

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Brad Lail	Hank Guess	David L. Williams
Charlotte C. Williams	Aldermen	David P. Zagaroli
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Warren Wood, Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Executive Assistant to the City Manager Deisy Zavala Vazquez and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Sandi Hood, Director of Community Outreach, Catawba Valley Hospice and Palliative Care
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
 - A. Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week – Presented to Hickory Police Department Telecommunicators.

Mayor Guess asked Police Communications Supervisor Nicole Sain, the Telecommunicators, and Police Chief Thurman Whisnant to the podium. Mayor Guess advised when he started his career at the City of Hickory Police Department, in 1978, it was in the communications center. He read the proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week and presented it to Nicole Sain and the Telecommunicators.

Chief Thurman Whisnant advised Mayor Guess that it had become a little more complicated over the years. He didn't know how the Telecommunicators did it. They were the lifeline and the unsung heroes. He referred to the event last year when the City had tornadoes. In about one hour there were approximately 400 calls which came in. They were working the radios and receiving all of the calls making sure that every citizen's needs were attended to and making sure that their officers were safe. He asked Nicole Sain to introduce her staff.

Police Communications Supervisor Nicole Sain introduced the staff: Erin Gross, Amber Severt, Jena Halcomb, Tamara Saunders, Summer Andrews, and Kathy Ferrell.

- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard
- VI. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Regular Meeting of April 3, 2018.

Alderman Zagaroli moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2018 be approved. 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.

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

- A. Budget Revision Number 18. (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.

Mayor Guess requested "Item E." be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item E. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approved the Community Relations Council's Recommendation for the Spring 2018 Grant Cycle Funding.

As part of the Community Relations Council's (CRC) work plan and annual budget process, the Community Relations Council receives funds to disperse during the fiscal year through the CRC grant process. Non-profit agencies working with diverse populations in Hickory are eligible for grant funding. The grant proposal must show how the program

under consideration fits into the CRC goals and mission and how the program will serve to improve human relations in the Hickory area. For the Spring 2018 grant cycle, the CRC received eight grant applications for projects totaling \$9,025 and is recommending approval of six of the grants totaling \$6,450. The following applicants were recommended for funding: Greater Hickory Tennis Association - \$750; Hickory Public Schools Education Foundation, Inc. - \$1,500; Hickory Soup Kitchen - \$1,000; Historical Association of Catawba County - \$500; Catawba Regional Hospice - \$1,200; Special Olympics North Carolina \$1,500. Funds are available in the CRC budget for the recommended grant approvals. The Community Relations Council recommends funding of the six grants totaling \$6,450.

- B. Approved a Resolution Supporting the Grant Application for the Surface Transportation Block Grant – Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) and Committing to a Twenty Percent Match of the Funding.

The City has submitted three Surface Transportation Block Grant – Direct Attributable grant applications to the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization: Book Walk, from City Walk to the Ridgeview Library - \$2,500,000 (\$2,000,000 federal funding and \$500,000 local match); Book Walk South, from the Ridgeview Library to the Walmart Neighborhood Grocery Store at US 70 - \$4,000,000 (\$3,200,000 federal funding and \$800,000 local match). There is a proposed crosswalk connecting Book Walk South to the Walmart Neighborhood Grocery Store; Riverwalk, from Old Lenoir Road to the end of Rosales Bridge - \$2,000,000 (partial funding). Book Walk, Book Walk South and Riverwalk are part of a much larger multi-use path system being developed by the City of Hickory. Book Walk will create a better connection for the citizens of the Ridgeview Community and other adjacent neighborhoods in southwest Hickory to the downtown area and other parts of the City. Book Walk South will continue the connection of Book Walk for the citizens of the Ridgeview Community and other adjacent neighborhoods in southwest Hickory to the downtown area and with the existing grocery store on US 70. Riverwalk connects with other multi-use projects that will tie together proposed development around the lake with the downtown area and Lenoir Rhyne University as well as connecting numerous neighborhoods along the way. Staff requests Council's approval of the Resolution supporting the grant applications and committing to the 20 percent match.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-10
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HICKORY TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION
TO THE GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$7.2 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK
GRANT – DIRECT ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR
“Book Walk,” “Book Walk South,” and “Riverwalk.”

WHEREAS, On January 24, 2018 the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) issued a call for projects to agencies in its jurisdiction for Surface Transportation Block Grant-Direct Attributable Funding (STBG-DA). Funds are available to award among four different transportation modals: bicycle and pedestrian, intersections, roadway, and transit. Each agency may submit no more than three (3) projects of not less than \$200,000 each for possible reward. The funding requires a minimum 20 percent local cash match.

The City of Hickory is applying for funding for three (3) different projects.

The first project, Book Walk, is a multi-use path from City Walk to the Ridgeview Library. The project starts at City Walk and South Center Street and follows South Center Street south then west on 4th Avenue SW and then south on 1st Street SW to the Ridgeview Library at 7th Street SW. The monies being applied for is \$2,500,000 (\$2,000,000 federal funding and \$500,000 local match).

The second project, Book Walk South, is a multi-use path from the Ridgeview Library to US 70 and to the Walmart Neighborhood Grocery Store. The project starts at Ridgeview Library at 1st Street SW and 7th Avenue SW and follows 7th Avenue SW west to 4th Street SW and follows 4th Street SW south to US 70. There is a proposed crosswalk connecting Book Walk South to the Walmart Neighborhood Grocery Store. The monies being applied for is \$4,000,000 (\$3,200,000 federal funding and \$800,000 local match).

The third project, Riverwalk, is a multi-use path from Old Lenoir Road and 15th Avenue NW to the end of the proposed Rosales Bridge. Riverwalk follows along the existing roadway that leads to the City's water intake and then along the Catawba River and including the Rosales Bridge. The monies being applied for is \$2,500,000 (\$2,000,000 federal funding and \$500,000 local match).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Hickory is hereby authorized to submit STBG-DA applications in the amount of \$7.2 million and will commit \$1.8 million as a cash match for the “Book Walk,” “Book Walk South,” and “Riverwalk” projects.

- C. Approved the Sponsorship Agreements for the Presenting, and Premiere Sponsors for the Friday Night Sails Original Music Series in May, June, and September of 2018.

The Sails Original Music Series is a music event that is held every Friday in May, June, and September at the Sails on the Square in downtown Hickory. The event runs from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The event brings in musicians from all over the United States and some international musicians and is attracting people from the local community, as well as regionally. The Office of Communications has been able to secure sponsorships from local business partners that want to be branded with the event and are willing to provide support to offset some of the costs to produce the event. We have a presenting sponsor and two premiere sponsors for May and September. Lowes Foods has agreed to take the presenting sponsorship at \$6,000. The Hickory Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau has agreed to the premiere sponsor level in the amount of \$1,800 for four events in May and The Hickory Wine Shoppe has agreed to the premiere sponsor level in the amount of \$1,800 for four events in September. Staff recommends approval of the sponsorship agreements which include Lowes Foods, The Hickory Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, and The Hickory Wine Shoppe.

- D. Approved on First Reading to Modify the Traffic Ordinance to Increase the Speed Limit from 35 mph to 45 mph along Startown Road within the City Limits and to Increase the Speed Limit from 45 mph to 50 mph along McDonald Parkway within the City Limits.

Staff request Council's approval to modify the Traffic Ordinance to increase the speed limit from 35 mph to 45 mph along Startown Road within the City limits and to increase the speed limit from 45 mph to 50 mph along McDonald Parkway within the City limits. In an effort to make the speed limit consistent along Startown Road, North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is requesting the speed limit ordinance be changed to allow 45 mph within the City limits. Also, after numerous citizen concerns, NCDOT evaluated the speed limit along McDonald Parkway and determined it can be raised to 50 mph. Public Services Traffic Division has worked with NCDOT regarding the new ordinances and agree to the speed limits adjustments along Startown Road (45 mph) and McDonald Parkway (50 mph). The Traffic Division is prepared to change speed limit signage along these roadways reflecting the new speed limits. Reimbursement per the Municipal Maintenance Agreement will apply from NCDOT for the sign installation. Staff recommends Council's approval to modify the Traffic Ordinance to increase the speed limit from 35 mph to 45 mph along Startown Road within the City limits and to increase the speed limit from 45 mph to 50 mph along McDonald Parkway within the City limits.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 18-11

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL
AMENDING THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AUTHORIZED IN THE
HICKORY CODE OF ORDINANCES – ARTICLE III, SECTION 18-81

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted by G.S. 20-141(f), determined upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation and duly declared on the 17th day of April, 2018, the repeal of speed limits as set forth below on the designated portion of the State Highway System, which shall become effective when the Department of Transportation has passed a concurring ordinance and signs are erected giving notice of the authorized speed limit.

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 increasing the speed limit from 35 mph to 45 mph along Startown Road within the City limits and to increase the speed limit from 45 mph to 50 mph along McDonald Parkway within the City limits.

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.

The amendments to this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

- E. Removed from Consent Agenda and considered under "IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda". Called for a Public Hearing – Consideration of Text Amendment 18-01, to Update the Hickory Land Development Code. (Authorize Public Hearing for May 15, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).
- F. Called for a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of Property Owned by Graystone Enterprises, LLC, located at 2412 Century Place SE, Hickory, containing 3.603 Acres, PIN 3722-05-18-0333. (Authorize Public Hearing for May 1, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

RESOLUTION NO. 18-11
RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED
UNDER G.S. 160A-31 AND/OR 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition from Graystone Enterprises, LLC requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on April 5, 2018 by the City Council of the City of Hickory; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-31 and G.S. 160A-58.1 provide that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY:

THAT, the Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above-described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the City Council the result of her investigation.

CERTIFICATE OF SUFFICIENCY

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA:

I, Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk, do hereby certify that I have investigated the petition attached hereto and have found as a fact that said petition is signed by all owners of real property lying in the area described therein, in accordance with G.S. 160A-31 and/or G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended:

2412 Century Place SE, Hickory, containing 3.603 acres more or less

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 6th day of April, 2018.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 18-11
RESOLUTION FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION OF ANNEXATION,
PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31 OR G.S. 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of the area described herein has been received; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory has, by Resolution, directed the clerk to investigate the sufficiency thereof; and

WHEREAS, certification by the Clerk as to the sufficiency of said petition has been made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY:

Section 1: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 1, 2018 in the Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina.

Section 2: The area proposed for annexation is described as follows:

2412 Century Place SE, Hickory, containing 3.603 acres more or less

Section 3: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in The Hickory Daily Record, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-12

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE INTENT TO ANNEX INTO THE
CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY
GRAYSTONE ENTERPRISES, LLC
AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SAME

WHEREAS, Graystone Enterprises, LLC is the owner of certain real property as described herein, which property is located at 2412 Century Place SE, Hickory, containing 3.603 acres more or less; and

WHEREAS, such property is currently located in the City's extra-territorial jurisdictional (ETJ); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety and well-being of the residents of the City of Hickory to annex such property into the corporate limits of the City of Hickory as authorized by N.C.G.S. Section 160A-31; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Hickory City Council, sitting in open session this 17th day of April, 2018, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body of said Council, duly called and posted in accordance with the statutes of the State of North Carolina, as follows:

Section 1: That the Hickory City Council does determine that it is in the best interest of the health, safety and well-being of the residents of the City of Hickory to annex the property described hereinafter into the corporate limits of the City of Hickory.

Section 2: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 1, 2018, in the Council Chamber of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina.

Section 3: The same being that property reflected on a maps entitled Graystone Enterprises, LLC Voluntary Contiguous Annexation, Map 1, Current City Boundary, subject property outlined in red; Graystone Enterprises, LLC Voluntary Contiguous Annexation, Map 2, 2017 Aerial Photography, subject property outlined in red; Graystone Enterprises, LLC Voluntary Contiguous Annexation, Map Annexation Map 3, Current Zoning, subject property outlined in red.

Section 4: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in *The Hickory News*, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

G. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 19.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-12
BUDGET REVISION NO. 19

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 159.15 and 159.13.2, the following revision be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2017-18 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Government	31,500	-
TOTAL	31,500	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	31,500	-
TOTAL	31,500	-

SECTION 2. To amend the Water and Sewer Fund within the FY 2017-18 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	31,500	-
TOTAL	31,500	-

To provide funding for the above, the Water and Sewer revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	31,500	-
TOTAL	31,500	-

SECTION 3. 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

City Manager Warren Wood advised he had requested Mayor Guess remove "Item E.". The Land Development Code and the associated Text Amendment was approximately a 300 page document. He recommended that Council give this a full month for the public to be able to consider it. He suggested Council set the public hearing for May 15th and in addition to that he requested a workshop before the May 15th meeting in the afternoon. He would have Planning Director Brian Frazier breakdown the highlights in the Text Amendment so everyone would understand the significant changes that were being made.

Mayor Guess asked for questions or discussion.

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton to set the public hearing on May 15th. The motion carried unanimously.

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Third Quarter Financial Report – Presentation by Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller

City Manager Warren Wood asked Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller to the podium to present City Council with the financial report for the third quarter.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller presented a PowerPoint. He updated City Council on the financial report for the third quarter of the fiscal year through March 31st, the first nine months of the City's fiscal year. He showed a slide which listed all of the revenues and the expenditures for the City's primary operating fund, the General Fund. He pointed out the City's revenues, the largest revenue source was the ad valorem tax or property tax. He noted the first column was what was actually received and spent, the 2017/2018 actual totals. The third column figures were the annual budget which Council had adopted, in which he is required to keep the City within that budget. He pointed out the next column which showed the percentages were three-fourths of the way through the fiscal year and the final column showed were through the first nine months of last fiscal year. The City had collected over 99 percent of their revenues through nine months. He advised that was typical in cities and counties, primarily because our property tax revenues come in typically in December and January for the most part. The City had received \$26.2 million dollars of their \$26.4 million dollar budget through March of this year. He discussed permits, fees, sales and services pointing out \$1.25 million dollars compared to \$1.269 million dollars last year, the primary reason for that was the General Assembly took away cable franchise fees from cities across the State this past year, which was approximately \$105,000 revenue loss that the City will not receive anymore. That was the primary reason why that line item was less than the year before.

Mr. Miller discussed investment earnings pointing out the City was actually about double where they were this time last year, at 98 percent of the budget. The finance department had worked very hard to invest the City's reserves under the SLY method; safety first, liquidity second, and yield third. As the market has improved, as the Fed has raised rates a half a point in the last 6 to 8 months, the City was seeing some higher yields on the investments, but they had also invested in some of those government securities that the City had not invested in the past, just because rates weren't as good. The investment earnings had increased.

Mr. Miller discussed the expenditures. He pointed out in governing body it was higher than last year, the reason was there would be two elections in this fiscal year. The municipal elections were held this past fall and the City would also pay for the election in May for the County's elections. The City had spent approximately \$80,000 this fiscal year compared to last fiscal year when we didn't have municipal elections. He referred to the bottom of the chart and discussed the other financing use column at 97 percent. These were dollars that the General Fund sends to other funds. For example, the sludge composting fund which we help support, they also send funds to the capital reserve fund. Those are typically set at the beginning of the fiscal year so those numbers are always going to be

higher than the percentage of the budget. The City's revenue picture was at approximately \$3.2 million dollars revenues over expenditures through the end of March. He advised that would decrease because our tax revenues, for the most part, are collected yet we still have three more months of operating expenditures to spend in the General Fund.

Mr. Miller pointed out the property tax revenue and the growth, which he was pleased to receive. The City was at \$26.2 million dollars through nine months. He advised this looked back over the last two years. He pointed out from this year to last year the City was up approximately 1.73 percent on an actual basis, which was a little over \$400,000 in property tax revenue growth. He advised the City had collected a little over 99.2 percent of the budget through March. He discussed the sales tax revenue source which was also growing. The City was currently up through March at approximately 3.5 percent, \$234,000 higher than the year before, some solid growth. Not gain busters but certainly positive, and we like to see positive growth. The City budgeted \$9.35 million dollars for the current fiscal year. He reminded City Council that sales tax runs a month behind. The City's dollars goes to the Department of Revenue and then they reimburse the City after 45 days. The City had only received eight months of our twelve month sales tax revenues. The City was at 74 percent of the budget, through 67 percent of the year, eight months out of twelve.

Mr. Miller discussed building permit activity. He advised that basically we were flat compared to last year. The data was based on a fiscal year rather than a calendar year, which made all of the slides consistent. He noted the residential numbers. There had been four more residential permits than last year, 19 less commercial permits than the year before. There were five less single family homes this fiscal year than last, but we had an 80 unit condo/apartment complex that had happened this fiscal year compared to last. The value was certainly very important because that is where property tax revenues are generated. He pointed out the residential value had slipped a little bit, \$3 million dollars through the first nine months. He advised the Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) Workforce Solutions Center was about \$20 million dollars and he had removed that from the commercial value for last year, primarily because there was no tax revenue generated for that. That was a County assisted purchase tax exempt facility. The City would not receive property tax revenue from that. He pointed out that number was \$69.5 million dollars last year and \$69.3 million dollars now, down about a quarter of a percent. He noted building activities shown were either in process or completed. There were three projects which were still waiting to hit the ground running: the residential project off of Short Road; the partnership that CVCC is doing between the County, the City and other municipalities for a public safety driving facility; and the O'Reilly Auto Parts store.

Mr. Miller discussed the water and sewer fund. He noted for the nine months this was all user fees generated from the water and sewer bills that we get as Hickory residents and purchases of Hickory water. Those revenues support this fund. He advised it was approximately a \$28 million dollar fund. The City had collected overall approximately 65 percent of the revenue budget compared to 75 percent. He advised this was common, nothing to be alarmed about. In April, May, and June months, the water usage had historically been higher than coming out of our winter months. The City was actually up by approximately \$550,000 in revenues from last year at this time. He noted that everything looked good on the expenditure side. The City had spent approximately 68 percent of the budget through nine months. Since the revenues were a little bit behind and we don't have the higher generating months, we still have those yet to come, we are about \$943,000 expenditures over revenues through March. He reiterated that would "flip flop" by the end of the fiscal year. He advised we were \$2.4 million dollars in the "red" through March at this time last year.

Mr. Miller showed another enterprise fund, which was the Airport or transportation fund. He pointed out it was an approximate \$1.2 million dollar operation for the budget. The City had collected 78 percent for 75 percent of the year for our revenues, slightly less, approximately \$25,000 less than last year. On the expenditure side the City was at 67 percent, so they were keeping the expenditures in check. Through March they were \$135,000 to the good. He advised this was a very positive enterprise for the City and a hidden gem that we really need to get more word out and more usage out of.

Alderman Lail commented that Council use to send money from the General Fund to the Airport, so they have got it completely turned around.

Alderwoman Patton advised it was approximately \$460,000 a year back then.

Mr. Miller advised approximately a penny on the tax rate.

City Manager Warren Wood mentioned that part of the decrease was because the City had lost two hangars from the tornado. The City had lost hangar revenue while we don't have those hangars. They were in the process of settling with the insurance and would rebuild them.

Mr. Miller asked for any questions. He felt the City was in a pretty good financial position at this time and he looked forward to sharing the budget with Council over the coming months for next year.

Mayor Guess mentioned that this was not the only time that Council hears this type of report. They hear it quite often throughout the time period before each presentation.

2. Accepted a 2017 Tree City USA Award – Presentation by Landscape Services Manager Jonathan Hogan.

The Tree City USA program was created to provide direction, assistance and national recognition for our community. It is the framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program in the City of Hickory. The award is granted to cities who meet the four criteria of the program that display the community's commitment in celebrating its urban tree canopy and improving the care of its vital city trees. The criteria for eligibility are to have a tree board or department, tree care ordinance, annual community forestry budget of at least \$2.00 per capita and to observe Arbor Day through a proclamation. In acceptance of the award, Landscape Services will coordinate with the Traffic Division to update our Tree City signage on US Highway 321 leading into Hickory as well as on US Highway 70. The City will celebrate and observe Arbor Day on April 21, 2018 in conjunction with Earth Day at our annual event. At this event Landscape Services will distribute free bare root saplings and planting and tree care information to people in attendance. A tree will also be planted on the lawn area of the Salt Block in celebration. This is the 13th consecutive year the City of Hickory has received this award. Staff recommends Council's acceptance of the 2017 Tree City USA award.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Landscape Services Manager Jonathan Hogan to the podium to present City Council with the acceptance of a 2017 Tree City USA Award for the City of Hickory.

Landscape Services Manager Jonathan Hogan presented City Council with a PowerPoint. He advised the Tree City USA award was created in 1976 by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The award was national recognition for having a tree program. Tree City actually assists municipalities and communities with managing trees, expanding public trees and creating an actual tree program. As of 2017, there were actually 3,400 communities that were recognized as Tree City USA, 87 in North Carolina, the City of Hickory being one of those 87. He discussed the four core standards, or criteria that a municipality must meet to be considered for Tree City USA. Those were a management plan or division, maintaining a tree board or department, community tree care ordinance, and spending at least \$2.00 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day. In 2017 the City actually spent approximately \$4.38 per capita in urban forestry management and celebrating Arbor Day. He showed photos from last year's Arbor Day celebration. They actually work with the City's Community Appearance Commission on handing out trees. Landscape services, along with some children from the Earth Day celebration had planted two bald-cypress. They will be doing that again this weekend at the Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration.

Mr. Hogan discussed what Landscape Services was doing and had been doing in the last few years with tree management. Last year they planted approximately six trees. They actually pruned and cared for approximately 449. The past five years they had planted approximately 160 trees throughout the City. In the past three to five years they had pruned and cared for approximately 3,500 trees throughout the City. Last year, on tree maintenance and tree management, they had spent approximately 575 hours, and over the past five years 6,794 hours. He reiterated they had spent \$4.38 per capita in urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day. He showed photos of the kiosk at Sally Fox Park and Ivey Arboretum. He advised it was a technology savvy kiosk. He pointed out photos of actual tree plantings and actual tree work which they had done in the past few years as well as their department with the Tree City USA flag.

Mr. Hogan discussed what would be next for the landscape division and tree maintenance. He mentioned with the upcoming projects of City Walk and internal projects which are going on, they estimate within 1 to 3 years to add another 200 plus trees throughout the City. Another step was to create a tree inventory through

technology in order to manage the 200 plus trees, on top of the trees which they already manage. And also to maintain the Tree City status for many years to come. He congratulated Council on 13 years as a Tree City USA. He advised they had a Tree City USA plaque to present to Council which would hang in the atrium with the rest of the plaques. He commented the City was 13 years strong as a Tree City USA.

Mayor Guess commented he thought there was a deficit after the storm so they might have to double it up.

Mr. Hogan replied they would have to replace and that was part of the 200 plus estimate which would be coming in the fall.

Mayor Guess asked for a motion to accept the 2017 Tree City USA Award.

Alderswoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli acceptance of the 2017 Tree City USA award. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Update on Trivium Corporate Center (Formerly Known As Park 1764) – Presentation by Public Services Director Kevin Greer.

The City of Hickory identified an area in southeast Hickory that is large enough and conducive to development of a business park, convenient to major roadways and adjacent to significant utility infrastructure. The City of Hickory, Catawba County and the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) have worked on development of this area as a business park for several years and the City and County have agreed to split the cost of development. Trivium Corporate Center is the business park identified for bond proceeds for the bond referendum that was passed by the City of Hickory. The City and EDC have worked on development of the project to a condition that is receptive to marketing. One of the main infrastructure improvements that is necessary for development is to install gravity sanitary sewer to the lowest point on the property. The project advertised for bids on March 29, 2018 and due to insufficient bidders the project had to be re-advertised for receipt of bids on April 9, 2018. Bids were received as follows: Hickory Sand Company, Inc. - \$347,625 and Neill Grading & Construction, Inc. - \$359,907. Bid documents have been reviewed and found to be in proper order. Staff recommends Council's acceptance and award of proposal with Hickory Sand Company, Inc. in the amount of \$347,625 for the construction and installation of the off-site sanitary sewer extension for Trivium Corporate Center.

City Manager Warren Wood advised one of the components of the bond referendum which passed in the City of Hickory was the creation of a business park. He asked the City's Public Services Director Kevin Greer to the podium to present Council with an update on what is now known as the Trivium Corporate Center.

Public Services Director Kevin Greer presented Council a PowerPoint. He advised the Trivium Corporate Center was formerly known as Park 1764. The Board had adopted the new name for the business park. This piece of property was looked at for development of a business park. They wanted to look at places which already had water and sewer. They identified this piece of property which contained 170 acres and through this development they had actually tacked on another 100 acres, for a total of 270 acres of really good developable property, which is known as Trivium Corporate Center. He showed a map of the initial 170 acres which consisted of five different pieces of property. The park itself was a partnership with the City, Catawba County, and the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation (EDC). A Trivium Corporate Center Development Board had been formed. They had options to purchase the five pieces of property and they actually purchased the first 7 ½ acres on the front side for them to build the "showcase", the entrance to come in. They had purchased that property. The second part of that project was to put gravity sewer to the property. He pointed out on the slide Startown Road to the right, Robinwood Road to the left, Catawba Valley Community College at the top, and Highway 70 was the direction of travel. He commented it is the triangle when you are coming south on Startown Road. He showed a drawing and advised this went back to approximately 2005 when the first stab was taken at what the business park would look like. Duke Energy actually worked with the City on what the business park would look like. It consisted of several business potentials to form the park itself. He advised that was actually on the first 170 acres, they had added some more property to that. He pointed out since then there was another concept which they had looked at and used more for permitting than anything. They had to show uses to get it through the environmental permits. On this concept, one of the goals was to lessen the impacts on the stream. There was a stream in the back and they wanted to lessen those wetland impacts if they could.

Mr. Greer advised at Council's last meeting they had approved a construction contract for the entrance road, landscaping and berm. He mentioned this was the last bond project to start the whole process and it would be the first one to turn dirt. The first project that had been approved was a berm on the front. The berm will be approximately six feet tall and approximately 20 foot wide on the bottom. It would be fully planted. He mentioned that Mr. Jonathan Hogan would be involved with this project because they wanted to make sure that they were getting the right kind of plants to make sure it would be attractive. They wanted a grand entrance so Mr. Scott Millar, EDC, could bring in the "big fish" to try and get a really good industry in there or use for the property. It would have the water and sewer which also go along with it. He noted on a drawing the location of the trees, the grass and the flowers on the berm. It was meant to have color year round. He advised there were two projects. One was the entrance road, landscaping and berm, which Council had already approved with Neill Grading and Construction. They were a local company and were the low bidder on the project. They are set to start construction this month. The second project, which would need Council's approval, was the outfall sewer. They did not get enough bids the first time they bid the project so they had to readvertise. Hickory Sand Company, another local Hickory company, was the low bidder on the gravity sewer portion. They expect that construction to take place in May. He advised the action for Council to take was to approve the construction contract with Hickory Sand, as low bidder on the project for the outfall sewer, in the amount of \$347,625. He commented this is a great project and it is exciting to actually get to the point that they are doing some stuff, and they expect it to start moving.

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the contract with Hickory Sand Company, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mayor Guess asked for appointments to the Boards and Commissions.

BOND IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION

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

Alderman Ward 2 Appoints

Jennifer Beane expires 2-1-18 eligible for reappointment

Kay Schmucker expires 2-1-18 eligible for reappointment

(Note: The representatives for Ward 2 will continue serving until such time as the Ward 2 Alderwoman appoints or reappoints these positions.)

Ex-Officio Members to Bond Implementation Commission

(Appointed by Boards and Commissions)

Catawba County Chamber of Commerce Appointed Virginia Wright

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

At-Large (Council Appoints)

VACANT

(Dana Chambers Resigned 4-3-18)

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

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

Ward 2 (C. Williams Appoints)

VACANT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

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

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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

(Appointed by City Council)

Burke County (Mayor Appoints)

VACANT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)

(1) Position

VACANT

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

At-Large Minority (1) (Council Appoints) VACANT
(David Williams no longer eligible)

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 4 (D. Williams 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 4 (D. Williams Appoints) VACANT

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Alderman Lail nominated Mayor Guess as an Alternate Delegate on the Transportation Advisory Committee for the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

YOUTH COUNCIL
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Challenger High School Representative VACANT
Homeschool Representative VACANT
St. Stephens High School Representative VACANT

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the above nomination. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

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

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

Alderman Patton mentioned the Farmer’s Market opens this weekend.

Mayor Guess commented that Arbor Day was going to be hosted by the City of Hickory at the SALT Block on Saturday, April 21st. He was sure there were other events as well this weekend.

Alderman Patton commented last weekend was John Ross’ last concert. It was excellent and very well attended.

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1)(4) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Patton that Council go into closed session to consult with the attorneys to discuss the items below. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of February 20, 2018 - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)

2. Discussion of Potential Economic Development – NCGS §143-318.11(a)(4)

City Council convened to closed session at approximately 7:33 p.m.

City Council reconvened to open session at 8:10 p.m.

No action was taken upon return to open session.

XV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk