

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Brad Lail	Rudy Wright	Hank Guess
Vernon Tarlton	Aldermen	David P. Zagaroli
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt, City Manager Rodney Miller, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Deputy City Clerk Cari Burns and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Wright called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Rev. David Roberts, Morning Star First Baptist Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
  - A. Presentation of North Carolina Main Street Historic Rehabilitation Award for Transportation Insight

Hickory Downtown Development Association, President Gavin Mitchell, advised last week members of the Hickory Downtown Development Association (HDDA) and award recipients attended the NC Main Street Conference held in Shelby, North Carolina. NC Main Street Center assists communities throughout North Carolina in developing asset based strategy plans that result in investment, business growth, and jobs. The purpose of Main Street is to stimulate economic development within the context of historic preservation. HDDA administers the Main Street Program for the City of Hickory. He advised Council had a copy of the 2016 Annual Report of the economic impact of Main Street North Carolina. Since becoming a Main Street community in 2006 Hickory's downtown district witnessed 15 facades redone and 53 building renovations. They had experienced a net gain of 81 new businesses, creating a net gain of 309 jobs with 20 businesses expanding their merchandise lines, square footage, and employee base. More than 34 million dollars had been invested in downtown Hickory in the past 10 years with more than 18,000 hours of volunteer time contributed in the past five years. HDDA had met the standards to be recognized as a nationally accredited Main Street Program for nine consecutive years. He was honored to present the City of Hickory with an award of merit from the North Carolina Department of Commerce for the 2016 Best Historic Rehabilitation Project for their role in the development of the Lyerly Full Fashion Mill into Transportation Insight's Corporate Campus. He shared the video of the project that was presented at the NC Main Street Awards ceremony. The partnership between Transportation Insight and the City of Hickory to complete this project in Hickory's downtown district was commendable. The NC Department of Commerce even said award winning. He thanked Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt for representing the City of Hickory by formally accepting the award from Secretary of Commerce Anthony Copeland. In attendance was the Director of Marketing at Transportation Insight Ms. Lisa Farley. Mr. Mitchell asked Ms. Farley to the podium and they presented Mayor Wright with the well-deserved award.

Mayor Wright thanked them for the award and photos were taken.

Alderman Seaver wanted to know if the video was available online.

Hickory Downtown Development Association Executive Director Connie Kincaid advised it was and she would send the link to Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised staff would put it in the communication this week.

Mayor Wright commented it was great that we got that award. He wasn't aware of the award until Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt told him that we had received it. He was hearing from a lot of people that we look like we are on our way up. Certainly if you drive past the Shoe Shop and past Transportation Insight you see a whole different gateway of a sort than we ever had for at least 40 years. It is really great. He thanked them.

- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard
  - A. Mr. Cliff Moone, 2925 8<sup>th</sup> Street Court NE, addressed City Council. He advised he had to be out of the continental United States last week when Council had the gateway meeting. Being a member of the Gateway Subcommittee was a deep and very important honor for him and it was such a great privilege to be on that committee. He thanked Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt because right after the last meeting of the Council when the gateway was discussed and the information, he recommended that they have such a meeting because they had them last year as they were doing the processes of all of this. He thought that it was really great. He spent about an hour that afternoon looking at the

meeting and listening to everybody's comments. For the record he stated there were so many great comments made, both by Council members, by members of the Gateway Committee, the Bond Commission, and by the members of the Public Art Commission in regard to all of this. He knew there was going to be a presentation later in the agenda and they would be talking more about that. He wasn't originally a big supporter of the concept of the leaves, yet he saw in the leaves that connection which they drew the other night between leaves and trees and furniture and other things. He commented that it was so interesting that the Transportation Insight award comes up, because he thought that Transportation Insight stood for exactly the kind of transformation this City needs to go through, and is going through, with this bond commission process, where we honor the heritage that we have and yet at the same time open the vistas of a new and forward looking city, as we are. He really saw that in what Transportation Insight had done and he also sees it in what is coming out of the commission. He liked the idea of having an iconic, strongly memorable type of gateway particularly on the 321/70 gateway. He commented that Alderman Guess and others had pointed out that this is only one of the three that we have. He hoped they all would evoke our heritage, but at the same time not necessarily have to be so concrete about it, but evoke it and evoke memory of the city that you are going through so that you want to come back and look at what else is in Hickory. He thanked Council.

Alderman Tarlton thanked Mr. Moone.

Mayor Wright advised later in the agenda Council would have an update discussion of the gateway project's current design, and to determine whether to continue with the current design, add additional elements such as signage, or request a new design option. He advised this was not a public hearing, so the last opportunity for anyone present to speak would be at this point. Not only would he say if you must speak please do so, he would say they would like to have them speak and like to have their input if they were willing to share it with Council. He asked if anyone else wanted to speak on that matter or any other matter. He encouraged them to please take advantage of this opportunity. He commented they grant each person a recommended total of three minutes. No one else appeared to be heard.

Alderwoman Patton pointed out to Mayor Wright guests which were in attendance.

Mayor Wright asked the Boy Scouts in attendance to introduce themselves so their names would be in the minutes of the meeting. When the minutes were posted they would be able to see their names.

Boy Scout Ethan Burkehart and Joseph Teague introduced themselves. They were from Troop 300, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Hickory. They were working on their citizenship in the community merit badge.

Mayor Wright welcomed the Scouts.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of March 7, 2017

Alderman Tarlton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of March 7, 2017 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Tarlton seconded by Alderwoman Patton and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Special Called Joint Meeting of March 13, 2017

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli that the Minutes of the Special Called Joint Meeting of March 13, 2017 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Seaver seconded by Alderman Zagaroli and the motion carried unanimously.

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.

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Lail seconded by Alderman Tarlton and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approval of the Annual Auditing Contract with Martin Starnes & Associates. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
  - 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)
  - C. Budget Revision Number 19. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
  - D. Consideration of Closing a Portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE. (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.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderwoman Patton seconded by Alderman Seaver and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approved on First Reading 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.

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 17<sup>th</sup> Street SE to 21<sup>st</sup> Street SE, from 35 mph to a 25 mph zone.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-09  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL  
AMENDING THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AUTHORIZED IN THE  
HICKORY CODE OF ORDINANCES – ARTICLE III, SECTION 18-81

WHEREAS, Article III of the City of Hickory Code of Ordinances be and is hereby amended through the modification of the official maps authorized therein as follows, to wit:

Amend the Traffic Ordinance by reducing the speed limit along Main Ave SE, from 17<sup>th</sup> St SE to 21<sup>st</sup> St SE, to 25 mph.

All ordinances or provisions of the Hickory City Code of Ordinances which are not in conformance with the provisions of the Amendment occurring herein are repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

- B. Approved the 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, Hanvey & Ferrell, P.A.).
- C. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Spring Bark Week, Paw-tay in the Park, Hickory Parks and Recreation Department, Fairbrook Optimist Dog Park, 1560 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, April 15, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- D. Approved the 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.
- E. Approved the 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.
- F. Accepted a \$500 Chimney Swift Grant from the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, Inc.

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.

- G. Approved the Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations for Assistance through the City of Hickory's Housing Programs.

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

- Edith Jean Dula Bowser, 726 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

- H. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 20.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-10  
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 20

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to N.C. General Statute 159.15, the following revision be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2016-17 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Culture & Recreation	500	-
TOTAL	500	-

To provide funding for the above, the General Fund revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	500	-
TOTAL	500	-

SECTION 2. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

- IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

- X. Informational Item

- 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.

Mayor Wright reiterated the Budget Transfer in the amount of \$207 pursuant to Section 22 (b) of the code.

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

1. Approved the Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of Robert and Florene Watford Property, Located at 1329 Zion Church Road, Containing 1.518 acres.

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.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt asked the City's Principal Planner Cal Overby to the podium to present Council with a request for a voluntary non-contiguous annexation for the Watford property located at 1329 Zion Church Road.

Planning Manager Cal Overby presented a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed the request for a voluntary non-contiguous annexation for the property located at 1329 Zion Church Road, containing approximately 1.518 acres in size. The closest ward district to the property currently was ward district four, which was Alderman Guess' ward. The property was currently a single-family residence and was to be the use in the future. The applicants, the Watford's, were requesting annexation in order to connect to the City's utilities system. He showed a map of the jurisdictional limits for the City. He pointed out the area in blue which was the City limits. He advised this was the Mountain View area and pointed out Highway 321 and Highway 127. He noted the ETJ area and the area outside of ETJ and also unincorporated. He showed an aerial map and pointed out the subject property, Waterford Hills Subdivision which was a single-family subdivision, and Braxton Gate a townhome community, both were inside the City. He pointed out Highway 321 and to the south the River Road interchange for the property. He advised the zoning for the area along 127 in Mountain View was largely commercial of one sort or another. In this particular area it was either office or commercial/retail type use. Also the area around the interchange of River Road and 321 was zoned mixed use industrial by Catawba County. The remainder of the property in this area was one form or another of residential, single-family for the most part. Staff reviewed the request in light of provisions of public services as well as compliance with the General Statutes with regards to this type of annexation. Upon evaluation staff found that adequate public services were available to serve the site and not fall below acceptable levels. He advised it complied with all applicable statutes. Staff recommended approval. He asked for any questions from City Council.

Mayor Wright explained the rules for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Wright closed the public hearing.

Alderman Guess moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the voluntary non-contiguous annexation of the property of Robert and Florene Watford. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Guess seconded by Alderwoman Patton and the motion carried unanimously.

ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NO. 438  
VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION ORDINANCE (NON-CONTIGUOUS)  
Robert and Florene Watford

AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE  
CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, PURSUANT TO  
GENERAL STATUTES 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED (NON-CONTIGUOUS)

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory desires to annex the area described herein, under G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has by resolution directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of said annexation; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk has certified to the sufficiency of said request, and a public hearing on the question of this annexation was held in the Council Chamber of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, locate at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina, at 7:00 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory further finds that the area described therein meets the standards of G.S. 160A-58.1(b), to wit:

- a. The nearest point on the proposed satellite corporate limits is not more than three miles from the corporate limits of the City of Hickory.
- b. No point on the proposed satellite corporate limits is closer to another city than to the City of Hickory.
- c. The areas described are so situated that the City will be able to provide services on the same basis within the proposed satellite corporate limits that it provides within the primary corporate limits.
- d. No subdivision, as defined in G.S. 160A-376, will be fragmented by this proposed annexation.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory does hereby find as a fact that said petition has been signed by all the owners of real property in the area who are required by law to sign and all other requirements of G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended have been complied with; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that the annexation is otherwise valid, and that the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Hickory and of the areas proposed for annexation will be best served by annexing the area herein described.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA:

Section 1. By virtue of the authority granted by G.S. 160A-58.2, as amended, the following-described non-contiguous territory is hereby annexed and made a part of the City of Hickory as of the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2017:

SATELLITE ANNEXATION  
BY THE CITY OF HICKORY  
Of THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS:  
THE ROBERT JACKSON WATFORD  
AND  
FLORENE HARRIS WATFORD PROPERTY

That certain parcel or tract of land lying and being about 3.3 miles south southwest of the center of the City of Hickory. Bounded on the northwest by Tract 2 of Maximum Investment Inc. property as described in Deed Book 3266 at Page 1882, on the northeast by the existing 60 foot right-of-way of Zion Church Road (S.R. 1008) and on the southeast and southwest by the existing City of Hickory city limits as shown in Plat Book 54 at Page 40 and more particularly described as follows to/wit:

Beginning at a point within the existing 60 foot right-of-way of Zion Church Road (S.R. 1008), said point being located North 19 degrees 32 minutes 24 seconds West 444.98 feet from NC Control Station 1 JMS 8 and running thence, as the existing City of Hickory city limits shown in Plat Book 54 at Page 40, North 72 degrees 53 minutes 00 seconds West 40.10 feet to a ½" pipe in the west right-of-way of Zion Church Road (S.R. 1008), thence, with the existing City of Hickory city limits, North 72 degrees 53 minutes 00 seconds West 430.63 feet to a ½" rebar in the northeast property line of Lot 47 of Waterford Hills Cluster Subdivision as shown in Plat Book 64 at Page 145, thence, a new City of Hickory city limits line and the southeast line of Maximum Investments Inc., North 57 degrees 17 minutes 58 seconds East 336.15 feet to a ½" rebar in the west right-of-way of Zion Church Road (S.R. 1008), thence North 57 degrees 17 minutes 58 seconds East 31.48 feet to a point within the existing 60 foot right-of-way of Zion Church Road (S.R. 1008), thence, a new City of Hickory city limits line within the existing 60 foot right-of-way of Zion Church Road (S.R. 1008), South 22 degrees 37 minutes 35 seconds East 365.26 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 1.518 acres more or less.

Section 2. Upon and after the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2017, the above-described territory and its citizens and property shall be subject to all debts, laws, ordinances and regulations in force in the City of Hickory and shall be entitled to the same privileges and benefits as other parts of the City of Hickory. Said territory shall be subject to municipal taxes according to G.S. 160A-58.10, as amended.

Section 3. The newly-annexed territory described herein shall become part of Ward No. 4 of the City of Hickory.

Section 4. The Mayor of the City of Hickory shall cause to be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Catawba County, and in the Office of the Secretary of State at Raleigh, North Carolina, an accurate map of the annexed territory, described in Section 1 hereof, together with duly certified copy of this Ordinance. Such a map shall also be delivered to the County Board of Elections, as required by G.S. 163-288.1.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Bond Commission Update.

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.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised Council would receive a Bond Commission update with help from Amec Foster Wheeler. She introduced Harold Thurston and Therese Huffman would be brought in via a "GoToMeeting". She advised Amec's goal was to introduce to Council, again, the gateway concept and Ms. Theresa Huffman, and Mr. Harold Thurston would go through a little more of how they arrived with the concept that they had. She had data, and Council had it in their packet as well, about the results of the Bond Commission's input from the questionnaire. She commented Ms. Therese Huffman was in Atlanta and had other conflicts, and Mr. Ron Huffman was not present because he had the flu. She asked Ms. Huffman and Mr. Thurston to go through the gateway presentation.

Mr. Harold Thurston advised he would go through the process of the gateway decision making process with the Bond Commission, and the Public Art Commission, and everyone else, to see how they got to the point where they are now. He commented he would talk more about the process, since he was not the artist that could really speak to the artistry. Therese Huffman would concentrate on exactly what her thoughts were that she got from the group and how she was able to prepare this design. He presented a PowerPoint presentation. The image was looking north on 321. They realized from seeing the site and all of the input that the southwest corner of the intersection of 321, he noted Highway 70 crossing over, would be landscaping because it was determined that landscaping would provide a very good impact right there. On the other side in the southeast corner of 321 and 70 it was decided to locate the sculpture or the artwork. The idea there was that would be the greatest impact as far as coming up around the corner on

321, to the right you would see that sculpture high. It would be high and very visible and noticeable and a nice gateway into the City. He showed the first plan for the landscaping design. He pointed out left to right which was going south to north, 321 north was towards the right, southward bound as going towards the left, and Highway 70 was crossing from top to bottom. It showed the southwest quadrant had some landscaping and some shrubbery with different colors, it was going to mimic a stained glass motif. Initially they had a rock wall that was going to be representative of Lake Hickory and the geographical location where Hickory is located. Behind that was the current plantings that are there. Similarly in the southeast quadrant there was similar types of landscaping with colors mimicking stained glass. He noted again this was at the first phase and the first thought was having that rock wall, and on the northern side they were proposing some landscaping on the northern side of the intersection, but later it was determined that they were just going to stay on the south side because that was where the gateway going north rather than heading south.

Ms. Therese Huffman interjected Ron Huffman was talking about gabion walls, that was something that she thought they would still be thinking about as artwork as they move into City Walk. That is a beautiful feature.

Mr. Thurston advised Ron Huffman also prepared another rendering initially of the intersection of Clement Boulevard and Highway 321. They went through that and got some ideas, but obviously that had been pulled back based on the reconstruction of 321 by DOT. That was why they were concentrating on 321 and 70. He showed one of the first visionary processes that they had with the workshop. He asked Ms. Huffman to explain.

Ms. Huffman explained that they prepared a number of pages and they looked for inspiration. She advised, referring to an image on the PowerPoint presentation, this was one of the pages that they showed very early on in the workshops with the Bond Commission and the City Staff. They looked at inspiration from the furniture, and from things that they saw in the museums locally in Hickory and also other furniture forms. She advised the type of design thinking and inspiration that you look for to find resonance in terms of how people were thinking about their City of Hickory. What was making sense to everyone as to what the City of Hickory is and how it should be reflected to both its citizens, but also to people that are new to the City and now want to come to the City. This was what they explored a lot of, looking at the furniture, arts and crafts. They then started to investigate ideas into the gateway itself and how they might pick up incorporations of that along with a form of the "H" for Hickory as well as the furniture reflection seen in the spiral design. The spiral design with the "H" was displayed and she mentioned that Mr. Ron Huffman was not a fan of the landscape here, it looked like a wedding. She advised they also looked at inspiration from nature and the leaves. They looked at the Hickory knot, and how they might think of how that reflects in the landscape. She explained that is what you do in the very early phase where you want to be extremely creative, very open with your thinking until you narrow it down. They were informed by groups that they were liking possibly the use of an "H" letter form. She was exploring how that could possibly be handled if they were to create a sculptural form out there. What seemed to resonate very well with everyone was the leaves, but in a more broad way. It was just not a hickory leaf, but it was a leaf in nature and they were having a larger conversation about it.

Mr. Thurston referenced the next slide and advised they did the leaves, and mentioned they actually looked at some signage at that intersection. He advised this was one of the examples that they displayed to see if some people would like to have some signage in that area.

Ms. Huffman commented wayfinding would still be something that she thought Hickory would need. She thought there was still a component that still needed to play here, and of course Mr. Huffman drew these very large wayfinding gateways, alternative concepts, and those were all thought about, but ultimately the group kept going back to the leaves.

Mr. Thurston advised that was the last one of the wayfinding kind of signs.

Alderman Tarlton asked what kind of leaf was in the sculpture.

Ms. Huffman advised it was a sculpture leaf, it was not meant to be a specific leaf; it was an interpretive sculpture. She thought it was important for everyone to see the history of the work that was done.

Mr. Thurston pointed out the sculpture location was in the southeastern quadrant along with some landscaping. The landscaping had been pulled away from the sculpture now. He pointed out the grey areas, the first phase, so that the sculpture

would not be competing with the landscaping but the landscaping and the sculpture would be enhancing each other. In addition the rock walls, the gabion walls would be gone, but the existing trees that are planted in that quadrant will remain and the sculpture will be in front of that.

Ms. Huffman stated that gives Council a sense of the placement. She advised it was helpful for her to have this meeting and to write-up much of the dialogue and the discussions that they had in the many workshops with everyone in Hickory, and so many things were just said and explained to her but never quite committed to in written form. She thought it was important to do that. She appreciated the exercise and the meeting so they could actually share it the way it has been meant to be related not in such a casual manner. The committees had been part of the process with them and they see all of these things evolve, but now to actually land it, a narrative had been very helpful for her. She advised it took her time to pull all of this together from their many meetings and craft this. She stated the City of Hickory, North Carolina has undergone many changes, but has also adapted to new eras in industry. Like the cycle of leaves growing and falling from the trees Hickory is ever changing and ever growing. She referenced the PowerPoint presentation, an image of the night vision of the sculpture, it was being internally lit, and it was living and breathing at night and during the day. You also see themes of craftsmanship, resilience, adaptation, and serenity and then look to nature to inspire the forms for the new gateway. A beautiful arriving leaf shaped sculpture along a key highway access point will attract visitors and travelers to the blossoming downtown area. They honored the lively craft community and explored the interplay of light and color by using stained glass. The beautiful woven frame nods to the noble furniture industry. The visible veins of the leaf suggest growth and the movement of people and ideas through Hickory. She referenced a photo and advised the scale of the leaves. It didn't have the dynamics of Mr. Huffman's landscape here in the front, which would be just beautiful, and of course they are discussing now the idea of adding a sign, a piece that says Hickory. She advised you get a sense of the scale and the impact that it will have as it makes a dramatic statement to those that arrive at the door of Hickory. She commented with respect to its craftsman roots, Hickory's planning for the future as it crafts a way of light and embraces its tightknit community and honors its natural and cultural heritage. Now its investment in the quality of life for its residents Hickory is turning over a new leaf. They thought it was a very appropriate metaphor and the language that she felt defines Hickory and all of the things that they are wanting Hickory to be as a result of these investments, City Walk, Riverwalk, and the gateways. This should set the tone. She asked if they wanted her to discuss details about the drawings. She asked if Council wanted her to discuss how it is being constructed.

Mayor Wright commented a little bit. He advised he had to be the voice of the accountant, but he wanted to know if they had a ballpark estimate of the costs of each of these. He had heard a number, but he wanted to have it confirmed. He asked if they had any overrun or bid risk that could make it higher.

Ms. Huffman advised they had been working with the City's budget which had always been assigned at \$250,000. She knew there was discussion about an additional piece of signage that had been requested that would need to be looked at. That had not been taken into the equation as yet.

Mayor Wright asked if they were pretty solid on the \$250,000.

Mr. Thurston advised they were designing to the City's budget. That was the idea, they were designing to the City's budget. Right now they are at the point that the sculpture may be a little bit too expensive and they are going to have to work with the fabricators to change some of the materials to try and reduce that cost if necessary.

Mayor Wright asked if it was looking like more than \$250,000.

Mr. Thurston responded no. Not more than \$250,000 as far as the total budget of the sculpture within that \$250,000 they may try to get it reduced with different materials, but not over \$250,000. Basically the landscaping and the sculpture, but both of those together are not going to exceed the \$250,000 budget.

Mayor Wright asked if that is where they were right now, \$250,000 for the two. He asked if adding Hickory on it was driving the price up.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded yes, but that is okay they will modify the design and make it work within the budget. They may have to adjust landscaping or adjust the materials. Really they are still fairly early in the cost estimate stage. They have time to make some adjustments.

Alderman Tarlton asked if they were talking about Hickory or just an "H".

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt replied no, Hickory.

Alderwoman Patton asked how long it would take to come back with a design if they leave the leaves as is and then do Hickory, North Carolina LED in blue. She asked what the timeframe would be to come up with that concept.

Mr. Thurston commented he thought Ms. Huffman had already started working on that Hickory concept. He asked Ms. Huffman if that was correct.

Ms. Huffman advised she had not done it up yet but she had an idea that she would want to draw if everyone would like that to happen. If there is piece that sits along with this, to the front or to the side. What initiatives the compatible design combatively with this using the same material and types of lighting and the interplay here is correctly aligned.

Mr. Thurston asked Ms. Huffman what kind of time period she was talking about getting that design completed.

Ms. Huffman advised weeks, not a long time. She thought they could come up with something. They would have to verify the schedule but certainly it wouldn't be a lengthy exercise. She felt like she already had an idea. She needed to make sure that the City of Hickory wanted them to do that and then discuss it, and then do the work.

Alderman Tarlton asked Ms. Huffman to elaborate on the lighting of the sculpture.

Ms. Huffman referenced the PowerPoint presentation drawing. She explained the dotted or dashed lines that were moving through the interior of the leaf structure. The black dash lines indicated flexible exterior linear LED system. She commented it is basically rope lighting that is traveling along the metal leaf sculpture here in the interior so that it lights up from inside here roughly following along the pathway. She advised this was a 50 percent drawing so it all needed to be verified, but they thought they should light up the veins of the leaf. She referenced the side view. She noted the long piece standing elevation and there was a tiny little light shown here, a linear LED in-ground back lighting system for backlighting. She explained that it was a very long thin piece and it would create etched lighting. They light it up from the interior with this strip lighting but they would also create an edge lighting effect here. She advised this was their best suggestion. They found products and it would need to be verified.

Alderman Tarlton asked if the colors would change with the seasons so to speak.

Ms. Huffman replied no. It would be white lighting.

Alderman Tarlton asked if it was possible.

Ms. Huffman commented it would have an interplay with the elements inside of it. They were not planning on turning this into anything that mutes, negates, or changes but has natural lighting changes to it based on during the day it would react to the sunlight. It would shimmer, it would pick up on the refractions from the sky and at night it would do its own thing and they want it beautiful and glowing and not distracting. They can't do that on a DOT roadway, and they don't need to do that. They don't have to overdo this. It will just be beautiful and that is what they want.

Alderman Lail asked if it would have color at night.

Ms. Huffman commented the ultimate color in itself. It is made of color so it will have color. They are not going to make the LED's in color. The LED's are there to show the sculpture as it is and to light it at night.

Alderman Tarlton asked about having ones that changed in color. He didn't mean strobe or anything like that. Like when fall comes to start gradually getting from green to yellow or whatever like that. That would be more distinctive he would think. He knew that LED's contained colors.

Ms. Huffman advised they had those discussions in early workshops. She wasn't saying that any ideas are bad ideas whatsoever, but looking at pure process right now, there was a process that was discussed but decided they wouldn't use light imaging but it could.

Mr. Thurston asked if one of the leaves was a spring leaf and the other a fall leaf.

Ms. Huffman advised that was correct. It was playing with the seasons and the colors. The one on the left was speaking to the spring/summer leaves where everything is in bloom and then the opposite leaf falling, which is a metaphor of course, is speaking to fall and winter leaves, and the more you see the structure of leaves when things are older. It is really a play of nature and the seasons. They want it to always be beautiful to all seasons in Hickory. She advised if anyone wanted more detail to how this was constructed she could talk offline.

Mr. Thurston asked if there was anything else they could help Council with, or explain, or pictures.

Mayor Wright commented they always liked to hear people say that we are going to try and work to get the price down. That was always good to hear. He wasn't sure that was not a mandate at this point. He was sensing, perhaps that they might have a mandate to put Hickory NC on it.

Mr. Thurston advised if that happens then all they have to do is change things around. They look at what it is going to cost to construct a "Hickory" in there and how that is going to affect the overall sculpture. It might affect the amount of landscaping they do. They have to shuffle those numbers around so they can stay within the \$250,000 budget for construction.

Alderman Tarlton questioned if they were talking about putting Hickory directly on the leaves or around the front of it.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if they could have a proposal by City Council's next meeting on how they would integrate Hickory into this leaf structure.

Mr. Thurston asked in two weeks.

Alderman Zagaroli commented a couple of ideas of what they think.

Mr. Thurston commented Ms. Huffman had said weeks not months.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if they could specifically say next meeting.

Ms. Huffman advised she could draw it up.

Alderman Patton commented keeping with the LED lighting using the colors of Hickory, the greens, to utilize the blues.

Alderman Tarlton interjected color rendering.

Alderman Patton responded color rendering that they see.

Alderman Lail felt that Council needed to be careful that they didn't coopt this from the Bond Commission. He would love to see what they were talking about but he didn't want to coopt it from them to come back to Council on something like that.

Alderman Zagaroli questioned what Alderman Lail meant.

Alderman Lail explained coopt meaning that Council was taking it over and making the design calls.

Alderman Zagaroli commented fine, but when can the Bond Commission get it back to Council.

Alderman Lail commented that was a fairer question.

Alderman Zagaroli acknowledged that would be fine.

Alderman Patton commented it looks like the results of what the Bond Commission were saying they wanted to add the signage, so by the results it looks like they are in agreement to add Hickory and just say let's go ahead and move forward and get some design pieces to the Bond Commission and to City Council.

Alderman Seaver commented there was some talk last meeting about having "Hickory, NC". He asked if they really needed an "NC". If a person doesn't know that they are in North Carolina they are in the state of confusion actually.

Mayor Wright responded the point was that if you are going through and you have never heard of Hickory you might think that hickory is referring to the kind of leaf or

something to do with that statue. Hickory is not the kind of thing when you see the word Hickory you say automatically that is a city name. That was what he got from what Allen Finley had to say and not we are going to remind them they are also in North Carolina. Maybe look at it both ways.

Alderman Zagaroli asked what would be realistic for the Bond Commission to address this and then get back to Council. Four weeks?

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised she would do the best she could to bring it back to Council as soon as possible. She didn't know an answer.

Alderman Seaver commented what kind of deadlines they may have.

Mayor Wright interjected he had been looking at the results crestaceously during the presentation and it seemed to him like there was a group of people that said stay with the leaves, a broader group that said stay with leaves but add Hickory, and again a smaller group that said reconsider the entire design.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt confirmed that was correct.

Mayor Wright commented the only suggestion that he had heard about reconsidering the design was one that Alderman Zagaroli had to see if they could incorporate the pedestrian bridge somehow into our gateway artwork. He commented that Council's choices were a, b, or c.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded yes, that was what they asked the Bond Commission, was do you want to go with what we have, do you want to modify it adding Hickory, or do you want to start over. Starting over didn't come with any concepts so that one is pretty wide-open.

Alderman Lail asked if they wanted a motion.

Mayor Wright commented nobody had offered a concept except for Alderman Zagaroli, correct.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt replied correct.

Alderman Lail asked again if they would like a motion.

Mayor Wright responded if they were through discussing. If it wouldn't add too much time, he wouldn't mind seeing something on the suggestion that Alderman Zagaroli made. He didn't want to add a whole lot of time and he was not unhappy with the leaves. He was really pliant about this thing.

Alderman Lail commented he didn't want to be bullish, but they discussed it at the former Council meeting, they had a workshop, and they heard a good presentation by the consultants. They had data which told them how the Bond Commission felt about it. He didn't interpret that absolutely. He would not consider that whatever vote total, from his seat on Council, whatever vote total gets the most votes would necessarily be the direction that he thought was best, but he thought it informed City Council of where the Bond Commission's head were. With all of that, now it had been two weeks of conversation. He moved option "b" add signage such as "Hickory", or "Welcome to Hickory" to the current design, keep both the landscaping and leave the sculpture among as the direction. Alderwoman Patton seconded the motion.

Mayor Wright asked if Alderman Lail included "Welcome to Hickory", did he want them to consider that also.

Alderman Lail responded yes, he was reading the language from the survey.

Mayor Wright commented the more verbiage they have, either the smaller the letters get or the more it obscures the leaves. He wasn't sure they needed "welcome to".

Alderman Lail didn't disagree with that.

Alderwoman Patton advised she would just say "Hickory, North Carolina".

Alderman Seaver commented he would just say "Hickory", if they want to figure out where Hickory is or if it is a city let them do some research.

Alderwoman Patton commented or let her do some lettering and present it to Council and they could see how "Hickory North Carolina" impacted as far as size

wise, or just “Hickory” or if it gave them the same feel, or “Welcome to Hickory, come on down”, way too wordy.

Alderman Lail advised if that was an amendment to the motion he would take that, that it incorporate Hickory not necessarily “Welcome to Hickory”.

Mayor Wright commented all she is going to hear about this is what she hears tonight. He wouldn’t want her trying to work to incorporate that if it is not an urgent issue for Council.

Alderman Lail appreciated Mayor Wright bringing that up.

Mayor Wright felt the fewer words the better.

Alderman Lail thanked Mayor Wright for catching that.

Alderman Tarlton interjected the bigger the better.

Mayor Wright commented the bigger the letters the better if it doesn’t obscure the effect of the art.

Alderman Seaver liked the font and the way it was lit on the picture of Toronto’s gateway sculpture. The sculpture wasn’t as impressive as the lettering in his opinion. At night it looked better and he thought at night this one would look better. He liked the leaves.

Mayor Wright commented Council had a motion to charge them (Amec Foster Wheeler) with adding Hickory, or Hickory NC, and to adjust the landscaping as necessary. Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Lail seconded by Alderwoman Patton. He asked for any other discussion. There was none. City Council voted: Ayes: Alderman Lail, Alderman Tarlton, Mayor Wright, Alderman Seaver, Alderman Guess, and Alderwoman Patton. Nay: Alderman Zagaroli. The motion carried 6-1 in favor of the motion.

Ms. Huffman commented she was excited for Hickory. She thanked Council.

Mr. Thurston and Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt thanked Ms. Huffman.

City Attorney John Crone advised City Council that he didn’t think they needed another motion but he thought that it was City Council’s intent for this to go to the Bond Commission as soon as possible and then present it to City Council as soon thereafter as possible.

It was the consensus of City Council that their intent was for it to go to the Bond Commission prior to coming back to City Council.

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)

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)

Alderman Lail advised he would like to bring up a matter for short discussion and maybe update, which was the legislative issue related to elections, specifically municipal elections moving to even number of years, and he thought he had seen a Bill that municipalities would be required to conduct partisan elections. Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver that City Council discuss those issues. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Lail advised he didn't know where all of that stood. He had an opinion on it. He wanted to have a discussion within Council to determine if they wanted to take a position on that legislation.

City Attorney John Crone advised there had been some municipalities that have taken a stance on that and others who have discussed it and said they were not going to take a stance. Conover has.

Mayor Wright asked if Conover was not going to take a stance.

City Attorney John Crone commented he thought they did, he thought they had a vote on that.

Alderman Lail commented they voted to be unsupportive of it.

Mayor Wright confirmed to not support it.

Alderman Lail replied to not support it, to oppose it.

Mayor Wright responded if Council takes a vote, he didn't want to have any partisanship in addition to what is perceived anyway into their local election.

Alderman Lail tended to agree and there is a lot of things that the State can do which Council can oppose or not oppose which were really beyond their control, but one thing that he thought Council should have some ability to influence was their elections. That is what is in the City's charter, and he thought the nonpartisan nature of and composition of City Council had served them well.

City Attorney John Crone commented that is very serious. He thought there were two Bills, a Senate Bill and a House Bill that address similar issues that affect municipalities. He advised if Council so directs, he and staff could make a presentation at the next meeting, have a few simple handouts as to what the legislation says, where it is now, and where it is going. He commented Governmental Affairs Manager Yaidee Fox had been on top of that and they had had previous discussions about that.

Mayor Wright commented they were a long way from cross over date, right.

Alderman Seaver thought the whole ideal was just to save money.

Governmental Affairs Manager Yaidee Fox advised the cross over date was April 27<sup>th</sup>. She commented that Council was asking about the Elections Transparency Bill, Senate Bill 94, that Bill actually adds transparency to certain elections by requiring that the elections currently conducted on a nonpartisan bases be conducted on a partisan bases to make various conforming statutory changes. The Bill was filed in February and it currently sits in Senate Rules Committee. She explained that earlier this year the Senate started a different process that any Bill that they receive goes to the Senate Rules Committee before it goes to the floor for final votes. This one actually went straight to the Senate Rules Committee so it is currently sitting in there. They had been hearing some rumors of movement, but she hadn't seen anything.

Alderman Lail commented typically when it goes to "Rules" that is sort of like where you park it to sit and kind of just go away. Right?

Mrs. Fox advised it used to be up until this year.

Alderman Lail commented it is not as much.

Mrs. Fox commented this is actually a new way that they look at Bills. It is more like a last check and last opportunity for any kind of public comments to be done for staff to work with, and the Legislators to answer any questions. That was what the new process did, but before it was a lot like that.

Alderman Seaver asked what it cost for a municipal election.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded \$33,000-\$36,000, the City budgets \$40,000, but something close to that.

Alderman Seaver commented it sounded like in the Bill they mentioned lower numbers than he thought we were spending. The whole idea was to save money in the long run.

Alderman Lail mentioned there were really two issues, one was conducting municipal elections on even number of years, the other one is to make municipal elections partisan.

City Attorney John Crone advised one was a House Bill that Alderman Lail was talking about happening on even number of years.

Mayor Wright stated both of which have the impact of increasing partisanship.

Alderman Lail agreed.

Alderwoman Patton commented they didn't need that.

Mayor Wright commented Alderman Seaver with all due respect, he thought he was slapping the party around that was in power, but with all due respect this has nothing to do with cost.

Alderman Lail commented the School Boards would still have to be elected if they didn't take School Boards off. School Boards are on City Council's ballot. There is talk that the ballots themselves would be longer, which would incur extra expense.

Alderman Seaver mentioned if you put all of the election days on the same day it is going to be so confusing for citizens. How they do their homework on all of these for that one day?

Mayor Wright interjected do you have straight ticket all the way down, municipal and everything else.

Alderman Seaver commented you might have that part of the Council that is running or the School Board, or whatever get elected because of the person's preference for President in that situation.

Mayor Wright commented or the person's party. He asked if Council was going to take a position.

Alderman Lail advised he was okay to take a position right now, but the more prudent thing would be to let staff come back to Council and have a deeper discussion.

Mayor Wright commented they have plenty of time.

Alderman Seaver thought if they do that there ought to be a Resolution to them on it. He asked if that would be better than just a letter to them.

Mayor Wright thought they would do a Resolution.

Alderwoman Patton commented once they make that decision for a Resolution.

City Attorney John Crone advised Council they would be ready for Resolution(s) either way.

Mayor Wright advised there is another Bill that they have an interest in, the Receivership Bill, maybe they could have a two minute presentation on that and there is a consortium of cities about our size that have kind of agreed to work together to promote passage of receivership. What receivership does it give the cities, in this case the medium size cities, another tool to get rid of a building that ought to be demolished? Under receivership you seize it, you have some agreements to what you would compensate, if anything, a minimum of \$100 to the owner of the building. It sounded like a nice tool to have, but they don't want to get into a position where they are locked in and every dilapidated building they have to put in receivership.

Alderman Tarlton commented it requires more thought.

Alderman Seaver commented it seemed to him it would be easier use this like a tool. You don't use a tool every time you see something out there. Is it something that would be pushed that you had to do if you had an old building you have to do something with that? Or could they let it fester a while and decide?

Alderwoman Patton commented would it be something else for our Code Enforcement to use.

Alderman Seaver thought it was only for a few cities, there wasn't too many, but they had to be in a tier one or two county.

Alderman Tarlton referenced the Code Enforcement Officer's requests from Council, getting their permission to demolish problem buildings and stuff.

Alderman Seaver commented ultimately it has to come to Council anyway you look at it. He thought it was a very powerful group.

Alderman Tarlton responded it is kind of scary.

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 in going to please let him know.

Mayor Wright mentioned the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt.

Alderman Seaver advised the date of the hunt was April 8<sup>th</sup>.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk