

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

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

A quorum was present.

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

- I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Reverend David Roberts, Morning Star First Baptist Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Assistant Scout Master John Fuller advised they were Boy Scout Troop 231 from First Presbyterian Church. Gary Oakley introduced himself and advised he was on the Troop Committee. The Scouts introduced themselves: Benjamin Matthews, Luke Alrutz, Jason Robinson, Linkin Booth, Jackson Vanbeurdea and Scout Master Mark Alrutz.

Mayor Guess welcomed the Scouts. He thought they were working on a merit badge, which included attending a City Council meeting. He recognized Youth Council members in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves.

Youth Council members Lucas Osborne, from Challenger Early College and Mackenzie Fairchild, from St. Stephens High School introduced themselves.

Mayor Guess advised that Business Services Manager Dave Leonetti was the liaison for this group. He thanked Mr. Leonetti, in addition to his duties, he looks after the Youth Council and does a very fine job with this group.

IV. Special Presentations

A. Business Well Crafted Award to First Security Insurance

City Manager Warren Wood asked the City's Business Services Manager Dave Leonetti, also the liaison for the Business Development Committee, to the podium to present the Business Well Crafted Award.

Business Services Manager Dave Leonetti introduced Ms. Joan Long, the Vice Chair of the Business Development Committee who would speak about First Security Insurance who they were honoring with the Business Well Crafted Legacy Award.

Business Development Committee vice Chair Ms. Joan Long advised that Lori Alala was the Chair of the Committee but was unable to be present. She was a native of Hickory and First Security was a household name at her house. Her family owned a business and had their insurance there. They were always there to help them. She was honored to be a part of the recognition. She advised this was First Security's 100 Year Anniversary. They had offered complete lines of insurance products and had represented the community well. In 2019, they have a commitment to the City for donations, fundraising and community events. They were proud to recognize this incredible milestone and all the great ways that First Security contributes to the City of Hickory. The longevity of this company is a true statement of First Security's superior customer service, quality of products, and dedication to this community.

Mr. Leonetti asked those in attendance from First Security to the podium for the presentation of the Business Well Crafted Legacy Award in recognition of outstanding achievement and support of the City's vision for economic vitality and in honor of their 100th Anniversary.

Those in attendance came to the podium to accept the award. Photos were taken and introduction of the attendees were made; Big Charles, Connor, Charles, Miranda, Susan, Carol, Lydia, Frankie, and Doreen. The spokesperson thanked Council for the recognition and appreciated the partnership for the recognition, the commitment and the future. Not just where they have been but where they are going. It was a big day for them. He thanked Council for their time, the opportunity and they are proud to be a part of this community.

Mayor Guess commented they were proud that they were part of the community. Each and every one of them as individuals had contributed greatly to the community, not just in

the business field but as individuals and for all they do in the community. He thanked them again.

Alderman Seaver wished them good luck over the next 100 years.

B. State Park – Presentation by Tom Kenney, Land Protection Director, Foothills Conservancy

City Manager Warren Wood advised the City had a possible opportunity to land a State Park in the Hickory area. He asked Mr. Tom Kenney, the Land Protection Director, with Foothills Conservancy to the podium to present Council with what the process would look like and what their role in that might be.

Land Protection Director, Mr. Tom Kenney presented a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed information about an exciting opportunity to hopefully establish a new State Park in Catawba County. He thanked Council. Last fall Council approved a letter of support saying they would welcome a new State Park in Catawba County. That and other letters of support from other local governments in Catawba County made a big difference and it played a role in them getting a grant that maybe in the years to come will be a property that is available to citizens and folks right on the Jacob Fork River in Catawba County. He updated Council on the park acquisition effort and requested Council's help in terms of some property which they have a contract to acquire that adjoins City of Hickory property.

Mr. Kenney explained what Foothills Conservancy was. They are a land trust, based in Morganton that serves this region of the State. They were established in 1995. They work directly with landowners, partners, local government, State government, and community groups on behalf of conservation. They do that in a variety of ways. They help landowners and communities protect those special places in their community. Places for wildlife, for outdoor recreations, places that help keep our water supplies clean and things that benefit our wonderful scenery from the Blue Ridge Mountains to our rivers. He introduced Andrew Kota, Foothills Conservancy's Executive Director who was also present. They both had been with the land trust for a long time. Over their 23 years, working with a variety of partners, they had helped protect approximately 58,000 acres in eight counties in the land trust region. From Catawba County and Alexander County on the east, moving west basically to the Blue Ridge Mountain.

Mr. Kenney referred to a map and showed the locations of their completed projects. They were very eager and excited about opportunities to get some conservation projects completed in the Hickory area and Catawba County. He referred to the map, which he thought Council was familiar with, he thought it had been shared with Council last fall when they were asked to provide their letter of support. They work very closely with North Carolina State Parks and local governments. State Parks was really interested in the concept of a new State Park which focuses on the Henry Fork and Jacob Fork Rivers of the County. There are already some existing parks including Hickory's Park on the Henry Fork River, Newton's Park down where the Henry Fork and Jacob Fork Rivers comes together, and Catawba County's Park at Baker's Mountain. He noted areas of opportunities which they had identified where they were already making contacts to the landowners. All of their work was with willing landowners that are either willing to donate or sell property for conservation. He pointed out an opportunity on the Jacob Fork River, toward the middle of the map. They are actually going to close on the purchase of that property, 188 acres by May of this year. They hope that is the first property that will become a part of the new State Park in Catawba County. He advised he wanted to talk about a great opportunity on the Henry Fork River, between Highway 127 and Sandy Ford Road. He referred to the map on the PowerPoint and showed the 188 acres which they will be acquiring by May on the Jacobs Fork River. He discussed the project which they are excited about now. It had a total of approximately 460 acres. That was the maximum size of the project which they are looking at right now. He showed on the map the property which they have an option to buy if they are able to raise the funds to purchase the property from a willing landowner. He advised it adjoins the City's property and noted the property on the map. He commented they fit very well together for a great public park area that could provide trails, public river access and other outdoor passive type recreation amenities. A very convenient access from Highway 321. He didn't think there could be a more convenient access for parks than right off a major highway in the region. They had already communicated with North Carolina State Parks about this opportunity. It was early in the process but they are very interested. In the North Carolina General Assembly they are still waiting for some new legislation to authorize the division of Parks and Recreation to actually own land in Catawba County. Once they have that authorization they will be able to request State funds that only the North Carolina State Parks has access to. They are facilitating that and they are trying to take advantage of properties that are available and line up opportunities to help build this new State Park. He referred to the contract which they have on some private property containing 303 acres, undeveloped on the east side of the Henry Fork River. The funding source the land trust like Foothills Conservancy works with on a regular basis every year was called the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. They are already working to prepare a funding application to

submit early next month to help pay for this property which is under contract. In order to demonstrate that they have some matching funds and some other sources of funds to bring on this effort, he asked Council to consider a letter of intent or a willingness to donate the City's property for a new North Carolina State Park. By doing that, if that was something the City would help them with, they could get the credit of that properties' value counted as matching funds towards this effort to raise the money to buy the adjoining property. They will work on this effort over the next nine months. In September, if all goes well, they will be awarded the Clean Water Grant that will go toward the purchase of that property adjoining the City's. They had already also raised \$50,000 of private funds to chip into this effort. They have some great partners that help on a lot of their conservation projects. If all goes well, Foothills Conservancy will go ahead and step in and buy and hold the property until the time they can sell it to North Carolina State Parks. They are going to temporarily tap some of their internal funds so they don't miss a good opportunity to help get this new State Park created. He asked, if they are successful in getting the grants to purchase the property, when the properties are ready to be transferred to the State of North Carolina, then at that time the City donate and transfer the property to the new State Park. At this stage, they were asking for another letter of support or letter of intent that the City is willing to consider this project and donate, perhaps not all of the property shown, but most of the property to accompany the land they are trying to purchase on the Henry Fork River. He asked for questions. He thanked Council and they look forward to working with the City and Catawba County to help make this new State Park a reality.

City Manager Warren Wood advised Council the City purchased the property back in the 90s for economic development purposes which obviously had not transpired. They thought Highway 321 was going to be a driver, the new Highway 321 that is 20 years old now. Foothills Conservancy is used as a conduit by the State as Mr. Kenney described. To make Foothill's application even strong, not a letter of intent but an option to purchase with a date out for a number of years. So if the State Park did not transpire the property would revert back to the City. Some sort of scenario like that.

Alderman Lail commented in the packet it was a Letter of Intent so they would change the Resolution that is in the packet to an Option to Purchase?

City Manager Warren Wood advised there was a Resolution in the packet that he was requesting that City Council authorize the City Manager to develop that paperwork with them, and they could show it to Council, to expedite getting the application in and getting it done.

Mayor Guess advised that this wasn't the first time that Council had heard about this, they had some discussions at the State level, at the County level and also with the City's staff. It may sound like it is the first time they were hearing about this, but it was definitely not. He wanted to make sure that the citizens understood that. He asked for questions or discussion.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-01

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LETTER OF INTENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS TO CONVEY PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory is the owner of certain properties along Deitz Road and River Road which are more particularly identified as Parcels ##370116844836, 370115734171, 370119614849, 370119517487, 370115731634, 370115636164, and 370119513290.

WHEREAS, the Hickory City Council ("Council") is interested in the future development of these properties into recreational and other opportunities for the public; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §160A-279 permits the City to convey property to nonprofit entities.

WHEREAS, the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, a North Carolina nonprofit ("Conservancy") is pursuing acquisition of certain other properties adjacent to the City's properties for future development of recreational and other opportunities for the public; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy intends to apply for grant funding to acquire these properties; and

WHEREAS, Council can facilitate and strengthen the Conservancy's grant application by providing a letter of intent and other necessary real estate documents for a future conveyance of the City's properties to the Conservancy.

THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Council authorizes the City Manager to execute a letter of intent and any other necessary real estate documents for a future conveyance of the City's properties to the Conservancy.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they had also received funds for a planning grant.

Mr. Kenney advised they had received from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund a planning grant, funds that would total approximately \$43,000. Their intention and goal with that grant fund was to work with City of Hickory, Catawba County, and some other stakeholders, particularly with the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation to look at Henry Fork and Jacob Fork Rivers, study the resources, and get a blueprint for the parkland and the recreation opportunities that they would like to focus on while also providing those natural resource protection benefits that are important to this source of funding. They are excited about that. That will also happen over the next 12 to 18 months and they look forward to the City's participation in that.

Mayor Guess commented this is an economic development driver. This is something, from what they see in other areas of the State, where they have access to a State Park, it drives the economy and it is something that is in conjunction with other things that the City is doing related to trails, walking, biking and opportunities on the water. This goes hand in hand with some things that we are already doing.

Mr. Kenney thanked Council and commented Mayor Guess was correct. He knew that Burke County, McDowell County and a lot of our counties to the west were actively working with Foothills Conservancy and State Parks on projects like this because they are seeing real benefits in terms of new residents and visitors attracted to places, Lake James and South Mountain State Park. They are very excited about this. He thanked Council for the opportunity.

City Councilmembers thanked Mr. Kenney.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting of January 8, 2019.

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of January 8, 2019 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

- A. Budget Revision Number 10. (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 Zagaroli approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approved a Contract with City of Claremont for Wastewater Treatment Services for Flow into the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Staff requests Council's approval of a contract for sale of wastewater treatment services between the City of Claremont and the City of Hickory for flow into the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility (H-CWWTF). The City of Claremont approached the City of Hickory in 2009 with the desire to employ the services of the City of Hickory's Public Utilities Department to operate, maintain and manage two wastewater treatment facilities, five collection system lift stations, provide an operator in responsible charge credentials for distribution and collections systems, and provide ancillary operations testing, flushing, engineering, etc. Claremont and Hickory have continued this working relationship successfully for many years. Claremont now seeks to employ the treatment services of the H-CWWTF to provide modern, cost effective treatment services to the City of Claremont for the long term. The Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility (H-CWWTF) was upgraded in 2015 to serve as a regional facility in Southeastern Catawba

County. The H-CWWTF is a 1.5 million gallon per day wastewater treatment facility. The City of Claremont wishes to purchase the right to treat 450,000 gallons per day at a cost of \$1,860,000. With this contract Claremont would also be allowed to purchase additional 50,000 gallon increments of right to treat as defined in the agreement. Claremont will receive inside City of Hickory rates for treatment with a discount as long as the operation and maintenance contract is in place in recognition that Claremont is paying the City of Hickory separately for a portion of the services typically covered by rates. Should the operation and maintenance contract not be renewed at a later date this discount will not be applied to the inside rate. This contract for right to treat will be valid for a minimum of 20 years with 5 year review periods and renewals. This agreement will require both the City of Claremont and the City of Hickory to install additional infrastructure to transfer the wastewater to the H-CWWTF. Staff recommends Council's approval of this contract for sale of wastewater treatment services between the City of Claremont and the City of Hickory for flow into the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility (H-CWWTF).

- B. Approved a Resolution Authorizing North Carolina Industrial Development Grant Funds for Trivium Corporate Center Project Cure in the Amount of \$225,000 to Assist Development of Infrastructure.

Staff requests Council's approval of a Resolution Authorizing North Carolina Industrial Development Grant Funds for Trivium Corporate Center Project Cure in the amount of \$225,000 to assist development of infrastructure. The City of Hickory identified an area in southeast Hickory that is large enough and conducive to development of a business park, convenient to major roadways and adjacent to significant utility infrastructure. The City of Hickory, Catawba County and Catawba County Economic Development Corporation have worked on development of this area as a business park for several years and the City and County have agreed to split the cost of development. Trivium Corporate Center is the business park identified for bond proceeds for the bond referendum that was passed by the City of Hickory. In an effort to leverage available money the City of Hickory and Catawba County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) submitted an application and subsequent award of North Carolina Industrial Development Funds. The City, Catawba County and the EDC have worked on development of the project to a condition that is receptive to marketing. The City and the EDC submitted an application for North Carolina Industrial Development Funds and were approved for \$225,000 in grant funds with a matching requirement of 100 percent. The grant proceeds are to be used for infrastructure construction to serve the Project Cure site. The City of Hickory and Catawba County entered into an agreement previously to equally cover the cost of development previously estimated at \$1,173,000 for this phase of development. Staff recommends Council's approval of a Resolution Authorizing North Carolina Industrial Development Grant Funds for Trivium Corporate Center Project Cure in the amount of \$225,000 to assist development of infrastructure.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-02
CITY OF HICKORY
NORTH CAROLINA

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NORTH CAROLINA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
GRANT FUND

BE IT RESOLVED, that the grant from the North Carolina Department of Commerce be made to Hickory, North Carolina for Trivium Business Park Project Cure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will administer this grant in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will administer this grant through the City Finance Office with assistance from the Engineering Department and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the grant will be monitored quarterly to assure compliance with this proposal and the Department of Commerce Regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount of this grant application will be \$225,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Warren Wood, City Manager, and successors, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Hickory with the State of North Carolina for a grant from the Industrial Development Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Warren Wood, City Manager, and successors, is hereby authorized to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project; to make assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

C. Approved of Updates to the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

Staff requests Council's approval of updates to the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. City of Hickory Traffic Division staff has updated the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program after receiving comments from citizens and staff that have gone through the current traffic calming process. Traffic Division staff feels that it is time to update the program that was implemented in January 2008. The changes to the program address comments received from citizens who have recently went through the program, give more traffic calming options and clearly explains the program and procedures than the previous version. The current Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program was adopted in January 2008 and does not include some of the new standards for traffic calming. The updated program has been reviewed by appropriate City of Hickory staff to consider their comments and concerns, including addressing Fire Code Section 503.4.1 which requires traffic calming devices to be approved by a fire code official. Updates include more possibilities from the previous version where the three options were: speed limit reduction, multi-way stop, or speed humps/tables. The new version also includes: adding double yellow centerlines and/or white edge lines; marked on-street parking; raised chicanes or other road diet measures such as bulb-outs or future traffic calming measures that may develop over the years. Updates extend the minimum study area for multi-way stops, chicanes, and speed tables from 1,200 feet to at least 1,320 feet (¼ mile), as well as any other properties the City of Hickory Traffic Engineer deems necessary for better characterizing the traffic flow. The deadline for signature verification was also extended from ten calendar days to fifteen business days from the date on the petition verification letter. A section was also added to explain that City Council will need to approve any traffic calming measures after two readings. Staff recommends Council's approval of the update to the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

D. Approved a Contract Amendment with Freese and Nichols, Inc. for the Design of City Walk Electrical Construction Documents and the Addition of Union Square and the Downtown Block.

Acceptance of contract amendment with Freese and Nichols, Inc. for additional services and Bond Program Assistance to include the City Walk Electrical Construction Documents and assistance on Union Square and Downtown Block. Freese and Nichols prepared the design plans, specifications and bid items for the electrical section of the bid package for the City Walk project. With the addition of Union Square and the Downtown Block, Freese and Nichols, Inc. engaged Stewart and LandDesign to perform the additional survey and design needed for Union Square and the surrounding downtown block area. The amendment in the amount of \$383,044.88, provides additional services for the design of City Walk electrical construction documents as well as the addition of Union Square and the Downtown Block as stated: Design of City Walk Electrical Construction Documents - \$6,323.57; Addition of Union Square and Downtown Block - \$376,721.31; Total - \$383,044.88. To complete the work as directed by the Bond Implementation Commission and Hickory City Council, staff began working with Freese and Nichols to discuss the new services needed. Staff recommends City Council's approval of the contract amendment with Freese and Nichols, Inc. for the additional services for bond program assistance in the amount of \$383,044.88.

E. Approved an Engineering Agreement with McGill and Associates in the Amount of \$197,500 for the Design and Construction Administration of the McLin and Lyle Creek Wastewater Outfall Project.

Staff requests Council's approval of an agreement with McGill and Associates for the design and construction administration of the McLin and Lyle Creek Wastewater Outfall Project in the amount of \$197,500. In 2011, the City of Hickory, in partnership with Catawba County, the City of Conover, and the City of Claremont made a joint venture with Davis and Floyd Engineering for a basin wide analysis of this area. During the study, five different scenarios were developed and a consensus made upon the group for the future routes to be pursued. In 2015, McGill and Associates performed the initial pump station design and permitting at the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility. The City of Hickory and the City of Claremont have been discussing and negotiating this agreement since the study and PER was completed by Davis and Floyd. The sewer outfall line is envisioned to start at the intersection of Old Catawba Road and McLin Creek and continue approximately 7,100 feet to the pump station to be constructed at the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility. The preliminary design is to include 24" pipe for the construction of this project for current and future flows of the study. This agreement will include all aspects of design, permitting and construction observation of the project. This project will be funded from Public Utilities' fund balance. Staff requests Council's approval of the agreement with McGill and Associates for the design and construction administration of the McLin and Lyle Creek Wastewater Outfall Project in the amount of \$197,500.

F. Approved Applying for a Brownfield Assessment Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The Brownfield Assessment Grant program provides grants of up to \$300,000 for municipalities to assess environmental contamination and conduct redevelopment planning activities at Brownfield sites. These sites are defined as idle commercial or industrial properties whose redevelopment is hindered by the presence of real or perceived environmental contamination. The City has previously received this funding in 2007 and 2012, and a Planning grant in 2015. Staff anticipates that applying for the assessment grant funding will further enhance the ongoing Bond Project initiatives. This funding will enable the City to continue its Brownfield program. There are still over 100 suspect Brownfield sites within the City. This funding has played a vital role in the redevelopment of numerous sites in the City including the former Piedmont Wagon Company, Moretz Mill, Hollar Hosiery Mill, Lyerly Mill, etc. Redevelopment at former Brownfield sites has resulted in over \$60 million in private investment at these sites and the creation of over 600 jobs. There is no required match to apply for the grant. These funds will help leverage additional private investment at targeted Brownfield sites. Staff recommends that City Council authorize staff to apply for EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant funding for petroleum and hazardous materials in the amount of \$300,000.

G. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 11.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-03
Budget Revision Number 11

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, 2019 and for the duration of the Project Ordinance noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2018-19 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Culture and Recreation	100	250
TOTAL	100	250

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	100	250
TOTAL	100	250

SECTION 2. To amend the Transportation Fund within the FY2018-19 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	13,342	-
TOTAL	13,342	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	13,342	-
TOTAL	13,342	-

SECTION 3. To amend the Airport Master Plan Update Capital Project Ordinance (#650028), the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	133,419	-
TOTAL	133,419	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	120,077	-
Other Financing Sources	13,342	-
TOTAL	133,419	-

SECTION 4. To amend the Riverwalk Capital Project Ordinance (#B1R001), the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	2,000,000	-

TOTAL	2,000,000	-
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To provide funding for the above, the Project revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	2,000,000	-
TOTAL	2,000,000	-

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

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

1. Consideration of the Proposed Expansion of Oakwood National Register Historic District. – Presented by Senior Planner Ross Zelenske.

Over the past two years, the Hickory Historic Preservation Commission has been working with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and project consultant Landmark Preservation Associates to research and complete a nomination report to expand the existing Oakwood National Register Historic District. The nomination report has now reached the final stage, which requires approvals starting at the local level. A special called meeting of the Hickory Historic Preservation Commission was held on January 7, 2019. If City Council recommends approval of the project, the nomination will be considered by the National Register Advisory Committee at its meeting on February 14, 2019 and then forwarded to the National Park Service for final approval. By expanding the Oakwood National Register Historic District, additional properties in the neighborhood will be recognized for their historical value and will be able to access State and Federal tax credits to incentivize long term preservation. Listing on the National Register is honorary and does not require design review/demolition approval by the Historic Preservation Commission for changes to buildings and properties within the district. Design review is associated with local historic designations. An expansion of the Oakwood Local Historic District is not being considered at this time. Property owners have been mailed letters regarding the expansion and a newspaper advertisement will be completed in accordance to local and State regulations. Property owners may formally indicate support or opposition to the State Historic Preservation Office. In the event a majority of the property owners formally object to the expansion, the nomination will not be listed. Staff has only received positive or neutral responses from the community during past meetings. Staff recommends that City Council review the nomination and recommend that the proposed expansion area be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on January 4, 2019.

City Manager Warren Wood asked the City’s Senior Planner Ross Zelenske to the podium to present Council with the proposed expansion of Oakwood National Register Historic District.

Senior Planner Ross Zelenske introduced Ms. Jennifer Brosz with the State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh. She would answer questions which Council may have. He presented a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the boundary increase of the Oakwood National Register of Historic District. He advised the National Register of Historic Places was the official list of the Nation’s historic places where the preservation is an honorary designation with limited protections. It provides homeowners and property owners an opportunity for potential financial incentives to help preserve the structures and buildings. In Hickory, there was a breakdown between four historic districts and approximately 350 total properties in Hickory. The National Registry calls to be listed as individual listings. Within historic districts there was a breakdown between contributing and non-contributing status. Contributing was basically properties that do fall within a time window and are considered contributing to that district that help it have that historic character. The non-contributing are properties which are outside that time window or have had too much change, etc. The existing Oakwood National Register Historic District was formally listed in 1986. That period of significance was from the 1880s to 1930s. It had approximately 64 primary resources. Primary resources was basically homes and buildings. A

couple of key ones were the Oakwood Cemetery, and the Propst House was also a contributing structure in the district. Historically significant at the local level for its architectural value and development history. He discussed the expansion. They started considering expanding the district in 2015 after the City completed a citywide architectural survey. They were proposing to add 183 primary resources, some kind of notable landmarks. The Oakwood School was going to be considered a non-contributing structure because there had been so much change over time, but it will be a part of the district. The Elliott-Carnegie Library, which was an individual listing, will also be added. The period of significance was changing from the 1880s to 1930s, to 1905 to 1966. Some of the new structures added, their architectural styles still vary, but it is generally a modest scaled home and those are detailed to those architectural styles of the early to mid-20th century. He referred to a map on the Powerpoint of the existing and proposed area. The expansion was mainly to the east and west. The cutoff was the Hillcrest area which they considered separate, maybe a potential future historic district. He discussed some of the benefits of the National Register Historic Districts. The first and foremost was recognition. You are officially part of the nationwide list. At the local level they provide a plaque program for the Historic Preservation Office and a partnership with the Hickory Landmark Society, which was a preservation non-profit in Hickory. They partner with them to create these bronze plaques and help ease the cost of that because they are kind of expensive. New properties that are considered contributing would be eligible to get a plaque. He mentioned district signage. If you had driven around the historic districts you probably had seen signs which help demarcate that. He discussed tax credits and financial incentives. There were State and Federal programs to financially assist with preservation efforts. These were broken down between income producing and non-income producing tax credits. They have to be considered a contributing structure in order to be eligible for the tax credits and the work needs to be eligible, so not everything would be eligible for tax credits and they need to be approved. The State Historic Tax Credits sunset in 2020. If they get all of this approved they should have a little bit of time to get that and hopefully they will be expanded in the future. He discussed other benefits. The existing building code, this was more for commercial properties which get listed, provide some flexibility during renovations and building changes and so forth. Section 106 review was a Federal type of review which gets passed down. Anytime there is something that is considered a Federal undertaking, such as a road widening project, they have to go through the environment review process and get approved to make sure that you are not having any adverse impacts on these properties. There was staff support at the City level. He tries to provide general guidance as well as contacts for property owners who have questions. The State Historic Preservation Office can provide technical assistance, they have architects on staff that can help answer questions for historic homeowners and developers. He discussed some common concerns. "Will there be restrictions placed on effective properties?" The answer was no. No restrictions are placed if the owner was using private funds. If they use those tax credits then there are strings attached. This highlighted the difference between the local historic designation and the National Register designation. The local historic designation was basically a form of zoning that was not under consideration for expansion at this point in time. If there was a grassroots effort that the folks in the expansion area feel like they need more protections that was something they could explore. That would require Council's approval. "Will we lead to a historic district expansion later on?" They had not been expanded since they were first established in 1988, and again significant community support and Council approval would be needed. "Will property taxes change for affected properties?" The tax office does not include National Register Historic Designation as an assessment factor. Only properties seeking local landmark status will see reduced property tax rates. That requires Council's approval for that. "Will property owner and renter insurance rates change?" Property that is destroyed or altered is not required to be replaced in an original or similar State. He had been telling folks to review their policy. It was kind of a double edged sword. You may want to make sure that your policy would cover a wood window rather than being given money for just a vinyl window to be replaced with, etc. "Can properties be removed from the Register?" He had been in constant communication with property owners through letters, and on the City's website there was a page dedicated to this project. He had informed them to talk to City staff if they had some concerns about what this designation means. They had given them instructions on how to write formal letters in support or opposition, and send those to the State Historic Preservation Office. Properties that are listed remain listed unless they cease to meet the criteria because they had been lost or destroyed, or so forth. He discussed the timeline. The Hickory Historic Preservation Commission met last week and recommended that Council recommend approval to the State Historic Preservation Office. Assuming Council approves, it would go to the North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee on February 14th and then to the National Park Service at the Federal level for their final review sometime in the spring. He mentioned the signage program, assuming the

expansion was approved, the Historic Preservation Commission would lead efforts to demarcate the expansion area with the street signs. He asked Council for questions.

Mayor Guess thanked Ms. Brosz for coming from Raleigh. He explained the rules for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess closed the public hearing.

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the expansion of the Oakwood National Register Historic District. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Traffic Count Data Analysis – Presentation by Senior Data Analyst, Taylor Dellinger, Western Piedmont Council of Governments

City Manager Warren Wood asked Mr. Taylor Dellinger, Senior Data Analyst from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to the podium to present Council with traffic count data and how traffic counts had changed on various major roadways in Catawba County.

Senior Data Analyst, Taylor Dellinger, Western Piedmont Council of Governments presented Council with a PowerPoint. He discussed traffic count data in the greater Hickory area and Catawba County. He would explain what a traffic count was, and how North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) collects that information. He would discuss where some of the higher traffic counts were in Hickory and where they were located. He would display maps with the traffic counts and talk about some of the trends over the past decade from 2007 to 2017 and over the last two years from 2015 to 2017. He advised Council would see how the impacts of the recession and the economic recovery had been impacting those numbers as well as some of the transportation projects that had been going on in the City over the past decade. "What was the average daily traffic (ADT)?" That meant average daily traffic at a location over a 24 hour period. When you are driving around and you see this giant black hose and your run over it that is NCDOT actually collecting that information. The ADT maps were drawn for all of the counties in our region, Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba. Catawba has a lot more traffic counts than the other three counties in our region, so that data was collected once every two years and it is on the odd year. The data he would share, the most recent was 2017. NCDOT will start collecting the data for 2019 in the next month or so. You would start seeing those markers out all over the County because they are collecting it. Unfortunately, it takes a really long time to get the data back from NCDOT. He wished he was talking about 2018, but it takes them a very long time because they have to make calculations for trucks and slow moving traffic, and just to gather all of the information takes a really long time. He got the information in November 2018 for data that was collected in 2017, to give Council an idea of the time lag. He highlighted some of the higher ADT counts in Catawba County. The highest count that he had in Catawba County and the region was I40 near Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard. This count was 72,000 and it was on either side of I40 and Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard. It was between exits 123, and 125, Highway 321, and Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard, and then again between Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard and McDonald Parkway or exit 126. That was the highest count that he had ever seen on a roadway in a region and he had been looking at it since 1998. The capacity of I40 through there was approximately 60,000 or so, that was over capacity. For anyone that had been driving in that section, you know that the five o'clock rush hour was starting to get more congested and you have stoppages or slowdowns for people who are trying to get on exit 123. That is why, because the count was up so high. There was a plan in place to widen I40 to six lanes from exit 123 to 130. Based on this traffic count that widening is justified because of the idea that it would relieve congestion. It was also a sign that our economy was improving because we are getting more vehicles coming through those sections. He discussed some of the other counts, Highway 321 near Highway 70, north of NC 127, either side of I40 on Highway 321, that count was 46,000. Highway 127 near 17th Avenue NE in Viewmont had a count of 34,000. Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard just north of I40 had a count of 34,000. Some of the other counts Highway 321 north of Highway 70 had a count of 39,000; just south of 2nd Avenue NW, where the Exxon was the count was 38,000 there; Highway 321 just north of 2nd Avenue NW, 36,000; McDonald Parkway just south of I40, 31,000, where the Sheetz was located at just off of I40; Highway 127 just south of 29th Avenue NE, where the Publix was located, 31,000; and Lenoir-Rhyne just south of I40, 30,000. We actually have several traffic counts throughout the City that are 30,000 or higher.

Mr. Dellinger advised he would show a series of maps. He advised the maps were on the Western Piedmont Council of Governments' website, www.wpcog.org and go to the data services section and click on regional data. You could look at the maps. They actually have them for all of the municipalities in the region as well as the counties. He highlighted some of the other counts in Hickory. He referred to the map on the PowerPoint and pointed out Springs Road and noted the counts were 20,000 to 25,000 range. He advised it drops off once it crosses McDonald Parkway. The traffic that used to go in towards the City now takes McDonald Parkway to get down to Highway 70. He noted the impact there. He also showed the counts on Highway 127. When you get to the Alexander County line the counts were more like 18,000 to 19,000. You get down towards that count on 17th Avenue and it is up to 34,000. You could see how that traffic increases as it goes in. Highway 321 near MDI was a count of 37,000 there and then at the bridge a count of 42,000 there. He advised the City was large so he divided it into a couple of maps, you would see Hickory north and Hickory south and then he did a map of the Central Business District. He showed the south part of Hickory, highlighting a couple of counts, Highway 70 from Highway 321 over to Fairgrove ranged anywhere from 18,000 to 22,000 depending on the location. He also noted the counts on Highway 321 coming into Hickory. Those counts went up as you get from the Highway 10 exit, the River Road exit, the 127 exit up to I40. He showed the map of the Central Business District and pointed out the counts on the one ways 1st and 2nd Avenue SW. He mentioned those are one direction so you have to add them together, 5,400 to 5,900 for a count of about 11,000 together. He showed the counts on Highway 127 as it loops around which were up in the 20,000 range.

Mr. Dellinger discussed the change in the counts. He thought it was interesting when we look at why places have increases in traffic counts or decreases in traffic counts. He showed a map from 2007 to 2017, a ten year change and a more recent change over the last couple of years. He advised the largest green circles on the map were increases of 2,000 vehicles or more between 2007 and 2017. He advised that a large red circle was a decrease of more than 2,000 vehicles between 2007 and 2017. He highlighted some of the information starting with I40. I40 runs through Conover and Hickory. Counts were up more than 2,000 in all of those locations. Highway 321, the new 321, those counts had continued to go up. He noted the increases were more than 2,000. We are getting increased traffic flow there. He showed the increases along Highway 127 from Mt. View into Hickory. He showed a couple that had declined, Fairgrove Church Road had a decline of more than 2,000 vehicles. Part of it was because of McDonald Parkway. That had diverted some of the traffic. It had also diverted some of the traffic off of Springs Road as well. He noted the declines here because that traffic was using McDonald Parkway. He showed a map of the two year change. He thought that showed as our economy is improving it has caused our traffic counts to go up. It was not just in Hickory, he noted Newton and Conover had a lot of green circles on the map as well. He highlighted some of the changes here. Every location along I40 was up. There were increases on Highway 321 both north of I40 and continued increases from Highway 10 up to I40, increase at McDonald Parkway. That road continues to be more and more utilized over time and increases along Highway 70. He noted that Fairgrove still showed a decline north of I40, but it actually showed an increase south of I40. The 10 year showed a drop, but the last two years had actually picked up. He thought part of what was going on here, we are getting increased traffic around Walmart and the mall area. The economy is improving so we are getting more retail sales. We know that we are getting more retail sales based on the data that we have seen. Highway 127 had some increases and some declines. A lot of it depended on whether it was north or south of 29th Avenue. You have traffic that is going down 29th to McDonald Parkway, which was part of the reason there was red circles on the map. He looked at some of the declines and increases. He noted declines between Hickory, Newton, and Conover. Highway 127 and 17th Avenue had the biggest decline from 42,000 to 34,000. Some of that traffic was getting diverted off of 29th and down McDonald Parkway. Fairgrove Church Road had a drop of 2,000 just north of I40 from 18,000 to 16,000, but it had an increase south of I40. 1st Avenue SE, just east of North Center Street had a decline of 1,800. Old Lenoir Road had a decline of 1,200 from 9,000 to 7,800. He explained the reason there was the Clement Boulevard Extension. You have a lot more traffic using that extension. He explained the previous route used in that area and now you can take Clement and go straight over. That road was being more utilized and it has caused that count to drop a little bit. He discussed the increases. I40 dominated the list of biggest increases. He noted increases of 8,000 to 10,000 at various sites. He mentioned exits 123 to 125, 64,000 to 72,000 over a two year period. He thought there was several things going on there, one was we finally don't have a mudslide closing I40 and we also have had an increase in manufacturing. We are making more stuff in our region than we did two years ago, seven years ago, and

ten years ago. As we are making more stuff all that stuff has got to get moved around, it has got to get shipped. You also have to think about people that are ordering stuff on Amazon and it has got to get shipped via the post office, UPS or FedEx to their homes. That was part of it as well and we have job growth that he had mentioned in a previous presentation. As we have more jobs, you are going to have more vehicle trips with workers going to those jobs. All that had contributed to some of the increases that you see on I40. It was true that some of it was through traffic, it definitely is, but this was also a combination of through and local traffic and commuting into Catawba County as well.

Mr. Dellinger discussed some of the non-I40 increases. He mentioned Fairgrove was an interesting case between I40 and Highway 70 it actually went from 20,000 to 25,000 between 2015 and 2017. That was a pretty substantial increase. Highway 321 between I40 and Highway 70, 41,000 to 46,000. That was a two year increase of 5,000 as well. McDonald Parkway between I40 and Highway 70, 28,000 to 31,000. He advised you could see that if you were there at five o'clock. You could see there was more traffic coming off that exit than there was two years ago or four years ago. We have got more people utilizing that exit and utilizing that way to get to Highway 70. Highway 321 just north of Highway 70, 36,000 to 39,000, that was a substantial increase as well. Highway 321 between 2nd Avenue NW and Main Avenue NW, 36,000 to 38,000. Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard between I40 and 11th Avenue SE, went from 32,000 to 34,000 for a gain of 2,000. Highway 70 between Highway 321 and 4th St Drive SW, 19,000 to 21,000. He advised that count was taken where the Neighborhood Walmart was located. Highway 70 between McDonald Parkway and 21st Street Drive SE, near Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) and Walmart, 16,000 to 18,000, for a gain of 2,000. He noted from the tables we have had growth in lots of different places inside the City limits in terms of traffic count gained. It was not just one road, it was actually several different thoroughfares throughout the City.

Mr. Dellinger discussed counts in the southeast area of the County. He advised that Hickory had an increase in traffic counts, but other areas in the Catawba County area as well. He thought that it particularly points out the increasing relationship between Catawba County and the Charlotte area, and eastern Lincoln County and southern Iredell County. He referred to the PowerPoint and noted the ten year change. He pointed out Highway 16. He showed the location of Hickory and Newton-Conover and pointed out the larger green circles which were increases of more than 2,000 and there was also growth along Highway 150. The count on old Highway 16 showed a decline of 2,000 that was because we have new Highway 16 now. He thought it would be interesting to see what happens when new Highway 16 was widened how much more this count continues to increase. He showed the two year changes. Like the Hickory area map you could see a lot of green on the map. There had been lots of places in Catawba County that had an increase in traffic. He again pointed out Highway 16, following it from I40, and new Highway 16, they all had increases. He referred to the current Highway 16 which was two lanes and it showed increases and there were also increases on Highway 150 and new Highway 16. He thought that was going to continue to grow. You have to think about the relationship between Catawba County and what is going on in the Charlotte Metro areas. He thought that traffic bond would continue to grow over time. He showed some of the notable increases in that area. He referred to I40 between Claremont and Catawba, again 10,000. All of those locations along I40 had growth of 8,000 to 10,000. He referred to the Highway 321 business that was located near the Lincoln County line was due to the Lincoln County Industrial Park because they are getting more workers in there. He noted the growth along NC16 between 2,000 and 2,300 over the last couple of years. He expected this to only continue to go up over the next decade. He asked Council if they had any questions. He advised they could see how the decisions about where roads are going to go, where they are going to be expanded and new thoroughfares, how that impacts the counts as well as economic conditions.

Alderwoman Williams asked Mr. Dellinger if he saw a correlation or connection between traffic flow and population growth as well.

Mr. Dellinger responded yes, particularly we have started to grow in the last year to 18 months with the population. As the population has started to increase again that traffic has started to go up as well. Yes, we see an increase in populations. Where we are going to see increases in housing, wherever that is going to occur, that of course will trigger it. Also, if we have job growth. An example of that would be Trivium. As that gets going and adds jobs we would expect increased traffic counts around that area because you are going to have workers coming in and out. It was kind of three ways. It can grow population, housing was related or because of jobs.

Mayor Guess commented it appears that McDonald Parkway had served its purpose.

Mr. Dellinger replied yes, for those of us who have been here for a while we can remember before McDonald Parkway and it was getting down Springs Road and making all of those turns. McDonald Parkway has made that a lot more convenient for residents of northeast Hickory to get down to the southeast side for sure. And it was being more utilized for sure, which was the intent.

Alderwoman Williams commented Mr. Dellinger had said that 72,000 was really off of the charts. She asked if they based it on a certain threshold before they expand.

Mr. Dellinger advised as far as the capacity of the road and whether it is going to expand, or they will do some reconfiguration, that was definitely something that they also look at the costs of a project. They look at the significance of the road. I40 being a major Federal Highway it got bumped up the State hierarchy of how they rank these things because it is considered a major road priority. It got bonus points for that. There are about 10 or 12 different factors that they look at. Those are two or three of the bigger ones.

Alderman Seaver asked how major was widening 29th Avenue on the list.

Mr. Dellinger commented that is more of a Brian Frazier question; where that was on the list. It was on the list.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they were doing surveying out there.

Mr. Dellinger commented you could see the increases on McDonald Parkway and you could see increased use of 29th. With the widening project there, the idea was you could go down Highway 127, and you would have a four lane road all the way down to Highway 70. He thought it certainly had growth and economic development opportunities for sure.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if there was a date at all that they were looking at for 29th being widened.

Mr. Dellinger replied it was on the list.

City Manager Warren Wood interjected that Mr. Kevin Greer was saying no, not yet.

Alderman Zagaroli commented he had seen stakes there they had done some surveying.

Mr. Dellinger reiterated they had started some survey work there. I40 will be several years before it is completed but it was on the list, and because of it being a Federal road it got a pretty high score on it.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if this would tie in with the rotary (roundabout) that was anticipated also on 29th.

City Manager Warren Wood advised Council that during their retreat they would go over all of those.

Mr. Dellinger commented it was his understanding that during the retreat Council would be talking about the different road projects going on throughout the City.

Alderwoman Patton thanked Mr. Dellinger for bringing them good news.

Mr. Dellinger replied he was glad to give good news about economic growth, because it was a whole lot better than we were ten years ago. That was for sure.

Councilmembers thanked Mr. Dellinger.

City Manager Warren Wood added in addition to the \$85 million dollars in bond projects that we have, which was mostly focused towards pedestrian/bike traffic, accommodating that, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has \$650 million dollars' worth of road improvement projects programmed for our area. During the retreat Council would discuss what those projects are, what year and the value. Also, as before those projects are built, we have an opportunity to participate financially to add certain amenities. Whether that would be bike lanes, or sidewalks, etc. They would discuss what some of that might look like as well.

Our community is going to be transformed in the next five, six, or seven years in terms of those types of projects.

Mayor Guess commented it is all good news.

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
 Ward 5 (Zagaroli Appoints) (Justin Query Moved Out of Ward 5) VACANT
 At-Large (Outside City but within HRP) (Council Appoints) VACANT

Alderman Zagaroli nominated Nancy Zagaroli as the Ward 5 Representative on the Community Appearance Commission.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
 African-American (Council Appoints) VACANT
 Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT
 Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT
 Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments)
 (Appointed by City Council)
 Burke County (Mayor Appoints with Recommendation from County) VACANT
 Caldwell County (Mayor Appoints with Recommendation from County) VACANT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
 At-Large Minority (1) (Council Appoints) VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

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

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
 Ward 2 (C. Williams Appoints) (Mahesh Patel Resigned 10-1-18) VACANT
 Ward 4 (D. Williams Appoints) VACANT
 At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
 At-Large Representative VACANT
 At-Large Representative VACANT

Alderwoman Patton moved seconded by Mayor Guess approval of the above nomination. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

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

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

Mayor Guess referred to the reception prior to the meeting for the City's new Fire Chief. He congratulated and welcomed Fire Chief Matthew Hutchinson. He advised that Captain Vidal Sipe of the Hickory Police Department, who had been with the City approximately 18 years, it was announced that he would be the new Chief of the Newton Police Department taking Catawba County Sheriff Don Brown's place at Newton. He congratulated Captain Sipe. He begins his new position at Newton around the first week in February.

City Manager Warren Wood commented they had made a strong play to try and keep him too.

Mayor Guess commented they would have a lot more to say about Captain Sipe/Chief Sipe in the near future. He mentioned that he had the honor and privilege of working with Captain Sipe a lot during his career at the Police Department and we couldn't have a finer representative from the City of Hickory. There was no doubt in his mind why he was chosen for the Chief of Newton. We

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are extremely proud of him, and not only him but it speaks highly to the Police Department overall. As most everyone in the audience knows, it is not an unusual situation for someone to pick a Chief of Police from the ranks of the Hickory Police Department. It has happened numerous times over the years and Captain Sipe is a continuation of that and we are proud of that. He asked for any further comments.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk