fund Pass-Through Grant Administered through the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. (Exhibit VIII.E.)

The Hickory Historic Preservation Commission requests permission to apply for a Federal Historic Preservation Fund Pass-through Grant, administered through the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), to expand the Oakwood National Register Historic District. As a Certified Local Government, the City of Hickory and nonprofits within the City are eligible to apply for grants from the State of North Carolina to undertake a variety of different projects to advance historic preservation. In October 2015, a survey of historic properties was completed by a consultant on behalf of the Hickory Historic Preservation Commission. As part of the survey, the consultant identified three areas that appeared to meet the criteria to garner a successful nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. These three areas included an expansion of the existing Oakwood district, a new Hillcrest district, and a new Timberlane Terrace district. These findings were added to the SHPO's study list, which acts as a preliminary review for potential National Register listings. In order to move forward with these potential nominations, additional research and a nomination report must be completed. This grant would help provide the funds to hire a qualified consultant to complete the nomination report for the expansion of the Oakwood National Register Historic District and update the documentation of the existing properties in the district as well. In January 2017, the Historic Preservation Commission instructed staff to move forward with efforts to apply for the grant. The anticipated cost of the project is \$16,000. If the grant was awarded for that amount, the City's match would be \$6,400 (40%). These funds would be

from next fiscal year's General Fund. As part of the application, community support is a necessity. Letters were mailed to all property owners within the existing and potential Oakwood district and a community meeting was held on February 2nd at City Hall to address questions and concerns. Feedback from the letter and meeting has been positive. Staff recommends City Council authorize the Commission and staff to apply for the State grant.

- A1** F. Approval of a Community Appearance Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by The Block 108, LLC Located at 26 1st Avenue SE in the Amount of \$5,000. **(Exhibit VIII.F.)**

City Council created the Community Appearance Grant program in 1999 to provide economic incentives for property owners to improve the general appearance of properties located within the City's designated Urban Revitalization Area. The Community Appearance Commission reviews applications for the grant program and forwards a recommendation of approval or denial to City Council. The grants are designed as a reimbursement grant in which the City of Hickory will match the applicant on a 50/50 basis. The maximum grant amount from the City of Hickory is \$5,000. The grant proposal requested involves the installation of new windows, and painting of the building's exterior. The applicant provided two bids for the improvements, which total \$19,600 and \$20,100. The request would qualify for a \$5,000 grant. The current tax value of the property is \$176,000. The value of the grant represents approximately 2.8 percent of the property's tax value. The application was reviewed by the Community Appearance Commission at its January 9, 2017 special called meeting. The Community Appearance Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend funding of the grant application in the amount of \$5,000.

- A1** G. Approval of a Landscape Incentive Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by The Block 108, LLC Located at 26 1st Avenue SE in the Amount of \$2,500. **(Exhibit VIII.G.)**

City Council created the Landscape Incentive Grant program in 1999 to provide economic incentives for property owners to improve the general appearance of properties located within the City. The Community Appearance Commission reviews applications for the grant program and forwards a recommendation of approval or denial to City Council. The grants are designed as a reimbursement grant in which the City of Hickory will match the applicant on a 50/50 basis. The maximum grant amount from the City of Hickory is \$2,500. The applicant's proposal involves the installation of planting materials adjacent to the existing commercial building. The applicant provided two bids for the work listed which total \$7,100 and \$7,400. The request would qualify for a \$2,500 grant. The current tax value of the property is \$176,000. The value of the grant represents approximately 1.4 percent of the property's tax value. The application was reviewed by the Community Appearance Commission at its January 9, 2017 special called meeting. The Community Appearance Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend funding of the grant application in the amount of \$2,500.

- A1** H. Acceptance and Award of the Proposal by Freese and Nichols, Inc. for the West Hickory Elevated Tank and Distribution System Project and Completion of the City's Distribution System Model in the Amount of \$71,220. **(Exhibit VIII.H.)**

The West Hickory Water Tank is a one million gallon elevated water storage tank that serves an active and demand driven portion of the Hickory distribution system. The reason for this evaluation is to determine how best to optimize operation of this storage tank and the surrounding distribution system to ensure acceptable water quantity and quality for the tributary area. This project is intended to evaluate the water distribution infrastructure in this area to maximize the available water in the "West Hickory Water Tank" to improve water quality and ensure optimal effective storage. This area has traditionally experienced low water volumes during high flow events and this project will correct that by creating access to a one million gallon water tank in close proximity. This project will further develop a citywide water model so that the system can be evaluated for other areas that may be experiencing issues and suitability for future customers. Public Utilities staff developed and disseminated a Request for Qualifications package

and advertised on the City's website. Four engineering firms responded to the solicitation and two firms were interviewed. The responding firms were: Willis Engineers, Inc.; McGill Associates, Asheville, NC; Freese and Nichols Inc.; and McKim & Creed Engineering. Freese and Nichols, Inc. has been selected as the best qualified firm with vast past experience in modelling and availability. The funds for this project are budgeted in the Public Utilities Capital Budget for FY 16-17. Staff recommends Council's acceptance and award of the proposal by Freese and Nichols, Inc. for the West Hickory Elevated Tank and Distribution System Project and completion of the City's distribution system model in the amount of \$71,220.

- A1** I. Acceptance and Award of the Professional Services Agreement with Hulsey McCormick & Wallace in the Amount of \$91,000 for Completion of the Sodium Hypochlorite Generation Replacement Project. **(Exhibit VIII.I.)**

The City of Hickory Public Utilities Division owns and operates one 32 MGD Water Treatment Facility that was last upgraded in 1992. In 2002, Public Utilities made the decision to remove the one ton chlorine gas cylinder feed system for disinfection and replace with a sodium hypochlorite generation system. These type systems are safer for the coworkers and make a less hazardous atmosphere for the neighboring area. The current system was the first to be installed in North Carolina and has worked well for the facility. In recent years, Public Utilities has spent a substantial amount of resources on maintenance and replacement. Staff has reviewed options and made comparisons for more extensive repairs versus replacement and feel that it is time to replace the system with newer technology. Public Utilities Division staff developed and distributed a Request for Qualifications for development and completion of plans for the Sodium Hypochlorite Replacement System. Request for Qualifications were advertised for this plan on the City's website and qualifications were received on December 13, 2016. One engineering firm responded to the request, Hulsey McCormick & Wallace. Staff reviewed the qualifications package from the firm and has determined that the firm was responsive to the required elements of the RFQ. Hulsey McCormick & Wallace has been selected as the firm to complete this essential project. They were selected based on previous experience with completion of Hypochlorite Generation Systems, project scope and depth of knowledge in the required discipline. This project is included in the FY 16-17 Capital Budget. Staff recommends Council's acceptance and award of this Professional Services Agreement with Hulsey McCormick & Wallace in the amount of \$91,000.

- A1** J. Budget Revision Number 18. **(Exhibit VIII.J.)**

1. *To recognize \$439 in Miscellaneous Revenues received from the sale of scrap metal and used tires removed from Fire vehicles. This revenue will be used for the Fire Department's Maintenance & Repair/Vehicles line-item.*
2. *To recognize the award and acceptance of a \$671,920 NC Industrial Development Fund grant for the Business Park 1764 Capital Project (#B1B001).*

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

- A1** 1. Consideration of a Vacant Building Revitalization Grant Performance Agreement with The Block 108, LLC for Property Located at 26 1st Avenue SE. **(Exhibit XI.A.1.)**

City Council established the Vacant Building Revitalization and Demolition Grant program on September 16, 2008. The program provides grant funding up to \$20,000 for rehabilitation of vacant buildings within the Urban Revitalization Area and targeted industrial buildings in other areas of the City. The Block 108, LLC

has applied for a Vacant Building Revitalization Grant in the amount of \$20,000 to assist in the rehabilitation of the former Ferguson Plumbing building at 26 1st Avenue SE. The applicant plans to spend approximately \$200,000 to rehabilitate the building and site. The owner will use the building for a contractor's office. The project would be eligible for a \$20,000 revitalization grant. The Business Development Committee reviewed this proposal at their November 16th meeting and recommends approval. Recent changes to the North Carolina General Statutes require a public hearing prior to approval of the grant. Staff recommends City Council approve the Vacant Building Revitalization Grant with The Block 108, LLC.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on February 10, 2017.

B. Departmental Reports:

- A 1. Acceptance of North Carolina Industrial Development Grant Funds in the Amount of \$671,920 to Assist in Development of Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure and Entrance Road Development for Park 1764. **(Exhibit XI.B.1.)**

Park 1764 is identified as the Business Park recognized in the bond projects to receive money from bond proceeds for development. The City and Catawba County EDC have worked on development of the project to a condition that is receptive to marketing. The City and Catawba County EDC submitted an application for North Carolina Industrial Development Funds and were approved for \$671,920 in grant funds with a matching requirement of 100 percent. The grant proceeds are to be used for sanitary sewer outfall extension to the site in the amount of \$361,900 and entrance road development with landscaping off Startown Road in the amount of \$310,020. The grant has a condition that the recipient will match the investment for a total of at least \$1,343,840. The City of Hickory and Catawba County entered into an agreement previously to equally cover the cost of development previously estimated at \$1,558,562 for this phase of development. This grant has a required equal match in funds prior to disbursement of the entire grant. The grant is a reimbursable grant with 50 percent each request being funded up to a maximum of \$671,920. The grant was approved January 23, 2017. Staff recommends Council's acceptance of the North Carolina Industrial Development Grant Funds for Park 1764 in the amount of \$671,920 to assist in development of sanitary sewer infrastructure and entrance road development.

- A 2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

BOND IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 2-1; 3 Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints)

VACANT

***Ex-Officio Members to Bond Implementation Commission
(Appointed by Boards and Commissions)***

Hickory Regional Planning Commission

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

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

Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints)

VACANT

Ward 4 (Guess Appoints)

VACANT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

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

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints)	VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints)	VACANT
(Unexpired Term of Nancy Yang (resigned 1-18-17), term expires 6-30-2019)	

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
At-Large (Mayor Appoints)	VACANT

Mayor Wright nominated Rick Martin as an At-Large Representative for the Library Advisory Board.

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

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt reminded City Council and the community there would be a Bond Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 12:00, at Highland Recreation. This meeting would be open to the public. She advised they would be reviewing City Walk plans, and gateway designs. She informed City Council that in their packets at their seats, Cari Burns had created handouts for City Council to give to recruits to their Board and Commission member(s). On the backside of the handout there was an application.

Mayor Wright mentioned the wayfinding signs continued to grow. He commented they look a lot like Morganton's. He joked when they are in Morganton they are going to think they are still in Hickory. That could only help us, look at the footprint we now would have. He said they looked great. He also liked what they had done on the backs of the signs. The logo was on the back of the signs which cost almost nothing extra.

Alderman Seaver commented in June, Robert F. Smith, his father was a music writer who wrote music for the Field of Dreams movie. Robert F. Smith had embarked upon a journey to throw a

pitch in every major and minor league Baseball Park in America. He is going to be in the Carolina area from June 14-24, 2017. The Crawdads have already committed to letting him do that. The local Lions Club(s) will try and have some kind of a program where they can get as many people as possible to the stadium to see this guy and do a fundraiser for local Lion projects.

Alderman Tarlton asked how many ballparks were there.

Alderman Seaver had no ideal, a lot.

Mayor Wright commented it had to be 200-300. He thought maybe 28 major league teams. Everyone probably has 10 minor league teams.

Alderman Seaver advised this guy was featured in the Lion's magazine in July/August 2016. They were going to try and get something together for that.

Mayor Wright wanted to give him a key to the City.

Alderman Seaver commented they might could work something out to do it in Council Chambers. He mentioned the Sister's Cities Association has a group heading over to Altenburg, Hickory's sister city in Germany. They will be going the first of August, and more information will be released about that. He advised to check the news. If anybody was interested in going contact him. This year was the 500th Anniversary of the reformation of the church. It is going to coincide with the Altenburg music festival which is renowned throughout Europe. He advised it would be August 9-20, 2017. He and Mayor Wright would be attending.

Alderman Tarlton advised he would like to attend.

Alderman Seaver commented they would get a few other people.

Mayor Wright advised there was no limit on how many could go, there was a limit on funding. They will visit the city which is near Altenburg where Martin Luther nailed theses on the wall. It was going to be quite an interesting thing. They had been here several times. He didn't know if they had ever gone.

Alderman Seaver advised they had different groups go over just about every year from all around the unifour area. Western Piedmont Sister Cities covers the four county area. It is not just Hickory.

Mayor Wright mentioned that their area was a good size area too.

Alderman Seaver advised it was about the same size probably in population.

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of November 1, 2016, November 15, 2016 and December 20, 2016 - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)

XV. 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.
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with disabilities at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.
Phone Services (hearing impaired) – Call 711 or 1-800-735-2962**