



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

July 19, 2016
7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation by Rev. Wil Posey, Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations

NA A. Recognition of Retiring Boards and Commissions Members

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Citizens Advisory | Mark Huggins |
| Community Appearance | Debbie Rush Sam Hunt Janet Painter Candas Brown Andrew Straw David Moser |
| Community Relations | Darrell Rogers |
| Hickory Regional Planning Commission | Barbara Clemmons |
| Historic Preservation | Sarah Huffman Larry Triplett Steven Walker |
| Library Advisory | Juanita Dula |
| Parks & Recreation | Joyce Beard Angie Aycock |
| Public Art Commission | Phil Barringer |
| Recycling Advisory | Charlie Hayes Jeff Bartlett Jeff Wright |
| Youth Council | Grace Bollinger Tyler Cochran Landen Linkous Jenny Kerley Paul Wood Emily Childers Andrew Howard |

Alanna Church
Kyle Chang
Emmy Williams
Mary Kathryn Cockerham

Alderman Guess recognized all of the retiring boards and commission members and presented those in attendance with certificates in appreciation for their service.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

- NA A. Dr. J.D. Robinette, 1850 Clement Blvd. NW, Hickory, Discussion of Business Signage.

Dr. J.D. Robinette expressed concerns with the street lights out between the bridge and his office. He advised there was 12 street lights out. He also discussed concerns with the City's sign ordinance.

VI. Approval of Minutes

- A A. Regular Meeting of June 21, 2016. **(Exhibit VI.A.)**

- A B. Special Meeting of June 28, 2016. **(Exhibit VI.B.)**

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 of the Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement between the City of Hickory and Safe Harbor Rescue Mission. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- A2 B. Approval of the Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement between the City of Hickory and AIDS Leadership Foothills-Area Alliance, Inc. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- A2 C. Approval of Two Municipal Participation Agreements with North Carolina Department of Transportation. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- A2 D. Acceptance of the Bid and Award of the Contract to Carolina Courtworks in the Amount of \$35,839 for Construction of Hickory Optimist Park Pickleball Court. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- A2 E. Approval of a Contract with JK Landscaping & Grading in the Amount of \$44,200 for Improvements to Southside Heights Park. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- A2 F. Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 25. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- A2 G. Capital Project Ordinance Number 4. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- A2 H. Consideration of Rezoning Petition 16-03 for Hilton Materials, LLC for Rezoning of approximately 8.09 acres of property located at 1360 11th Avenue SE. The petition is to rezone the property from Regional Commercial (C-3) to Industrial (IND). **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- A2 I. Approval of a Contract with Rite Lite of Concord in the Amount of \$453,044.30 for Wayfinding Signs along Major Gateways in Hickory. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- A2 J. Approval of a Contract with Andrea Surratt for Interim City Manager. **(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.

- A1** A. Acceptance of an Offer to Purchase Property, PIN 3724-18-31-3226, in the Amount of \$6,000, Located East of 25th Street NE, Hickory. **(Exhibit VIII.A.)**

Staff requests approval of the purchase of property located east of 25th Street NE, PIN 3724-18-31-3226, Lot 4 in the E.O. Hefner Estate Unrecorded Subdivision, containing approximately 2.09 acres. The property is currently owned by Margaret Louise Barger, Richard Barger, Frances H. Hallman, Donna Kay Parker, and Larry Parker. Public Utilities plans to purchase the property in order to run a sewer line through it. The tax value of the property is currently \$16,300. The property is currently landlocked, which would make building on the property difficult. The property owners have offered the property to the City for the purchase price of \$6,000. Public Utilities acquisition funds are available to purchase the property which will assist Public Utilities in the Random Woods Sewer Project. Staff recommends Council's approval of the offer to purchase this property, (PIN 3724-18-31-3226) in the amount of \$6,000.

- A** B. Acceptance of Donated Surplus Code 3 Light Bars from 144th Marketing Group. **(Exhibit VIII.B.)**

Hickory Police Department requests Council's approve to accept donated surplus Code 3 Light Bars from 144th Marketing Group. 144th Marketing Group would like to donate surplus Code 3 Light Bar sets valued at \$1,000 to be installed at the Hickory Police Department firing range for the nighttime qualification for each officer as mandated by State requirements. The City of Hickory Building Services will install the blue lights. The current blue lights installed at the Hickory Police Department's firing range are over 15 years old and are starting to fail. Hickory Police Department recommends Council approve the acceptance of the donated surplus Code 3 Light Bar sets valued at \$1,000 from 144th Marketing Group.

- A** C. Renewal of Taxicab and Other Passenger Vehicles for Hire Franchises. **(Exhibit VIII.C.)**

| Company | Taxicabs | Passenger Vehicle for Hire |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mile High Enterprises dba The Hickory Hop | 0 | 7 |
| Yellow Cab | 13 | 1 |
| Diamond Cab of Hickory | 3 | 0 |
| Hickory Limousine | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 16 | 11 |

Annually, these companies apply for a renewal of their Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the operation of taxicabs and other vehicles for hire.

- A1** D. Approval of the Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement between the City of Hickory and Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry. **(Exhibit VIII.D.)**

In February 2016, the City of Hickory's Department of Planning and Development Services requested applications from local nonprofit organizations for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended funding for these applications as part of the City's Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan was approved by City Council following a public hearing on May 3, 2016. The Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement describes the requirements for the City and Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry to ensure that all applicable federal regulations are met. Funds will be used to assist the NETworX Catawba Program which is a 15 week program that provides training to individuals looking to break the cycle of generational poverty. Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry has requested and been approved for funding in the amount of \$8,000 through the City of Hickory's Community Development

Block Grant program. Staff recommends approval of the CDBG funding agreement between the City of Hickory, North Carolina, and Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry.

- A1** E. Approval of the Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement between the City of Hickory and Habitat for Humanity of the Catawba Valley, Inc. **(Exhibit VIII.E.)**

In February 2016, the City of Hickory's Department of Planning and Development Services requested applications from local nonprofit organizations for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended funding for these applications as part of the City's Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan was approved by City Council following a public hearing on May 3, 2016. The Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement describes the requirements for the City and Habitat for Humanity of the Catawba Valley to ensure that all applicable federal regulations are met. Funds will be used for rehabilitation of owner occupied single family residences with households earning less than 80 percent of the area median income. Habitat for Humanity of the Catawba Valley has requested and been approved for funding in the amount of \$30,000 through the City of Hickory's Community Development Block Grant program. Staff recommends approval of the CDBG funding agreement between the City of Hickory, North Carolina, and Habitat for Humanity of the Catawba Valley, Inc.

- A** F. Approval of a Special Event Activities Application, The Favor Center Church Outdoor Worship Service, Ritchie Naraidu, Church Administrator, The Favor Center Church, September 10, 2016, 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Sails on the Square. **(Exhibit VIII.F.)**

- A** G. Approval of a Special Event Activities Application, 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's – Hickory, Meghan Lawton, Regional Manager, October 29, 2016, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., L.P. Frans Stadium. **(Exhibit VIII.G.)**

- A** H. Approval of a Special Event Activities Application, NC Foothills Race for the Cure, Gina Simmons, Event and Development Coordinator, Susan G. Komen Northwest NC, Set Up: October 14, 2016 at 8:00 a.m., Event Date/Time: October 15, 2016, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., LP Frans Stadium. **(Exhibit VIII.H.)**

- A1** I. Approval of the Application Development Contract in the Amount of \$87,996 with Western Piedmont Council of Governments to Provide Continued Services and Support for Fiscal Year 2016/2017. **(Exhibit VIII.I.)**

Western Piedmont Council of Governments has provided many departments of the City with application development and general GIS services for many years. The services they provide continue to be a valuable resource to the Council, City Staff, and the members of the community at large. Staff recommends approval of the Application Development Contract with Western Piedmont Council of Governments in the amount of \$87,996 to provide continued services and support for fiscal year 2016/2017. Funds are included in FY2016/2017 budget.

- A1** J. Approval of the Technical Assistance Services Contract in the Amount of \$74,340 with Western Piedmont Council of Governments to Provide Continued Services and Support for Fiscal Year 2016/2017. **(Exhibit VIII.J.)**

Western Piedmont Council of Governments has provided many departments of the City with application development and general GIS services for many years. The services they provide continue to be a valuable resource to the Council, City Staff, and the members of the community at large. Staff recommends approval of the Technical Assistance Services Contract with Western Piedmont Council of Governments in the amount of \$74,340 to provide continued services and support for fiscal year 2016/2017. Funds are included in FY2016/2017 budget.

- A1** K. Approval of the Renewal of the Agreement with Western Piedmont Council of Governments to Support the Western Piedmont Stormwater Partnership for Phase II Public Education. **(Exhibit VIII.K.)**

The City was issued an NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources on July 1, 2005. One of the requirements of the permit in the Public Education and Outreach Minimum Measure is that the City develop and implement a public education and outreach program to raise public awareness on the causes and impacts of stormwater pollution. Staff requests approval of the renewal contract with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) to implement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Public Education program through the Western Piedmont Stormwater Partnership. This agreement is for an amount that shall not exceed \$11,033. Funds are available from the current stormwater budget. Staff recommends City Council's approval of the renewal agreement with the WPCOG for assistance in implementation of the NPDES Phase II public education and outreach program for an amount not to exceed \$11,033.

- A** L. Acceptance of a Cemetery Deed from Laura H. George and husband Samuel D. George Jr. (Oakwood Cemetery, Plot X, Lot No. 3&4, Section 57A) (Prepared by Deputy City Attorney Arnita M. Dula). Approve the Transfer of a Cemetery Deed from the City of Hickory to Laura H. George and husband Samuel D. George Jr. (Oakwood Cemetery, Plot W, Lot No. 1&2, Section 57A, Containing 80 Square Feet) (Prepared by Deputy City Attorney Arnita M. Dula).

The exchange of these cemetery plots is due to mature shrubbery/trees being located on the lots currently owned by the George's. These plots are no longer suitable for interment, therefore the City is exchanging lots with the George's so they may have plots that are usable.

- PH** M. Call for Public Hearing for Consideration of Designating Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill as a Local Historic Landmark. **(Authorize Public Hearing for August 2, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).** **(Exhibit VIII.M.)**

- A/PH** N. Certificate of Sufficiency and Preliminary Resolution Relative to Street Improvements along a Portion of the North Side of the 3300 Block of 48th Avenue Lane NE, Petition No. 16-02. **(Authorize Public Hearing for August 16, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).** **(Exhibit VIII.N.)**

- A1** O. Approval to Retire Police Canine Gino and an Agreement to Allow Police Canine Gino to be adopted by Handler MPO Marcus Chapman. **(Exhibit VIII.O.)**

The Hickory Police Department will retire police canine, Gino from service on July 1, 2016 due to injury after seven years of service. His handler, MPO Marcus Chapman, would like to adopt him after his retirement and would like to assume responsibility and care of the canine. Gino has a special skill set due to his previous training as a police dog, and because of this training he is a danger to public welfare, and may be adopted by his handler. Staff requests approval to retire canine Gino on July 1, 2016 and approval of the Retiring Canine Agreement allowing MPO Marcus Chapman to adopt Gino.

- A** P. Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2016/2017 Fee Schedule. **(Exhibit VIII.P.)**

City Council approved the annual FY 2016/2017 Fee Schedule on June 21, 2016 along with the annual Budget Ordinance. Following this action Staff realized there were several omissions and misstated fees on the initial draft presented to City Council. The following items include the additions and specific fees to be amended. The City's practice has been to increase service fees according to the most recent Consumer Price Index, (currently 0.7%) with the resulting fee rounded either up or down to the nearest quarter-dollar. The following adjustments adhere directly to that practice or require adjustment due to other factors as noted:

- Under Fire Department “Thirty-six Month Inspections,” add “Mercantile (more than 10 tenants)” at \$278.00. Note: This one fee replaces the former categories of “11 to 20 tenants” and “more than 20 tenants” which had been charging \$276.00 and \$552.00 respectively.

- Under Fire Department Construction Permits, change Automatic Sprinkler System Installation (per sq. ft.) and Fire Alarm and Detection System Installation (per sq. ft.) from \$0.01 to \$0.0149. This specific amount was, in fact, entered correctly into the spreadsheet but the display cell rounded it to two decimal places.

- Cemetery:

| Cemetery Lots | 14-15 | 15-16 | Current | Corrected |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Oakwood (must purchase two lots and not pre-need) | \$1029 each | \$1029 each | \$1029 each | \$1036.25 each |
| Fairview | \$729 | \$734.75 | \$734.75 | \$740 |
| Southside | \$729 | \$734.75 | \$734.75 | \$740 |
| Baby Grace with identification marker | \$729 | \$734.75 | \$734.75 | \$740 |
| | | | | |
| Cemetery Permits | | | | |
| Internment Permit | \$61.75 | \$62.25 | \$62.25 | \$62.75 |
| Monument Permit | \$12.50 | \$12.50 | \$12.50 | No change |
| Inurnment Permit | \$12.50 | \$12.50 | \$12.50 | No change |
| Niche Opening After Initial Inurnment | \$180.75 | \$182.25 | \$182.25 | \$183.50 |
| | | | | |
| Columbarium | | | | |
| Single Niche | \$1480.50 | \$1492.25 | \$1492.25 | \$1502.75 |
| Double Niche | \$2220 | \$2237.75 | \$2237.75 | \$2253.50 |

- Shuford Garden Rental: Change from \$173.25 to \$174.50.

- Recycling:

Change “Residential Recycling Bags (tax included)” to read “Residential Recycling Bags, Clear (tax included)”. Reduce the fee from \$17.25 back to \$17.00 which, without the CPI increase, more accurately reflects the actual cost of the product.

- Sanitation:

Change “Residential Trash Bags (per hundred) (tax included)” to read “Residential Trash Bags, Black (per hundred) (tax included)”. Reduce the fee from \$17.25 back to \$17.00 which, without the CPI increase, more accurately reflects the actual cost of the product.

The following Commercial Waste fees must be amended due to limitations in the billing process software that require twice-per-month collections to be billed at double the rate of once-per-month accounts. This in effect requires the new fee to be slightly higher than the CPI rate of 0.7%:

4 yard BC – 2 pickups per month: change from \$19.75 to \$20.00
 6 yard BC – 2 pickups per month: change from \$31.25 to \$31.50
 8 yard BC – 2 pickups per month: change from \$37.25 to \$37.50

- Parks & Recreation:

Correct Henry Fork River Regional Recreation Park Non-Resident Full Day (8 hours) 2015-2016 fee from \$569.00 to \$269.00 and update 2016-2017 fee to \$288.00.

A Q. Approval of a Resolution for Two Additional Commissioners on the Hickory Public Housing Authority. **(Exhibit VIII.Q.)**

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 157-5 (a) allows the number of commissioners to consist of not less than five nor more than eleven commissioners

appointed by the Mayor. The recommendation is for Hickory City Council to approve a Resolution increasing the current number of commissioners on the Public Housing Authority Board from seven to nine, effective July 19, 2016.

A1 R. Budget Revision Number 1. (Exhibit VIII.R.)

1. To appropriate \$12,180 of General Fund Balance and budget same within the Police Department's Contracted Services line item. This amendment is necessary to pay for Smith Rogers PLLC Attorneys at Law for annual legal support. These funds are from State Unauthorized Substance Tax money and are received and reside within the General Fund Balance until the time of appropriation for specific uses under the State guidelines.
2. To appropriate \$77,124 of General Fund Balance and budget same into the Library's various expenditure line items for Books, Departmental Supplies, and Programming. A donation for Astronomy made in FY 2015 and Endowment Funds from FY 2016 were unable to be spent prior to the end of the fiscal year, therefore an appropriation from General Fund Balance is necessary.
3. Within Capital Project #B1A001 (Bond Projects – Administrative Costs), to reverse a \$1,370 transaction that was erroneously appropriated twice: once through Budget Ordinance Amendment #13 on January 5, 2016 then subsequently as part of Capital Project Ordinance #3 on June 21, 2016. The current adjustment will correct this duplicate transaction by reversing the BOA #13 entry.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

X. Informational Item

NA A. Report of Alderman Guess' Travel to Town Hall Day, Raleigh, NC, June 8, 2016 (Registration - \$25; Meals - \$20.50). (Exhibit X.A.)

NA B. Report of Former City Manager Mick Berry's Travel to NCCCMA Summer Conference, Asheville, NC, June 23 – June 24, 2016 (Lodging - \$202.27; Meals - \$41.00; Registration - \$250.00; Mileage Reimbursement - \$81.32). (Exhibit X.B.)

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

B. Departmental Reports:

A1 1. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Habitat for Humanity of the Catawba Valley, Inc. for the Housing Rehabilitation Programs. (Exhibit XI.B.1.)

Habitat for Humanity approached the City regarding a new partnership which will enable the expansion of their housing rehabilitation program in the hopes of benefiting more families in the City of Hickory. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describes the coordination efforts that each organization will take when managing their housing rehabilitation programs. This was suggested by Habitat for Humanity to assist them in outlining their partnership with the City of Hickory when requesting funds from local donors and other agencies. Habitat's rehabilitation program is set to receive \$30,000 through the 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grant Program. In addition, the City and Habitat will continue their partnership where the City offers reimbursement for the cost of water and sewer taps for new homes. This program is funded through the Public Utilities Division budget. Habitat requests funds through this program on an annual basis. The dollar value of these water and sewer taps has been valued at between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per year over the past few years.

Staff recommends approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Hickory and Habitat for Humanity of the Catawba Valley, Inc.

A

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

BOND IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION

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

Mayor's Appointment Unexpired Term of Charlie Dixon (2-1-19)

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2 Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

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

Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) VACANT

Ward 4 (Guess Appoints) VACANT

At-Large (Outside City but within Hickory Regional Planning Area)
(Council Appoints) VACANT

At Large (Council Appoints) VACANT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

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

Caucasian (Council Appoints) VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments)

(Appointed by City Council)

Ward 2 (Tarlton Appoints) VACANT

Burke County (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT

Brookford (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Historic Properties (Council Appoints) VACANT

Building Trades Profession (Council Appoints) VACANT

At-Large (1) (Council Appoints) VACANT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)

(6) 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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

Ward 2 (Tarlton Appoints) Susan Sigler
(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve)

At-Large (2) (Council Appoints) VACANT

At-Large (3) (Council Appoints) VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

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

At-Large (Mayor Appoints)

VACANT

At-Large (Mayor Appoints)

Harold Humphrey

(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve)

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

Contingent upon the passing of the Resolution to increase the number of commissioners, Mayor Wright appoints Dr. Trish Johnson to Position 8 on the Public Housing Authority.

Council approved the appointment of Dr. Trish Johnson to Position 8 on the Public Housing Authority.

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

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

Ward 2 (Tarlton Appoints)

VACANT

Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints)

VACANT

Ward 4 (Guess Appoints)

VACANT

At-Large (Council Appoints)

VACANT

At-Large (Council Appoints)

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

Alderwoman Patton commented that the new Dog Park opened this past weekend and it was a very nice facility and had lots of happy furry animals there. It was a lot of fun.

Alderman Guess joked that the City had officially gone to the dogs.

Alderman Seaver asked if there had been any questions or request from Uber.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised that they had not received any request about Uber.

Alderman Guess commented that he was asked as well, and some other Councilmembers had been asked the same thing. He wasn't sure how that worked, if it was an individual, or a company. He was not that familiar with it. He requested that Staff look into that and find out how it works.

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**