

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 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 Mick Berry, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Governmental Affairs Manager Yaidee Fox, and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Wright called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Rev. Susan Walker, Associate Pastor, Exodus Missionary Outreach Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
 - A. Presentation by Community Groups Requesting Appropriations from the City Council during the Next Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016.

The Council will not take action tonight. Action will be taken when the Council considers the City's annual budget in May or June. These presentations are made so Council Members can ask questions or make comments about the requests. Presenters will be allotted no more than five (5) minutes to make their presentations to Council.

Organization	Presentation By	Amount Requested
Catawba County Economic Development Corporation	Scott Millar	\$151,976
Habitat for Humanity of Catawba Valley	Mitzi Gellman	\$19,088
Hickory Downtown Development Association	Connie Kincaid	\$50,000
Hickory Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau	Mandy Pitts and Bruce Eckard	\$20,000
Safe Harbor Rescue Mission	Vicki Murray	\$10,000
SALT Block Foundation	Michael Thomas	\$100,000
United Arts Council of Catawba County	Vicki Martin	\$40,143

Mr. Scott Millar, Catawba County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), advised Council that the EDC spent a significant amount of time this year working on some very positive outcomes, and also a headquarters opportunity that didn't turn out quite as positively as they had hoped. With Transportation Insight there had been changes to the whole area of the community, but there also was the whole area from Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard with Lenoir-Rhyne's Health Sciences Facility that is going to provide many years of great opportunity and growth in there. The Blue Bloodhound project created almost 200 really high paying jobs in certain sectors in an IT field there. In the last couple of weeks he had been working with a company that is being displaced by all of these projects and that is looking around Hickory for other locations. That is providing expanded opportunities around the City. What City Council is desiring for growth within the City is occurring, and has been occurring. He felt that Council understood the value of good economic development. He requested \$151,976. He advised that they would work with the City to try and make this opportunity payoff for many years to come. He asked City Council if they had any questions.

Mayor Wright asked what percentage of their total budget was covered by the City of Hickory.

Mr. Millar commented that it is approximately a quarter of it to keep in perspective. The County puts in 52 percent. The City of Hickory is the next largest. He advised that it is a convoluted factor but it takes in the entire tax base for the County by the municipalities as well as population. The City of Conover and City of Newton are in line, but Maiden had also moved up because of the Apple investment and they had moved up in their funding accordingly.

Ms. Mitzi Gellman, Habitat for Humanity of Catawba Valley, advised that their request was for funding for their sewer and water taps, as they had done for the past 25 years. She advised that their request of \$19,088 was for eight sewer and water taps for new home construction. She commented that this is part of their older traditional program. The sewer and water taps will be located in the Northstone neighborhood off of Falling Creek Road. They recently celebrated the dedication of two homes in which Alderman Zagaroli attended. She presented a PowerPoint presentation and displayed photos of what the housing looked like in this neighborhood. This neighborhood will have 18 houses, 10 traditional Habitat homes, and 8 market rate homes. All of these homes will be called "net zero ready", which means they are extremely energy efficient. If they had a solar panel on

the top they would be able to live completely off of the grid based on the electricity that they would produce with the solar array on the houses. The houses they are building now will not have solar panels due to the expense, but they are making them as energy efficient as possible. The average power bill for all of these homes should be around \$80 per month for everything. They have improved the exterior construction on these homes. They are using LP smart siding, no more vinyl siding. It has a nice look with painted finishes, and looks more like a wood product. It is really durable and long lasting. The homes have more of an open floor plan, and more of a traditional design that you might see in older neighborhoods as well. She showed a photo of the Gruever Family, all five of the Gruever kids, plus two adults. Mr. Chris Gruever is a Principal at a private school in Conover, his wife is a stay at home mom. She showed a photo of their finished home, except for the grass. They are still building simple descent homes. She pointed out a pull up bar which is new which will accommodate a few bar stools. She commented that the design is more of an open flow. They also capitalize on things that keep their cost down. The stove and the refrigerator are donated by Whirlpool for every new house construction that they do. She showed a photo of the high efficiency washer and dryers. They also install low flow shower and toilets, a heat pump hot water system and a mini-split heat pump system as well. Those are new technologies for them, but it keeps the cost down for the homeowner overall. She advised that it was a four bedroom house, with an open wrap around porch. She showed a photo of the Gruever's neighbor the Allred family, Keyandra and her son. Keyandra works at Trinity Ridge. This home was sponsored by Church of the Ascension along with Holy Trinity Lutheran in partnership with Habitat, and also in memory of Ed Rogers who was the founding member of Habitat for Catawba County. She commented that these kids would all move into the neighborhood about the same time, and become super playmates. She pointed out a house across the street which was under construction and advised that this was one of the market rate houses which is available on the open market. She pointed out the greenspace in which they have been working with a design firm in Boone on. She should a concept for the area and pointed out the greenspace, a community garden area, a couple playground areas, a covered gazebo, as well as a counsel ring/fire pit kind of area. Across the street there is a wetland area where they will put in a walking trail. It will be designed for the teenagers as they grow up, a place for them to hang out. There will be wildflowers and other things planted in that area. She discussed the affordable cost for Habitat. The donation of the sewer and water taps saves them \$2,000 per house. Volunteer labor is an integral part of how they keep their cost low. This neighborhood was bought out of foreclosure, so per lot cost was around \$7,500 per lot. With the donation of gift in kind, roofing shingles, appliances, and insulation, the total material cost for a four bedroom, 1,300 square foot home, plus the wrap around porch which adds another 200 square feet to it, total cost approximately \$85,000. It was appraised for approximately \$115,000. That will be the purchase price of the home. She discussed affordable long term, and advised they will have concrete and brick porches, architectural shingles on the roof for 30 years, and the high efficiency appliances.

Ms. Gellman updated Council on the repairs program which the City had funded for them. Since July 1, they had 25 repairs, 12 of those were funded by the City of Hickory. She advised that they were trying to layer the funding so they could get more bang for their buck, for those 12 project they were also able to layer that with some Thrivent Financial funding, which was approximately \$2,500 per house. They also had done five Thrivent funding only. For example a need for a deck, or exterior renovations, or cleanup stuff. Eight of the 25 had been through private funding as well. They are in the beginning phases of a feasibility study with Habitat. If they receive a positive response from the community the campaign goal will be \$2.3 million with approximately \$1.2 to \$1.4 set aside for repairs and the balance to be for new construction and other items as well.

Alderman Tarlton thanked Ms. Gellman.

Ms. Connie Kincaid, Hickory Downtown Development Association, commented that their mission is to stimulate economic development within the context of historic preservation. She advised they had a vision statement that was created by the community and each year they have their work plan that takes them a few steps closer to seeing the reality of that vision statement. This past year they installed three additional directional signs downtown, as well as increasing the safety along the railroad tracks. They worked with private businesses, non-profits, and government agencies. Their festivals and events generated more than seven million dollars of economic impact to the Hickory Metro area this past year. She advised Council that this information was included in the annual report that she had left for them. She encouraged Council to look at the annual report. She shared with Council that their Board of Directors held their annual planning retreat last Friday. It was 98 percent attended. It was facilitated by the Director of the North Carolina Main Street Center out of the Department of Commerce. It was held at Transportation Insight and it was a very productive day. They would like to see downtown as a cultural center and a gathering place for the community based on three aspects of development: education, entertainment, and commerce. She commented that you automatically think of the wonderful things that are going on at the Hickory Museum of Art, Hickory Community Theatre, the Symphony, or anything over at the SALT Block, the Friday night concerts, the Downtown Art Crawl, but there is much more. She commented, look at our individual

businesses and what they are creating like the chef's demonstration at the Natural Olive, or the new beer releases from Olde Hickory Brewery, or the wine tastings, the art competitions from Full Circle Arts. They all create a cultural environment in a commercial area where our individual businesses are giving us places for the community to gather. It is more than just benches and those wonderful tables and chairs around the Sails that people gather around on a daily basis, even in the cold. It is more than that. It is taking our businesses that additional step. She advised they have 1,400 square feet available for residential and commercial space that is valued at \$32 million dollars. There is 131 residents and 2,400 employees. She commented that annual report does not tell you that from June 30th until December 31st, they went from a 98 percent occupancy to an 81 percent occupancy for a multitude of reasons over a whole lot of properties. That gives us this incredible opportunity to welcome those corporate centers and professional services and the retailers that can complement our existing mix. It is an exciting time to be in downtown Hickory. Over the next 7 years the city walk will completely change the face of our downtown. Together we brought downtown to where it is now and together we can take it to where it will be in the future. She commented that they look forward to working on that partnership. She requested, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the general membership of Hickory Downtown Development Association, \$50,000 for fiscal year 2016/2017. They value their partnerships, and look forward to working with the City in the future.

Mayor Wright commented that when Ms. Kincaid ran down the list of the arts she left out poetry.

Ms. Kincaid advised that they have that at Tasteful Beans. He has published 13 books at this point. He has a poetry reading coming up on March 8th.

Alderman Lail questioned the occupancy. The boundaries were expanded of downtown to include Transportation Insight. He asked if that decline included the addition.

Ms. Kincaid advised yes. Their occupancy is based on square footage, and they take in all square footages from the basement all the way to the highest floor. They divide it up by use as well. She advised that she had the numbers if Council was interested in seeing them.

Mayor Wright commented that we are getting some apartments.

Ms. Kincaid confirmed that was correct. In the near future there will be three more announcements of new businesses coming in. We are already beginning to fill up the available square footage.

Mayor Wright commented that city walk is just going to add to the excitement and attract the young people and the companies that employ them, which is Council's goal.

Ms. Kincaid commented that in downtown they represent all of the age groups, from the retirement planners that work with the older folks, to the children and toy stores that have the young kids coming in, and everyone in between.

Mayor Wright thanked Ms. Kincaid.

Mr. Bruce Eckard, Hickory Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, thanked Council for their past support, and for all they had done over the years with the Convention & Visitors Bureau and also with the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). They look forward to Council's support going forward. He commented that they were probably asking for the least amount of money. He joked that he would talk to Mandy Pitts about that for the next year. He thanked them for letting them hire one of the City's former dedicated employees, Mandy Pitts. He commented that the 90 days that Mandy was working with and training with Bebe Leitch might have been the happiest 90 days of her life. But now that she has worked for 47 days at the Convention & Visitors Bureau, and TDA, she might ask for her old position back. She has grown up in a hurry. She will do the job and it will be a win/win for the City, the community, the Tourism Development Authority, and for the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Ms. Mandy Pitts, Hickory Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau commented that it was good to see City Council and it was great to be here. She commented that this is where she grew up, she is still growing up, and everything she had learned she had learned right here. She introduced Sarah Davis, Director of Sales, who is a big part of the team at the Tourism Development Authority. The \$20,000 that they were requesting was to help with marketing Hickory on the Convention & Visitors Bureau side. She had seen firsthand, Sarah Davis and the team aggressively go after different meeting and convention planners. They go to Raleigh, Winston, and different places to encourage people to come to Hickory. Bebe Leitch use to say, once you come to Hickory you are going to come back every single year. They have great meeting spaces, wonderful hotel rooms, a safe community, lots of parks and recreational facilities. The money goes towards trying to help recruit those

people to Hickory. Hickory is really the place where people want to meet. They also have a Visitors Center. A lot of people think that the Visitors Center is paid for by the State. It is not, it is a local Visitors Center. They promote primarily what is happening in the Hickory Metro, but across the State as well. She advised that it is thousands of people and they are really picking up the relocation guides as well. She commented that is uplifting to her because she knows how hard they have worked to get people to move to the area. They will place at least 30 ads in National, State, and local publications. For example, Our State, the Great Smokey Mountains, an USA Magazine. They have 15 new events and conferences. That means it is paying off, all of these years meeting with these meeting executives. They have 60 repeat customers this year that are having daylong conferences, or couple of days conferences. She advised that 20,190 people in Catawba County work in tourism. Whether it is hotels, the Crawdads, Hickory Motor Speedway, or restaurants. That is a big deal. She advised that was a \$43 million dollar payroll for 20,190 people. She advised that Bebe Leitch had said that it is the purest form of economic development as you have people coming to Hickory, spending money and enjoying it and hopefully coming back to live. She commented about mottos and brands, they do Visitors Well Crafted, Meetings Well Crafted, Sports Well Crafted, and Every Thing Well Crafted. They came up with an informal motto, "We expect more, so we give more". She knows that is why customers keep coming back. She is hopeful that the City will continue to support them. She advised she would come back next year with a more detailed plan how a bigger investment could have a bigger payback. She thanked Council.

Mayor Wright pointed out to Mr. Eckard that the Hickory Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau was third from the bottom.

Ms. Vicki Murray, Safe Harbor Rescue Mission, advised she was at the bottom. She thanked Council for their support of Safe Harbor Rescue Mission. From the community relations grants that they have received to now housing the administrative offices in a building downtown so they could free up four offices for more programming for the women that they serve. She wanted Council to see the impact that Safe Harbor is having in the City. Safe Harbor cares deeply for those that are in poverty. They want to be the front runners for ending and preventing generational poverty. Women and children are the fastest growing population in America, and in Catawba County as well. The new day program serves women and children that are experiencing homelessness. In the last six years their numbers have grown by 267 percent. Last year they had 4,818 visits to the new day program. Once they meet the immediate need of food and shelter, their next goal is to help them obtain housing and full-time employment. They do this through their case management, counseling and the many classes that they offer women. Last year they spent \$153 billion dollars in public assistance. This trend cannot continue and we must find realistic solutions. Studies have also shown that leaving a person chronically homeless cost taxpayers \$30,000 - \$50,000 per year through emergency room visits, jails, and shelters. It is a vicious cycle from the street to the hospital, to the shelter, to the jail, to the psychiatric center and drug treatment, back to the street again. Their efforts have measured success. Last year 26 percent of the women that came through their case management, that attended their classes, are now housed, and 10.2 percent of these women have full-time employment. Greenleaf transitional housing is where they also save thousands of taxpayer's dollars. They are keeping women off the streets of Hickory. They have 14 livable apartments that are almost at full capacity now. This serves the graduates of their Whole Woman Program which is a yearlong program. They transition to their apartments. They just recently opened it up to women that are experiencing homelessness. Last week they moved four women that were homeless into their apartments. They will live there temporarily while they help them find jobs, get to job interviews, and to other partnering agencies in town. She realized that she was taking a risk in asking for operational support. It would probably be a lot sexier for her to ask for an addition to their building, but the truth is they are meeting a huge need in Hickory. The women they serve are off the streets, they are out of the jails, and they are out of the emergency rooms. Therefore again saving the State and City money. She advised that they need the City's support, and she felt like the City needed the work of Safe Harbor. She advised that their proposal contained a list of their programs, there are many and they are implementing many more new programs this year. She discussed their Whole Woman Recovery Program. She advised that they are finding that Judges are learning the success of their program and many times they are offering a woman an early release from jail if she will commit herself to their yearlong program. Again, saving taxpayer's dollars. In our State to keep a woman incarcerated for a year it is \$23,000 - \$28,000. With the help of our community they can help hurting women start over with giving them a helping hand. Many folks are helping them plan for their future, including Paul Thompson with Transportation Insight who is overseeing a strategic plan to expand with excellence. They have purchased the property behind their building along 2nd Avenue. Soon it will be cleared and grass will be sown, and they hope to put a park there for the women and children in their program. When you ride by their place you will see a gazebo outback with a waterfall, and a children's play area. They take great pride in anything they do and want to leave it better than they found it. That includes the women that come through their doors at Safe Harbor Rescue Mission as well. She thanked Council. She advised that they offer a luncheon tour the first and third Thursday of every month. They would love for Council to come

personally and take the tour through all of their programs, hear testimonies from the women, and see the impact that is happening through Safe Harbor in our City. She thanked Council.

Alderman Tarlton questioned the dates for the luncheon tour.

Ms. Murray reiterated the first and third Thursday. She advised they could call the office to make a reservation.

Mayor Wright thanked Ms. Murray.

Mr. Michael Thomas, SALT Block Foundation, thanked Council for their time and efforts on behalf of the community and for their past support of their organization. He advised that the SALT Block Foundation is a public non-profit whose mission is to fund and manage the maintenance, repair, and capital improvement of the physical facilities for the non-governmental organizations that live at the SALT Block. Those included the Science Center, Hickory Museum of Art, the Western Piedmont Symphony, the Hickory Choral Society, and the United Arts Council, as well as the SALT Block Foundation's offices. There are three buildings that they maintain. The Arts and Science Center, the Aquarium Planetarium building, and the West Wing. It is an expensive proposition, all those buildings are old and require constant updating and maintenance. However, the investment pays dividends. These SALT Block organizations are major economic and cultural assets to the community and they collectively serve over 300,000 people every year including students from every Hickory Public School. When you include visitors to the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library, the entire block collectively serves over a half of a million people every year. Since the opening of the Arts and Science Center in 1986, the City has been a wonderful partner in their work at the SALT Block. The City has, and continues to help them in many ways including providing security, ground maintenance and capital replacement funds for the SALT Block. The County has also been a wonderful partner over the past 30 years providing much needed annual operating funds for the foundation. The SALT Block has been lucky to have the support of some very generous citizens and businesses who over the years have contributed a significant majority of the needed funding. Tenant organizations also contribute to the ongoing expenses and up keep. They continue to diligently raise funds from the private sector for the support of the SALT Block Foundation. This takes the form of annual giving, as well as their primary focus, planned or State giving. They are experiencing some success, they take a long time to come to fruition. Because of the public private partnership between the City, the County and the private donors, the SALT Block Foundation has the necessary funds to keep the lights on, and the heat on, not an inexpensive proposition in itself, and to keep the building safe and attractive for their guest and keep them in good repair. Ongoing support from the City, and matching support from the County, is vital to insure the stability of the SALT Block Foundation and its resident organizations both in the near term and in the long term. He highlighted projects that they had just completed which was to wire the entire SALT Block for high speed internet and wireless access point, which had been accomplished with generous support from CommScope and Corning, a contribution from the Science Center as part of the City's support for the organization. That upgrade will both permit the resident organizations to improve their programming and operations with efficient internet access and allow them to provide free wireless access to all visitors to the block. They are in the process of completing some significant upgrades to the auditorium which will allow them to expand the scope of programming that is available in that space, in addition to the steady flow of work needed to repair the floors, walls, windows, ceilings, and roofs as they age. Their capital improvement plans for the remainder of this fiscal year and for next fiscal year are focused on improvements for the hardware and software for the HVA systems, HVAC systems, and the fire alarm, as well as continued improvements for access to visitors with limited mobility. The SALT Block Board of Directors, individually and collectively, have been and will continually to be integrally involved and supportive of the Crafting Hickory initiatives and the bond implementation process. He commented that they are proud to have four members of their Board of Directors serving on the Bond Commission, as well as the Executive Director of one the resident organizations. He commented that none of that speaks to Alderman Zagaroli's involvement as a past member of their board, and now is sitting in a Council's chair. They think that all of those things indicate the central role that the SALT Block and the SALT Block Foundation play in the life of our community. The City's investment in the SALT Block is paying off. The capital replacement funds are enabling them to keep the three buildings in good shape. It is an ongoing process but one they believe will keep the SALT Block strong and attractive for hundreds of thousands of our citizens each year. He thanked Council for their important ongoing support and respectfully requested their continued partnership in the coming year at the same levels.

Ms. Vicki Martin, President of United Arts Council of Catawba County, thanked Council for their past support on behalf of the Arts Council. She commented that Council had greatly supported their organization and all of the cultural organizations that fall under their umbrella. She asked for Council's continued commitment for one dollar per person, per capita, for their arts funding for the upcoming year. As a local business owner, Martin Starnes & Associates, she believes that the strength of our cultural organizations helps us

to bring young talent to our local community. It aides in the recruitment of businesses and new professionals. She has a young professional from her organization that is serving on the Bond Commission, and she is very excited with what is going on with the Bond Commission. The longtime support of Hickory City Council for the United Arts Council has been crucial in keeping our arts, science and history programing at a very high quality level. For people that think there is nothing going on in Catawba County, she begged to differ. There is so much going on every week in this County, if they would take the time to do their homework they could find plenty to do. They also believe that the cultural organizations such as the Hickory Museum of Art, the Catawba Science Center, the Planetarium Aquarium, the Hickory Community Theatre, the Western Piedmont Symphony, the Choral Society, the Hickory Landmark Society and the Hickory History Center as well as the United Arts Council are vital to the plans around the bond implementation. They want to be proud of our City, and they are, for its vision with this imitative and they look forward to many more partnerships and collaborations in the future. She asked Council to consider their request and consider remembering the economic impact of that request. The Arts Council sub-grants all of the City's funds to other funds, they match them with funds State and local. They require organizations that receive those grants to also match them dollar for dollar. For every dollar that Council grants to them, that translates to a minimum of four dollars spent in our community. The North Carolina Arts Council actually estimates that number to be as high as \$24 per every dollar that is contributed to be spent locally when there is something going on for an event in the community. They are currently participating in a yearlong National Economic Impact Study and they will look forward in sharing those numbers with Council next year. They believe that they will be pretty significant when they attend an event within the community where they spend their dollars either going out to dinner, or having a drink afterwards. They hope that Council will see this as just one of the benefits of a long term relationship between the City and the United Arts Council. In 2014/2015 their project operation and individual grants totaled \$225,786. They anticipate at the end of this fiscal year that will be even higher. She asked Council to consider their 2016/2017 request for \$40,143 which was one dollar per capita. She thanked Council for their monetary support and the continued message that the quality of life has the highest priority for Council.

Mayor Wright requested a big hand for all of the volunteers and the groups that had presented. He commented that Ms. Vicki Martin, and her firm, had set an example that had never been surpassed in the community for involvement, money wise and timewise by a professional organization. You see their hand in almost everything that is going on in this City that is good. He asked about the \$40,143, because the estimated population was 40,330. He commented he remembered how hard they had pushed for 40,000 in the census of 2010. The number turned out to be 40,010. He wanted to know where those 190 were. He thanked them all. He asked Mr. Berry if there was anyone on this list who had not previously been funded.

City Manager Mick Berry advised Safe Harbor.

Mayor Wright asked if there was anybody that was funded last year who were not present this year.

Alderman Seaver commented City of Refuge.

Mayor Wright asked if they were funded last year. He advised that Council would work through the budget and spend a significant part of the next four or five months working on the budget. These requests would be factored in. All of them are very worthy, and there are many others that are very worthy as well that have not been funded.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

A. Billy Sudderth, Multipurpose Resource Center at Ridgeview, 7th Avenue and 1st Street SW.

Mr. Billy Sudderth advised that he was with group that was trying to develop a Multipurpose Center in the Ridgeview community. Several weeks ago he had made a request to City Council for a feasibility study to be conducted to evaluate the pros and cons of a Multipurpose Center in the Ridgeview community, upon a donated lot in the City from the former Ridgeview High School graduates. He pointed out the need for this program in the City and County for a variety of much needed services. The recently retired Council member had received his request and he anticipated some response to his concerns. He had been collaborating with a number of groups that felt that the Multipurpose Center is a much needed entity during these uncertain times. He realized that the City of Hickory is facing many challenges and resources are needed to expand economic opportunities for all of its citizens. His community continues to be the least served and the first to be demolished through the power of eminent domain. The streets and houses in the Ridgeview community are suffering from neglect because only a small segment of their community are able to receive grant assistance to upgrade and repair their homes. The roads are the last to be paved and trash is scattered around areas. Rodents and mainly insects tend to thrive. He asked Council to respond to his request. Hickory will continue to

devalue in repetition as an All-American City following the cycle of poverty to thrive in the closest community located a few blocks from the state of the art City Hall. He expected a reply promptly regarding his concerns as soon as they could get around to it. He advised he had given Council all of the papers that he had so far. He also had papers that Council may want to look at of the projected programs and projects that they will be talking about that is needed for that particular area. A multitude of programs and projects.

Mayor Wright asked if the estimated total cost was four million dollars.

Mr. Sudderth advised that was the cost that they put it at. He didn't know what the total would be. He was anticipating that it probably wouldn't be that much.

Mayor Wright asked Mr. Sudderth over what timeframe from start to finish.

Mr. Sudderth commented that he had some information. To insure future sustainability you are talking about the time that the place could be looked at by the City, you meet their contractor and their architecture, you are talking about eight to fourteen months, or something like that.

Mayor Wright asked if he had sought input from the County, or the Community College.

Mr. Sudderth advised that he had been to the Community College. He didn't want to get too far into them because he knew they had a lot of things to do. He had talked to the County. Mr. Berry had been very influential in getting them to talk to other people, County Commissioners and so forth. He wanted to talk to City Council first. He advised that they would be talking to Federal people and State people. They have already written to some of those agencies. It is a matter of hearing back from them, and making presentations to them. They are in dire need for that community to be revitalized. They are going to have to have some improvement in growth, because of the level of poverty, drugs, crime and other things that take place in the community, other things that are happening also. They have to get these citizens into some area of training. The more they talk about it the more people are coming wanting to put a program in. They see a much needed program. This is just a few of the programs/projects that they are concerned about. They see a need for it. If the City does a study they may see a need for some of it and they may see a need for some that they don't see. It would be good to take a look at them because the community has lost all aspect of urbanizing, the dynamic of revitalization for successes is really challenging.

Mayor Wright asked if Council had any questions.

Alderman Tarlton asked Mr. Sudderth if he had any plans or concepts plans.

Mr. Sudderth advised that they were moving to work with a gentleman in Charlotte, but they decided in their last meeting to stay local. They wanted to use an architect in Hickory, and contractors in Hickory to help them. They also had people contracted to come and measure and make suggestions about the type of building that could probably sit on the lot. They volunteered that.

Alderman Lail commented that it sounded like Mr. Sudderth was already underway with this. Getting support from a lot of different areas, the County, and the Federal government is going to be super important.

Mr. Sudderth commented that they knew that they were going to have to address all of those areas. They have a profession grant writer already with them. They will be dealing with bringing in other funding for this particular project. They would like just to depend on Hickory but that wouldn't be fair. Council has many challenges and resources. He commented that is the nature of the growth and development and maybe it could be a part of that.

Alderman Tarlton asked Mr. Sudderth where they had arrived at the four million dollar figure.

Mr. Sudderth advised that it was approximately 18 of them that had been talking about a year or two. They turned their eyes to growth and development. They thought about the building and what would be needed there. The initial program. They said it would be between \$2.5 and \$4 million dollars.

Alderman Tarlton commented that it didn't look like a very large lot.

Mr. Sudderth advised that it was capable of housing a two story building with limited parking, and also parking across the street and behind the church.

Alderman Tarlton asked if he knew approximately the square footage that he was talking about.

Mr. Sudderth advised that he was not going to say. When they measured he just measured for the building, 109 feet by 65. He hadn't looked at the total lot yet.

Alderman Tarlton asked who owned the land.

Mr. Sudderth advised the land was owned by the City.

Mayor Wright commented that Mr. Sudderth was born and raised here.

Mr. Sudderth confirmed that he was born and raised behind Mt. Pisgah.

Mayor Wright commented and then you became an educator.

Mr. Sudderth advised that he became a professional educator. He graduated college, he had two graduate degrees and worked in Hickory two years and went to graduate school in Houston. He commented they were making \$3,600 and they were already making \$25,000. There was no doubt about what he was going to do. He became a citizen of the State. He got his graduate degrees for \$48. He came back and worked at A&T, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte Public Schools, and the Department of Labor. He did a lot of volunteer work in areas, and he still does that.

Mayor Wright commented that Mr. Sudderth had come back here and still tries to help his fellow man. He thanked Mr. Sudderth.

Mr. Sudderth commented that he was a freak behind democracy.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of February 2, 2016

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of February 2, 2016 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

VII. Reaffirmation and Ratification of Second Readings. Votes recorded on first reading will be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading unless Council Members change their votes and so indicate on second reading.

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

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

A. Approval of the Purchase of a 2016 Rosenbauer ARFF (Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting) Truck in the Amount of \$328,892 in Accordance with North Carolina Department of Transportation – Division of Aviation (NCDOT-DOA) Grant Process. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

B. Grant Project Ordinance Number 5. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

C. Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 16. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

D. Consideration of Bond Commission's Recommendation Combined Option "A" for Riverwalk, City Walk, Streetscapes and Gateways. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

E. Consideration of an Ordinance to Demolish an Abandoned Structure at 747 Main Avenue SW. **(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 Tarlton approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. Approved on First Reading a Community Appearance Grant for Non-Residential Properties Owned by Tim Cline Properties, LLC Located at 246-252 Union Square in the Amount of \$5,000.

City Council created the Community Appearance Grant program in 1999 to provide economic incentives for property owners to improve the general appearance of properties located within the City's designated Urban Revitalization Area. The Community Appearance Commission reviews applications for the grant program and forwards a recommendation of approval or denial to City Council. The grants are designed as a reimbursement grant in which the City of Hickory will match the applicant on a 50/50 basis. The maximum grant amount from the City of Hickory is \$5,000. The applicant, Tim Cline Properties, LLC has provided two bids for the replacement of storefront awnings, which total \$10,486 and \$13,375. Both estimates are in excess of \$10,000, and qualifies for the full \$5,000 grant. The Community Appearance Commission voted unanimously (6-0) at their January 25, 2016 meeting, to recommend funding of the requested grant in the amount of \$5,000. The current tax value of the properties is \$1,006,700. The value of the grant represents approximately .5 percent of the properties tax value, or 87.6 percent of the 2015-2016 City property tax bill.

- B. Approved the Special Events Activities Application for National Day of Prayer 2016, Charles Moretz, Christopher Harris, Managers, ARC, Inc., May 5, 2016, 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sails on the Square.
- C. Approved the Special Events Activities Application for Downtown Hickory Farmers Market 2016, Sarah Taylor Wood, Manager, Downtown Hickory Framers Market, April 16, 2016 through November 26, 2016, Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Union Square.
- D. Approved the Special Events Activities Application for Piedmont Percussion Program Concert, Rick Cline Director, Piedmont Percussion Program, April 8, 2016 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sails on the Square.
- E. Approved to Advertise All Real and Personal Tax Amounts, for the Current Fiscal Year and Prior Fiscal Year, in the Hickory Daily Record in an attempt to collect the Outstanding Amounts.

General Statute §105-369(a) mandates that the Tax Collector inform the governing body of and then advertise the "total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property". A taxing unit has the option of also advertising personal property taxes that are not a lien on real property, but the cost of that advertisement may not be passed along to taxpayers as is the cost of the real property tax lien advertisement. The amount advertised should only be the principal amount of taxes owed, not including any interest, costs, or fees. Although the Machinery Act mandates only the current year's tax liens be advertised, some tax offices advertise liens from prior years as well. General Statute §105-369(c) requires that real property tax liens for the current year be advertised at any time from March 1 through June 30.

County	Real Property Tax	Personal Property Tax	Public Service Property Tax	Totals
Burke 2015	\$2,537.96	\$6,553.96	-	\$9,091.92
Caldwell 2015	\$1,368.66	-	\$52.59	\$1,421.25
Burke 2014	-	\$967.27	-	\$967.27
Caldwell 2012	\$1,208.00	-	-	\$1,208.00
Caldwell 2011	\$1,208.00	-	-	\$1,208.00
Totals	\$6,322.62	\$7,521.23	\$52.59	\$13,896.44

The Tax Collector has informed City Council of the unpaid tax amounts for the current fiscal year and prior fiscal years. Staff recommends that City Council issue an order to advertise all real and personal (current fiscal year and prior fiscal year) tax amounts in the Hickory Daily Record in an attempt to collect the outstanding amounts.

- F. Approved on First Reading the 2016 Loan Agreement with the National Museum of the United States Air Force under their Static Display Program for Loan of Aircraft to the City of Hickory/Hickory Regional Airport.

The City has taken part in the United States Air Force's Static Display Program for many years whereby certain aircraft are on loan to the City for display by the Hickory Aviation Museum. In return, the Hickory Aviation Museum agrees to maintain and ensure the preservation of said aircraft in good condition while furnishing the Air Force with photos and for the aircraft to remain prepared for expedition and periodic inspection. The Hickory Regional Airport currently has on loan two aircraft that fall under this agreement, which are an F-105B and T-33A. Staff recommends approval of the 2016 Loan Agreement with the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

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

The following request was considered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on February 4, 2016:

- Jon Huskins, 1607 1st Avenue NW, Hickory, was awarded a City of Hickory's Housing Rehabilitation Loan. The Citizens' Advisory Committee recommends approval for assistance not to exceed \$15,000 for repairs to his house. Assistance would be in the form of a zero percent interest deferred loan.

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

- H. Approved on First Reading Amending the Parking Ordinance for the Farmer's Market to Supersede Last Year's Ordinance (15-03) with a Time and Date Change.

The Farmer's Market hours have changed this year which require a change in no parking ordinance hours and dates. The Traffic Division has analyzed this request and feels it would be fitting. Changing the signage along this parking area would be simple and the signs/markings shop has already taken the appropriate steps to ensure an easy transition. Staff recommends amending the Traffic Ordinance by prohibiting parking in the Union Square lot to facilitate the Farmer's Market. Parking will be prohibited in the spaces south of Union Square along the north side of the parking lot road connecting the east and west parking lots as well as along the west parking lot to incorporate the first three angled parking spaces. Parking will be prohibited on Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. during the Farmer's Market from April 16, 2016 through November 26, 2016 (excluding Saturday, October 8, 2016 which is Oktoberfest weekend, and Saturday, November 12, 2016, which is Shuck-n-Peel). Towing will be enforced. Parking Ordinance 15-03 will become null and void. The new Parking Ordinance will cover the recommended change.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-08

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

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

Amend the Traffic Ordinance by prohibiting parking in the Union Square lot to facilitate The Farmers Market. Parking will be prohibited in the spaces south of Union Square along the north side of the parking lot road connecting the east and west parking lots as well as along the west parking lot to incorporate the first three angled parking spaces. Parking will be prohibited on Wednesdays from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM and on Saturdays from 6:00 AM until 2:00 PM during the Farmers Market season from April 16, 2016 through November 26, 2016. Towing will be enforced. Parking Ordinance #15-03 will become null and void.

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

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

- I. Approved on First Reading Amendment One (1) to the Agreement for Consulting Services with Gavel & Dorn, PLLC in the Amount of \$17,000 for the Central Business District Waterline, Sewer Line and Storm Drainage Rehabilitation Project.

The Central Business District (for this project is the area of downtown Hickory bounded by Trade Alley north to 2nd Avenue NW and 2nd Street NW west to 3rd Street NW) is served by an older portion of the City of Hickory distribution system. Over time this material will become turberculated with material and significantly reduce the available flow diameter of the waterlines. This project is intended to restore the full pipe diameter, and reestablish necessary fire flows and available service to customers. Sanitary sewer lines are older and degrading allowing a significant amount of inflow/infiltration to enter the lines and cause problems downstream of the Central Business District. As a component of the overall evaluation the main trunk line storm drainage system was evaluated and found to have some issues that were requiring attention as well. The infrastructure in this area is estimated to be over 100 years old. City Council approved the original agreement to evaluate, design, and construct the improvements necessary for the Central Business

District infrastructure rehabilitation project on April 7, 2015. Amendment one (1) is necessary to fund additional services that were not covered in the original agreement. Those services include additional closed circuit TV inspections, pre-construction building inspections, prepare easement survey plats, and design additional infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate recreational features to be added in the service area. Amendment one (1) will result in a revised contract price of \$285,000. Staff recommends Council's approval of amendment one (1) to the agreement for Consulting and Construction Administration Services with Gavel & Dorn, PLLC for the Central Business District waterline, sewer line and storm drainage rehabilitation project in the amount of \$17,000.

- J. Approved on First Reading Acceptance of Change Order One (1) with Hickory Sand Company, Inc. in the Amount of \$6,890 for the Construction of the Sherwood Forest Sewer Project.

The Public Utilities Department and Catawba County Environmental Health identified Sherwood Forest Subdivision as one of three areas of concern in 1998 as a part of the future service areas for the City of Hickory sanitary sewer system. Staff applied for State Revolving Grant funds and were approved for a grant to fund construction of necessary sanitary sewer infrastructure to provide public sewer to the homes in this subdivision. Change order one (1) with Hickory Sand Company, Inc. is for unforeseen conditions, which include installation of a precast junction box, approximately 10 feet of 30 inch concrete pipe and 40 feet of 15 inch HDPE pipe and associated grading to form a ditch section previously undetected. Change order one (1) will result in a new construction price of \$720,151.50 and represents a .99 percent increase to the original construction price. Staff recommends Council accept change order one (1) to the Sherwood Forest Sewer Project with Hickory Sand Company, Inc. for the construction of the Sherwood Forest Sewer Project in the amount of \$6,890. Grant funds are available to cover the change order.

- K. Approved on First Reading Acceptance of a 25 Foot Temporary Construction Easement and 25 Foot Sanitary Sewer Line Easement for the Property of Randall Javann Bryant and wife, Constance E. Bryant, PIN #3724-18-40-0894, for Installation of a Sanitary Sewer Line.

The temporary and permanent easement is necessary for completion of the Random Woods Subdivision sanitary sewer project. This City was awarded a State Revolving Grant by NCDENR-DWQ in 2012 in the amount of \$2.946 million dollars for this project. This easement is necessary for the construction of the infrastructure required to serve this area with sanitary sewer and will not increase the cost of this construction project. The easement was negotiated for a total sum of \$3,000 in exchange for the easement. Staff recommends approval of this 25 foot temporary construction easement and 25 foot permanent sanitary sewer easement across the property of Randall Javann Bryant and wife, Constance E. Bryant, PIN #3724-18-40-0894, for installation of a sanitary sewer line.

- L. Approved on First Reading Acceptance of Bid and Award of Construction Contract to Iron Mountain Construction Co. Inc. for the Construction of the Kenworth Waterline Rehabilitation Phase 3 Project in the Amount of \$627,000.

The Public Utilities Department annually identifies infrastructure that is in need of replacement or rehabilitation, as appropriate, as a component of the Department's sustainability programs. This project replaces approximately 4,700 linear feet of aged two inch, six inch and twelve inch case iron waterline with proposed two inch, six inch, eight inch and twelve inch PVC waterlines. Fire Hydrants, valves and water service connections will be replaced as a part of the project as well. The project will include construction of one new section of six inch line that will provide a beneficial loop within the area to circulate potable water. Clark & Associates, Inc. was responsible for design and bidding of the project. Construction bids were received from three perspective bidders: Iron Mountain Construction Co. \$627,000; Hickory Sand Company, Inc. \$678,460; and Neill Grading & Construction Co., Inc. \$762,714. Clark & Associates, Inc. evaluated the bid packages and found Iron Mountain Construction Company, Inc. to be the lowest responsible bidder and has recommended acceptance and award of the project to Iron Mountain Construction Company, Inc. The funds for this project will be taken from Public Utilities Fund Balance. Staff recommends Council accept the bid and award of the construction contract with the responsible low bidder Iron Mountain Construction Co., Inc. for the construction of the Kenworth Waterline Rehabilitation Phase 3 Project in the amount of \$627,000.

- M. Approved on First Reading Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 17.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-09
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 17

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory, that pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

SECTION 1. To Amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	10,547	-
Culture & Recreation	3,860	-
TOTAL	14,407	-

SECTION 2. To provide funds for the above, the General Fund revenues will be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	9,797	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	750	-
Sales & Services	3,860	-
TOTAL	14,407	-

SECTION 3. To Amend the Capital Reserve Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	17,000	-
TOTAL	17,000	-

SECTION 4. To provide funds for the above, the Capital Reserve revenues will be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	17,000	-
TOTAL	17,000	-

SECTION 5. To Amend the Water & Sewer Capital Projects Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Water & Sewer Capital Projects	17,000	-
TOTAL	17,000	-

SECTION 6. To provide funds for the above, the Water & Sewer Capital Project Fund revenues will be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	17,000	-
TOTAL	17,000	-

SECTION 7. To Amend the Enterprise Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	627,000	-
TOTAL	627,000	-

SECTION 8. To provide funds for the above, the Enterprise Fund revenues will be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	627,000	-
TOTAL	627,000	-

SECTION 9. Copies of the budget ordinance amendment 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
 - B. Departmental Reports:
 - 1. Approved on First Reading the Parks and Recreation Commission’s Recommendation to Rename the Proposed Cloninger Mill Park to Bruce Meisner Park.

On December 1, 2015 City Council reached a consensus of their desire to rename the proposed Cloninger Mill Park in honor of former Alderman Bruce Meisner in

recognition of his 32 years of faithful service to the City of Hickory. City Council asked that their request follow the City of Hickory's Public Facility Naming Policy process. In accordance with the policy, the naming request was referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their consideration and recommendation. The Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing on February 9, 2016 with 10 of 11 Parks and Recreation Commission members present. This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on January 15, 2016. No one spoke against the naming request, and one person spoke in favor of the request. Upon closing the public hearing the Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to recommend to City Council that the proposed Cloninger Mill Park be renamed to the Bruce Meisner Park.

City Manager Mick Berry asked the City's Parks and Recreation Director Mack McLeod to the podium to present Council with the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation on naming of the Cloninger Mill Park to Bruce Meisner Park.

Mr. Mack McLeod advised Council of the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation to rename the proposed Cloninger Mill Park to Bruce Meisner Park. He introduced two Parks and Recreation Commission members in attendance, Mr. David Crosby, and the Commission's Chair, Mr. Lloyd Colley. He advised Council that at their December 1, 2015 meeting City Council reached a consensus of their desire to rename the proposed Cloninger Mill Park to Bruce Meisner Park in honor and recognition of former Council member Bruce Meisner's 30 years of faithful service to the City of Hickory. That naming request, in accordance with the City of Hickory's Public Facility Naming Policy was referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their consideration and recommendation. The Parks and Recreation Commission, at their meeting on January 12, 2016 considered the naming request and the subsequent process that needed to be followed. As required by the Naming Policy the Parks and Recreation Commission called for a public hearing on February 9, 2016 at their regularly scheduled meeting to gather any public input on the proposed name. This public hearing was duly advertised as required by North Carolina General Statute in the Hickory Daily Record on January 15, 2016. The public hearing was held on February 9 and there was 10 of the 11 Parks and Recreation Commission members present for the meeting. No one spoke against the naming request and one person did speak in favor of the request. Upon closing the public hearing the Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to recommend to City Council that the proposed Cloninger Mill Park be renamed to Bruce Meisner Park. He advised that the recommendation before Council, on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission, was that the proposed Cloninger Mill Park be renamed to Bruce Meisner Park. Pending Council consideration and approval of their recommendation, Staff recommended to the Parks and Recreation Commission that a permanent sign not be placed on the property until the park is actually built and open, but that a temporary sign could be erected. He showed a photo of a projected sign on a PowerPoint, "The Future Site of Bruce Meisner Park". The Parks and Recreation Commission fully supported Staff's recommendation and also unanimously voted to recommend the same to City Council.

Mayor Wright commented that sign could be dressed up a little. He was not proposing that he do it.

Alderman Lail stated that obviously there was a timeframe for the development of that park. It is programed for next year in the capital plan, but it is programed in with a lot less money. He was concerned that if Council did a sign that it needed to look good and stay looking good.

Mayor Wright commented that he could tell people how to do it, but he was not going to mess with the sign. He commented that this could be done in phases. He suggested a semi-permanent sign. You could do a semi-permanent sign here that would look good four to five years out for under a \$1,000.

Alderman Tarlton thought that he should be lit. Solar panels and a few LED lights are cheap now.

City Council joked about the "Bruce Meisner Sewage Treatment Plant".

Mayor Wright thought that it was a good ideal to light the sign.

Alderman Tarlton commented that power would not be at the site immediately, so a few solar panels and an LED light, \$300 to \$500.

Mayor Wright commented but look what benefit that the community would get in the sense that things are happening in this community, and it would say something is happening.

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli approval of the renaming of Cloninger Mill Park to the Bruce Meisner Park. The motion carried unanimously.

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

2. Approved the Acceptance of the Updated Cloninger Mill Park Master Site Plan.

In 2008, Alfred Benesch & Company (formerly known as Site Solutions) was contracted by the City of Hickory to develop a park master site plan for the approximately 75 acre Cloninger Mill property, excluding approximately 10.1 acres that had been set aside for commercial development and approximately 1.9 acres that had been set aside for residential development. The 63 acre Cloninger Mill Park Master Site Plan was accepted by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council in March of 2009. In May of 2015, City Council accepted a \$900,000 donation from North Carolina Outward Bound to keep the 10 acre commercial site as part of the park. Once that donation had been accepted, the City of Hickory again retained the services of Alfred Benesch & Company to take the 2009 plan and update it to incorporate the additional 10 acres back into the park. As a component of the park Master Site Plan update, the site development costs for the entire park would also be updated. The total estimated project cost is \$3,928,003 compared to the 2009 estimated project cost of \$2,888,895. Phase 1 (western node with access from Cloninger Mill Road) estimated construction costs total \$2,386,803 compared to the 2009 estimated construction cost of \$1,318,273. Phase 2 (eastern node with access from 9th Street NE) estimated construction costs total \$1,541,200 compared to the 2009 construction cost of \$1,570,622. The updated plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their January 12, 2016 meeting and unanimously accepted. Parks and Recreation Commission recommends acceptance of the updated Cloninger Mill Park Master Site Plan. Staff will be discussing this project and others at a Council Retreat later this month and in March for a holistic approach to addressing multiple capital projects in the City.

City Manager Mick Berry asked Mr. McLeod back to the podium to present the updated Master Plan for Bruce Meisner Park.

Alderman Zagaroli advised that Mr. Meisner had 32 years of service.

Mr. McLeod discussed with Council the soon to be Bruce Meisner Park Master Site Plan. He presented a PowerPoint presentation and showed a drawing of the original 2009 Park Master Site Plan that both the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council accepted in 2009. He pointed out the intersection of Highway 127 and Cloninger Mill Road, and the 10 acres that had been designated for commercial development. In the 2009 Master Site Plan that 10 acres was not included in the final site plan. He pointed out the current updated Master Site Plan. The only revision that had been made to the plan was the western section. He pointed out one of three picnic shelters proposed for the site and some sand volleyball courts. The only change was they shifted two park amenities to allow access to an area that was relatively flat and wooded. The purposed area is to remain wooded. If there is any need for future development, then by shifting these two it would provide access there for any future development. That was the only change that was made to the Master Plan. He showed the updated complete Master Plan showing both the western node and eastern node of the park. The updated Master Site Plan was unanimously accepted by the Parks & Recreation Commission at their January 12th meeting and they recommended its acceptance by City Council. He showed a slide that they had looked at from a development stage. They would like to develop the park all at one time, but it is easier financially to do in a phased development. He pointed out Phase 1, the western node with the park access off of Cloninger Mill Road; Phase 2, the eastern node with access off of 9th Street NE. The total park acreage would then be approximately 73 acres in size. As a comparison Glenn Hilton Park is approximately 74 acres, so they are comparable in size. Also as part of the master planning process the updated park development cost estimate was also provided to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their January 12th meeting. He pointed out the estimates. The current estimates as of January 4, 2016, the cost had increased over the cost projections from 2009. These are 2015 cost estimates versus 2009 cost estimates when the first master plan was done. The additional 10 acres had been added back in the park with those respective park amenities. He commented that what was shown was an order of magnitude cost

estimates for the entire overall park Master Plan. The total cost estimate was a little over \$3.9 million dollars total park development. As a comparison that estimate in 2009 was a little less than \$2.9 million dollars, it was \$2,888,000. He showed the phasing of the master plan. Phase 1 showed all the order of magnitude, and the total estimated park development cost for Phase 1 would be \$2,386,803. As a comparison in 2009 those cost estimates were \$1,318,000; that difference was because the 10 acre commercial property has now been added back into the park. The order of magnitude for Phase 2 development estimated cost was \$1,541,200. In 2009 that cost estimate was \$1,570,622. That cost estimate was reduced a little bit. The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended City Council's consideration and acceptance of the updated Cloninger Mill Park Master Site Plan. Pending Council's acceptance of the plan, Staff will be discussing this project and others at the Council retreat later this month and in March to look at a holistic approach addressing multiple capital projects within the City of Hickory.

Mayor Wright advised that he was going to have some questions about the capital budget and what that does to the capital budget, and what does that mean in terms of tax rate. Can Council spread this out and avoid a tax rate? If they do what does that do to other projects.

City Attorney Crone advised that Mr. Berry had stepped out because he was in the middle of an emergency.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller advised Council that on February 25th and March 3rd a Council workshop/retreat had been set. At that time they will be discussing all of the bond projects an associated bond issuance and tax rate increases associated with that in conjunction with all of the non-bond projects which would include Bruce Meisner Park, Splash Pad, Friends of Hickory project, Lackey project, etc. All of those projects will be discussed at Council's February 25th and March 3rd retreat.

Mayor Wright commented that Council could not vote on it tonight.

Mr. Miller advised that the recommendation was to accept the Master Plan. This is a plan that the City will do whether it is this year, next year, or five years from now. The plan would be accepted. This is not appropriating any funds. They would discuss the appropriation of the \$900,000 Outward Bound funds that are currently in the bank earning interest, and what, if any, phasing that Council would want to do for the park and when. That would be part of the discussion.

Mayor Wright commented that he was all for it, but he was very concerned that Council knows that they have the phase in of tax increases. He doesn't want to go to the public and say in addition to the bonds, for what the bonds are for, we also need to add a tax increase for this, and this, and this. Council needs to digest where they are before they start adding niceties.

Mr. Miller commented that he thought Mr. Berry would say that they do not envision a tax increase associated with the Bruce Meisner Park.

Mayor Wright commented that the history had been that City Staff does an excellent job of managing everything, so that was not a criticism. Sometimes things need to be said out loud and this is the most visible place to say it. Mayor Wright advised that he was all for it personally. He asked for questions or comments.

Mayor Wright moved, seconded by Alderman Guess acceptance of the Master Plan for future funding in the most expeditious manner possible without a tax increase. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Alderman Zagaroli asked about the financial contribution for part of the land and where it was at.

Alderman Patton advised that it is in the bank.

Alderman Zagaroli confirmed that it was in the bank getting interest and that it was part of the program there.

3. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Other Minority VACANT
Other Minority 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 Since 8-6-2008
Brookford (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT Since 6-2006

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large Minority VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

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

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

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

YOUTH COUNCIL

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Hickory Career Arts Magnet VACANT

The Youth Council Applicant Review Committee Makes the Following Recommendation for Appointment to the Youth Council:

Caylin Stinson – Hickory Career Arts Magnet

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Delegate to replace former Alderman Meisner

Alderman Lail advised that the appointment needed to be filled for the Transportation Advisory Committee for the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization. He is a delegate for the City to the MPO. Hickory gets two delegates and Council needed to fill that slot if possible. Alderman Lail nominated Alderman Tarlton if he would be willing to accept the nomination.

Alderman Tarlton agreed to accept the nomination and take former Alderman Meisner's place.

Alderman Lail moved seconded by Alderman Zagaroli approval of the nomination of Alderman Tarlton to the Transportation Advisory Committee for the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright moved seconded by Alderman Seaver to nominate Caylin Stinson to the Youth Council. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

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

Alderman Guess moved seconded by Mayor Wright to discuss a matter not on the agenda that dealt with a transportation and connectivity project possibly for the future. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Guess advised that he had discussions with several people from several different quadrants of the City concerning what was being called a "Book Walk". The concept for the perceived "Book Walk" is connecting the Ridgeview Library and simultaneously the Ridgeview Recreation Center to the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and also simultaneously the SALT Block. He commented that there had been a lot of discussion previously presented in the meeting about how valuable the SALT Block and that surrounding areas is to the community, and there seemed to be a lot of discussion about the importance and timing right now taking advantage of connecting those two entities together. Obviously there is not any funding in place for that. He proposed that Council look at a cost analysis of what it might take and what it might look like to be able to do that.

He proposed that Council have some discussion and perhaps look towards what it would cost to be able to do something like that.

City Attorney Crone asked Alderman Guess if he was asking that to be Staff directed for Staff to look into that.

Alderman Guess replied, Staff to look into it perhaps Freese Nichols could be involved in that. He didn't know if that was a possibility, or somebody with their expertise for something like that. He knew that they were already looking at some things otherwise connected to that so perhaps they would be the correct entity to do that. He knew that it was the first time that Council was hearing about this proposal and he wanted see if there was any discussion or interest.

Alderman Tarlton questioned exactly what Alderman Guess was talking about.

Alderman Guess advised that what had been proposed to him was a "Book Walk". It is similar to city walk and it is the same concept as city walk. It is connectivity and a destination. The destination being the two City libraries and then combined with that the Recreation Center and the SALT Block.

Alderman Tarlton questioned if he was talking about upgraded sidewalks and streetscapes.

Alderman Guess commented something that would allow pedestrian traffic and perhaps even bicycles.

Alderwoman Patton commented that at their last meeting Council approved what the Bond Commission did and she didn't want to see the focus and dilute what the Bond Commission had spent all of this time doing to now start throwing in other options and divert their attention to moving forward and getting shovel ready, and getting things that the Bond Commission spent all of this time doing. She wanted to focus on that. Other items for neighborhood projects would come later.

Alderman Guess commented that it didn't necessarily have to be, and it wasn't discussed as being connected to that. This could be its own separate entity. It is not currently funded. He advised that it was something that enough people felt that it was important enough to bring up for discussion.

Alderman Lail mentioned that Alderman Tarlton was getting ready to attend the Essentials of Municipal Government. Alderman Lail advised Alderman Tarlton that it was a good class. Alderman Lail stated that what he learned there was government is about an infinite number of needs against finite amount of resources. That is what it is about. He was in favor of looking into it. There are going to be some things the City can do and can't do. He didn't feel that it hurt to have a look at something like this to understand what the cost would be.

Alderman Tarlton commented that it was not a long distance.

Mayor Wright responded that it is a couple of miles.

Alderman Tarlton replied as he understood it the city walk was going to tie into the SALT Block anyway. You get them downtown and they are already half way there.

Alderman Guess was not suggesting that Council approve it. He was suggesting that Council look at it, and see what it would cost, and see if it was feasible. It is not tied to the bond. It doesn't prohibit the bond, it doesn't stop it. It doesn't do anything to slow it down.

Alderman Tarlton commented aside from the bond.

Mayor Wright asked if the "Book Walk" was one or two projects.

Alderman Guess stated one project.

Mayor Wright asked if that was in anyway in the Bond Commission's recommendation now.

Alderman Guess did not think so.

Mayor Wright confirmed that this is a brand new thing that Council would be throwing in.

Alderman Guess commented just looking at it.

Mayor Wright asked if the funding for the study would come from the bonds or General Fund.

Alderman Guess thought that it would have to come from the General Fund.

Mayor Wright asked if the funding of the "Book Walk" would come from the General Fund.

Alderman Guess did not know where the funding would come from. That is part of the whole concept, we have to look at all of that.

Mayor Wright commented that we don't have any money in the bond.

Alderman Seaver commented that Council had talked a lot about having the spines put in place for these walks. He could see that being another bone coming off the spine to each place off of the main artery of the city walk. It could be added on later possibly depending on funding.

Alderman Guess stated that it could be three to five years down the road.

Alderman Patton commented that Council had discussed doing things past the ballpark as Phase 2, that could be part of Phase 2, five years from now.

Mayor Wright did not have a problem with Staff getting back to Council with an estimate of what it would cost to consider that. Maybe a rough estimate of what money they are talking about, before people have their hopes up, Council would know if it was doable or not. Also he would like for them to consider whether there are some other projects across the City that likewise need consideration to add on at this point.

Alderman Guess commented for future reference.

Alderman Seaver commented just like on highways put some signage on the city walk.

Mayor Wright advised that he had already had somebody tell him that Council didn't do anything for Springs Road. We have a lot of needs. Council has got to tell people what other needs they are going to super impose on the ones that have been agreed to, and how they are going to be funded. He didn't know where Staff and the rest of Council was, but he was not going to be receptive to any tax increases absent emergency needs, that Council didn't tell the bond voters about when they approved the bonds overwhelmingly.

Alderman Patton interjected and what our Bond Commission has worked for.

Mayor Wright commented that Council is embarking on an ambitious level of tax increases that this whole region has never seen before except in emergencies. This is people who said yes, I believe I want you to tax me. He wanted to find out how Council was going to do it. When and if they will have to have a tax increase to fund it.

Alderman Tarlton questioned what the scope of work would be.

Mayor Wright asked if Council was talking about something as grand as the city walk. He didn't know what a walkway would be to incorporate into this if it wasn't kind of along the same lines as the city walk.

Alderman Guess commented they could always expand upon it.

Alderman Seaver felt that both of those campuses could be hooked up with the city walk very nicely. City walk does kind of run where they could both hook into it and it would be a major thoroughfare for both, but bicycles weren't mentioned on it.

Alderman Tarlton wasn't sure of the exact scope of the city walk.

Mayor Wright commented that they are still working on that.

Alderman Lail commented that Alderman Guess wanted Council to consider this as an idea. He advised that he would be supportive as an idea.

Mayor Wright commented that he was just not in favor of it as an idea, he was in favor of doing it, if Council did not have to raise taxes.

City Attorney Crone asked Council if someone wanted to put that in the form of a motion, with a "rough cost estimate included therein".

Alderman Tarlton commented done by City Staff.

City Attorney Crone replied yes.

Mayor Wright commented and not using bond funds.

Alderman Guess moved that they do a cost analysis to see what it would take to put into what is being called now a "Book Walk".

City Attorney Crone asked if that was a rough cost analysis to be done by Staff.

Alderman Guess replied yes, to be done by Staff.

Mayor Wright asked if there was any cost perimeter that would say let's don't spend it if it goes such an amount.

Alderman Guess wanted to wait and see what they would come back with.

Mayor Wright asked if Alderman Guess had included the other parts of the City that might have needs and connectivity issues and would like to have other things.

Alderman Tarlton and Alderwoman Patton both said Springs Road area.

Alderman Guess thought that there was nothing wrong with having list, so when there are funds available.

Alderman Tarlton asked if Alderman Guess would work with the City Staff to help them refine the scope of this.

Mayor Wright asked what size list did Council already have of projects identified as needs and wants that aren't funded and aren't on this list.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller advised that it was lengthy.

Mayor Wright stated it is lengthy and very costly, and approved by the Bond Commission.

Alderwoman Patton interjected and by Council.

Alderman Lail commented that he had said this was not bond.

Mayor Wright commented that if it stays out of bond that is different.

Alderman Lail stated that the capital improvement plan for next year was \$7.3 million dollars. There is no way that Council could fund a capital improvement plan of \$7.3 million dollars for fiscal year beginning 2016. That includes Cloninger Mill at one million dollars less what Mr. McLeod had presented. Council has their work cut out for them at the retreat. That is something to throw in the pot.

Alderman Guess and Alderman Zagaroli agreed to throw it in there.

Alderman Lail commented and have some discussion.

Alderman Seaver commented that people were talking about Springs Road, Highland Avenue and Highway US 70 West.

Mayor Wright interjected Kenworth.

Alderman Tarlton commented that is how you get to Springs Road is Highland Avenue.

Mayor Wright asked what in there was for Kenworth.

City Attorney Crone stated that Council has Alderman Guess' motion, he asked if anyone wanted to move to amend his motion, to add other things to look at.

Alderman Guess commented that he felt that they were individual.

Mayor Wright thought they had specifically said that they want Staff to also come back with an idea of things that Council should or could do, obvious needs in other parts of the City.

City Attorney Crone commented that he may be wrong but he thought that they had that list pretty well perfected.

Mayor Wright commented in the bond.

City Attorney Crone replied no, this is outside of bond money.

Alderman Guess stated that his motion is specific to this project.

Alderman Lail seconded the motion.

Alderman Seaver asked if that was just for that one project or the multitude of projects.

Alderman Guess confirmed just this one project.

Mayor Wright asked if there was any further discussion. He commented that he was all for it, but he was standing on if they could do it without raising taxes, he was for it, let's do it. He advised that he was going to vote no, because Council had omitted any other of the very needy projects that

they have across this City. Ayes: Alderman Lail, Alderman Tarlton, Alderman Seaver, Alderman Guess, Alderman Zagaroli. Nays: Mayor Wright and Alderwoman Patton. The motion carried 5 to 2.

Mayor Wright announced that Alderwoman Patton and he voted no and five voted yes.

City Attorney Crone confirmed that was correct.

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

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1)(3) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

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

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

1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of November 3, 2015 - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)

2. Discussion of Potential Litigation - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3)

No action was taken upon return to open session.

XV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk