

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 18, 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: City Manager Warren Wood, Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt, Assistant 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 Karla Woggon, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Ascension
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Oath of Office for Newly-Appointed City Manager Warren Wood

Mayor Wright stated this is a great occasion for himself and the rest of Council, and he believed for all of the residents of Hickory to welcome back a local guy, local boy. Mayor Wright referring to Warren Wood commented he is going to be the City Manager for what he believed was destined to be one of the most exciting times in the City's history. Mayor Wright administered the Oath of Office to newly-appointed City Manager Warren Wood. Mayor Wright advised that Mr. Wood had been on the job for six days. Unbeknownst to everyone Mayor Wright swore Mr. Wood into office last Monday morning at 8:30 so he wouldn't be making decisions and doing things that were illegal.

- V. Special Presentations

- A. Recognition of Founders Award

Mayor Wright recognized one of the City's local companies that had received a very prestigious award, United Beverages in Hickory had been recognized as the number one Miller Coors distributor in the United States. Of about 600 distributors they were recognized at the annual meeting in Vegas about four weeks ago. He asked Mr. Dean Proctor to the podium to comment and to introduce the rest of the team.

Mr. Dean Proctor thanked Council for the recognition. They were surprised but very proud of the award, to be recognized as a number one distributor among 600 plus distributors. It takes a big team to be recognized for that award. It was called the "Founders Award for Miller Coors". One person can't do it, it takes a team effort. He recognized some of the team members: part owners Mr. Larry Robinson, and his sister Ms. Rebecca Ward; their third generation team members, Ms. Beth Gaither and Nathan Ward; Sales Team Corporate Sales Manager Dave Hurst; Hickory Sales Manager Cameron Burns; and from the sales team Jeff Bolick. He referenced the saying we like calling North Carolina Home, he commented we like calling Hickory our home as well. He appreciated the recognition and they were very pleased and honored to have that award. He advised it was from stats over a three year period. He thanked Council and reiterated they enjoy calling Hickory their home.

Mayor Wright commented he thought beer was best enjoyed on the weekends. Mayor Wright moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton, to declare this weekend United Beverages Weekend in Hickory North Carolina. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Proctor commented their business goes seven days a week, even though weekends are their favorite time. He advised that their time starts at 6:00 in the morning and some of their team may exit early this evening.

- B. Presentation of a Proclamation for Fair Housing Month

Mayor Wright read and presented a Proclamation for Fair Housing Month to Cory Klassett. Mr. Klassett represented the Catawba Valley Association of Realtors.

Mr. Klassett spoke on behalf of the Catawba Valley Association of Realtors and their associates. He advised it was not just realtors that were members of the association they also have bankers, lenders, service professionals. He advised they appreciated the recognition and the citizens appreciate the recognition. They were most thankful for what the City of Hickory does for the housing program. What the Unifour Home Consortium does in terms of footing the bill a lot of times for folks that are unable to purchase a home without some assistance, and also the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. They look to them for down payment assistance. Many times when realtors are working with folks who are purchasing a home, one of the hardest parts for them is coming up with down payment money. They can get qualified but they may not have enough money for their down payment. Without these programs to allow equal access to housing it wouldn't be possible for folks to find and call home a home. He thanked City Council for their support

of the housing finance program. He stated the housing market right now is booming. Houses go on the market and sometimes under contract in less than 12 hours. It is a good thing. It is a great thing about the City of Hickory because it shows that we are happy in place. We are thriving because of the citizens and the employment opportunities as well as the opportunities for people to have great activities. He thanked City Council again on behalf of Catawba Valley Association of Realtors.

Alderman Seaver commented it must be booming pretty-good. He asked if anyone had gotten an email asking if they wanted to sell their house.

Alderwoman Patton advised she had, they are saying there is a shortage right now, and asking if they would like to sell their house. She commented her neighbor had her house on the market less than 24 hours.

