

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Brad Lail	Jeff M. Cline	Hank Guess
Vernon Tarlton	Aldermen	
Danny Seaver		

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, Executive Assistant to the City Manager Deisy Zavala Vazquez and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Cline called the meeting to order. All Council members were present except for Alderman Zagaroli and Alderwoman Patton.
- II. Invocation by Kim Moss, Pastor, Mt. Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

Mayor Cline explained the rules for speaking to Council and called the first person who had signed up to speak to the podium.

- A. Mr. Phillip Shell, 6724 Lakeview Terrace, Hickory, advised he did not live in the Hickory City limits, but he lived right across the bridge. He had attended every meeting that NCDOT had provided. He had spoken at all of those meetings. He stated that he had also been misrepresented in the Hickory Daily Record, but he had corrected that, and they corrected it online but did not correct it in the paper. He commented this is a travesty, basically we are wasting our taxpayer's money. They want to take pressure off of 321. Agreed. We need the pressure off of 321, but how can we do that without increasing more pressure on a place that has had pressure that cannot stand anymore. We are talking about a town and a city, Lenoir, Granite Falls, Saw Mills, all of those towns that are all just lumber and furniture towns, if we tear that road up just in order to build a road. They say that 321 right now is an "E" headed for an "F". They say if we do this improvement it is going to take it to a "D". Where he comes from that is still not passing grade. That is crazy. And you are going to take all that away from these towns that are going to be budding again. They are going to be blooming because we are bringing it back to the United States. Here we are, we are going to all of a sudden impede all of the progress coming and going. The whole time it could have been taken care of with one simple thing. You could have moved it over about 400 feet. They say they have to raise the bridge 17 feet to go across the bridge to clear the trains. If you came across over by the Crawdads stadium you are going to be way above 17 feet.

Executive Assistant to the City Manager Deisy Zavala Vazquez called three minutes.

Mr. Shell continued, you put three, maybe four exits on this roadway. You put one in Lenoir of course, you put one in Hickory of course, and you put one maybe in Granite Falls.

Mayor Cline asked Mr. Shell to close up his three minutes were up.

Mr. Shell commented, all of a sudden now they had discovered that MDI has trucks. He left Council with that.

Mayor Cline thanked Mr. Shell.

- B. Mr. Richard Frye, 1004 13th Street SW, Hickory, advised Council he was a native of Hickory, he grew up in west Hickory, born in 1956. He advised this was the first Council meeting he had attended. He commented he was a man of few words, saying that, why is he here. He was here because he had reached a tipping point on an issue which concerned him a great deal in southwest Hickory. He lives on 13th Street SW in his old homeplace which he had inherited from his mother. He had a lot of family nearby and elderly people. They are like everyone else, they are trying to make ends meet. But nonetheless they have property that they have rented out to individuals for garages. He didn't know what the Ordinances were for garages, but these garages had more cars in this garage than any square foot of any parking lot that he knew of in Hickory. For example, one garage beside of him, a one man garage and his wife, there are probably 25-30 cars inside the garage not to mention probably 30 or 40 outside the garage. Many times these cars are parked all the way to the edge of the road sometimes border on getting in the road. He advised there was a garage across the street as well. He didn't know much about

these folks but he did know that there were three businesses over there. There was one business called the Variety Store, and this garage was using two other properties. They have a garage as well and they have so many cars there, that they have the cars in the front, the back, the side, they are all over the property. He asked Council to help him in trying to find out if this is legal for them to do this. He didn't think it was. It was zoned C-2, general business, but if it is legal, he had not seen anything like this before in the City limits of Hickory. He advised the other issue he had was the old Kroger parking lot in the Kroger building on 70. That property is looking pretty dilapidated, that side of the town is, it has become a place for litter and trash. A lot of big tractor trailers park over there, not to mention the fact that on the side of that road it has become a place for litter and garbage.

Executive Assistant to the City Manager Deisy Zavala Vazquez called three minutes.

Mr. Frye continued there was not anyone picking up the garbage on those streets.

Mayor Cline thanked Mr. Frye.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Planning Director Brian Frazier or a member of his Staff to speak with Mr. Frye and the litter issue would also be addressed over there.

Mayor Cline asked if there was anyone else who wished to address Council. No one else appeared.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of July 18, 2017

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton that the Minutes of July 18, 2017 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.

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

- A. Approval of a Lease Agreement with Carolina West Wireless for the Collocation of Cellular Equipment on City-Owned Cell Tower Located at 1441 9th Avenue NE. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- B. Acceptance of a Special Warranty Deed from Publix for 207 Square Feet of Property Located at 36 29th Avenue NE. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- C. Approval of a Public Recreation Lease with Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Recreation Facilities at Rotary-Geitner Park. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- D. Approval to Amend the Traffic Ordinance Designating a 25 mph Speed Limit on 30th Avenue Drive NW between 30th Avenue NW and 25th Avenue Drive NW. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- E. Approval of a Forgivable Deferred Loan to Habitat for Humanity for the Demolition and Regrading of Lots in the Ridgeview Community. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- F. Approval of a Design Services Contract with Alfred Benesch & Company in the Amount of \$211,700 for Bruce Meisner Park – Phase I Development. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- G. Approval of the Proposal to Purchase a 2018 Spartan Smeal 105' RM Aerial Quint Fire Apparatus through the Houston-Galveston Area Council Interlocal Contract. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- H. Approval of Amendment Four to the Contract with Freese and Nichols, Inc. in the Base Amount of \$85,230 with a not to Exceed an Amount of \$59,180 for Special Services as Needed. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- I. Approval of Amendment Five to the Contract with Freese and Nichols, Inc. in the Base Amount of \$295,850 Over a Three-Year Period to with a not to Exceed Amount of \$145,840 for Special Services as Needed. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- J. Budget Revision Number 1. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

The narrative was inadvertently omitted on the July 18, 2017 Agenda but the item was included in the Exhibit - Budget Revision Number One: To appropriate \$12,180 of General Fund Balance and budget in the Police Department's Contracted Services line-item for annual legal support from Smith Rogers PLLC Attorneys at Law. These funds are from State Unauthorized Substance Tax revenues and are received and reside in General Fund Balance until the time of appropriation for specific uses under the State guidelines.

- K. Approval of the Locally Administered Project Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to Allocate \$11,280,000 in Federal Funds to the City Walk Project. (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.

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

- A. Called for Public Hearing to Amend the City's Code of Ordinance Chapter 21 Section 21-11 Hours of Sell of Beer and Wine, with Regards to Senate Bill 155. (Authorize Public Hearing for August 15, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).
- B. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Children's Advocacy & Protection Center's Vigil, Connie Engart, Community Education & Outreach Coordinator, Children's Advocacy & Protection Center, October 24, 2017, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sails on the Square.
- C. Approved a Cemetery Deed Transfer from Joseph B. Wakefield, Jr., unmarried to Charles R. Lingle and wife, Sherry F. Lingle, Containing 80 Square Feet, more or less, Oakwood Cemetery, Plot J, Lot No. 14, Section 53. (Prepared by Susannah L. Brown, Anthony & Brown, PLLC.
- D. Approved a Cemetery Deed Transfer from Steve Edward Rhoney and wife, Elizabeth Diane Critcher Rhoney to Van Morris Bolick and wife, Lore Lineberger Bolick, Plots 13,14, and 15, Lot No. 24, Section 8, Oakwood Cemetery. (Prepared by Daniel R. Green Jr., Attorney)
- E. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 2.

ORDINANCE 17-21
BUDGER REVISION NO. 2

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

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
Economic and Community Development	6,719	-
Culture and Recreation	75,410	-
Public Safety	908,363	-
Other Financing Uses	700,022	-
TOTAL	1,690,514	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	1,690,161	-
Miscellaneous Revenues	353	-
TOTAL	1,690,514	-

SECTION 2. To amend the Falling Creek Bridge Capital Project Ordinance (#490001), the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	113,922	-
TOTAL	113,922	-

To provide funding for the above Capital Project, the revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	113,922	-
TOTAL	113,922	-

SECTION 3. To amend the Bond Project Management Capital Project Ordinance (#B1M001), the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	586,100	-
TOTAL	586,100	-

To provide funding for the above Capital Project, the revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	586,100	-
TOTAL	586,100	-

SECTION 4. To amend the City Walk Capital Project Ordinance (#B1C001), the expenditures shall be changed as follows for the duration of the life of the project:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	14,100,000	-
TOTAL	14,100,000	-

To provide funding for the above Capital Project, the revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	11,280,000	-
Other Financing Sources	2,820,000	-
TOTAL	14,100,000	-

SECTION 5. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

1. Consideration of Amendments to Chapter 4 Animals and Fowl of the Hickory City Code of Ordinance.

Hickory City Code of Ordinance Chapter 4 – Animals and Fowl currently permits an owner to keep one goat per acre in any planning zone. The chapter also permits owners to have one potbelly pig. The Land Development Code, however, currently only permits the keeping of large domesticated animals in the R-1 and Industrial planning zones. The conflict between the two codes has created some confusion and has also resulted in enforcement issues with some owners who are keeping large domesticated animals. The conflicting provisions means an owner could be in violation of the Land Development Code while simultaneously be in compliance with the City Code. Amending Chapter 4 to conform to the Land Development Code’s provisions for the keeping of domesticated animals in certain zones will reconcile the conflict and give property owners greater clarity on the animals they’re permitted to keep on their properties. Staff recommends Council’s approval of the proposed amendments to the Hickory City Code of Ordinance Chapter 4 – Animals and Fowl.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on July 21, 2017.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula to the podium to present Council with consideration of amendments to Chapter 4 Animals and Fowl of the Hickory City Code of Ordinance.

Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation. She presented a proposed Ordinance amendment to Chapter 4, Animals and Fowl, of the Hickory City Code. She explained the City regulates the keeping of animals via two codes, the Hickory Land Development Code and Chapter Four, entitled Animals and Fowl, of the Hickory Code of Ordinances. There were some very basic similarities, both codes contain certain definitions and other provisions related to the keeping of animals, but there were some very critical differences between the two and these provision or differences had created conflicting provisions. The issue with that was enforcement of the code or both codes to a particular situation can lead to confusion on the part of the owner and on the part of Staff and also different outcomes. A person could be in compliance with one code, but when the other code is applied to the same situation they are out of compliance. These situations sometimes comes to Staff's attention through various means and this one had been brought to Staff's attention. She advised she was presenting a proposed ordinance amendment to rectify or eliminate the conflict. She discussed examples on the PowerPoint slides to show Council some distinctions. The Hickory Land Development Code under Article 14 defines small domestic, large domestic and household animals. In Article 9, Section 9.11, animal keeping, it permits the keeping of large or domestic animals by right in R1 residential and industrial zoning districts only, and in accordance with certain standards. By large domestic animals, if Council had looked at the proposed amendment, she gave the definition, she was talking about sheep, horses, goats, cows, large animals. The Land Development Code only permits the keeping of these outright in R1 residential and industrial zoning districts. In discussing this with Staff we don't have that many R1 residential zoning districts. The majority of residential zoning districts within our City limits are R2. She noted on the next slide, the code prohibits the keeping of large domestic animals in R2 residential zoning districts. Also, the Land Development Code restricts the number of small domestic and household animals in all zoning districts where dwelling units are permitted to a combined total of five. She gave for examples, they could be like two dogs and three chickens; a dog, a cat, some other small domestic animal up to five. It does place a limit of five. She explained that Chapter 4, however, although includes numerous definitions related to animals, it doesn't define small domestic animals, or large domestic animals, or really household animals. The closest definition was one that referred to domesticated animals which states those are traditionally animals that are usually kept basically in the household as pets. Another section of the chapter, the Hickory Land Development Code doesn't permit large domestic animals in residential zoning districts, except for R1, however Chapter 4, Section 4.31 permits an owner to keep one goat per acre and also to keep one potbelly pig as a pet. She stated there is a conflict right there. Under one you can have a goat, but under the other code, the Land Development Code, you can't. Also Chapter 4, this section does not address the keeping of other large domestic animals, it only mentions goats and the potbelly pig. It doesn't restrict the number of small domestic and household animals, including chickens, and it does not restrict the keeping of animals to any specific zoning districts.

Ms. Dula discussed the proposed amendments. The first amendment would be to the definition section by adding definitions for these categories of animals, small domestic, large domestic, and household animals. With regard to Section 4-31 the changes would permit keeping of large domestic animals only in R1 and industrial zones. It would prohibit the keeping of large domestic animals in R2 residential zoning districts and it would restrict the combined total of small domestic and household animals to five in all zones where dwelling units are allowed. Ms. Dula discussed the exceptions: small birds, small amphibians, rodents, ferrets, tropical fish and animals that are always kept inside the house, basically the dwelling unit, were excluded from the numerical limitation of five. You could have a whole menagerie inside your house but you can't have beyond five and keep this outside. Another exception or exemption would be people or owners would still be allowed to keep potbelly pigs under 100 pounds as household pets. She asked Council if they had any questions.

Alderman Seaver joked you can keep a goat on one acre, if you only have half an acre can you have half a goat. That would be too small of an area to have a goat at all.

Ms. Dula explained that it sets out actually the size of the property, approximately 65,000 square feet, about an acre.

Alderman Seaver agreed that it didn't match up.

Ms. Dula replied, unfortunately it can create issues.

Alderman Tarlton asked if someone was on the borderline with dogs for example, he confirmed Ms. Dula had said five.

Ms. Dula responded yes, six constitutes a kennel, and there are certain restrictions and standards that have to be followed.

Alderman Tarlton questioned if someone had a litter, if they were given a time limit to dispose of them.

Ms. Dula advised young are allowed to be kept with their mothers basically until they are weaned. The code doesn't require an owner to remove the young, the puppies.

Alderman Seaver asked if anyone had attempted to rewrite the code and make it matchup yet.

Ms. Dula advised this was the rewrite.

Alderman Seaver asked if it defined what large animals are and so forth.

Ms. Dula advised Council it was in their packet. She commented she would be glad to read the definitions for Council. In Council's packet was a copy of the proposed ordinance amendment. She advised the definitions were long.

Alderman Lail advised it was on page 74 in the agenda packet.

Ms. Dula responded she would be glad to give a few examples. Large domestic is what we think of, horses, donkeys, mules, etc.

Alderman Seaver interjected Saint Bernard.

Alderman Tarlton commented that is bigger than a goat.

Alderman Seaver commented he had a neighbor who had a Great-Dane, a big dog.

Ms. Dula advised they were typically thinking about livestock that fit more along with farm animals when you are talking about large domestic animals. Not the dog when it stands on his hind legs it is seven feet tall. That doesn't fall under that. That is actually just a large household pet.

Mayor Cline asked for further questions from Ms. Dula. There were none. Mayor Cline explained the rules for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposed amendment. No one appeared. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposed amendment. No one appeared. Mayor Cline closed the public hearing. He asked if there was motion to approve the proposed amendments.

Alderman Lail advised he had a suggestion. He advised that the suggestion had come to him from citizens and he thought it was a good suggestion. He advised there are services that rent goats, bring out goats. The reason they do that is goats control invasive plant species. It is not uncommon in North Carolina and is used in a lot of municipalities. He explained the case that was brought to his attention was the Church of the Ascension. They have a backyard that faces 2nd Avenue, they struggled over it for years to keep the kudzu in check with Roundup and chemicals and all of that. It would be the ideal spot for a goat service to come in. They bring in the goats and they stay for a period of time, 10 days for example, they eat everything. It doesn't grow back because when goats eat they crush the seeds and it doesn't grow back, and then of course the goats leave. He advised this is an allowed use in Asheville, Charlotte, and in Davidson, North Carolina. In fact, one of the services was out of Davidson. He thought it was something that Council should consider. It is not specifically excluded within the code, but he thought it should be clear if it was something that was going to be allowed within the City, there should be some clarifying language. He would be in favor of allowing that.

Alderman Tarlton commented he would be in favor of that too. He knew someone that had five or six Shetland ponies to control a real steep bank around their house who was on the lake. They didn't do anything but good.

Alderman Guess asked if there was a way for those types of exceptions to be approved in some kind of manner that would be consistent.

Alderman Lail responded of course, Council could require permitting or specify in the code. He looked at Asheville's code and it was 14 days. He understood that they work within city codes so if they need to bring it in, or bring it back in after a period of time. He commented maybe a good idea might be, if Council would be inclined, he moved to hold the public hearing open and asked Staff to comeback with some language that would accommodate this issue. They could talk with their colleagues across the State.

City Attorney John Crone asked if that was a motion to continue to a time certain so that it does not need to be re-advertised.

Alderman Lail confirmed that was correct. Council would continue to a time certain so that it would not have to re-advertised and everybody would have the benefit of commenting if they wanted to on the proposed language. He wouldn't want to legislate it up there on the fly. He didn't know timeframes.

Mayor Cline asked City Attorney Crone if the motion was acceptable, of if the motion needed to be more carefully defined before asking for a second.

City Manager Warren Wood confirmed that the public hearing had been closed.

City Attorney John Crone requested Council do a motion to reopen the public hearing.

Alderman Tarlton moved, seconded by Alderman Lail to reopen the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney John Crone advised the public hearing was reopened for people to speak for or against. He advised there would need to be a motion to continue to a time certain, a certain date of a City Council meeting so that it does not need to be re-advertised, unless Council wanted to re-advertise. In this case he didn't really think that was necessary, but it was up to Council.

Mayor Cline advised this is a public hearing and it is opened again. He asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition to the amendments. No one appeared. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the amendments.

Ms. Nancy Huegerich advised she was speaking on behalf of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, located on 1st Avenue NW. She didn't have a lot to add to what Alderman Lail had said, but they wanted to put on record that they would like Council to consider accepting from the general prohibition against farm animals this very limited situation. She advised they went out several years ago and with sweat equity pulled out all of the kudzu in the backyard and it is a jungle again. They are loathed to pour a lot of chemicals on the property, there is a stream bed located back there and they had concerns about the groundwater. In doing some research they had all been educated that apparently the best option is renting goats. She asked that Council consider specifically accepting that so that they are allowed to move forward in a way that they feel is the most responsible way. The property runs between 1st Avenue and 2nd Avenue and their intention is to improve it and make it a nice space open to the community. She thought this would benefit everybody.

Mayor Cline asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Mr. Dustin Strickland, 1172 18th Avenue NE, commented on Section 4-31(c) which was introduced as small domestic animals are permitted to be kept as household pets. There was a definition of small domestic animals and of also household animals. In the subsections there was a discussion of the small animals per dwelling and also the limit on domestic animals and household animals. He asked if both small animals and household animals were included in the same section of subsection (c). He was not sure if it was clear. And also if the six or more pets was indoor plus outdoor, or indoor only or outdoor only. Maybe some clarification about that.

Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula responded if she understood Mr. Strickland's questions correctly, referencing exceptions on the PowerPoint, pointing out "and animals that are always kept inside the dwelling unit are excluded from the numerical limitation". You house could be run over with animals. You could have more animals than people inside the home, but if you are keeping animals outside

then the limitation is five. That is a combined number of five. It could be household, small household animals, or small domestic animals but it is a combined total of five of either or. That is up to the owner.

Alderman Tarlton questioned how many chickens Council was limiting the citizens to have.

Ms. Dula advised it would be five. The chickens would be included in the five. They are included as small domestic animals.

Alderman Tarlton said if you have five chickens and a dog it would be too much.

Ms. Dula commented you could have four chickens and a dog, three dogs and two chickens. She joked depending on where the dogs and chickens are you might not have any chickens.

Alderman Tarlton asked what if they are kept in cages.

Ms. Dula responded if it is outdoors it is five. The total is five of the small domestic in household. If you keep them in your dwelling unit, whatever that may be...

Alderman Tarlton interjected that a chicken house could be considered inside.

City Attorney John Crone commented but that is not your dwelling.

Ms. Dula responded but not inside of your dwelling unit, your house, apartment, mobile home, whatever dwelling unit you are living in, you can have as many as you want to cram in there. She wouldn't advise it, but you can. As long as you keep it inside. If you are keeping animals outside under these categories it is a total of five.

Alderman Tarlton commented it sounded like a good compromise.

Ms. Dula commented otherwise, as previously presented the code as it currently says....

Alderman Tarlton asked would that include the fish in the pond in your backyard.

Ms. Dula advised she was not going to get into that. If you have a coy pond she didn't think anybody was going to be over there counting.

Alderman Seaver joked if you decide to take your dog for a walk then you would have to bring the goat in the house.

Ms. Dula responded switch them off. Put a dog costume on your goat. Some people will probably try and game the system that is to be expected. She asked if Council had any other questions.

Mayor Cline asked Mr. Strickland if that answered his question.

Mr. Strickland advised it clarified it, yes.

Mayor Cline advised Council was still in the public hearing. He asked if anyone else wished to speak. No one else appeared.

Alderman Lail moved to continue the public hearing. He requested either the City Manager Warren Wood or Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula to advise him of the timing.

City Attorney John Crone asked the second meeting in August.

Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula advised that was fine. That was two weeks. It could be done.

Alderman Lail added to his motion to the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

Mayor Cline asked if there was a second to the motion.

Alderman Seaver seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Presentation of the Framework for an Economic Development Strategic Plan

City Manager Warren Wood will present the framework for a new City of Hickory Economic Development Strategic Plan and discuss the reorganization of responsibilities within the City Manager's Office that will be needed in order to implement this new Strategic Plan once adopted.

City Manager Warren Wood presented a PowerPoint presentation. He advised he would discuss economic development and the framework for creating an economic development program. He advised we do economic development, we don't do it under an organized plan and we need to be more strategic and coordinated in the way we approach it. This was a framework, this was not the plan itself; this was the framework for getting there. He commented during his presentation he would discuss: developing the plan; aligning the organization to execute the plan and what that is going to look like; review the data on why this is a top priority, some of the economic data from the last fifteen years or so; change in mindset, start thinking bigger about our approach to economic development; his recommendation related to what the strategic areas of focus should be in this framework; the organizational alignment or the restructuring specifically within the City Manager's Office that they would recommend undertaking, building the organizational capacity to execute the plan in a coordinated way, building the bandwidth to do this. When you put the economic development plan together with the framework and then the implementation plan, how we are going to realign to execute it, you have an economic development program. It was not going to be a situation where we are developing a plan and putting it on the shelf. That was not what he was talking about. They are developing a plan then they are going to align the organization and have to find some resources to implement and execute the plan. At the end of the day we will have a more robust economic development program that is more comprehensive, better coordinated, and better resourced. The results will be measured by job growth, population growth and tax base growth. Obviously within each one of those you drill down, what types of jobs are being created? How much are they paying? Where is the population growing or not growing? Where is the tax base growing or not growing? What types of tax base are we seeing? And then there is all kinds of measures beyond that, but at the end of the day that is the essence of what they will measure success by.

Mr. Wood discussed the recent economic history and why this was so important, between 2000 - 2010 Hickory metro had a net loss of 47,000, which is within the four county region. We were probably one of the hardest hit areas in the country during that span. Between 2000 - 2015 the age group 25-34 declined by 22½ percent. Between 2010 - 2015 the metro area declined by 3,000. The projections from the COG state that over the next 20 years the metro's population growth is projected to be flat. The metro area was actually 365,000 people, there was a little bit of growth projected but in essence it is just a few hundred. His understanding was if you take the growth projected in Sherrills Ford, in southeast Catawba County, out of the scenario it is even worse. Over the past six years we have had a net gain of 7,500 jobs in the metro area. We are rebounding slowly. Over that same span Catawba County had a net gain of 6,900 jobs by itself. We have been carrying the load of the metro area in terms of Catawba County in job growth. The Catawba County EDC projects over the next 20 years we are going to have deficit in our workforce of 20,000. That is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity. Basically we will continue to have job creation in Catawba County. With our demographics folks are going to be leaving the workforce, retiring or what not. When they did the math on that the deficit was 20,000 over the next 20 years, but again there is an opportunity there. Hickory's population now technically exceeds pre-recession levels. It is not significant, but the good news is during the recession we really didn't lose much population. We stayed around 40,000. Our sales tax collections now exceed the pre-recession levels and our property tax base grew by approximately four percent last year. That is the best percentage growth we have seen in some time. We are on recovery mode.

Mr. Wood discussed the statewide economic picture. The last two years 75 percent of all new job creation in North Carolina took place in the Charlotte metro and Raleigh Metro areas. In addition to that if North Carolina created 100,000 jobs last year 75,000 of them went to those two places. That is amazing. Now it is starting to level out a little bit, but that is what we have been up against the last two years. We are in direct competition with the rest of the State. Seventy percent of new residents came from another State or another country in 2016. He commented he lived outside of Charlotte for the past two years and he could attest to that. People were coming in from everywhere except for North Carolina. In the subdivision he lived in there was just a handful of families that were from North

Carolina. Everybody else was international, the upper Midwest or the northeast predominately. The North Carolina GDP has projected to grow 2.8 percent this year and 3.3 percent next year. He advised the statistic was from Wells Fargo, they project us to be in an expansion mode economically, so we are in a good place right now statewide. Also statewide, pointed to the fact that we are on the mend, of all the metro areas last year only Goldsboro and Jacksonville posted a net loss. All the other metro areas gained jobs during that year.

Mr. Wood discussed the need to start thinking bigger. Staff needs to start thinking bigger in the way we approach economic development. He advised that Hickory has an estimated daytime population of around 100,000 people. Our nighttime population is 40,000. During the day we are bigger than that. That is reflected in our industrial and corporate base, our per capita property tax base is about twice the size per capita that you would find in a city twice our size. On a per capita basis we have a very large property tax base. Our per capita sales tax collection is actually one of the highest in the State for larger cities. This reflects the fact that we are the economic hub of the metro area, 365,000 people. Folks come here to shop and dine. That is reflected in our sales tax numbers. We are the hub. Our utility system serves approximately 100,000 customers. I-40 and US Highway 321 carry approximately 100,000 cars per day. When you look at our inventory of cultural and sports amenities, the inventory is what you would find in a larger city. With our approach to economic development we need to be thinking bigger. What that means to a large degree is going to be more resources applied to economic development and the way we approach it.

Mr. Wood commented our citizens are already thinking big. To some degree we are playing catchup. In 2014 voters approved a bond referendum that allocated \$15 million dollars towards economic development and \$25 million dollars toward transportation improvements. In 2014 we went through the malaise, that span of two recessions, and it was devastating. In 2014 the voters said that it enough. We are getting back in the game. We are going to approve the bond referendum. We are going to do these projects and create the amenities people are looking for. We are going to put money aside for economic development. Again, we are getting back in the game. There is now new economic energy and optimism, in his opinion, in Hickory that was lacking during the great recession. Mr. Wood advised he was away for two years and he knew the feeling in the community. It was easy to be down on us after all we had been through. That was understandable. Being back he senses a lot more economic energy and optimism. He hears good stories. The feel that he gets is different now than it was even in 2014. The communities thinking has evolved. We have went through that stretch, the two devastating recessions. Survival for us was we went through two retirement incentive programs to lower the salaries we were paying, just as an organization to survive. He commented companies were doing the same sort of thing. We got through that. We have been through the recovery mode. Our numbers are now pre-recession numbers to a large degree. Now we can start focusing on prosperity, the next phase of this.

Alderman Seaver questioned Mr. Wood about the statement that our numbers are pre-recession, he asked was he talking about just in Hickory or Catawba County, all the metro.

Mr. Wood advised Hickory proper.

Alderman Seaver commented we had a net loss of 47,000.

Mr. Wood responded in the metro area.

Alderman Seaver asked how many of those were in Catawba County.

Mr. Wood advised the COG would have that information.

Alderman Seaver commented we got 7,500 back in the County did we replace the jobs that we lost.

Mr. Wood replied no. We have a ways to go. He thought Caldwell and Burke County, percentage wise were hit harder than us. The City does not currently have an economic development plan. We are involved in economic activities every day. We spend resources on economic development, but we do not have a formal strategic plan on how we should approach it and the areas we should be focusing on. That is something that is lacking in our inventory and that is what this is about. We have been involved in economic development. Scott Millar and his folks do economic development every day, but in terms of how that fits into a strategic plan

it is lacking as an example. However, we had a great foundation that was laid for a plan in 2010 with the adoption of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. You go through that plan and you can pick up definite themes. That was a citizen based plan. That was not something that Staff put together or a consultant. That came from the community. Themes in there identifies areas that we need to be focusing on from an economic development perspective. He advised that was the foundation or the framework for that plan. Obviously in 2010 those were not great times so we had the plan that was done but we never got around to implementing it because we were in essence still in survivor mode at that time. Although we were thinking strategically with the site visits that City Council was doing around particularly the southeast, the communities that were like us. The Inspiring Space initiative came out of that. We were thinking forward but in terms of this specific economic development plan we did not implement it at that time.

Mr. Wood commented in the 2030 Hickory by Choice Comprehensive Plan there were eight strategic areas of focus that come out of that related to economic development. He highlighted what each of those entailed to some degree. Our major industry and business recruitment retention expansion program. That is the Catawba County EDC. They go after large projects with either large employee numbers and or large tax base numbers or a combination of those things. That is what they do. They focus on the big projects to move the needle. Last year the EDC produced \$50 million dollars in additional tax base for the City and about 160 jobs. That is what they do year in year out. He wanted to be abundantly clear that what he was going through was not to be in competition with the EDC. They are a partner of ours. They do this for us. They do the big hunt for the large industry or corporate headquarters. What we are going through hopefully will enhance their ability to build tax base in Hickory. It is not in competition with them. He reiterated he wanted to be abundantly clear about that. They do the large green field development, they try to fill the large vacant buildings. We are working hand in hand with them on Park 1764, the project that came out of the bond referendum. There is some opportunity in Fairgrove Business Park. They do the corporate headquarter recruitment. They are recruiting on a national and international level. That is their game; that is what they do. That is one strategic area that will be within this plan. He discussed the gap in something that we are not currently pursuing. The small to midsize business development retention expansion outreach. Having a Business Development Manager, on Staff, that person's job will be to focus on the small to midsize business. Conduct local business outreach and site visits and help local businesses with startups for business expansions, business relocations, helping them through our development process. A resource for the small to midsize business who wants to expand or locate, or relocate within Hickory, we would have a resource in place to go out and do that work.

Alderman Seaver thought that would encourage more entrepreneurial spirit. Not everybody wants to go to work for a great big factory with three or four thousand people. They have got ideas of their own. He liked that.

Mr. Wood advised this would also help with the City's incentives and grant processes for some of those smaller projects. That is a gap in our current approach. He wasn't saying we don't do that, we don't have dedicated resources within the organization doing that. We need to build some organizational capacity with Staff to be able to go out and do that work. He discussed redevelopment, which is Dave Leonetti. He works with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and redevelopment projects, manages the Vacant Building Grant program, and works with the development community to repurpose vacant buildings. Also he does work with the Brownfield program in helping to find ways that we can leverage Brownfield mitigation funds and redevelopment projects. That is what he does, which is in place.

Mr. Wood discussed another area which doesn't exist, resources assigned to downtown. The City of Hickory is the largest property owner in downtown Hickory. We need to make sure that our assets are being leveraged in the right way to create economic development opportunities if possible, and find ways to leverage the downtown in general as an economic and cultural asset. More so than what it probably is today. There is this great downtown, we can make it better. Do some downtown merchant outreach and engagement work. He advised that Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt spends a lot of her time, he had spent a considerable amount of his time, working with the folk(s) downtown with issues and problems they have. The DDA runs the Mainstreet Program, so this would be something augmenting that sort of work. Identifying barriers in the downtown area to create a more vibrant downtown. One of the things that we are currently doing downtown, we are under contract with a group called the Development Finance Initiative they are associated with the UNC School of Government, they are coming to Hickory to

do a parcel by parcel analysis downtown so we really understand our inventory and where there might be some opportunities for economic development in the downtown area. It is going to be very granular, very specific. They will be engaging in that work. That is getting ready to get underway. Eventually this needs to evolve that we are doing that type of granular work citywide in specific areas to really understand where we have some potential and where we don't so we can spend our time and effort where there is some opportunity.

Mr. Wood discussed Planning and Development, which is Brian Frazier and his Staff. They have a significant focus on land use. They administer the City's Land Use Development Code. They are involved in both short term and long term planning. They conduct plan review for development plans and making sure they have the capacity to identify changes that we might be able to make to the Land Development Code to encourage some economic development where we can. Being strategic in that area. That is currently in place.

Mr. Wood discussed place making. This was the whole Inspiring Spaces initiative related to place making. When you look at the 2030 Comprehensive Plan it comes out loud and clear. We went through that process with the Inspiring Spaces initiative. In the phase that we are in with that now is really bond project implementation. We are focused on the City Walk, the Riverwalk, and gateways and streetscapes. He advised that was Staff member Kyle Butler. He works in the City Manager's Office, he is a Professional Engineer. We are in implementation phase of place making. That is what they are focused on right now. Getting those projects up and out of the ground.

Mr. Wood discussed another gap, transportation planning. He commented Council had heard it tonight. There are some concerns, as an example about 321 and the impact that is going to have. What is going to be the impact economically with the 321 project, as an example? Having the technical staff in place to really understand where it might hurt us, where it might help us, where the opportunities might be. That project by itself is \$170 million dollars, that is a huge undertaking. Also \$25 million dollars of the bond project which were approved, \$40 million dollars initial approval, \$25 million dollars of that was for transportation, so we need to understand where our opportunities are. You look at our downtown street system, we have these one way pairs that were put in place years ago to move employment traffic that may be an outdated use because some of that employment doesn't exist anymore. There are some opportunities to look at some of those roadways. City Council had that conversation years ago to make those two-way roads, what does that do for economic development possibilities? Another example, the City Walk will be connected to the Riverwalk via Old Lenoir Old. There is going to be a streetscape project related to that. What opportunity might pop up related to that? Having those types of skill sets on board to really have an understanding. It is not just roadways, it could be public transportation and moving our workforce. Where are there gaps? Where do we need to improve? Really having Staff assigned that can do that sort of work and give us data that we can use to make good decisions with.

Mr. Wood discussed marketing and branding, which is Dana Kaminske and her Staff. They manage and promote the City's branding message, Life. Well Crafted., and how we can promote Hickory in a better way by marketing and branding our activities and our economic development efforts. He advised Ms. Kaminske told him a story where she was interviewing the owner of Cornerstone United, who is located in the old Piedmont Wagon building, and he said he runs the City Walk every day. He goes to work, he has his running stuff on, starts at the Piedmont Wagon building and goes all the way to Lenoir-Rhyne and back. City Walk is not there yet, but that is a great story in anticipation of that. Transportation Insight, the whole University Mill redevelopments, all those are great stories and those are folks that believe in Hickory and have spent their money making something happen. They are getting that message out there in a consistent way. Also working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the TDA, the EDC, the Chamber of Commerce, to some degree co-marketing some opportunities and making sure that we are getting the same message out in the proper way. That would be how the marketing/brand management side of the house would fit into this. He advised those were the eight areas that he would propose focusing on. He didn't know if there was an economic development, he was sure there was, that couldn't fall into one of these things. One that came to mind was workforce development. He advised that wasn't on the list because we don't do workforce development, but we need to understand where the gaps are. Who is doing it and what type of work they are doing. What kind of numbers are they producing? What kind of numbers do we need? Really getting an understanding of that.

Mr. Wood discussed developing the details, how we are going about putting the details together. We have engaged with Martin-McGill consulting out of Asheville to assist in the development of specific goals and objectives associated with each of these eight focus areas within this economic development plan. The process will be, we will engage economic development stakeholder groups in the community for input and feedback on details to be included in the plan, such as the Downtown Development Association, the TDA, the EDC, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Business Development Committee. The Business Development Committee will probably be engaged twice; once getting feedback from what they think should be included in the plan, and a second time once the draft is done to run that through them, here is the final draft that will go before City Council and to give them a chance for additional input. He advised they were going to focus on stakeholder groups that have an interest in economic development activity within the City. He commented there was a lot of individuals with a lot of strong opinions too, and they would be glad to hear from them as well as what we should be doing or shouldn't be doing. They hear both sides. He commented that citizens were welcomed to email the City Manager's Office, or call, or if they have time they could sit down and talk to them. If there are an individuals out there, they would love to hear from them too. They don't want to leave any stone unturned in doing this. The final recommendation for this plan would ultimately comeback before City Council for their consideration for approval. They hope to have that final plan this fall. We have got to move, we have got to go. It is time. He realized there was an election coming up but we have to go with this.

Mr. Wood discussed the organizational alignment to execute the plan. This isn't a plan that is going to set on the shelf. This is where we need to align the organization and do a reorganization of sorts to make sure that we are creating the organizational capacity to be able to go out and perform at a higher level. We have these eight focus areas. The eight focus areas in the plan will each be directly managed by an assigned Staff member. Each one of those eight areas will have somebody responsible. He stressed this is extremely important, those eight Staff and the staff that work for them will each report directly to an Assistance City Manager, Andrea Surratt who will coordinate their work. He explained they were going to create an "Office of Business Development and Planning" within the City Manager's Office. They talked about it could be a division of this department or this could be its own department, they are elevating it. This is going to have a major focus, it has major importance. It is going to be an office within the City Manager's Office. So when Andrea Surratt goes out she speaks with the authority of the City Manager. If she is working on a project and there is a water and sewer issue, she can call Kevin Greer, the Department Head and Kevin will be very responsive because she is speaking for the City Manager's Office. The same thing, there may be a Fire Inspection issue, so she can engage Chief Hollar in that same way. There may be an issue with Catawba County Building Inspections, so she can call one of her peers in the County Manager's Office and they work peer to peer and maybe they can be more responsive than if it were a Department Head or a Division Head calling. We are elevating this. He pointed out he was very careful on the naming of this, it is going to be the "Office of Business Development and Planning". We did not want to create the office of economic development. We have the Catawba County EDC. People don't know who to go to, it starts getting confusing, the name is something different, that is deliberate. He reiterated this is not in competition with the EDC, this is in partnership.

Mayor Cline asked if Mr. Wood was proposing cutting the funding to the EDC.

Mr. Wood responded if anything this is going to require more money. We are not cutting. We need to work on providing an inventory for the EDC to market, but that is a separate topic. We are going to allocate the resources for Staff and money necessary to effectively administer this economic development program. We are going to build organizational capacity by utilizing existing Staff that possess the needed skill sets and add new positions where new skill sets are needed. He advised that is where the challenge comes in because we are looking at new positions. This new office within the manager's office will contain 14 to 16 employees which will more than likely include three to four new positions. His challenge is going out and finding the money for three or four new positions. The time that he was here before he left, we had been through budget cutting to balance the budget every year. We have cut a lot of stuff, so that is going to be a tall order, but we do not have any choice. We have got to go out and find the money to implement this and get this going. Other departments have other staffing needs, and they understand that, but if we don't get this right with job growth, population growth and tax base growth, we are not going to move the needle to be able to do much new. This is why this is so important. He explained the structure will be flat with these eight areas reporting to the Assistant City Manager in the

Manager's office. It is a very flat structure. You are going to have folks underneath some of those people, but those managers are going to be on the same level there. Once the structure is in place you are adding staff as workload dictates, or you are scaling the organization. For example, Dave Leonetti's work in the redevelopment field really takes off and we have a lot of projects coming in and Mrs. Surratt recognizes that we have a lot of opportunity that we are missing here, we need to add some Staff. So then we are adding whatever skill set we need in Dave's office, we are scaling it, we are adding somebody, (he has to find the money to do that) but we can't miss opportunities like that. That is how this will work in terms of moving forward. When the economy slows down in a certain area then you could be scaling back, it works the other way.

Mr. Wood discuss managing expectations. We are going to have to be thoughtful in deciding what opportunities to pursue. We anticipate working where we have momentum. Out of the gate we are going to look at return on investment and low hanging fruit and where can we be successful early on. We have a lot of folks that come to us with a lot of great ideas and the reality is we are not going to be able to chase all of them. We are going to have to manage that even with this new structure and what we are setting up, we are not going to be able to be all things to all people. We are going to have to be thoughtful about what the opportunities are that we are pursuing where we see the greatest opportunity, the greatest potential for success. Our economic development plan and organizational structure will be accessed annually. He anticipates over time year one would look different than what year five would look like. They are going to fine tune it and improve it as we move through. The measurement of the performance will be done annually and those measures will also improve over time. His goal for getting the plan and the corresponding reorganization in the City Manager's Office in place would be before the end of this calendar year. They hope to bring this to Council this fall and then go through the process, if it is approved, advertising for Staff and getting geared up the first of the year if possible it would be off and running even if we don't have all the people in the positions in place.

Mr. Wood concluded at the end of the day it is about job growth, population growth and tax base growth. The job growth is very fundamental. They want folks to have the opportunity to take care of themselves and their family in this community. That is a fundamental something that we work on every day; Scott Millar and his work, on down the line. The population growth side of it, Carolyn Miller years ago sat here and said in her experience in her endeavors through life if you are not growing you are dying, so we need to be growing. The tax base growth, they would like to be able to enhance services that we are providing the citizens and we can't do that if the tax base isn't growing. He advised that is just the fundamental, and you could peel the onion back on each one of those and get more detailed, but that was the elevator speech. He asked Council for questions or comments.

Alderman Guess commented this is the direction that he thought they had been looking at for at least a couple of years, now that we have a new City Manager on board. He knew that this was something, from the get-go, from the very beginning, something that was on their minds, and something that was discussed. He applauded it, and thought it was certainly the time, and it might be a little bit behind the time, but he knew that Mr. Wood's efforts regarding this, and the Staff's efforts regarding this had been basically since day one, since Mr. Wood started, and even before that, the ground work was laid by the Staff that was here. He reiterated that he applauds it and he thinks it is the right direction for them to move forward in.

Alderman Lail advised he was highly supportive of organizing in this fashion. He appreciated the fact that it would iterate as it moves through over time. He thought that the Airport was an underutilized economic asset that we have got. He thinks there is a place that the airport could plug into here. He was very supportive of the notion of jobs, tax base, and population growth. He appreciated Mr. Wood putting a since of urgency behind it, because in his experience governing is not the quickest thing in the world, as you know. They all get frustrated with this, but in this case this requires some urgency. He appreciated his willingness to do that.

Alderman Seaver commented it is just like it was mentioned earlier we are behind on catching up to where we were before the big economic downturn in 2008. We still have some catching up with everything rolling along faster it is time to do it.

Mr. Wood advised Council he wasn't asking for any action, they will bring back the final version in the next few months.

2. Consideration of Chapters 1-6 of the updated Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. (Exhibit XI.B.2.)

When the current Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan was accepted by Hickory City Council, it was done so with the expectation the plan would be routinely updated to ensure its relevancy would continue over time. Specifically, Chapter 10 (now Chapter 12) of the plan indicated five updates should be conducted to capture changes needed to maintain the plan. In December of 2015 the Hickory Regional Planning Commission appointed a subcommittee of its members to work with staff to review and update the plan as needed. The Planning Commission subcommittee met monthly from January of 2016 until February of 2017 to undertake this process. Upon completion of its review, the Planning Commission subcommittee held a public meeting on March 22, 2017 to unveil the updated plan to the public, and gather public comment. At the conclusion of the meeting, staff took the comments that were provided and further refined the draft updated plan. The Planning Commission subcommittee directed staff to prepare the plan for review by the entirety of the Hickory Regional Planning Commission for its review and recommendations to Hickory City Council. In an effort to make review of the updated plan manageable, the plan will be broken into two sections. The first section consists of Chapters 1-6, while the second section consists of Chapters 7-12 and appendices A and B. The Hickory Regional considered the updated Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan at its April 26, 2017 regular meeting. After consideration, the Planning Commission voted unanimously (10-0) to recommend City Council's adoption of the updated plan.

City Manager Warren Wood asked the City's Planning Director Brian Frazier to the podium to present Council, for their consideration, changes to the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Director Brian Frazier presented a PowerPoint presentation. He advised Council that he would be discussing the five year update for the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan looking at Chapters 1 through 6. Comprehensive long range plans and projects over several decades in the future, it is not just a short version, it is a long term version. Periodic updates are needed to insure that the plan is still relevant and its objectives reflects progress and change. He commented that some of the Council members were on Council in 1997 and 1999 when Hickory went through and Council adopted the 1999 Hickory by Choice, the first one, it was a future land use and transportation plan only. After 20 years it was decided that they needed to take a look at that and what was recommended by Staff, by the Planning Commission, and adopted by City Council in January of 2011 was Hickory by Choice 2030 which was a comprehensive plan. Beyond land use and future transportation projects, demographics and history they also looked at things like parks and recreation, public infrastructure, public facilities, economic development, housing and the like. Back then they promised Council that they would be taking a look and coming back with a five year update that Council had agreed to. Over a 14 month process in 2016-2017 the Hickory Regional Planning Commission appointed within themselves a five member subcommittee and they meet with him and his Staff, Cal Overby, Ross Zelenske, and Dave Leonetti on a monthly basis, usually before the regularly scheduled Hickory Regional Planning Commission meeting. They went over this chapter by chapter to provide those necessary updates that they thought the City needed after five years. The final draft document was presented to the public on March 22, 2017. They conducted a drop-in event, like a small design charrette, it was reasonably well attended for something that wasn't real confrontational or had many major or significant changes in it. Soon thereafter the Planning Commission voted 10 to 0 unanimously to recommend adoption of the plan to City Council.

Mr. Frazier discussed the updates to Chapters 1 through 6 and what they cover: the introduction, community vision and design, land use, housing, transportation, and economic development. He showed a photo of the Cornerstone Project which Mr. Wood had previously mentioned. He noted the before and after picture. He wished he had a picture of the inside because it was really after. He discussed Chapter 1 – the Introduction, which was updated to include a narrative of the efforts that he had just described that were initiated to undertake the plan's five year update. Chapter 2 - Visioning and Community Design, which was revised to update the chapter's policies to more precisely focus on revitalization efforts on disinvested commercial areas. They talked about the Vacant Building and Demolition Grant, the Land Development Code, the Brownfield program, Operation No Vacancy and the like. The goals and policy portion of Chapter 3 which focused exclusively on land use was updated to include the following: promote residential development in commercial mixed use areas; set standards for the expansion and infill of office uses along thoroughfares; altered the recommended

density which is dwelling units per acre in low, medium, and high density residential areas to mirror what was already contained within the Hickory Land Development Code. They weren't exactly copasetic so they wanted to make sure that they were. They revised the narrative regarding mixed use areas to clearly indicate the residential development as not only being appropriate but encouraged within those mixed use areas. Which the original Hickory by Choice adopted by Council in 1999 called for. They also included references throughout about the bond project, the bond initiative, and the proposed Park 1764. Chapter 4 Housing was revised to provide updated demographics and incomes for housing, homeowners, buyers within the City. A lot of the demographics were updated. Much of that came from the US Census Bureau and the COG. The chapter update also included a discussion of the efforts to rehab substandard housing and the promotion of homeownership opportunities not just through private efforts but by the Community Development Block Grant, Habitat for Humanity, and the like. Chapter 5 - Transportation was updated to reflect the changes and additions that were included in the most recent version that Council had seen of the Greater Hickory Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan. That has a time horizon of 2040. This chapter also included more information regarding the operation and need of the Hickory Regional Airport partially as an economic development engine. Chapter 6 - Economic Development was updated by including new data regarding wages, employment, related demographics, and recent economic development initiatives including Inspiring Spaces, the bond initiatives, and Park 1764. Revised discussion regarding incentives offered at the local level, which was tweaked, and there was some fairly significant changes offered at the State level to reflect those General Assembly changes and those economic development programs. They also deleted some of the redundant goals and policies related to land use that were already discussed in some length within the land use chapter of the plan.

Mr. Frazier discussed what would be next. This evening consideration of Chapters 1 through 6 of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan five year update. At the next Council meeting he will give a presentation regarding consideration of Chapters 7 through 12 and the two appendices "A" and "B". At the conclusion of the next Council meeting for Council to review the updated plan in its entirety. They would have all 12 chapters plus the two appendices. This was approved unanimously by the Planning Commission and Staff respected recommended that Council readopt the plan, specifically adopt the five year updates as outlined. He asked Council if they had any questions.

Mayor Cline asked if Council had any questions. He thanked Mr. Frazier. He asked for a motion to approve the updates to Chapters 1 through 6 of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Alderman Lail asked if Mr. Frazier wanted Council to review it all and then approve the whole plan once they hear Chapters 7 through 12.

Mayor Cline confirmed that Council would not be approving Chapters 1 through 6 but would consider that at the next Council meeting. He asked if there was any further discussion on the Hickory by Choice Plan. There was none.

3. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

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

Ward 2 (Tarlton Appoints)	VACANT
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)	
Ward 2 (Tarlton Appoints)	VACANT
Burke County (Mayor Appoints)	VACANT
Catawba County (Mayor Appoints)	VACANT

Alderman Tarlton nominated Daniel Shabeldeen as Ward 2 Representative for the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms (Appointed by City Council)	
Historic Properties (Council Appoints)	VACANT
Historic Properties (Council Appoints)	VACANT
Building Trades Profession (Council Appoints)	VACANT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)	
(4) Positions	VACANT

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)	
Ward 5 (Zagaroli Appoints)	VACANT
At-Large (2) (Mayor Appoints)	VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)	
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints)	VACANT
Ward 4 (Guess Appoints)	VACANT

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)	
Position 1	Grover Lineberger (Eligible for Reappointment)
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

Alderman Seaver nominated Elaine Seaver as the Ward 3 Representative on the Recycling Advisory Board.

Mayor Cline, on behalf of Alderwoman Patton, nominated Tawana Thomas as an At-Large Representative on the Recycling Advisory Board.

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)	
At-Large (not including ETJ) (Council Appoints)	VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

Alderman Tarlton moved seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the above nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Seaver advised he represents Ward 3 and he still has an opening for the Public Art Commission seat. If anyone knows of anyone in Ward 3 who would be interested have them call him.

Alderman Tarlton advised he had one for the Community Appearance Commission also.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

Mayor Cline asked Mr. Wood if there were any petitions or requests.

City Manager Warren Wood replied no sir.

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

Mayor Cline advised Council there was a Special Event Application which was inadvertently left off of the Consent Agenda. He requested a motion to consider this matter not on the agenda. Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver to consider the matter not on the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Cline explained the Special Event Application was for Girl Scouts National S'mores Day Event, August 10, 2017, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sails on the Square. He advised a copy of the application was at Council's seat. He asked for a motion to approve the Special Event Application. Alderman Tarlton moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the application. The motion carried unanimously.

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

City Manager Warren Wood introduced Rachel Allure, she was a 2014 graduate of Hickory High School, and a rising senior at UNC Chapel Hill. Ms. Allure studies political science and psychology and plans to attend law school in the future. Ms. Allure had been working with Catawba County's Attorney for the past two summers and was currently working with Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula. He joked that she likes it at the City a lot better than she did at the County. He thanked Ms. Allure for working with the City this summer.

Alderman Seaver advised he would not be at the next City Council meeting as he would be representing the City's area at our sister city in Altenburg, Germany.

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

City Attorney John Crone requested Council go into Closed Session, (pursuant to NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3)), to discuss a potential litigation matter.

Alderman Guess moved seconded by Alderman Seaver that Council go into closed session to consult with the attorneys to discuss a potential litigation matter. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Guess mentioned that Richard Garrison, a reporter from Morganton, had died unexpectedly on Friday. Mr. Garrison was real faithful to attend the City Council meetings from Morganton and report back to the folks in Morganton about the goings on in the Unifour area. He wanted to make everyone aware of that and they were going to miss Richard. Mr. Garrison had been extremely faithful, and Alderman Guess would talk to him about every Council meeting that he attended. He would be missed.

Council convened into closed session at approximately 8:18 p.m.

No action was taken upon return to open session.

XV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk