

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 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

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

A quorum was present.

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

- I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Retired Methodist Minister Bill Garrard
- III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Guess recognized Boy Scouts from Troop 383 in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves.

Mr. Jonathan Moore advised they were from Troop 383 out of Conover, but they live in Hickory. His sons introduced themselves, Jacob and John.

IV. Special Presentations

A. Presentation from Hickory Young Professionals 2018 President Logan Shook

Mayor Guess asked Hickory Young Professionals 2018 President Logan Shook to the podium.

Mr. Logan Shook presented a PowerPoint presentation. He advised Vice Chair Sarah Davis would speak to Council first.

Ms. Sarah Davis advised she was the Director of Sales and Marketing for the Hickory Metro Convention Center Visitors Bureau and she was also serving as the Vice Chair for the 2018 Leadership Council for the Hickory Young Professionals (HYP). She discussed the 2017 finances, membership, sponsorship, and the wonderful things that happened in 2017. Finances for their non-profit board and events tripled in 2017 which was pretty substantial. It went from \$3,500 to \$10,500. Membership doubled from 52 members to 107 members in only one year. They secured more than six new sponsors. Those sponsorship dollars go back into the organization and provide funds for the events which they host. The sponsorships which they worked on included memberships for the organizations or the companies that sponsored. They have different sponsorship levels. Different sponsorship levels involve different numbers of memberships for their young professionals in their organizations. Connecting those businesses more and more with the young professional demographic in the community. She discussed new professional development events last year. They tried to hon in on doing some new and exciting things. They started the Mayors event which was a huge success last year. It brought together all the Mayors from Catawba County and it was well attended. They will be hosting that again. They had the first Women's Leadership Summit which brought together four guest speakers who were heavy hitters, and were awesome. It was also a well-attended event. She discussed other events which included the Manufacturing Forum, the CEO Empower Hour, which City Manager Warren Wood was involved in, and the popular "Top Ten Under 40" event. This event recognizes people who are under the age of 40 in the community who are doing great things. They also tried to increase their footprint in the community, starting with Rotary presentations. Those were a great opportunity for them to go before these Rotaries and talk about everything that they have going on with events and things and then also suggest to these people who are involved in Rotary that they should take this information back to their companies and organizations and try and get their young professionals involved if they are not already. They also have HYP on Tap which is a fun non-formal event that happens the third Thursday in every month. They hop that around to different locations. They try to get together and network, hangout and be present in the community. They also partner with education matters with CVCC. This year they did a bingo style event with high school seniors and they met at CVCC's center. They migrated around to learn about their career paths, how they navigated their way through college and university life, and made it into their career paths and how they should do that if they were interested in their careers. She asked Mr. Logan Shook, the 2018 Chairman, back to the podium to discuss their future growth and their plans.

Mr. Logan Shook advised that 2017 was a very good year for Hickory Young Professionals. One of the questions that he had been asked since taking over was how did you do it? How did you triple your revenues? How did you double your membership? And how did you put on great events? He joked they got lucky, that is the easy answer. They had a meeting at the start of the year which included Mr. Zac De La Rosa who was last year's Chairman. Mr. De La Rosa is a great leader. They discussed what Hickory Young Professional's

vision was and what their purpose was in the City of Hickory. They decided that HYP was meant to connect, develop, and retain young professionals in the area. That is one of the things that they always talk about, how do we keep people here. They wanted to make sure that every event they held met that criteria. They also wanted to make sure that every event they held added value to the membership for the people in HYP. They also decided as a group, as a leadership council, what type of events they wanted to hold. In January they sat down and hammered it out in terms of new opportunities where they want to go. Two of the biggest employers in Hickory are government, healthcare and education, education falls in government. Right now they target HR professionals, accountants and business professionals. They are missing two of the biggest groups of people who could add value to the organization. In 2018 they don't want to overstress or overdo their leadership council but they do want to find new ways to attract healthcare professionals and education. They are going to start looking at the times in which they hold events. HYP normally holds lunch events. One of the biggest problems is, you can't bring in teachers, people in the education field; they can't come to those events. So they are cutting off a huge section of the market. He advised that Mayor Hank Guess would be in attendance at their Mayors' event. This year instead of holding it at lunch they are holding it at 6:30 p.m. They are going to make it more accessible to everyone in the community to try and make sure that when we keep young professionals we are giving them roots and connections. We are giving them people to talk to. They feel like if they can do that then they can grow that sector of the population. He discussed the events coming up this year: the Mayors' event which was a huge success last year. He felt the Women's Leadership Summit could be their best event. They had a great turnout last year. He felt like that could be their biggest event in terms of numbers. They had people say they didn't hear about it, but their coworker had attended and they loved it. He advised that Sarah Davis was actually the one who was responsible for putting that on last year and she did a great job. They also had the Empower Hour which City Manager Warren Wood participated in. That was one of the bigger better events. They had approximately 50 people attend. They had CEO's of private sector, government sector, and health care. They sat down with one HYP member at a time. They got to give a 90 second "elevator pitch" on what they thought as a professional they should do. They then were critiqued. For about five minutes they got to go back and forth talking to get leadership advice and advice on how to move forward in their own careers from these CEO's and upper-level management. Then they "dinged them", like speed dating, they dinged them after five minutes and moved them on to the next person. They got one on one quality time with these leaders. They felt like that experience meeting people, getting to know other leaders in the community, was how they keep them. This year they are going to do a few new events. They are going to do a Lenoir-Rhyne event. They will have people from Lenoir-Rhyne and do a relaxed laidback version of a public speaking event. That is one of the things people always asked them, if they want to improve a skill, or improve in an area, who would they look to, to do that. So Hickory Young Professionals wants to be that organization that provides opportunities for these young people to do it. They also are going to have a Judges panel. They will have some of the major judges in the area come in and do a panel discussion. Talk about the criminal justice system and give their members a chance to ask questions about the criminal justice system. What can be done better? What is being done now? They feel like that is a hot topic and people want to attend and hear more about it. They are also doing an "Eats" event. A lot of times you will see farmers in the area. They wanted to take Hickory Young Professional members out to these different farms, show them farm to table, the organics. They didn't feel like they would be able to retain these members taking them to five or six different farms in a night. They want to bring in these farmers and set up stations and let them present to the Hickory Young Professionals. Let them explain what they do, how they do it, and how it is profitable and then give the members a taste of some of these different varieties in the community. In 2017 they hosted Virginia Foxx. They always have a great turnout when they bring in a Congressman or Congresswoman to Hickory. In 2018 they want to bring back Patrick Henry, he spoke in 2016. They want to continue hosting great events. Continue trying to keep people in the ages of 21 to 40 in the Hickory community and show them and give them the connections they need to be successful. He asked Council for questions.

Mayor Guess thanked the Hickory Young Professionals. He commented obviously their goals are a lot of the same goals that Council has for the City. He thought that it was a tremendous asset to the community. They appreciated Zac De La Rosa in the past, and what Mr. Shook, and Ms. Davis, and what the whole membership is doing in the community.

Alderman Seaver commented it was amazing that they doubled their membership in one year, wow.

Mr. Shook advised they implemented a lot of processes to do that. One of those was to send out individualized emails. They would have one of their council leaders come in, send out an email to ten people in the organization, and then they would switch it up each month. An event invite. When they have the Mayors event one of their members will personally reach out to 10 to 12 members in HYP and personally invite them. Then the next event they have they switch it up and have someone else. So by the time you get to

the third or fourth event in a year you have been contacted by three or four different people. They want to make them feel like they can reach out to them. They have someone to connect with. If they come to that event they will know someone to keep them encouraged and keep them ingrained in the organization.

Alderman Zagaroli commented keep up the good work, love it.

Mayor Guess commented great job, thank you.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

- A. Ms. Laci Leblanc, 1816 15th Street Place NE, Hickory addressed City Council. She expressed sadness for the loss of Alderman Tarlton's passing. His seat will be difficult to fill. She expressed her support for filling the vacant seat via the application process as opposed to the appointment process. She felt that opening the process would insure that the many qualified and engaged members of Ward 2 have the opportunity to apply to serve their neighbors in that ward. She advised she knew several of them personally and she thought there were a lot of great candidates to be considered. As a Ward 4 resident she couldn't ask for a better listener/advocate than David Williams, and she was excited Ward 2 has the opportunity to get a new leader that does the same.

Alderman Williams and Mayor Guess thanked Ms. Leblanc.

VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting of January 16, 2018

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of January 16, 2018 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

- A. Approval of a Contract to Purchase Approximately 1.35 Acres of Property Adjacent to the Northeast Wastewater Treatment Facility on 1st Street Place NE in the Amount of \$125,000. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- B. Budget Revision Number 13. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- C. Consideration of Amending Article II, Section 4-26 and 4-29 of Chapter 4 Animals and Fowl of the Hickory City Code of Ordinances. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- D. Consideration of Amending Chapter 24 of the Hickory City Code of Ordinances to Consolidate and Codify Regulations Regarding Solicitors, Peddlers, and Panhandlers into One Chapter. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Item IX.

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

- A. Approved on First Reading Consideration of a Lease Amendment Agreement with Hickory Music Factory for their Use of the Former Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office Building Located at Jaycee Park.

In April 2013, the City of Hickory entered into a lease agreement with Hickory Music Factory for their use of the former Parks and Recreation Department administration office building at Jaycee Park. In exchange for the office space and utilities provided to them, Hickory Music Factory is paying one dollar (\$1.00) annually and providing various music programs to City of Hickory residents at no charge. The initial lease was for a five year period beginning April 17, 2013 and continuing until April 16, 2018. Thereafter, the lease is scheduled to renew for one additional five year period beginning April 17, 2018 and continuing until April 16, 2023. The lease agreement allows Hickory Music Factory to make additions and improvements to the leased premises with the permission of the City of Hickory, with the additions and improvements being at the sole expense of Hickory Music Factory. In February 2017, Hickory Music Factory made some significant improvements to the building with the consent of the City. In exchange for making the improvements,

Hickory Music Factory has requested amending the term of the original lease agreement to a new ten-year term beginning in 2018. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-272 a Resolution was adopted by City Council on December 19, 2017 to consider the amendment to the Lease Agreement and duly advertised in the Hickory Daily Record on December 22, 2017. Staff requests City Council's approval to enter into a lease amendment agreement with Hickory Music Factory for a term of ten years in exchange for the facility improvements.

- B. Approved Special Events Activities Application for Pinwheels for Prevention Vigil, Connie Engard, Community Education and Outreach Coordinator, Children's Advocacy & Protection Center, April 4, 2018 (Rain Date April 11, 2018), 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Zahra Baker All Children's Playground at Kiwanis Park.
- C. Approved Special Events Activities Application for Unifour March for Babies, Rebecca Moser, Development Specialist, March of Dimes, April 21, 2018, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., LP Frans Stadium.
- D. Approved Special Events Activities Application for Hickory Farmers Market 2018, Sarah Taylor Wood, Manager of Downtown Hickory Farmers Market, April 21, 2018 through November 24, 2018, Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. and Saturdays 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Union Square.
- E. Approved Special Events Activities Application for Susan G. Komen NWNC Foothills Race for the Cure, Megan Wood, Community Engagement Director, Susan G. Komen Northwest NC, September 29, 2018, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., L.P. Frans Stadium.
- F. Approved Applying for Placement of Public Art within North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Right of Way and Adopted a Resolution for Submission to NCDOT.

Staff requests Council's approval to apply for placement of public art within North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) right of way. Staff also requests Council adopt a Resolution for submission to NCDOT. The City of Hickory, through the Bond Implementation Commission and City Council, has identified the location of the southeast quadrant of the intersection of US Highway 321 and NC Highway 70 in Hickory for a gateway structure from the City of Hickory's bond program. In February 2016, Hickory City Council approved the gateway project and location. Design for the gateway structure completed in 2017. NCDOT must approve any placement of artwork within their right of way. The City of Hickory's bond program identified the southeast quadrant of the intersection of US Highway 321 and NC Highway 70 in Hickory as a gateway project. The Bond Implementation Commission reviewed and approved the art piece. Members of the Bond Implementation Commission participated in several workshops with the consultant to complete the final design. In December 2017, Staff learned that Hickory City Council must adopt a Resolution, include a maintenance plan and necessary traffic measures appropriate for the art element to NCDOT. Approval for the placement from NCDOT also requires public participation, and a finalized project plan in accordance with the approved criteria and specifications by NCDOT. Staff recommends Council's approval to apply for placement of public art within North Carolina Department of Transportation's right of way. Staff also recommends Council adopt the Resolution for submission to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

RESOLUTION NO. 18-03

A RESOLUTION BY HICKORY CITY COUNCIL To Apply for Approval of Placement of Public Art within North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Right of Way

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory is requesting the placement of artwork within the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) right of way, at the southeast quadrant of the intersection of US Highway 321 and NC Highway 70 in Hickory, NC.

WHEREAS, this southeast quadrant of the intersection of US Highway 321 and NC Highway 70 in Hickory was identified as a location for a gateway structure from the City of Hickory's bond program.

WHEREAS, the section of this art piece has been reviewed and approved by citizen members of the local Bond Implementation Commission. The Bond Implementation Commission members have participated in several workshops with the consultant to complete the final design.

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory shall submit a maintenance plan including necessary traffic control measures appropriate for the art element.

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory intends to update the current plan in accordance with the approved criteria and specifications,

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

The City of Hickory does hereby request the placement of artwork within the NCDOT right of way, at the southeast quadrant of the intersection of US Highway 321 and NC Highway 70 in Hickory, NC.

That the City of Hickory does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Transportation that all items specified in the North Carolina Public Art on the Right of Way request will be administered according to the guidelines.

That the City of Hickory has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project.

- G. Approved on First Reading a Proposal with Loudoun Communications, Inc. in the Amount of \$522,728.50 for Hardware and Software Radio System Update.

The Hickory Police Department requests approval to upgrade the mobile radio system currently used by the City. In 2007 the City purchased a new radio system to replace the old system that had reached end of life upgradability and technical support. The new system also met interoperability requirements that were being implemented by the Federal government at the time. This system is now scheduled for a necessary upgrade to both its hardware and software. This radio system refresh will replace end of lifecycle equipment, which consists of four radio dispatch terminals in the Communications Center, two Dell and two Sun servers at the radio site. This upgrade will also relocate one of the servers from Public Works to the Hickory Police Department’s Communications Center to add geo-diverse redundancy. This means that in the event of a problem the system will be much less likely to have a failure. This upgrade will also move us to the most current stable system release of the systems software to better manage multiagency interoperability. The upgrade requires specific hardware and software components that are only compatible with the current system infrastructure. The cost of this upgrade is in the formal bidding range; however, Loudoun Communications is the sole provider of components for the Hickory Police Department radio system. General Statute 143-129(e)(6) makes an exception from competitive bidding laws when a product is available from only one source. Hickory Police Department recommends Council approve the “sole source” exemption from competitive bidding by use of General Statute 143-129(e)(6) and to move forward with the planned upgrade at a total cost of \$522,728.50. Funds are budgeted in the CIP for this purchase.

- H. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 14.

ORDINANCE 18-05
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 14

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

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	50,000	-
Economic and Community Development	475	-
TOTAL	50,475	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	50,000	-
Miscellaneous Revenues	475	-
TOTAL	50,475	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	128,000	-
TOTAL	128,000	-

To provide funding for the above, the revenues will be adjusted as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	128,000	-
TOTAL	128,000	-

SECTION 3. To amend the Solid Waste Fund within the FY 2017-18 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	50,000	-
TOTAL	50,000	-

To provide funding for the above, the revenues will be adjusted as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	50,000	-
TOTAL	50,000	-

SECTION 4. 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

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Consideration of a Naming Request from the Hickory Kiwanis Club and the Western Catawba County Kiwanis Club for the “Charles D. Dixon Memorial Splash Pad” at Kiwanis Park – Presentation by Parks and Recreation Director – Mack McLeod **(Exhibit XI.B.1.)**

In 2015, the City of Hickory entered into a joint agreement with the Hickory Kiwanis Club and the Western Catawba County Kiwanis Club to fund construction of the splash pad at Kiwanis Park. As a component of this partnership, the two Kiwanis Clubs pledged to raise \$100,000 towards the construction costs in return for receiving naming rights to the splash pad. The Kiwanis Clubs’ \$100,000 commitment pledge has now been paid in full. The naming request was first presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their January 9, 2018 meeting. The Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously endorsed the naming request and recommended its consideration by City Council. Staff recommends consideration of the Hickory Kiwanis Club’s and the Western Catawba County Kiwanis Club’s naming request of “Charles D. Dixon Memorial Splash Pad” at Kiwanis Park.

City Manager Warren Wood advised the departmental report was the consideration of a naming request from the Hickory Kiwanis Club and the Western Catawba County Kiwanis Club for the “Charles D. Dixon Memorial Splash Pad” at Kiwanis Park. He asked the City’s Parks and Recreation Director, Mack McLeod to the podium to present Council with the item.

Parks and Recreation Director Mack McLeod was honored to be before Council not only as Parks and Recreation Director but as a Kiwanian. He referenced the Memorandum of Understanding in 2016 in which the City of Hickory entered into with Hickory Kiwanis Club and the Western Catawba County Kiwanis Club to jointly fund construction of the splash pad at Kiwanis Park which opened in July of 2016. As a component of this partnership both Kiwanis Clubs pledged to raise \$100,000 towards the construction cost in return for receiving naming rights to the splash pad. The Kiwanis Clubs’ \$100,000 commitment pledge has now been paid in full to the City of Hickory. At the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on January 9, 2018, they unanimously endorsed the naming request which would come before Council. He introduced Mr. Bruce Blackburn, representing the Hickory Kiwanis Club and Mr. David Parsons, representing the Western Catawba County Kiwanis Club and asked them to the podium to present the formal naming request to City Council for their consideration.

Mr. Bruce Blackburn advised he was speaking on behalf of the Hickory Kiwanis Club. He was currently Secretary of the Hickory Kiwanis Club and Mr. David Parsons represented the Kiwanis Club of Western Catawba County. He requested that the splash pad be named “Charles D. Dixon”. Mr. Dixon was a longtime

attorney. Most folks in town probably had some contact with “Charlie” somewhere along the line. Most folks knew him as Charlie. He advised that Charlie was always their conscious in their club. When they started a project Charlie would be there to nudge them along. If they didn’t respond to the nudge then he would get down and push. They would always get the phone call, “Hi, Bruce, this is Charlie Dixon”, or “Hi Hank or Hi Danny this is Charlie Dixon.” He would get right down to business. He made a formal request to use his name. Mr. Dixon got started on the project with the club before he became ill and passed away, and he was a big instigator of that project and he felt that Mr. Dixon would be very proud to see what they did with it. He reiterated the formal request was to name it the “Charles D. Dixon Memorial Splash Pad”. He asked all the Kiwanians to stand up that were present. He referenced an article that was in the December 11th paper which explained things very well, and what their projects are. Sometimes they surprise themselves because they start talking about these things, and somebody said \$100,000, and they said no it can’t be done. But people like Charlie and others nudging them along the way it was done. He advised the money is in the bank, all the checks have cleared, no worries about promises out there. He took the last check over himself which put them over the \$100,000 mark so they are in the clear and the money is in the bank. They were very grateful. They had fun when they opened the splash pad last spring. He wasn’t sure who was having more fun, the old folks or the youngsters that were there. He thought some of the old guys were pushing the youngsters out of the way. It was a very good project and he formally requested that Council name it the “Charles D. Dixon Memorial Splash Pad”. He introduced David Parsons and advised he would speak on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Western Catawba County.

Mayor Guess thanked Mr. Blackburn.

Mr. David Parsons thanked Council for the opportunity to partner with the City of Hickory and to share in this. It was a lot of fun as Mr. Blackburn had stated and to be at the grand opening and to see all that happened and all the excitement that it generated was great. He seconded all the Mr. Blackburn had said about Charlie. Charlie was such a great individual and they certainly miss him. They miss him as an attorney, as being part of this community, and as being a Kiwanian. He referenced the six objects of Kiwanis. When you think about Charlie Dixon you think about these objects because he thought that he met all of these. Object 1: To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life. Object 2: To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships. Object 3: To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business and professional standards. Object 4: To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship. Object 5: To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities. Object 6: To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will. He thought when you hear those that personifies Charlie Dixon. Along with Mr. Blackburn and both of the clubs he formally requested that Council name the splash pad the “Charles D. Dixon Memorial Splash Pad”. He thanked Council.

Mayor Guess thanked Mr. Parsons. He thought that it was admirable that the Kiwanis Club had raised \$100,000 and he wanted to thank them for that. He thought the official total was \$100,250 actually so that was quite commendable. Mayor Guess couldn’t think of a better person to receive this recognition as Charles Dixon. Mr. Dixon was certainly a mentor and an example for all of us to follow.

Mayor Guess moved seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the naming request of the “Charles D. Dixon Memorial Splash Pad” at Kiwanis Park.

Alderman Zagaroli commented what a great thing that Charlie was about, and he was very proud to put his name to it.

Mayor Guess asked for any other discussion. He took the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Guess thanked the Kiwanians.

2. Quarterly Financial Report – Presentation by Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller

City Manager Warren Wood advised Staff had six months of financial information, so we are half way through the fiscal year. He asked the City’s Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer Rodney Miller to the podium to present Council with the Quarterly Financial Report.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller presented a PowerPoint to Council. He discussed the financial report for the City for the first six months. He advised typically this is presented at the second Council meeting in January, but we had other items on that agenda. He showed a snapshot of the City's General Fund, which is the main operating fund of the City. He pointed out the revenue picture. The largest revenue source was ad valorem tax or property tax. He advised the budget of that was \$26.4 million dollars. Through December the City had collected approximately \$20.1 million dollars or 76 percent. Property taxes are due the first week in January. All of the property tax revenue would not be reflected in the total as of December 31st. He shared information which he had just received from the Finance Department. Through January the City had actually collected \$25.3 million dollars to date through January. He noted how that compared to last fiscal year. He reminded everyone that the City operates under a fiscal year which is July 1st through June 30th. Through December last year, the City had collected \$19.7 million dollars last year through December, we are at \$20.1 million dollars this year. About \$400,000 higher this year compared to last.

Mr. Miller discussed other taxes which were primarily made up of sales taxes. The City of Hickory is a regional hub for the metro region, for the Unifour, the four counties and beyond. People come to shop, eat, and spend their dollars in gas stations, and otherwise in the City. We are very fortunate to be where we are located in three counties and with services in four. He mentioned the other items were intergovernmental. Obviously we get revenues from the State government, Federal grants, and we have relationships with other counties, primarily Catawba where we have some revenues coming in. Permits, fees, sales and services were made up of recreation fees, fire department fees, or library fees.

Mr. Miller pointed out investment earnings, we had only received \$33,000 through December. He advised they closed the month of January and he noticed that the second quarter investment earnings had posted in January not in December and that second quarter investment earnings were \$63,000, which brought the total to \$96,000 through the first half of the fiscal year.

Mr. Miller discussed miscellaneous revenues which could be donations for example. He referenced the Kiwanis donation that Council previously heard and commented we obviously have \$100,000 of that. Not all of that was received this fiscal year. We started that program last fiscal year with the Kiwanis Club. He advised insurance reimbursements were also included in the miscellaneous revenues.

Mr. Miller discussed other financing sources which were revenues that are used in a couple of ways. Those were commitments that were made at the end of the last fiscal year, but we have yet to pay out. Those dollars come from fund balance and then we spend them in this year. If you had a contract in May of last year and that contract was not complete it gets rolled into this year. He advised that was a portion of that number. Another large portion of that was we have to balance our budget. Whatever our revenues are lacking compared to our expenditures, we use fund balance, which is basically the City's reserves over a number of years and they apply a portion of that to balance the budget. Mr. Miller commented that is funds that we have transferred from our capital reserve fund to fund capital projects during the year. That is what made up that line item.

Mr. Miller discussed the expenditure category. He noted the different departments and pointed out the negative number under finance. The water and sewer fund actually pays the general fund for some of the support that the finance department supplies. Primarily in the form of water and sewer billing. We get funds from the water and sewer fund into the general fund. The rest of the items were pretty well self-explanatory. He advised half-way through the year he had not seen any major concerns related to the revenues and expenditures. He pointed out that through December we were actually \$2.1 million dollars revenues over expenditures.

Mr. Miller showed a breakdown of the property tax revenues. He reiterated that this was the City's largest revenue source. He advised we have budgeted revenues of \$26.4 million dollars. He pointed out how we had collected revenues compared to the prior year. The revenue base was actually growing. If you would have seen this a number of years ago, you would have seen a flat revenue source. We are certainly proud and happy to say through December, compared to last year we are actually up over two percent. Two percent doesn't sound like a lot unless you add it on \$26 million dollars, and then it is a big number. The City had collected 76.24 percent of the revenues. As of January we are at 96 percent of our budget, \$25.3 million collected.

Mr. Miller showed the sales tax revenues. We are very fortunate to be a hub of a lot of commercial activities. These revenues are certainly helpful to our budget. He mentioned a slight concern was that our revenue growth compared to the last two years was not as significant. In 2016, six percent was really, really good and we had that in the first half of the year two years ago. We would certainly take three percent growth. That was even more than what was budgeted for this year. He noted the total budgeted revenues were \$9,350,000. The reason this was behind was we get these revenues from the State of North Carolina, and we received them 45 days after the end of the month. He advised this number only included five months of sales tax revenues collected. We will receive our sixth month on February 15th. He advised this is not apples to apples, this was only five months of activity and we are up almost three percent compared to last year.

Mr. Miller explained why the revenues were growing. He showed a snapshot comparing through December of last year, through December 2016. He explained the top half was based on a calendar year comparing residential and commercial activity. He showed in residential we actually received more permits, 315 in total compared to 292 the year before. Our commercial permits were slightly down, 379 to 363. Most of those were improvement projects not new construction. He pointed out single-family residential housing units, we actually had 70 last year compared to 59 the year before. We had zero condos, apartments and townhouses in 2016 as far as permitted, but we actually had 84 last year. He was hopeful that residential wave continues. He discussed the value for those permits. From 2016 to 2017 we increased the value of those permits by approximately \$2.3 million dollars. In commercial we went from \$100 million dollars to \$76 million dollars. He explained the reason for that was in October 2016 we had a \$20 million dollar permit for the CVCC workforce solutions project, which is a wonderful project and will help in the education field. However, there are no property taxes associated with that. If you pulled that permit out, which you should to compare apples to apples, that would leave that value at about \$80 million dollars for 2016. We would only have a slight three or four percent decline this year compared to last year's commercial value. He listed some of the building activity which was going on: some major projects US Conec and MDI would be completing this year; Viewmont Carwash, McDonald's, White Tire on Springs Road, Klingspor, some residential projects, 29th Avenue and Highway 127 which is a shell building at this point, staff does not know what will be going in there, but we will know that as soon as that is complete; Frye/Duke LifePoint are in the middle of their ER expansion which is a \$15 million dollar project; Shurtape was announced last month and it was a \$3 million dollar renovation; Dunkin Donuts, and just announced Defy Gravity will be locating in the former H.H. Gregg building. He mentioned the 144 unit apartment complex in Viewmont, the 80 unit apartment complex on Springs Road, and also on Short Road 318 apartments across from CVCC's western end of the campus. That activity drives the property tax base growth and revenue growth as well as the retail establishments drives the sales tax base as well. He advised that was the majority of the list. He pointed out another positive indicator which was July through December, CVCC was in October, that \$20 million dollars was right there, so that was only \$40 million dollars July through December, we have already hit \$55 million dollars July through December of this past year. That is a promising statistic that hopefully those numbers will continue into 2018.

Mr. Miller discussed the water and sewer fund. He advised we also have a fund that captures our water and sewer revenues. He noted that it was made up of about \$27 million dollars in the annual budget. These are intergovernmental revenues. We have relationships with other local governments and the State and we receive sales and services which was mostly the water and sewer bills that people pay in the region. We are in multiple counties that we have water and sewer customers. Other financing sources, like before, you have encumbrances from the prior year and you have fund balance appropriated that you use to balance the budget. He didn't see anything in the expense line item that caused any concern. At the end of the December we were at \$1.8 million dollars in the red expenditures over revenues. That is common, last year we were \$3.9 million dollars. The reason for this is the water and sewer usage is not as high in the fall and winters months as it will be in the spring and the beginning of the summer. Those revenues will be pickup certainly as we go into the rest of the year.

Mr. Miller added information to the report about the airport. A couple of years ago the City got back the airport with the FBO. He commended Terry Clark for doing a great job managing this. He advised he has a budget of \$1.2 million dollars. He commented we need to sale fuel that is how we make money out at the airport and we need to have more airplanes out at the airport. We received \$673,000 through December and spent \$565,000 or a little over \$100,000 surplus half-way through the year. Slightly less than last year, but in the black which is certainly a good thing for our airport which is now growing. He asked Council for any questions.

Mayor Guess asked Council for any discussion or questions.

Alderwoman Patton commented those are good numbers.

Alderman Zagaroli commented keep up the good work.

3. Process for Filling the Ward 2 Position on City Council – Presentation by City Attorney John Crone

City Attorney John Crone commented that Council has a daunting task of coming up with a method to replace Mr. Tarlton as Alderman for Ward 2. The General Statute basically says that it is Council's duty to appoint somebody to take his place and that person must be a member of Ward 2 and must be a registered voter. Other than that there was no method described by the statute as how Council makes that appointment. He knew that when the appointment was made for Mayor Wright's replacement that was done fairly quickly and obviously for reasons that it needed to be done pretty quickly. This doesn't necessarily have to be done in that manner. He had spoken to several Councilmembers and to City Manager Warren Wood about what Council had done when Alderman Seaver came on board many moons ago. Their recommendation would be that there be a process that includes an application. He discussed what he thought would be good to be in that application. That application would be a matter of public record and be available for anyone to obtain from the City of Hickory. He advised they would also need to pick a timeframe of when those applications would need to be final and need to be given to the City. In the past they had been sent to Mr. Crone and he would forward them to City Council by email or personally upon receipt. He reiterated there should be a closing date for the applications. He recommended that City Council have a special meeting, at a specific time, and allow those candidates to spend 15 to 20 minutes in an interview process. He advised all of this would need to be done in the open; as he knew all City Councilmembers would prefer. Council could either make a decision then or move to make a decision at a later date after they had an opportunity to hear from each candidate, and make their decision in that format. He recommended that the application be fairly simple. Candidates would need to understand that any application is a matter of public record and can be reviewed by the press or anybody else. He recommended that the application provide a letter of Interest, resume, their contact information and the candidates' written opinion of the top three challenges facing Hickory and how they would address them. Council could add to that and of course they could expand on that when they talk with the candidates. He recommended Council have a vetting process, and that the method would be by application, that a deadline be set for the application and the deadline be posted in the newspaper so everybody knows what the criteria was and what the requirements are for application. He also recommended that a date be set for the applications to be in and then a deadline to call for the special meeting at a time certain. He suggested Council discuss that and see if that was something they were interested in doing.

Alderwoman Patton wanted to follow that process and asked if the applications could be to Attorney Crone in two weeks. She asked if that was too quick, too soon, not enough time to get it in the paper.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if that was after it appears in the paper.

Alderwoman Patton replied after it appears in the paper, on the website, to Attorney Crone and then to Council.

City Attorney John Crone responded that it is a very good point. He suggested Council talk about some timing issues. He asked City Clerk Debbie Miller how long it would take to get the advertisement in the paper and what she thought a responsible time would be for the return of the applications.

City Clerk Debbie Miller responded if she sent something to the newspaper tomorrow we could have it published by Friday. (February 9, 2018)

City Attorney John Crone commented published by Friday.

Alderman Zagaroli confirmed this Friday.

City Attorney John Crone replied by this Friday and then a two week time period. He asked Alderwoman Patton if that was her suggestion.

Alderwoman Patton commented that was what she was looking at, but if it doesn't publish until Friday, and then to get it to Attorney Crone, Council wouldn't meet again until February 20th which wouldn't quite give two weeks.

City Attorney John Crone asked her if she thought that was a good time.

Mayor Guess asked if by the next meeting was what she was saying.

Alderwoman Patton advised yes, to the next meeting. She asked if they thought that was too quick.

Alderman Lail preferred to leave it open for two weeks. He felt that was reasonable as people travel, they have stuff going on. It would take some time to roll out on the communications platform, social media, twitter. Not a long time but it still a little something. People won't start seeing it probably until next week.

Alderwoman Patton commented it would be on social media tomorrow, or tonight.

Mayor Guess commented it is probably out right now.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if it would be ran more than once in the paper.

City Attorney John Crone didn't feel that was necessary. By the time the newspaper gets a hold of it, he thought everybody would pretty much know that Ward 2 was open for applications. He advised that was totally up to Council.

Alderwoman Patton proposed two weeks.

Mayor Guess asked if that sounded reasonable to everyone.

Alderman Zagaroli agreed.

City Attorney John Crone established a time line. This Friday is when we will get the notice out. He asked if the application was okay that was sent out. He advised he would tweak that and put some more information of where to send it what the deadlines are. That two week period to get that to Mr. Crone was February 23, 2018.

Mayor Guess confirmed by 5:00 p.m. on February 23rd.

Alderwoman Patton asked if that would be postmarked by the 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

City Attorney John Crone stated yes, ma'am.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they would be sent to City Attorney John Crone.

City Attorney John Crone responded he would get those out to Council immediately upon receipt. He asked how long Council would need to look those over before they set a special meeting.

Alderman Seaver stated that would depend on how many you get.

Alderwoman Patton wanted to within the next two weeks thereafter to go ahead and set a meeting.

Alderman Lail suggested that if they are going to keep applications open for two weeks that they collect them all and then send them all at one time.

City Councilmembers all agreed on that.

City Attorney John Crone acknowledged that.

Mayor Guess asked who would be responsible for verification of their qualifications.

City Attorney John Crone advised he would do that in cooperation with the City Clerk as far as addresses and that type of thing. He stated that he would get them to Council in a group. He asked if it was Council's pleasure to go ahead and set a special meeting date for two weeks thereafter.

Alderman Lail advised that would be March 2nd.

Alderwoman Patton commented they wouldn't want to do that on a Friday.

Mayor Guess asked if they would do an evening meeting.

Alderman Lail advised they were not suggesting March 2nd as that is a Friday.

Mayor Guess asked again if they would do an evening meeting.

City Attorney John Crone suggested 5:00 p.m. or a 5:30 p.m. meeting.

City Manager Warren Wood advised Council would need time to go through all of them. Council has a regular meeting on March 6th, the first Tuesday in March. Council could do that later in that week potentially.

City Attorney John Crone advised Council could do it March 6th.

Alderwoman Patton advised Council could meet March 1st and have the decision March 6th. Correct. Have the special meeting March 1st.

City Attorney John Crone asked what day of the week March 1st was on.

Alderwoman Patton stated a Thursday. That almost gives them two weeks, no one week.

Mayor Guess suggested that Council could do that earlier on the night of their meeting.

Alderwoman Patton asked what if they had 10 or 12.

City Manager Warren Wood advised Council they would need to set a separate date.

Alderwoman Patton agreed a separate date and time.

Alderman Lail advised that he had a conflict that night, but he would have to juggle it because this was super important.

City Attorney John Crone preferred that everybody check their calendars now and not have a conflict.

Mayor Guess asked what date they were looking at.

Alderman Lail advised March 1st at 5:00 p.m. His conflict was at 5:00 p.m., a church function, but this would take precedents.

Mayor Guess commented they certainly want everybody to be present.

Alderman Lail advised he would not have a problem being present on March 1st if that was the pleasure of Council.

Mayor Guess asked if that worked for everybody else. If anyone had a conflict on March 1st at 5:00 p.m.

Alderwoman Patton commented the only thing is if it is at 5:00 p.m. and they have ten applicants and they are going to give them each 15 minutes that is going to run long. But that was fine.

Mayor Guess confirmed that was fine with him. He asked if that worked for staff.

City Manager Warren Wood stated yes.

Alderman Lail felt that Council needed to have an outline of what the interview would look like. The order in which they would be called. A reasonable time for each or a time not to exceed for each interviewee. Out of respect for the applicants, he felt Council should give some sense about the type of questions they were going to ask.

Mayor Guess felt it needed to be uniform.

Alderman Lail agreed. He thought discussion was okay, they want the back and forth, it is sort of nuanced.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if Council should develop some interview questions.

Alderman Lail suggested Council lean on the City's able Human Resources Department to help Council with some interview questions, and in conjunction with any suggestions that anybody on Council would have they could get them to staff.

Alderman Williams felt that was a good idea.

Alderman Lail advised they could compile a list that they thought wouldn't be too difficult for everybody that furnishes an application, then Council could furnish them with what to expect at the interview.

Alderwoman Patton commented possible questions.

Alderman Seaver asked if each applicant would be in the interview process.

Alderman Lail advised each one would get the same general interview type process.

City Manager Warren Wood commented Council wouldn't screen anybody out.

Alderman Lail replied right.

Mayor Guess commented everybody would have the same shot.

Alderwoman Patton commented this would have to be revised if they get 50 applications.

Alderman Lail responded of course. He was okay going with this.

Mayor Guess suggested that once Council had actually conducted the interviews that they do them independently of each other. He didn't think necessarily that they would all be in the meeting at the same time.

Alderman Lail and Alderwoman Patton advised it was public session.

City Attorney John Crone didn't think Council could avoid that.

Mayor Guess asked if that would give anybody any kind of an advantage or disadvantage.

City Attorney John Crone commented that he had a lot of faith in Council from his past experience and being able to interview people in open session and make a decision. He asked if March 1st would be the special meeting date.

Consensus of Council was March 1st would be the special meeting date.

City Attorney John Crone asked at 5:00 p.m.

Councilmembers agreed.

Alderwoman Patton commented then Council could make a decision on March 6th. She asked if that would give Council enough time.

Mayor Guess commented they could discuss that.

City Manager Warren Wood suggested not taking the vote that night. He suggested the vote being done by ballot. Not secret ballot. Everybody's names are on it, but you would have a ballot of candidates. He advised they should also set the rules on if there was a tie or if there was no majority. Set everything up ahead of time so there is no question that this is how the game is going to be played.

Councilmembers agreed.

City Attorney John Crone reiterated that there is no secret ballot. He thought that Council could ponder how to do that between now and the time they have the interview process as to how they want to do that for the final vote.

Alderman Lail advised the big thing would be the number of applicants. Anything greater than six they could split and each get six votes and then what do you do.

City Manager Warren Wood commented you wouldn't have a majority.

Alderman Lail advised that would have to be given some thought. Council could talk about it, but he wouldn't be comfortable about a wide vote split, a majority of

two carrying the vote. They would have to figure out a way to whittle it down. He commented it would have to be four. You would have to find a way to essentially eliminate it to one person who could get four votes.

Mayor Guess asked for a motion.

Alderman Williams moved approval of the process and the direction that Alderman Lail suggested on the applicants and conduct the special meeting on it. (Summary: Notice of application process to be posted in the newspaper on February 9, 2018, applications due to City Attorney John Crone by February 23, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., City Attorney John Crone to send all applications to City Council members at one time, special meeting for the interview process tentatively set for March 1, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., dependent upon number of applicants). Alderman Lail seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney John Crone knew that staff would be sending an email to City Council in the next few days going over the timeline.

4. **Appointments to Boards and Commissions**
BOND IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 2-1; 3 Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Alderman Ward 2 Appoints
Jennifer Beane expires 2-1-18 eligible for reappointment
Kay Schmucker expires 2-1-18 eligible for reappointment

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

Alderman Seaver's appointment Patricia Bowman Declined reappointment for an additional term on the Bond Implementation Commission.

Alderman Seaver appointed Matthew Maulding to the Bond Implementation Commission.

Alderman Williams Appoints
Clise Johnson Plant expires 2-1-18 eligible for reappointment
Susan Walker expires 2-1-18 eligible for reappointment

Alderman Williams reappointed Clise Johnson Plant and Susan Smith Walker to the Bond Implementation Commission.

Ex-Officio Members to Bond Implementation Commission
(Appointed by Boards and Commissions)

Business Development Committee	
Dana Chambers	Not Eligible
Catawba County Chamber of Commerce	
Will Locke	Not Eligible
Citizens Advisory Committee	
Cliff Moone	Eligible
Community Appearance Commission	
Charlie Hayes	Not Eligible
Community Relations Council Reappointed Sandy Fotheringham	
Hickory International Council Appointed Eric Brandon	
Hickory Regional Planning Commission Appointed Dan Shabeldeen	
Historic Preservation Commission Reappointed Ernie Sills	
Library Advisory Board Appointed Walter Smith	
Parks and Recreation Commission	
Jim Powers	Eligible
Public Art Commission Appointed Lise Swensson	
Recycling Advisory Board	
Norm Meres	Not Eligible
University City Commission Reappointed Rachel Nichols	
Youth Council	
Mikaela Simmons	Eligible

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 2 (Alderman Ward 2 Appoints)
Ward 4 (Williams Appoints)

VACANT
VACANT

Alderman Williams appointed Charlette Gore as Ward 4 Representative on the Community Appearance Commission.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

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

African American (Council Appoints)

Grover Linebarger Resigned 1-5-18

VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

Alderman Williams appointed Daria Jackson as African-American Representative on the Community Relations Council.

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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

(Appointed by City Council)

Burke County (Mayor Appoints)

VACANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Building Trades Profession (Council Appoints)

VACANT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)

(2) Positions

VACANT

Mayor Guess appointed Richard (Rick) Bryant Jr. to the International Council.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

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

At-Large (2) (Mayor Appoints)

VACANT

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

At-Large Minority (1) (Council Appoints)

(David Williams no longer eligible)

VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

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

Ward 4 (Williams Appoints)

VACANT

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)

Position 9

VACANT

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

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

Ward 4 (Williams Appoints)

VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

Challenger High School Representative

VACANT

Homeschool Representative

VACANT

St. Stephens High School Representative

VACANT

WESTERN PIEDMONT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cameron McHargue – Current Primary

Caroline Kone – Current Alternate

Recommendation of John Marshall as Primary and Cameron McHargue as Alternate

Mayor Guess nominated John Marshall as primary and Cameron McHargue as alternate on the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority Board of Directors.

WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS POLICY BOARD

Alderman Tarlton - Current Alternate

Alderman Patton nominated Alderman Williams as the alternate to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board.

Alderman Lail moved seconded by Alderman Patton approval of the above nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

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

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

City Manager Warren Wood recognized two new employees. John Marshall, a longtime Western Piedmont Council of Government Planning Director had started with the City of Hickory and would serve as the Transportation Planning Manager. Mr. Marshall is renowned throughout the State and does an outstanding job. He knows how all of the pieces play together with State funding and other funding for transportation. One of the reasons this is so critical to the City in the next few years we will have a quarter of a billion dollars' worth of transportation improvement projects taking place within Hickory. We need to make sure that we are planning properly to be able to use that to our advantage. He welcomed Mr. Marshall.

Mr. Wood announced that Rick Beasley had accepted the permanent position of Assistant City Manager with the City of Hickory. Mr. Beasley started as interim. When Mr. Wood heard that Mr. Beasley was moving back to Hickory he offered him the opportunity to serve in the interim. He advised Mr. Beasley they would go through the process for advertising and recruiting. Mr. Beasley thought about it, and talked to his wife, and she gave him the okay as far as the interim job. Mr. Beasley had been doing a phenomenal job since he has been here. He has a knack for taking really complicated project puzzles and making them real simple. He is great to work with and we are thrilled to have him. Mr. Wood advised that Mr. Beasley was a Manager in Conover for over 15 years, and then went two years at Appalachian State as an Assistant AD and then two years at Georgia State, and then he came back to Hickory to retire. He was also an All-American football player at Appalachian State. He joked that Mr. Rodney Miller had challenged Mr. Beasley to a foot race, but they couldn't do it on City grounds, because we can't have workers compensation claims. We are thrilled to have Mr. Beasley starting fulltime. When Mr. Wood had talked to Mr. Beasley originally, Mr. Beasley told him he likes to build things. So he is in the right place because we are building a lot right now. We are thrilled for both Mr. Marshall and Mr. Beasley. Both of these men are Hickory residents. They are taxpayers. He welcomed them both and thanked them for serving the City of Hickory.

Mayor Guess welcomed both men and commented we are fortunate to have them on our team, we appreciate that. He mentioned the Hickory Elks Club recently named the two outstanding exceptional Firefighter and Police Officer of the year. Hickory Fire Department's Firefighter of the year was Battalion Chief Mike Cates and the exception Police Officer of the year was Master Police Officer Bo Mathis. He extended congratulations to both of them and thanked them for their service.

Mayor Guess mentioned the last Saturday in February would be the 13th Annual Polar Plunge that the Police Department sponsors for Special Olympics Athletes. They raise funds and raise awareness for Special Olympics. He commented if you are two chicken to plunge you can sponsor him, or if you would like to plunge you can go to the Hickory Police Department's website and learn all about that. It is all for Special Olympics Athletes.

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(6) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

City Attorney John Crone requested the addition of an item to closed session regarding a personnel matter as it relates to the City Attorney (NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1)(6)).

Alderman Patton moved that Council go into closed session to consult with the attorneys to discuss the items below, and the addition of discussion of a personnel matter as it relates to the City Attorney, seconded by Alderman Seaver. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of September 19, 2017, October 17, 2017, November 21, 2017 - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1).
2. Discussion of Potential Litigation - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3).

City Council convened to closed session at approximately 8:05 p.m.

City Council reconvened to open session at 8:27 p.m. No action was taken upon return to open session.

XV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk