



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

March 21, 2017
7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation by Rev. David Roberts, Morning Star First Baptist Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
- NA** A. Presentation of North Carolina Main Street Historic Rehabilitation Award for Transportation Insight

Hickory Downtown Development President Gavin Mitchell presented Mayor Wright with the North Carolina Main Street Rehabilitation Award for Transportation Insight and shared a brief video.
- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

A. Mr. Cliff Moone, 2925 8th Street Court NE, addressed City Council regarding the gateway sculpture that would be discussed under departmental reports.

Mayor Wright asked Boy Scouts in attendance to introduce themselves, Ethan Burkehart and Joseph Teague, Troop 300 from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Hickory. The scouts were working on their citizenship in the community merit badge.
- VI. Approval of Minutes

A A. Regular Meeting of March 7, 2017. **(Exhibit VI.A.)**

A B. Special Called Joint Meeting of March 13, 2017. **(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 Annual Auditing Contract with Martin Starnes & Associates. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

A2 B. Acceptance of the Pricing from Rodders and Jets Supply Company in the Amount of \$87,264 for the Purchase of a Sewer Line Inspection Camera. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

A2 C. Budget Revision Number 19. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

A2 D. Consideration of Closing a Portion of 1st Street NE. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

March 21, 2017

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. Approval to Amend the Traffic Ordinance to Reduce the Speed Limit on Main Avenue SE, from 17th Street SE to 21st Street SE, from 35 mph to a 25 mph Zone. **(Exhibit VIII.A.)**

Pedestrian safety and speeding issues have been brought to the attention of the Traffic Division by business owners along Main Avenue SE. The Traffic Division performed a study of traffic volumes and speeds, as well as pedestrian counts. Approximately 35 percent of vehicles exceeded the posted 35 mph speed limit during the study and the number of vehicles passing through the area is almost equal to the number of pedestrians crossing the roadway. Employee parking is on the opposite side of Main Avenue SE from the businesses. To help alleviate the problem traffic calming measures have already been put in place such as crosswalks, in-street pedestrian signs, rumble strips, and advance warning signs. Staff recommends Council's approval of amending the traffic ordinance to reduce the speed limit on Main Avenue SE, from 17th Street SE to 21st Street SE, from 35 mph to a 25 mph zone.

A B. Approval of a Cemetery Deed Transfer from Meita R. Maynard to Paul R. Maynard and wife, Diane W. Maynard, Oakwood Cemetery, (Block D, Lot No. 7, Section 48, Grave Spaces No. 001 and 002) (Prepared by Amber R. Mueggenburg, Sigmon, Clark, Mackie, Harvey & Ferrell, P.A.). **(Exhibit VIII.B)**

A C. Special Events Activities Application Spring Bark Week, Paw-tay in the Park, Hickory Parks and Recreation Department, Fairbrook Optimist Dog Park, 1560 4th Ave SE, April 15, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **(Exhibit VIII.C.)**

A D. Special Events Activities Application Charity Chase Half Marathon, Kelly Pulliam, Co-Chair, Rotary Club of Catawba County, June 3, 2017, (Expo), 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and June 4, 2017, 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Start at the Elks Lodge and End at the Sails on the Square. **(Exhibit VIII.D.)**

A E. Special Events Activities Application New Testament Bible Reading, Minister Kathy Wilson, Greater Shekinah Glory Church, May 3, 2017, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building. **(Exhibit VIII.E.)**

A F. Acceptance of a \$500 Chimney Swift Grant from the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, Inc. **(Exhibit VIII.F)**

Chimney Swifts, migratory birds that help decrease the high insect pest population, are in decline due to loss of their natural habitat. Chimney Swifts are well adapted to manmade structures so it is possible to create nesting habitats specifically for these migratory birds. The Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, Inc. organization provides \$500 grant opportunities for the construction of Chimney Swift towers. The Parks and Recreation Commission chose to pursue the submission of a grant application as an initiative to undertake a conservation project. The grant does not require any matching local dollars. Several park sites were initially identified, with a suitable location ultimately selected within the community garden at Civitan Park. The selected tower site must be a minimum 10'x10' cleared area to accommodate Chimney Swift flight and dive patterns. Parks and Recreation staff will construct and maintain the tower in accordance with the requirements established by the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, Inc. Staff recommends acceptance of a \$500 grant from the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, Inc. to construct and maintain a Chimney Swift tower at Civitan Park.

A G. Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations for Assistance through the City of Hickory's Housing Programs. **(Exhibit VIII.G.)**

The following request was considered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee at their

regular meeting on March 2, 2017.

- *Edith Jean Dula Bowser, 726 7th Avenue Court SE, Hickory, was awarded a City of Hickory's Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Loan in the amount of \$11,461. Due to the plumbing issues, the loan needs to be increased by \$3,539. The maximum for the deferred loan is \$15,000.*

Funds are budgeted for these items through the City of Hickory's former Rental Rehabilitation program income and/or program income received through the City of Hickory's Community Development Block Grant Program. The Citizens' Advisory Committee recommends approval of the aforementioned request for assistance through the City of Hickory's housing assistance programs.

A1 H. Budget Revision Number 20. **(Exhibit VIII.H.)**

1. *To recognize as revenue a \$500 award from Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, Inc. (WRNC) Chimney Swift Tower Grant program. This grant will fund the creation of an alternative habitat for Chimney Swifts returning in the Spring for nesting and propagation. The tower will be constructed at Civitan Park.*

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

NA A. Budget Transfer Report

Under Section 22 (b) of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget Ordinance, the City Manager is authorized to transfer appropriations with a report to City Council as follows:

Section 22 (b): "He may transfer amounts up to \$50,000 between functional areas including contingency appropriations, within the same fund. He must make an official report on such transfers at the next regular meeting of the Governing Board."

Under this provision, the following Budget Transfer occurred during March 2017:

- *Background:* To expedite the availability of insurance-claims revenue to the appropriate department, the City has budgeted specific funds within the Risk Management division which, upon the case-by-case receipt of said revenues, may be transferred as necessary for making repairs and/or replacements in a timely manner.
- *March 14, 2017 (BT #53):* \$207 received from a citizen driver's insurance and transferred to the Traffic Department for damages sustained to a traffic sign on 2/10/17.

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

A 1. Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of Robert and Florene Watford Property, Located at 1329 Zion Church Road, Containing 1.518 acres. **(Exhibit XI.A.1.)**

Robert and Florene Watford submitted a petition for the voluntary non-contiguous annexation of 1.518 acres of property located at 1329 Zion Church Road. The annexation area is the location of a single-family residence. The annexation is being requested in order to gain sewer service from the City of Hickory. The subject property is currently located within Catawba County's jurisdictional area and zoned R-20 Residential. The petitioner's requested the property, if annexed, be placed in the Medium Density Residential (R2) zoning district. The current tax value of the vacant land is \$89,900. If annexed with its present value, the

property would generate approximately \$508.72 in additional tax revenues. Upon analysis staff has determined the petition meets the statutory requirements for voluntary non-contiguous annexation and adequate public services are available. Staff finds the petition to be in conformity with applicable statutes and recommends City Council's approval of the annexation of the subject property.

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

B. Departmental Reports:

A 1. Bond Commission Update. **(Exhibit XI.B.1.)**

Ron Huffman, Amec Foster Wheeler design team will give a presentation to update Council on the progress of the US 321/US 70 Gateway project. Council has previously raised concerns at the March 7, 2017 City Council Meeting about the US 321/US 70 Gateway project's current design. Staff has previously proposed that Council readdress the issue with a vote on March 21, 2017 to determine whether to continue with the current design, add additional elements such as signage, or to request a new design option. Having taken the interim time between City Council meetings to separately meet with the Bond Implementation Commission to discuss, gather written feedback, and deliberate on the matter, Staff recommends that City Council proceed with the vote to determine the direction of the design process.

NA 2. 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)
Ward 4 (Guess Appoints)
At-Large (Council Appoints)

VACANT
VACANT
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)

City Council discussed a legislative issue as it related to elections, specifically municipal elections moving to even number of years and also municipalities being required to conduct partisan elections.

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

Alderman Seaver mentioned the upcoming travel with the Western Piedmont Sister's Cities Association to Germany coming up August 10-20, 2017. He advised if anyone was interested to please let him know.

Mayor Wright mentioned the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt.

Alderman Seaver advised the date of the hunt was April 8th.

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**