VI. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

- A. Ms. Valerie Adams-Harris, 156 Osage Ridge Drive, Sand Springs, Oklahoma, she advised while in Hickory she stays with Norma and Dick Frank. She read a letter from Mrs. Eloise Rose age 83: When she was a child her grandmother would let her go to the movie theatre with her teenage cousin. The only movie theatre they were allowed to attend was the Paramount Theatre in downtown Hickory. They had to go up a flight of stairs to a very small room at the very top of the theatre and sit on very hard, very uncomfortable benches; which are still there. She as a child could not understand why they could not sit in the good chairs that were on the first and second floor. In February of 2016 her son was in a play in that same building where she was not allowed to sit in the first two sections as a child. She was so touched to see her son perform on stage in that theatre. It brought tears to her eyes. She felt that space where blacks had to sit should be a historical landmark because it is a history that so many of our young children should be able to see what she and others of her age had to endure as children. The space she was referring to and the space that Mrs. Rose wrote about was the space inside the City's beautiful building, the old municipal building which already has historic significance and designation. Within that building is a colored balcony. She stated, yes, I said it, a colored balcony. They know how relevant and important it is to preserve our spaces. Preservation is not talked about a lot in the African American communities. She commented you have a space that has a history of your citizens that are still living and able to remember and share that experience. Hickory can be part of a national conversation that goes on around race, culture, and relationships in communities. The North Carolina African American Heritage Commission Director Michelle Lanier had given a lot of guidance and advice and is excited and welcoming to preserving this history. The community, as she is working with them while here visiting as an artist, back and forth through the Community Theatre, they are asking and welcoming City Council to be on board with this important project. She advised what Mrs. Rose didn't tell in this letter was that when she walked in the theatre, in the front door, and sat in the front seat to watch her son on that stage she cried. When she told them the story she cried, because she said in a million years did she never thought she would be sitting on that front row looking on that stage. The sense of place and story is remarkable for healing in a community. She hoped that Council would take this under consideration and be proud. She commented from her personal experience she loves the community. She advised she was Native American and African American and she travels around the world trying to help through the arts and disseminating historical events through the arts. She thinks art is for everyone. If there is a building in the community that holds a traumatic memory to it and through the arts a whole entire community can enter into that space and be welcomed with the history of the building and the City. Isn't that what we are supposed to do as human beings? To be with each other in our stories and in our communities and homes. She felt like she was from Hickory and she was proud to say and talk about Hickory as she travels throughout. She had told everybody about the building and everybody is happy, even the Smithsonian. She thanked Council.
- B. Mr. Jason Parker, 2047 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive NE, Hickory, advised he was a retired prosecutor in Catawba and Iredell Counties. He had the opportunity to perform in a couple of plays at the Hickory Community Theatre which was when he became aware of the balcony through Ms. Adams-Harris. He was originally from Taylorsville. When he was a child there was an old Sears Theatre downtown. When they went to the movies the black children had to go and sit in the upper balcony and the white children were allowed to sit downstairs. At the time, that kind of stuff, it hurt. You never get over that stuff. He was in the group which was making the transition from segregation to desegregation. He had the opportunity to share this with his daughter, how the white children and black children use to go to different schools, she got mad at him because she didn't believe it. She was eight years old, and told him he was lying. He advised that was the truth because that was the way things were. He shared that he likes to restore old things. He was into old cars. He has a '48 Hudson, a '49 Hudson, and a '54 Keiser. They take up most of his time. He also was into preserving things so that people don't forget. It was not an embarrassment to him now or a thing that was hurtful. He thought it was more of a thing that people need to know. They need to realize that life is not always what it is now. We still have a long ways to go and there are still things that need to be done. He accepted Hickory as his home.

He enjoyed his time in the theatre. When he walked up there and saw the balcony and those hard seats, he said “wow, man, you know”. At least the seats were padded in Taylorsville. He advised they wanted Council to be aware that this was something that maybe the City of Hickory could be a part of and help them to make sure that it didn't go by the wayside and fall into a hole.

- C. Ms. Renetta Hamrick, 98 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SE, Apt. 32, Hickory, advised she had been a resident of Hickory, North Carolina her whole life. Being a youth advocate, educator, and an after-school director, the future historical colored balcony located in the municipal city building is imperative to be recognized as such to learn about history, and most of all how not to repeat it. This could be a great gateway to teach others how we live everyday right now together in Hickory, North Carolina. Having the opportunity to speak on this was to implore Council upon what great significance this will be for community relations in Hickory, North Carolina and preserving the colored balcony will show others that the past can be hurtful but we do not have to dwell in it.
- D. Ms. Thelma Eley, 2813 5<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Hickory, advised she was also a resident of Hickory, North Carolina, but she was not a lifelong resident. She and her family moved to Hickory in 2005, and up until the 2010 timeframe she didn't know that Hickory Community Theatre existed. She commented needless to say did she recognize or know about the colored balcony until she also was a participant in one of the plays there. She had that great opportunity to walk up those stairs and actually experience the ancestors that came before her who sat there. She commented they do have a jewel and an opportunity here, that the citizens here, and Council as the representatives of the citizens of City of Hickory, have an opportunity to preserve this space to make it a space that can certainly reach and transcend race, culture, and everything. This is a chance for us to teach the citizens of this City, this County, and beyond about. As her dear friend said, about the history and this is an opportunity for them to not only educate about the history but to also, as she so aptly stated, teach us how to not to repeat things. She asked that Council take into account the importance of this space. That Council not allow that space to just become a storage space. This is a chance for them to share with the next generations about the importance. The history of the African American citizens from Hickory, North Carolina, can't be swept up under the rug. Yes, it was hurtful, not only for this space, but for any place, any segregation it is definitely hurtful. Was hurtful and where we are today we have lots to go, we have miles to go. But this is their chance. This is their chance for Hickory, North Carolina, to stand up and say “Hey, we are proud, and we are welcoming everybody here to come and learn and to experience”. She thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and advised if there were any questions to not hesitate to see her.

Alderman Seaver commented he had heard that the acoustics up there, right in the very middle on the front row where about the best in the whole theatre. He didn't know if anyone else had heard that, but he tries to get that seat when he can.

Mayor Wright thanked them all for speaking. He asked City Manager Warren Wood to take these comments and decide what course of action Council might suggest be taken. Perhaps, what role the City could have or some other course they might recommend. He advised today was the first time he had heard about it. He asked if any other Council members had another thought.

Alderman Patton asked what exactly they were proposing, the cost structure, the funding, and all the parameters.

Alderman Guess mentioned the Historic Preservation Committee.

Alderman Patton commented that might be the first place to go.

Alderman Seaver felt sure they have a board of directors there that would be interested in what is going on too.

Alderman Patton responded right, and the Hickory Community Theatre's Board.

Ms. Adams-Harris from the audience advised the Hickory Community Theatre's Board passed a resolution sometime last year about the relevance and the importance of them being an ally in the community in preserving this space. What they were looking for from Council was the continuation of that as an ally with the community, and they already are, and anything else they could say that yes, the City of Hickory is behind this 100 percent.

Mayor Wright commented Council would be looking into that and he was pleased to have their remarks. He mentioned that was contrary to protocol, but she was so nice and came all the way from Oklahoma so they were going to give her a break, but nobody else was going to get a break like that.

Alderman Guess mentioned that Mr. Leonetti was the Staff liaison for Historic Preservation Committee. He may have some guidelines or something for the next process in order to follow.

Mayor Wright thanked them for their input. He asked if anyone else desired to be heard. No one else appeared.

VII. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of April 4, 2017

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton that the Minutes of April 4, 2017 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

VIII. 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 Lail that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A. Approval of the Community Relations Council's Spring 2017 Grant Recommendations. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

B. Approval and Acceptance of the North Carolina Department of Transportation Project Agreement for the Pedestrian Signal Upgrade in the Amount of \$402,500. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

C. Budget Revision Number 21. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

IX. 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 X.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli approval of the Consent Agenda. Inadvertently Council failed to vote after the motion and second. The vote was taken after Item XI. Informational Item. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Accepted Grant 36244.33.13.2 Awarded by the North Carolina Department of Transportation – Division of Aviation in the Amount of \$225,000.

Staff requests City Council's acceptance of grant 36244.33.13.2 awarded by the North Carolina Department of Transportation – Division of Aviation (NCDOT-DOA) in the amount of \$225,000 to be used for the development or update of an Airport Layout Plan (ALP)/Master Plan and for Preliminary Engineering for the extension of Runway 624 at Hickory Regional Airport. Talbert and Bright, airport engineers, will provide the City with those consulting services, and will perform both work items. There will be no public process or task force at this time. The last Airport Master Plan was completed in the late 1990's followed by an update in early 2000. A new Master Plan Update is needed to determine the future direction of airport development to assist the City in maximizing the future potential of the airport, as well as determine the preferred method of extending Runway 6-24 and Taxiway "A" an additional 600 feet in length. The Federal Aviation Administration requires a Master Plan to provide long-range plans for expansion and renovation of facilities. Without a plan, federal funds will not be allocated. By letter dated January 20, 2017 NCDOT has allocated State funds via grant 36244.33.13.2 with the State share of \$225,000 (90 percent) and the local share of \$25,000 (10 percent) for the development of an ALP/Master Plan Update. Staff recommends City Council's acceptance of grant 36244.33.13.2 in the amount of \$225,000 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

B. Approved the Issuance of a Pyrotechnic Display Permit to Hickory Motor Speedway

Kevin Piercy, General Manager of the Hickory Motor Speedway has submitted a request to obtain permission to have a public fireworks display on June 3, 2017; Rain Dates: June 4, 2017 and June 10, 2017.

The North Carolina Fire Code requires a mandatory operational permit for the use and handling of pyrotechnic special effects material. The Division of Fire & Life Safety Bureau shall review all required documentation. The Fire Prevention Bureau will also inspect the pyrotechnics display area prior to the event to ensure compliance with all guidelines and codes. Staff recommends approval of the pyrotechnics displays.

- C. Approved Special Events Activities Application, Community Health Fair, Dave Leonetti, City of Hickory, May 6, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 115 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW (Taft Broome Park).
- D. Approved on First Reading Sponsorship Agreements for the Presenting, Premiere, and General Sponsors for the Friday Night Sails Original Music Series, May, June and September, 2017.

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. to 8:30 p.m. This is the fifth year for the event. The event brings in musicians from all over the United States and some international musicians. The event is now at a point that it 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. This event has had some wonderful partners throughout the series, but has never had "Presenting" or "Premiere" Sponsors until this year. Staff recommends approval of four sponsorship agreements which include Lowes Foods, The Hickory Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Hickory Wine Shoppe, and Patrick, Harper & Dixon Attorneys at Law.

- E. Approved on First Reading the Contract to Wilkie Construction Company SE, LLC in the Amount of \$48,686 for Improvements to West Hickory Park.

Community Development Block Grant funds were approved in the current year budget to construct a restroom building and picnic shelter at West Hickory Park (401 17<sup>th</sup> Street SW). In preparation for the project the functionally obsolete former locker room and restroom facility was demolished and regraded. A prefabricated restroom building similar to the one recently installed at Southside Heights Park has been ordered. A prefabricated 16x24 foot steel picnic shelter has also been ordered. A licensed general contractor is required to pour the required concrete pads, assemble the picnic shelter, and connect the restroom building to the necessary utilities. Staff advertised for competitive bids on the construction project. The low bidder on the project was Wilkie Construction with a bid of \$48,686 for the necessary work required to complete the assembly and installation of the two buildings/structures. This project is fully funded with Community Development Block Grant funds. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Wilkie Construction Company SE, LLC, in the amount of \$48,686, to construct the improvements to West Hickory Park.

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

The following requests were considered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on April 6, 2017.

- Le Nkauj Yang & Jeramie Lee were approved for recommendation to City Council for first-time homebuyer's assistance to purchase a house located at 1019 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Loop NE, Hickory. They have requested \$7,500 for assistance with down payment and closing costs. The First-Time Homebuyers Assistance Loan is zero interest, no payments and repaid upon sale, refinance or payoff of first mortgage.
- Mahongany Smith was approved for recommendation to City Council for first-time homebuyer's assistance to purchase a house located at 1025 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Loop NE, Hickory. She has requested \$10,000 for assistance with down payment and closing costs. The First-Time Homebuyers Assistance Loan is zero interest, no payments and repaid upon sale, refinance or payoff of first mortgage.

Funds are budgeted for these items through the City of Hickory's former Rental Rehabilitation Program income received in FY 2016 and/or program income received through the City of Hickory's Community Development Block Grant Program.

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

- George Pope, 418 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE, Hickory
- Lois Tse, 339 11<sup>th</sup> Street Place SW, Hickory-\*Not to exceed \$2,509.

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.

- G. Approved on First Reading Task Order Three to the Engineering Services Agreement with McGill Associates, P.A. in the Amount of \$28,900 for Eastwood, Random Woods, and Sherwood Forest Subdivisions Sanitary Sewer Project.

The Public Utilities Department and Catawba County Environmental Health identified three areas, Eastwood, Random Woods, and Sherwood Forest Subdivisions, as areas of concern in 1998 as a part of the future service areas for the City of Hickory sanitary sewer system. Staff originally applied for State Revolving Grant funds for completion of this project on April 1, 1999. Staff was contacted in 2008 about the status of these projects and then asked to resubmit an updated Preliminary Engineers Report in 2009. NCDENR Division of Water Quality and NC Construction Grants and Loans issued final approval of the Preliminary Engineers Report on May 10, 2010. The project consists of three identified concentrations of residential housing that have historically experienced issues with problematic septic tank systems. This project will have a potential to serve approximately 226 homes and eliminate the potential public health hazard of septic tank system failures impacting surface waters. City Council accepted the grant offer in July 2012 in the amount of \$2,946,042.99 for completion of this project. The project was designed and permitted to specifically serve the Random Woods subdivision. An area adjacent to the project has expressed interest and has meet the State requirements for addition to the grant project. The grant amendment has money remaining on the offer that NCDEQ - Infrastructure Finance Section would like to expend on this project serving the area in need. This Task Order includes design, permitting, and construction administration for an additional 1,900 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sewer along 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue Place NE, 28<sup>th</sup> Street NE, 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, and 31<sup>st</sup> Street Court NE. The extensions will serve identified residential and commercial properties that are surrounding the subdivision. Staff requests City Council's approval of Task Order 3 to the Engineering Services Agreement with McGill Associates, PA in the amount of \$28,900 for the Eastwood, Random Woods and Sherwood Forest Subdivisions sanitary sewer project.

- H. Approved a Resolution, along with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Supporting Federal Community & Economic Development Programs, including Appalachian Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration, HOME Investments Partnerships Program, Community Development Block Grant Program, and other Federal Programs that Enable Local Community and Economic Development.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-19

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) is a non-partisan voluntary association of local governments in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties organized in 1968; and

WHEREAS, the WPCOG supports and assists the community and economic development efforts of the local governments and partners throughout the region through project development, grant writing and administration, and administration of various important Federal & State programs; and

WHEREAS, the President's proposed budget eliminates and reduces important Federal programs that make local community & economic development efforts possible; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget eliminates the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Economic Development Administration (EDA), HOME Investments Partnerships Program, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and reduces other Federal programs that provide grants to local communities for housing, community development, infrastructure and job creation; and

WHEREAS, the WPCOG obtained 128 grants for is local communities from 2012 to 2016 totaling \$52,693,750 that leveraged an additional \$137,957,792 in local and private investment; and

WHEREAS, examples of those projects include infrastructure such as water, wastewater, broadband and roads, projects critical to business and industrial development and job creation, and housing projects to provide affordable housing and increase homeownership; and

WHEREAS, communities in our region obtained 13 ARC grants, from 2012 to 2016, totaling \$1,801,517 that funded water and sewer improvements for business expansion, and downtown Wi-Fi projects to support business development in small towns and those investments leveraged an additional \$2,747,698 in local and private investment and also assisted in the creation of 296 new jobs; and

WHEREAS, communities in our region obtained three EDA grants, from 2012 to 2016, totaling \$1,764,000 that funded the creation of a manufacturing training facility for a community college and the creation of the Carolina Textile District that supports textile industry job growth and those investments leveraged an additional \$13,140,000 in local and private investment and also assisted in the creation of 327 new jobs; and

WHEREAS, those grants directly improved the lives of thousands of local residents and workers including the HOME Program that provided assistance, from 2012 to 2016, to 483 first-time homebuyers totaling \$2.7 million and leveraging an additional \$43 million in private investment in housing, \$2.2 million in financing to create 507 affordable multi-family housing units through private development that created \$57.5 million investment, and \$633,200 to support the work of local Habitat for Humanity chapters; and

WHEREAS, communities in our region obtained 27 CDBG grants, from 2012 to 2016, totaling \$16,627,376 for infrastructure improvements and business assistance that assisted in the creation of 47 new jobs and improved or served 587 homes; and

WHEREAS, the EDA and ARC programs fund local efforts to develop projects and provide grant writing and administration that enabled communities to seek various State grants including Building Reuse and Industrial Development Fund grants, from 2012 to 2016, that totaled \$6,717,634 and leveraged an additional \$76,895,421 in local and private investment and assisted in the creation of 808 new jobs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Hickory along with the WPCOG strongly supports the ARC, EDA, HOME, CDBG, and other Federal programs that enable local community and economic development. The City of Hickory encourages the President and members of Congress to continue the current funding levels of these programs to local communities.

- I. Approved on First Reading Change Order to the Contract for Design Services with AMEC Foster Wheeler in the Amount of \$5,000 for Design Modification to the US 70/US 321 Interchange.

The City of Hickory entered into a contract for Gateway design on September 6, 2016 with AMEC Foster Wheeler which totaled \$32,956 for the design of two gateways: US 321 and Clement and US 321 and 70. Upon further consideration of the design at the 60 percent stage, City Council recommended a modification to the design and directed AMEC to provide additional design and construction work to add signage that says Hickory, North Carolina to the overall Gateway design. Staff recommends approval of the change order to the contract for design services to AMEC Foster Wheeler in the total lump sum amount of \$5,000 to proceed with this design modification to the US 70/US 321 interchange.

- J. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 22.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-12  
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 22

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, 2017 and for the duration of the Project Ordinance noted herein.

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Culture and Recreation	11,500	-
Other Financing Uses	5,000	-
TOTAL	16,500	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	11,500	-
Other Financing Sources	5,000	-
TOTAL	16,500	-

SECTION 2. To amend Capital Project Ordinance #B1G001, "Gateways", the expenditures shall be changed as follows for the duration of the life of the project:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	5,000	-
TOTAL	5,000	-

To provide funding for the above Grant Project, the revenues will be budgeted as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	5,000	-
TOTAL	5,000	-

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.

X. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

XI. Informational Item

- A. Report of Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt's Travel to Town Hall Day and Meet with DOT Engineers, Raleigh, NC, March 28-30, 2017, (Meals - \$92.25; Lodging - \$638.16; Mileage Reimbursement - \$189.39; Parking - \$24).
- B. Report of Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt's Travel to Washington, DC to Lobby for TIGER Grant, March 23, 2017, (Meals - \$59.10; Airfare - \$626.90; Mileage - \$60.99; Uber and Parking - \$40.10).
- C. Report of Mayor Wright's Travel to Washington, DC to Lobby for TIGER Grant, March 23, 2017, (Meals - \$25.25; Airfare - \$626.90; Uber and Parking - \$32.60).
- D. Report of Alderman Guess' Travel to Washington, DC to Lobby for TIGER Grant, March 23, 2017, (Meals - \$25.25; Airfare - \$626.90; Uber and Parking - \$32.60).
- E. Report of Alderman Zagaroli's Travel to Washington, DC to Lobby for TIGER Grant, March 23, 2017, (Meals - \$25.25; Airfare - \$626.90; Uber and Parking - \$32.60).

Mayor Wright reiterated the travel expenses of management and Council. He advised most of the expenses were related to a trip they made to Washington to lobby for a grant for Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery, TIGER. They are more hopeful today, more than ever before, that we will be in line to get some of those funds.

City Attorney John Crone advised Mayor Wright that Council failed to vote on the consent agenda.

City Clerk Debbie Miller advised Council there was a motion and a second, but Council failed to vote. Council voted and the motion carried unanimously.

XII. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

- 1. Approved the Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of Charlotte Murdock and Spouse John Murdock Property, Located at 427 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Containing .527 acres.

Charlotte Murdock submitted a petition for the voluntary non-contiguous annexation of .527 acres of property located at 427 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. 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 Hickory's extra territorial jurisdictional area (ETJ), and zoned medium density residential R-2. The current tax value of the property is \$253,600. If annexed with its present value, the property would generate approximately \$1,436.64 in additional tax revenue. Staff has determined the petition meets the statutory requirements for voluntary non-contiguous annexation and adequate public services are available. Staff recommends approval of the requested annexation.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on April 7, 2017.

City Manager Warren Wood asked the City's Principal Planner Cal Overby to the podium to present Council with the voluntary non-contiguous annexation of property owned by Charlotte Murdock and spouse John Murdock.

Principal Planner Cal Overby presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation. He advised the request was for a voluntary non-contiguous annexation of property owned by Charlotte Murdock and husband John Murdock. The subject property was located at 427 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. The property was approximately a half of an acre in size, and the closest ward was Ward 5. The property was currently occupied by single family residents and that was also the intended future use of the property. The annexation was being requested in order to connect to the City's utility system. The property in fact had an onsite septic system and had one for years. It functioned fine until someone doing yardwork with a piece of large equipment physically fell through it and it was unrepairable from that point forward, which put the homeowners kind of in a bind. He showed a map on the PowerPoint presentation and pointed out the subject property outlined in red, the City's boundaries outlined in blue, noting the incorporated areas of Hickory, and some of the ETJ which resides in northwest Hickory. He advised they were dealing with a small pocket of the ETJ. This was non-contiguous because it was located 75 feet from the nearest parcel which is actually in the City. He discussed the existing land use which was mostly all single family residence throughout the area. Some homes had been there for several decades and there were some newer homes as well in the general vicinity. He pointed out Lake Hickory and a small neighborhood in which the property was located. He advised the property was currently located in the City's ETJ and all zoned R2 residential, which is medium density residential, which is primarily single family residential. He reiterated the property was currently occupied by a single family resident and the intended use of the property is continue as a single family residence. He advised that was what the applicants had intended and that is what they intend to do for a long period of time. He discussed the evaluation of the petition. Staff evaluated the petition based upon the adequacy of services provided to the property and found services would be adequate. Staff also determined the annexation complied with the General Statutes. Based upon those findings Staff recommended City Council's approval of the requested annexation. He advised he would be happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Wright 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 Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the voluntary non-contiguous annexation of the property located at 427 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. The motion carried unanimously.

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

ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NO. 439  
VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION ORDINANCE (NON-CONTIGUOUS)  
Charlotte Murdock and Spouse John Murdock

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, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina, at 7:00 p.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017:

SATELLITE ANNEXATION  
BY THE CITY OF HICKORY  
OF THE PROPERTY OF  
CHARLOTTE MURDOCK

That certain parcel or tract of land lying and being about 2.6 miles north northwest of the center of the City of Hickory. Bounded on the northwest by other lands of Charlotte Murdock as described in Deed Book 3390 at Page 1534, on the northeast by the 60' right-of-way of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, on the southeast by the lands Edith Crocker as described in Deed Book 2023 at Page 75, on the southwest by the lands of Thomas and Anne Dwyer as described in Deed Book 2905 at Page 1949 and more particularly described as follows to/wit:

Beginning at a ¾" iron rod on the southwestern 60 foot right-of-way of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, also the easternmost corner of the lands of Charlotte Murdock as described in Deed Book 3390 at Page 1534 as the common corner between Lot 16 and 17 as shown in Plat Book 8 at Page 44, said ¾" iron rod being located South 65 degrees 18 minutes 28 seconds West 68.87 feet from an existing corner of the existing City of Hickory city limits shown in Plat Book 21 at Page 233 and running thence, as new City of Hickory city limit lines, the following calls: North 54 degrees 06 minutes 40 seconds West 148.42 feet to a ½" iron pipe on the southwestern 60 foot right-of-way of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, the common corner between Tract 1 and 2 as shown in Plat book 39 at Page 34; thence, as the common line between the aforementioned Tract 1 and 2, South 36 degrees 29 minutes 42 seconds West 181.82 feet to a ½" iron rod in the northeastern line of the Thomas and Anne Dwyer lands as described in Deed Book 2905 at Page 1949; thence, as Dwyer's northeastern line, South 46 degrees 45 minutes 31 seconds East 95.00 feet to a ¾" iron rod in Dwyer's northeastern line; thence, as the northwestern line of the Edith Crocker lands as described in Deed Book 2023 at Page 75, North 52 degrees 01 seconds 36 seconds East 201.93 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 0.527 acres more or less.

Section 2. Upon and after the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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. 5 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. Approved on First Reading Acceptance of the Bids and Award of the Contract to Eastern Structures, LLC in the Amount of \$1,258,867.94.

Staff requests City Council's acceptance of bids and award of the contract with Eastern Structures, LLC for construction of Falling Creek Road Bridge replacement project in the amount of \$1,258,867.94, contingent on North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) final approval to award. The City of Hickory participates with NCDOT in the evaluation of bridges for structural integrity. The Falling Creek Road Bridge, a City Street and a City bridge, was evaluated and determined to be structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. There is a Federal bridge program that cities can apply to through the State of North Carolina and then the State applies to USDOT for bridge replacement grant funds. Those funds provide 80 percent, and the City covers the 20 percent match. The City applied for and received this grant for the project. NCDOT engaged Thompson, Gordon and Shook (TGS) Engineers to design the replacement structure and bid process for replacement of the structure. Due to the condition of the structure, the project was placed on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for replacement and granted designation B-5549. With the designation, 80 percent of the replacement cost including professional design services will be provided by Federal funds and 20 percent will be borne by the City of Hickory. TGS Engineers, Inc. provided plans and bid documents for the replacement structure and managed bid opening. Four responsive contractors submitted quotes on the project: Eastern Structures, LLC - \$1,258,867.94; Dane Construction Inc. - \$1,606,288.29; Miller Engineering Company, Inc. - \$1,620,923.55; and Dellinger, Inc. - \$1,881,295. TGS Engineers, Inc. evaluated the bid packages and found Eastern Structures LLC to be the lowest responsible bidder and recommends acceptance and award of the project to Eastern Structures LLC. The supplemental cost sharing agreement for this project with NCDOT was previously approved by City Council on January 17, 2017. Staff recommends City Council accept the bids and award the contract to Eastern Structures, LLC for construction of Falling Creek Road Bridge replacement project in the amount of \$1,258,867.94, contingent on NCDOT final approval to award.

City Manager Warren Wood advised City Council they would need to take action on the acceptance of bids and award of the contract to Eastern Structures, LLC for the replacement of the Falling Creek Road Bridge. He asked the City's Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer to the podium to present that item to City Council.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer presented a PowerPoint presentation. He advised the bridge itself had been determined to be structurally deficient and functionally obsolete, which means that current standards for design of bridges are past what this is. Some of it is it is not wide enough, and rails aren't built the right way, etc. He advised the Engineer's estimate for the project was \$1.4 million dollars for construction and \$1.924 million dollars for the total project. The total project included engineering fees, right of way acquisitions, surveying, and a number of things that are rolled into that one. The project was on the STIP, so it is funded as a State Transportation Improvement Plan and project. It is funded through the Federal Aide Bridge Replacement Project. Falling Creek Road is a City street, however we have the ability to apply to the Federal government for replacement funds for bridges. If they are determined to be acceptable then they receive that money. The money goes to NCDOT who then administers the contract itself with the Federal money. We have an 80/20 match in that money. Of the \$1.924 million dollars, approximately \$384,000 is the City's responsibility and the rest is through that Federal Fund. He pointed out on the PowerPoint slide North Center Street, 127, Falling Creek Road, Falling Creek Baptist Church, Holly Hills Subdivision, Winding Creek Subdivision located at 9<sup>th</sup> Street Court NE, and the bridge itself was located over Falling Creek in that general area. He referenced several driveways which would be affected and also noted 2<sup>nd</sup> Street which was a City street. He advised there were four to six property owners which would be directly affected. Service delivery will be a little tougher. The road itself will be closed so everyone will be affected. He noted the location of the Falling Creek Bridge, and two driveways located just before the bridge. He advised they would tie those two driveways together versus having them separate as they come out now. The reason for that was due to the construction area, you have got to keep the driveways away to be safe. He mentioned on the north side of Falling Creek Road there was one other property owner who will probably experience the biggest impact because his driveway is really close. He advised the request was for Council to accept bids and award the contract to Eastern Structures, LLC in the amount of \$1,258,867.94 for replacement of Falling Creek Road Bridge, which is contingent on NCDOT approval. The City's approval still has to go through the DOT process with the Federal funds. He advised he would be glad to answer questions.

Alderman Seaver questioned the 80/20 match. He asked if the City was the 80 percent this time.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer responded, no we are the 20. He advised the engineer's estimate was \$1.4 million dollars, the project came in at one point almost three. It came in under the engineer's estimate and the City is 20 percent of that number. If you look at the total \$1.9 million dollars \$384,000 would be the City's match.

Alderman Seaver asked if Mr. Greer knew what the traffic count was over that bridge.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer replied he did not know. He knew it carried a lot of traffic and it was a well-traveled road, but he didn't know the traffic count.

Alderman Tarlton asked if it was going to be closed.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer responded it will be, because that is a complete bridge replacement.

Alderman Tarlton questioned if they were going to do a temporary thing like they did on the other Falling Creek project.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer advised no sir. On 29<sup>th</sup> they actually did a temporary road that took you over which allowed it to stay open. They are not in this area because of the topo, the contours are tough and the area is really tight.

Alderman Tarlton commented you would be digging up some backyards there. He asked how long it was scheduled to take.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer stated one year, it is a year construction time, 270 days, but in construction time that is a year.

Alderman Lail asked if he thought the road would be closed that whole time or close to it.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer said close to it. There will be some work that happens before they close it, but they still have to move the water and sewer. Telephone and power had been moved. Water and sewer still have to be moved so it could be open then, but as quick as they start work, they will close the whole thing.

Alderman Lail commented Fire and Police will have to go down Cloninger Mill and then come back.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer advised 29<sup>th</sup> probably. They would go down and then come up to where Falling Creek ties into 29<sup>th</sup>. Sanitation delivery or pickup is one of the issues that Steve Miller of Public Works is working through. They are going to have to back down or do something for those four or five homes. They are working through that plan now because a garbage truck can't get in there and turn around.

Alderman Seaver asked if the homeowners knew about this.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer responded yes sir.

Mayor Wright moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver accepting the bid and awarding the contract with Eastern Structures, LLC in the amount of \$1,258,867.94. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced he moved seconded by Alderman Seaver and the motion carried unanimously.

## 2. Quarterly Finance Report

City Manager Warren Wood asked Assistant City Manager/CFO Rodney Miller to the podium to present Council with the quarterly Finance Report.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller presented City Council with a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed the City's third quarter Financial Report. The City of Hickory, like other cities and counties in North Carolina have a fiscal year which begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. He advised this report would include July 1<sup>st</sup>

through March 31<sup>st</sup>, nine months of financial activity. He discussed the City's General Fund which is the main operating fund of the City. He pointed out on the PowerPoint the annual budget, the year-to-date actual column, and the categories of revenue sources. He noted we are 75 percent, three-quarters of the way complete. The largest revenue source was ad valorem taxes which was the first row. The City has an annual budget of almost \$25.4 million dollars. He noted through nine months the City had already achieved that budgeted revenue figure. The City was a little over \$25.7 million dollars, 101 percent of the budget through March. He discussed other taxes, the City's next largest source of revenue, sales taxes. That is where citizens spend funds within the City of Hickory. The City gets a portion of those sales tax dollars on those retail and or food purchases, which made up the second category. The City had received almost \$10.5 million dollars of the \$14.5 million dollar budget, or 72.2 percent. He discussed different revenue streams for intergovernmental which included some Powell Bill funding we get from the State of North Carolina, revenues from Catawba County, whether it be for the library or for the court system, permit fees, sales and services, recreation, fire inspections, library fees, things of that nature. He mentioned investment earnings in which the City takes the idle cash and invests in allowable investments per the North Carolina General Statutes. He noted miscellaneous could cover donations, insurance reimbursements, etc. He discussed Other Financing Sources which was a category for transfers between funds. He advised in this particular case the \$650,000 was a transfer from another fund. He commented the General Fund as he had mentioned was the largest operating fund, the City also has a Capital Reserve Fund. He advised this information tells us that the General Fund received \$650,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to help pay capital projects during the fiscal year. The balance of that \$7.7 million dollars in the annual budget comes from a couple of sources, primarily that is encumbrances from the prior year that rolls forward into this year. So an obligation has not been spent, we may have received the goods but we have not paid for it so it rolls forward into the following year. We also use some of our Fund Balance, basically our reserves to help balance the budget for the upcoming year, so that was in that number as well as the City appropriated a sizeable amount of Fund Balance to pay a lawsuit that was settled last summer. He advised that was also in the annual budget number. He discussed the City's two largest revenue sources. He pointed out the property tax revenues, approximately \$25.7 million dollars received. In a comparison over the last two years, he noted the biggest thing we are almost 3.9 percent in growth. When Mr. Wood was here the first time, .06 percent was what the City was growing just two years ago in the property tax revenue. That is hard to sustain and or add new programs and or staff. We are very fortunate that we are seeing indications of an economy that is growing and continuing to grow. The property tax revenue grows when these new single family homes are selling. Whether they are new homes, or new people coming to the City to take some of our existing housing stock. They then bring their money and they spend it as sales tax dollars for the City of Hickory. He commented they are very excited at the moment that our property tax base is growing at a 3.8 percent clip. If you compare it to the prior year, our net growth last year was 1.64 percent. He advised that was because you have to compare '15 and '16, they were not apples to apples. In 2016, City Council actually increased the property tax rate by a little over two cents, generating more revenue in the property tax because that offset a revenue source that the State of North Carolina took from the City which was the privilege license. If you take that \$1.1 million dollars out of the revenue here you see that we grew about 1.6 percent last year. Much better than the year before. He asked if Council had any questions.

Alderman Seaver commented the City did pretty-good with growth after Mr. Wood left.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller commented they were hopeful that growth was going to continue. He discussed sales tax revenues. The City was seeing some positive trend in the sales tax revenues. These were dollars spent in Hickory and then reimbursed to the City from the State of North Carolina. The City had received 3.7 percent two years ago, 6.21 percent last year and almost 5 percent this year. He noted this only included eight months of the fiscal year, since the revenues are going to the State, NC Department of Revenue, they wait 45 days until they return them to the City. They are earning a little interest on the City's money, but then they give it back to us after 45 days. Hence there was only eight months of revenue on this particular function. He advised a budgeted revenue of approximately \$9.3 million dollars in sales tax. He referenced the property tax growth, building permit activity and again people moving to the area is what helps generate that and keep that property tax and sales tax revenue growth going. He showed a snapshot of the first three months of calendar year 2017; which was very unusual over the last several years, the City's residential activity was now growing again. There was 83 residential permits that were pulled through March. In the first three months of this year the City actual had 29 single family home permits.

He commented that sounds like a low number but if you consider in 2015 the whole year we only had 44. Last year we only had 59. We are at 29 three months into the calendar year compared to 59 last year. We are off to a good start that is a positive indicator. He commented that was just single family homes, there had been renovation projects, condo projects, townhomes, etc., 83 permits for residential compared to 69 the year before. He advised that commercial had dipped a little bit in the number of commercial permits. We went from 109 at this time last year to 87, however if you go into the building dollar amount for those permits you would see that our residential value had more than doubled up to \$8.6 million dollars in value. That equates to approximately \$213,000 for an average home. He advised that commercial value was a little misleading because in the year before Lenoir-Rhyne pulled their \$13 million dollar permit which was in the \$24 million dollars for last year. If you take that out, we are actually growing based on the dollar amount. He advised one of the Councilmembers suggested that he separate some of the building activity by quadrant. He pointed out northwest, northeast, southeast and southwest. He noted that Publix and the Viewmont apartments were to the east of Center Street. He showed the breakdown of building activity that the City had by quadrant. Every quadrant had some activity. The winning quadrant was in the southeast, the CVCC workforce building was permitted for \$25 million dollars, and the next largest was Frye Hospital, they are planning on a \$15 million dollar expansion of their emergency room and other functions at the hospital. He noted some big projects which included: Summit Credit Union located next to City Hall which would be opening in the next month or two; Klingspor; MDI; Immunotech, the bio center, the plasma center located on highway 127, which was a \$1.6 million dollar project; and others we are hopeful to come. He mentioned most of those were commercial but there were two residential projects one being on Springs Road across from the Sam's Carwash which is being planned, as well as the 144 unit complex in Viewmont, which Council heard about at a previous meeting. They are waiting for those to break ground, those are projects in the hopper so to speak.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller discussed the expenditure side with 75 percent of the year complete. He commented we want to ensure that we have not spent more than 75 percent of our budget. He noted overall we had spent approximately 71 percent of the budget so we are under budget. We had spent \$37 million dollars to date. If you take the revenues compared to the expenditures we are approximately \$3.3 million dollars ahead of the game through March. He advised that is not uncommon, because we have the majority of our property tax revenue in December and January. That will even out, don't go taking that \$3.3 million dollars to the bank because our expenditures will offset our revenues the next three months. He advised the next largest fund was the Water and Sewer Fund which is supported entirely by user fees on the water and sewer bills. With 75 percent of the year complete, their revenues were just under 60 percent, and in this particular fund those revenues are higher in the April, May, and June months. Their revenues will catchup to their expenditures. We had spent 68 percent of our budget, or a little over \$20 million dollars to date and only brought in \$17.7 million dollars. He advised that will also tilt by the time April, May and June comes as revenues outweigh their expenditures the next three months. At the moment we are almost \$2.5 million dollars expenditures over revenues, but that will certainly shift over the next quarter. He asked if Council had any questions.

Alderman Seaver referenced the income from the taxes being over 100 percent. He questioned if that was how much percent over what was budgeted.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller advised that was correct.

Alderman Seaver was wondering if anybody was sending in donations too. Some people when they pay Federal taxes they give you room to pay some donations, he was wondering if that was coming in too.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller advised the donations were coming in and yes we are happy to have them come, and just specify where you want them to go and we will pay for that particular area, hence splash pad.

Alderman Seaver commented they are still working on it.

3. 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) 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 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  
 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

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

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

Mayor Wright commented the new sinkhole was fixed pretty quickly, and the old one not so quickly.

City Manager Warren Wood commented he was glad to be home and he truly appreciated the opportunity and he looks forward to working with City Council, and to a lot of good years ahead. He looks forward to working with staff, getting reengaged with them and the citizens, reengaging with old friends and meeting new friends. He thanked Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt for the work that she did when she served as Interim City Manager, wearing three hats, the support of Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller and Department Heads. Mrs. Surratt carried a heavy load for a longtime and had earned a well-deserved vacation. He looks forward to a lot of good years and he wants to see Hickory do well. Hickory does well when its people do well, that is what we are working for.

Mayor Wright stated well said.

Alderwoman Patton was glad to have Mr. Wood back.

Alderman Seaver mentioned he hears good comments from time to time from people who have passed through Hickory that he knows that have stopped and maybe stayed here, it is always positive. He had not really had a bad call on that.

Mayor Wright commented along those lines, we are still in the honeymoon period with Mr. Wood, he had a lot of people in the community to say you got a good piece of work there.

Alderman Seaver commented now that he is sworn in we have got to start paying him.

Mayor Wright advised he bet he was getting paid last week.

XV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City Clerk