

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 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Brad Lail	Rudy Wright	Hank Guess
Vernon Tarlton	Aldermen	David P. Zagaroli
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Deputy City Clerk Cari Burns and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Wright called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Alderman Seaver
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations

Mayor Wright recognized Tripp Moretz from Troop 341, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Newton-Conover. Tripp Moretz was working on a citizenship badge.

A. Update from Hickory Metro Jaycees and Hickory Young Professionals

Communications and Marketing Manager Dana Kaminske advised the presentation would be from the Greater Hickory Jaycees and the Hickory Young Professionals. She works very closely with both groups and they were both very passionate, young professional groups in the area. We are fortunate to have them here. She felt it would be a great time, at the beginning of the year, for them to come and talk about each of their groups, so Council could understand who they are in our community, what their goals are, what they have been doing, and the outlook for the future. She introduced Ms. Colleen Anderson, President of the Greater Hickory Jaycees, Mr. Zachary De La Rosa, President of Hickory Young Professionals, and Mr. Logan Shook, Treasurer of Hickory Young Professionals.

Ms. Colleen Anderson commented that a lot of people in the community see them as those young people who sell beer at Oktoberfest, or play loud music in an outdoor concert series, but the Jaycees are much more than that. Yes, they sell beer. It is sometimes the elephant in the room that people don't want to talk about. They are happy to talk about it if there ever is a concern their door is always open. The projects that they run, like selling that beer, teaches their members business skills, project management experience, networking skills, and most importantly they raise funds to support their community outreach efforts. They were able to provide Easter eggs, candy, and gifts for the City of Hickory Easter egg hunt. They gave gifts and cards to over 20 low income seniors through the Graham Powell's Meals on Wheels program. They gave a Christmas to over 50 low income teenagers who parents could not afford to do that. They could not afford any of that, or supporting the local scholarship funds, without the proceeds of these projects. There are so many community outreach projects which they run throughout the year, and none of that is possible without the support of their community partners and those business projects.

Ms. Anderson discussed the Junior Chamber. It had been an active organization since 1944. JCIUSA was formed in 1946, and the Hickory Jaycees had been a part of this community since 1948. The Junior Chamber exist for active young citizens to bring energy and insight to solving problems locally and around the world. Their mission is to provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change in their communities. She discussed some of their past national accomplishments which included establishing the airmail service, creating the National Wildlife Federation, and leading the successful effort to grant statehood to Hawaii and Alaska. She discussed some of the Jaycee's accomplishments at the local level in our community which included establishing the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Chapel Hill, which is the burn center that our community uses if they were in a fire. They also created countless public parks, playgrounds, and ballfields. JCI is one of the few organizations worldwide that are permitted to fly the UN flag, because of their commitment to the sustainable development goals that they have enacted. Today their members continue to identify the needs of their communities and strive to find sustainable solutions. She advised what differentiates the Jaycees from other organizations is the hands on concept. The learning by doing and taking ownership of the process with the goal of making our community a better place to live. The great thing about the Jaycees is the ability to create projects that support their members and the community at the same time. There is a difference between interest and commitment. When you are interested in doing something you do it when circumstances permit. When you are committed to something you accept no excuses, only results. She was so proud of their chapter, their members, and thankful for all of them because they truly have a group of committed young professionals who want to make our community a better place. They are looking forward to some really great events this year including working with the City again on the Easter egg hunt. They are planning a bourbon and

barbeque festival in April. They are expanding their summer concert series in Conover to June and July. They have a new partnership with the Hickory Crawdads which they are excited about. This will be the third year that they will be having Bases and Brews, which is a beer festival at the ballpark. You get to come enjoy 20 or so craft beers a couple of hours before the game, and then you get to stay for a game. It is all included in the ticket. They are also planning on bringing back their distinguished service awards which recognizes outstanding leaders in our community in certain service careers including outstanding firefighter, law enforcement officer, educator, and an outstanding teen award which will include a \$1,000 scholarship for college or post high school vocational training costs. She thanked Council for the invitation to speak to them and she looks forward to working with all of them.

Mayor Wright commented he thought it was great. He referenced Scout Moretz, and wanted him to realize the great work that comes out of this community by our volunteers like Ms. Anderson and the other group who would be speaking. He commented if you are going to sample 20 beers it is going to be a little sip of each one.

Ms. Anderson advised a tasting glass. She commented there had been concerns in the past with Oktoberfest and different events. She wanted Council to know how committed they are to responsible drinking and safety with that. They work very closely with Hickory Police Department during Oktoberfest. They stay in very close communication with them, and they do take that very seriously. Her door is always open if they have any concerns or questions.

Mayor Wright commented they knew they took it seriously. He had never heard anybody blame the Jaycees for the incidents there. There had been a few incidents, but relatively few.

Mr. Logan Shook, with the Hickory Young Professionals advised Council he interned with the City approximately three years ago. He introduced Zachary De La Rosa "Zach" who was the President for Hickory Young Professionals (HYP). Mr. De La Rosa was also the President for Centro Latino. Mr. Shook discussed events they did in 2016. They host two types of events for their professionals. They do professional developments where they have people come in and talk about a topic. They also do "Inside the Metro" where they have someone from a specific organization come by and either talk about their organization in specific, or they go to them and do a tour. He advised that Dana Kaminske, a former President of HYP, came by this year. She comes by a lot of years. She did a presentation on public speaking tips. Ralph Griffith of Lenoir-Rhyne University came by and spoke about entrepreneurship. One of the things with Hickory and the surrounding areas is they are having a problem with young people; Hickory, Catawba County, Caldwell County, Burke County and Alexander County. It is a struggle. They feel like if they can get people to do something like the entrepreneurship type event, you get people committing to building a business in the area. You are going to cement them here. Anytime they can do anything like that they are all for it. They also did a bond project update where they had officials from the City come by and discuss with the members where we stand and what we are doing. They had their members attend "Talent Jam", which was like a job fair with a twist. Employers and employees came in and for one minute they could get up and speak and either sell their position that was open or sell themselves as an employee to try and connect people with jobs.

Mr. Shook spoke about the second type of events, the "Inside the Metro". They had Tom Moore, CEO of Poppelmann Plastic. He spoke to the professionals about his experiences, taking a risk of what he thought was important to be a good professional. They also had Tommy Shore of Classic Leather. He gave the members a tour to show, with that business specifically, what goes on so people could learn about it. Some of the other events they have are Education Matters. Every year Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) puts on the Education Matters event. What they do is they send their professionals there for two days for four hours back to back days. CVCC host all of the local high school graduates that are coming up. They come in and talk to them about college and careers giving them pointers on what they can do to be more successful. They also have the "Top 10 Under 40", which is their capstone event. Every year Hickory donates, Hickory sponsors this and they appreciate it greatly. Every year they do the "Top 10 Under 40". They have a period of where members in the community, managers, and employers can nominate their young professionals and then a select committee comes in and decides who the top ten are that are worthy to receive a nomination. He advised that Zach De La Rosa, their President, was also one of the winners of the "Top 10 Under 40" last year. He commented Mr. De La Rosa had done a lot of great things and he was very good. He asked Mr. De La Rosa to the podium to discuss 2017 and the vision for Hickory Young Professionals.

Mr. Zachary De La Rosa discussed 2017 and the vision for the future. They recently had their leadership meeting to plan their events. At the very beginning of the meeting they reflected and asked themselves what the mission and core of their organization was that they could hope to give back to the community at large. They tended to think, throughout their conversation, that their number one goal of the organization is to retain young talent in

the area. He felt that was a goal that everyone shared in the room. He was appreciative that he could be discussing that with Council. Their first event, which Alderman Guess attended, they partnered with the Friends of Hickory. They had organic discussions among members of the community to think about what they can do to keep young people in the area, keep them engaged and call this place their home long term. Through those discussions, at their next leadership meeting, they will take those things back and continue the discussion from there. He discussed things they are thinking about in 2017, that are already in the works: furthering what they already did in 2016, which is to have emphasis on entrepreneurship, to help people understand how to start businesses. Focus on financial, personal things that young people would find very helpful to know at a younger age as they start planning the rest of their lives. Negotiation strategies, a forum that community individuals, including Council and Mayors of the surrounding area, in which young people can come in front of. Power hour, that will take a group of young people and combine them with many CEO's that are in the surrounding area to create networks. The Hickory Young Professionals are all about building networks. It is about expanding and developing yourself from beyond what décor that you have and recognizing that there are many people out there that can help build themselves as individuals. A young women in leadership forum. They think it is very important to have young women particularly connected in the business community as well as they develop. They will continue their normal tours and forums. He felt it important to note their wonderful and generous sponsors that they are very thankful for: City of Hickory, Martin Starnes, Hickory Crawdads, Pepsi, and Renaissance Financial. It is not just them in a room trying to make young people succeed. It is wonderful to have businesses that are part of that backing and they are very thankful for that. Their organization hopes to improve and will continue to on a shared leadership model that will have impactful events. They were thankful to be present and look forward to continuing to partner with the City of Hickory. He advised if Council had any questions on behalf of the Hickory Young Professionals, he and Mr. Shook would be glad to answer any questions. He thanked Council.

Mayor Wright and Council thanked them for their time.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of January 3, 2017

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of January 3, 2017 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

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

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

A. Approval of Addenda to the 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grant Sub-Recipient Agreements. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

B. Approval of the Supplemental Municipal Agreement with North Carolina Department of Transportation in the Amount of \$579,200. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

C. Acceptance of the Bid and Award of the Agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. of the Carolinas in the Amount of \$120,000. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

D. Acceptance of an Agreement with Alexander County for the Continued Operation, Maintenance and Management of the Alexander County Distribution System. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

E. Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 14. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

As submitted for first reading on January 3, 2017, the dollar amounts on Sections 1 and 5 did not take into the account the fact that Budget Revision Number 9 was already in process to provide funding for utility relocation. Thus, the amounts on the first reading of Budget Revision Number 14 were inflated. For the second reading on January 17th, these amounts have been reduced accordingly. To appropriate additional required funding for the Falling Creek Road Bridge Project (project #490001) in the amount of \$111,016 from

General Fund Balance. Following the most recent total project budget per NCDOT's estimations, a total increase of \$555,079 will cover the completion of the project. NCDOT and the City of Hickory are sharing costs on an "80/20" basis, respectively. NCDOT will thus contribute \$444,063, leaving the City's portion at \$111,016.

ORDINANCE 17-01
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 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, 2017 and for the duration of the Project Ordinances noted herein.

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Economic and Community Development	100	-
Other Financing Uses	111,016	-
Public Safety	1,000	-
TOTAL	112,116	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,100	-
Other Financing Sources	111,016	-
TOTAL	112,116	-

SECTION 2. To amend the Transportation Fund within the FY 2016-17 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Transportation	11,875	-
TOTAL	11,875	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Sales and Services	11,875	-
TOTAL	11,875	-

SECTION 3. To amend the Solid Waste Fund within the FY 2016-17 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	597	-
TOTAL	597	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	597	-
TOTAL	597	-

SECTION 4. To amend the Bulletproof Vest Grant Project Ordinance #G5110P, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	78	-
TOTAL	78	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Investment Earnings	78	-
TOTAL	78	-

SECTION 5. To amend the Falling Creek Road Bridge Capital Project Ordinance (#490001), the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
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General Capital Projects	555,079	-
TOTAL	555,079	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	111,016	-
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	444,063	-
TOTAL	555,079	-

SECTION 6. 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.

- F. Consideration of Text Amendment 16-01, to Amend Article 7, Section 7.3 of the Hickory Land Development Code, to Permit Residential Density Within the Central Business (C-1) District at a Maximum Rate of Fifty Dwelling Units Per Acre. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
 - G. Consideration of Closing a Portion of 5th Street SW between 1st Avenue SW and 2nd Avenue SW, Owned by MDI Management, LLC. (First Reading Vote: Ayes: Mayor Wright, Alderman Lail, Alderman Tarlton, Alderman Seaver, Alderman Zagaroli, and Alderwoman Patton Nay: Alderman Guess)
 - H. Approval of City Manager Warren Wood's Employment Agreement. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Item IX.

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

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

- A. Accepted the Walmart Community Grant in the Amount of \$1,000 for the Purchase of a Dedicated Video Editing Computer for Community Outreach Videos.

Hickory Police Department requests permission to accept a Walmart Community Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to purchase a dedicated computer with video editing capability. The police department currently uses a Facebook page, Twitter, and the City of Hickory website to reach out to the community. With the purchase of this specialized computer with video editing capability, the police department can increase community outreach with public service and safety messages that will improve communication with citizens and visitors of the City. Hickory Police Department recommends Council's approval to accept a Walmart Community Grant in the amount of \$1,000 for the purchase of a dedicated video editing computer for community outreach videos.
- B. Approved a Cemetery Deed Transfer from David Wilson Shuford and wife, Patsy Hood Shuford to Gordon Eric Shuford, Jr., and wife, Julia Eckard Shuford, Trustees of the Gordon Eric Shuford Jr. and Julia Eckard Shuford AB Living Trust dated June 24, 2010, Oakwood Cemetery, Plot I, Lot No. 1, Section 43, Grave Spaces 1,2,3, and 4. (Prepared by Susannah L. Brown, Anthony & Brown, PLLC).
- C. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 15.

ORDINANCE 17-03
BUDGET REVISION NO. 15

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 159.15 the following revision be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Culture and Recreation	250	-
Public Safety	1,000	-
TOTAL	1,250	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,250	-
TOTAL	1,250	-

SECTION 2. To amend the Water and Sewer Fund within the FY 2016-17 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	26,962	
Other Financing Uses	-	283,846
TOTAL	26,962	283,846

To match revenues to the above, the Water and Sewer Fund revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	26,962	-
Other Financing Sources	-	283,846
TOTAL	26,962	283,846

SECTION 3. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

1. Consideration of a Vacant Building Revitalization Grant Performance Agreement with The Block 108, LLC for Property Located at 26 1st Avenue SE.

City Council established the Vacant Building Revitalization and Demolition Grant program on September 16, 2008. The program provides grant funding up to \$20,000 for rehabilitation of vacant buildings within the Urban Revitalization Area and targeted industrial buildings in other areas of the City. The Block 108, LLC has applied for a Vacant Building Revitalization Grant in the amount of \$20,000 to assist in the rehabilitation of the former Ferguson Plumbing building at 26 1st Avenue SE. After rehabilitation, the applicant plans to use the building for the offices of Alex Harrill Construction. The Business Development Committee reviewed this proposal at their November 16th meeting and recommends approval. Recent changes to the North Carolina General Statutes require a public hearing prior to approval of the grant. Staff recommends City Council approve the Vacant Building Revitalization Grant with The Block 108, LLC.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on December 9, 2016. The public hearing was opened on December 20, 2016 and continued to January 17, 2017 because the applicant's closing had been delayed.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised Council the applicant Alex Harrill had still not closed on the former Ferguson Plumbing building. There was a hydraulic lift that was discovered during the phase two environmental testing which needs to be removed. They have a little more work to do before they can close on the property. At this point, since Council had continued the public hearing once, they would likely need to close the public hearing since the date was set for tonight, and allow Staff to readvertise and bring it back to Council when they have closed on the property.

Mayor Wright moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Presentation of a Proposal for Mountain Bike Trail Improvements at Hickory City Park and Rotary-Geitner Park.

For many years, the Parks and Recreation Department benefited from the work of a small group of loyal volunteers who maintained the mountain bike trails at both

Hickory City Park and Rotary-Geitner Park. These volunteers have now stepped aside and are no longer active. Another group of volunteers expressed interest in assuming these efforts and taking the mountain bike trails to a higher level through a public/private partnership with the City of Hickory. They are affiliated with a regional and national mountain bike advocacy organization that would raise funds to secure a professional trail designer to redesign and reconstruct the existing mountain bike trail system to make it more user friendly, install proper and appropriate trail identification signage and create a mapping system of the trails. Once the improvement project is completed, this same group of volunteers would provide ongoing maintenance of the trails. Two of the volunteers, Kirk Brittain and Brad Stevens, presented the group's vision to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their December 13, 2016 meeting. The Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously endorsed the proposal and recommended consideration of the same by City Council. Staff recommends Council's consideration and approval of the proposal for mountain bike trail improvements at Hickory City Park and Rotary-Geitner Park.

Mayor Wright advised Scout Moretz that this was another item about people who want to do great things for our community.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt asked the City's Parks and Recreation Director Mack McLeod to the podium to introduce some citizens who would like to make improvements to the mountain bike trail at Rotary-Geitner Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Mack McLeod commented one of the goals of both the Parks and Recreation Department and also the Parks and Recreation Commission is to improve Hickory's parks and recreation, both services and facilities, through the development of collaborative public and private partnerships. We have some outstanding public/private partnerships that have been completed and that are currently ongoing. Those partnerships began with the partnership of Catawba Valley Youth Soccer Association and the initial development of Henry Fork River Regional Recreation Park, and then the subsequent partnership with the soccer group on the lighting of the soccer fields out at the complex. The partnership with the local Kiwanis Clubs and the development of Zahra Baker All Children's Playground at Kiwanis Park, and following that the partnership with developing the treehouse and the splash pad at Kiwanis Park which was just opened. We have a great partnership with the Hickory Music Factory. They are able to use the former Park offices at Jaycee Park, and in turn provide music programs. The ongoing proposed improvements at Rotary-Geitner Park in conjunction with the Robert Lackey family, and in that same line at Hickory City Park the proposed partnership with the Greater Hickory Tennis Association in tennis complex improvements. Last month they just opened the Lowes Food City Park in partnership with the Friends of Hickory. He advised this presentation would be for another potential partnership that Staff was excited about. For many years the Parks and Recreation Department, and also citizens of Hickory, benefited from the work of a small group of loyal volunteers, and at some point a single volunteer who had maintained the mountain bike trails which are located in the Hickory City Park and also Rotary-Geitner Park. Those volunteers had done great work for the City, but decided to step aside. They are excited that another group of volunteers have now expressed interest in assuming those same efforts, but at the same time desire to take those mountain bike trails to a higher level through a public/private partnership with the City of Hickory. With the plans for Riverwalk, the proposed improvements at Rotary-Geitner Park through the Lackey family partnership, the tennis complex improvements, and the improvements being proposed for the mountain bike trail at Hickory City Park and Rotary-Geitner Park it would be an added benefit to make this area a recreation and economic development destination not only for our citizens in Hickory, but for those users that will be outside of Hickory. Two of the volunteers, Mr. Kirk Brittain and Mr. Brad Stevens were present, and had previously presented their groups vision to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their December 13, 2016 meeting. The Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously endorsed their proposal and recommended consideration of the same by City Council. He advised that he had known both of these men since they were five years old. They both came up through the youth sports program. They played everything, soccer, basketball, and baseball. Mr. McLeod was proud because here are two gentlemen who are Hickory natives, who came up through the program, and it makes him proud now what they are wanting to do, and are proposing to do, is to give back to the community. Mr. McLeod was proud to stand up and introduce Mr. Kirk Brittain and Mr. Brad Stevens.

Mr. Brad Stevens advised he grew up in Hickory. The Parks and Recreation Department, along with Hickory City Geitner Park had given so much to them, and they feel like they can now give back to Hickory and the Parks Department and this specific park. Improve on what is already out there. Both he and Mr. Brittain had

been mountain biking out there for 15 to 20 years. It was definitely time for improvement and a change out there on the trail system.

Mr. Kirk Brittain thanked Council for their time. He reiterated what Mr. Stevens had said, they are dedicated Hickory guys. He advised he was fourth generation and Mr. Stevens' family had been here for a longtime and this was a chance for them to give back to the community. They have both spent a lot of time in the trails out there. He advised there were some issues out there. What they have now is good, they just want to make more improvements so it appeals to a larger audience, all skill levels, trail-runners alike and the possibility to actually have events out there, races and whatnot that will bring people to town that will spend the night and spend money in our wonderful town. He commented that is their vision for it and he knew they could attain it.

Mr. Stevens advised their main goal was to make the Hickory City Geitner Park trail system a destination for mountain bikers in western North Carolina. There are tons of existing trails in the area; Belmont, Boone, Gastonia, Lenoir, Newton, Troutman and Wilkesboro. People from Hickory and western North Carolina are all riding these trails. They leave Hickory to go ride these trails. There are very few people in the surrounding area coming to Hickory to ride our trail. They want to change that. They want to make it one of these destination trails like some of these other cities have in the area. He discussed why this needed to be done. We have mountain bike trails which are outdated, eroded, and poorly if any signage out there. They are not very beginner friendly. They are technical, rutty, rocky, difficult and frankly inferior to the other trail systems in the area. That is why people are leaving Hickory to go ride these other trails.

Mr. Stevens discussed their plan which was to hire a professional trail building company to come in, scout the area, redo parts of the trail that we have or cut new trail if necessary to bring our trails up to the caliber that we see throughout the State. Different styles of trails to tailor to different skill levels of mountain bikers, all the way from beginner to expert. He advised that Terra Tek Trail Builders was the trail building company that they had been in discussions with. They had been out to the property and ridden the existing trail and had given them a rough idea of what they could do out there. They also are going to partner with the Northwest North Carolina Mountain Bike Alliance. It is a chapter of a much bigger organization called IMBA, (International Mountain Bicycling Association). It is all non-profit and they seek to improve, build, and promote mountain biking and mountain biking trails throughout the country. The Northwest Alliance is the chapter in our area. Also plenty of volunteer hours will be spent out there helping with all of this. The estimated costs is between \$75,000 and \$100,000. They were quoted \$3.45 per foot of trail. They plan on funding this with a majority of corporate and private donations, some crowd funding, fund raising campaigns and if the City is willing and able to help with anything they would obviously be very thrilled with that.

Mr. Stevens discussed the benefits for the City of Hickory other than people actually coming to Hickory to ride trails. They eat at restaurants, they hang-out. He referenced a study by Appalachian State University on the recent trail system they built in Boone called Rocky Knob Park. In 2013, in one year this study found that the park contributed an estimated \$2.8 million dollars to the local economy. Serious potential benefits for the economy of Hickory just with building a mountain bike trail. This is private land, a very extensive trail system. Would the City see \$2.8 million dollars? Probably not, but you could see the potential for revenue is out there just by going to the mountain bike trail. They also received a national recognition in 2014 which always looks nice for the city. As Mr. McLeod stated this is a perfect time to redo the trail system out there since we are getting ready to build the Riverwalk out there, the Lackey Park, revamping the whole area, this is the perfect time to do that. They will work with the City and the defined boundaries that they have so they don't interfere with the Riverwalk, or any projects that they have going on. Work hand in hand. He showed a map on the PowerPoint presentation which showed the trails system that is located there currently. He commented there are tons of trails, approximately five and half to six miles of trail. It crosses the greenway quite a few times, which is little bit hazardous. They plan on improving that as well. There is plenty of trail out there already. Their plan is not to add or subtract any trail necessarily but improve and reroute some existing trail. He showed rough pictures from the Trail Builders of ideals of what it could be. He pointed out the paved greenway and the mountain bike trails all around the greenway. One of their main goals is to eliminate all of the greenway crossings that are currently out there. They feel like that is a potential hazardous situation when mountain bikes are flying across the trail and there are walkers and runners. He displayed another model and advised there were only two greenway crossings. They also look to significantly improve the signage out there. Maybe painting on the greenway if necessary to indicate there is a trail crossing. He showed another

rendering which showed the two crossings at the greenway, opposed to the five or six that are out there now. Just making it safer for everybody. He showed some photos from the Rocky Knob Park in Boone. That park is beginner friendly but also tailors to very skilled riders. It would be very beneficial for the City to have. He advised that was their goal, their objective. He hoped with permission from City Council they could move forward to doing this in the very near future. He asked Council if they had any questions.

Mayor Wright commented he was overwhelmed. He thought it was fantastic.

Alderman Tarlton agreed.

Mayor Wright asked if it was 25,000 feet.

Mr. Stevens committed something like that.

Mr. Brittain mentioned that Council was probably thinking liability. Right now the City is more liable with the way things are now. There is no signage, there is numerous crossings.

Mayor Wright agreed that signage was very important.

Mr. Stevens commented right now there is little to no signage out there. All of that would be taken care of as well.

Alderman Lail commented you are not even asked to wear a helmet when you go out there.

Mayor Wright commented he had heard no markings. So there are drivers, bikers, walkers and strollers. It is a recipe for disaster.

Alderman Tarlton commented this place has such potential to be something like they imagine it to be too.

Mr. Stevens commented a destination for people to come.

Alderman Zagaroli stated appropriate timing relative to our bond program that we are going to be doing.

Alderwoman Patton asked when they would start their fundraising.

Mr. Brittain and Mr. Stevens responded immediately.

Mr. Brittain commented what they understand is that the Riverwalk project will start January 2018. They would love to complete this before all of that happens. He thought it would be a month at the most worth of actual trail work. This will take machines, small machines, basically a skid steer and a few other small automated machines that would come in and grade the parts that are most difficult and a lot of it will be hand labor too. He advised that he and Mr. Stevens would be out there overseeing the whole thing.

Mayor Wright commented at a minimum Council could give them some help with grant writing.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded Staff certainly could. She advised that this presentation was to introduce Council to the concept that they have in mind, and if they are interested then they could give Staff direction to pursue an agreement with the group and all of the things that we normally do as we had done with the Friends of Hickory and the Lackey family and others that we have done public/private partnerships with. This is really that jumping off point to the more detailed study, the fundraising, and an agreement with the City to do the work over time.

Alderwoman Patton asked if Mrs. Surratt need that in the manner of a motion.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt confirmed they did.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton for Staff to pursue an agreement.

Mayor Wright announced motion by Alderwoman Patton, seconded by Alderman Tarlton.

Alderman Guess asked what level of challenge that they see this trail being.

Mr. Stevens advised there will be part of the trail that will be the beginner, first time mountain bikers out there. There will also be sections of trail that are tailored to the more advanced rider, probably signed of course.

Alderman Tarlton interjected it would be like a ski slope.

Alderman Guess commented he had heard in the past that it was pretty challenging out there.

Mr. Stevens confirmed that it was, right now it is. It is very eroded, rutty and rocky. It is not easy.

Alderman Guess commented he thought that was part of mountain biking.

Mr. Stevens advised they enjoy riding out there and feel they can make it better for themselves as well as beginners. It is very intimidating for beginners. These beginners are going to Newton to Jacob's Fork Park to go learn how to mountain bike.

Alderman Tarlton commented they are improving their trail system too.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised that Staff would bring the agreement back and she felt sure that Council would hear periodic updates from the group as they move forward with a study.

Mayor Wright advised Council had not voted yet.

Alderman Lail commented Council needs to look at the agreement. They don't want to get the cart in front of the horse. He wanted to give them the go ahead to talk to some folks about raising money.

Mayor Wright agreed. An agreement in principal.

Alderman Lail agreed.

Mayor Wright advised there was a motion and a second. The motion carried unanimously. He commented these are things that would be hard for Council to make a priority, but it is certainly something great for them to do.

2. Quarterly Financial Report

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt asked Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Rodney Miller to the podium to present the quarterly financial report.

Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller advised he had a fairly benign financial report but it was loaded with exciting information. We just completed our second quarter of the new fiscal year which ended December 31st. All local governments throughout North Carolina fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. His report was for the first two quarters of the fiscal year. He presented a PowerPoint presentation displaying the general fund, the main operating fund for the City. The State of North Carolina requires all local governments to have an operating fund. They are required to have one fund, and this is it. He pointed out the column which contained figures for the annual budget. At the end of December it stood at almost \$52 million dollars. It is made up of the revenue sources, seven categories, as well as the departments and functions related to providing services to our citizens in the expenditure column. He noted the property taxes are due to Catawba County. They collect property taxes for the City of Hickory, and in fact all of the cities in Catawba County. We also have property in Burke County and Caldwell County so we have to work with Burke and Caldwell as well to provide Hickory our tax revenue. With those being due January 6th, those collections from January 1st to January 6th were not reflected in his totals. A lot of those revenues come in the first week in January which is the last time they are due for the County. Through December 31st we had collected about 78 percent of our revenues. That was the largest source of revenue. A little over \$25 million dollars we get from property taxes, or ad valorem taxes. He noted the second row, other taxes, which was primarily the sales tax. The City gets a portion of those sales tax dollars that go to Raleigh and then come back to the City of Hickory. That made up the bulk of the revenues, approximately \$40 million dollars of our \$52 million dollar budget. He discussed the intergovernmental revenues which are revenues we get from the State, as well as Catawba County money. These funds pay for things like library services, fire district services, things of that nature. He discussed permit fees sales and services, noting there was a healthy amount of recreation revenues which

were received. We received some from the library and the convention center. Fire Marshall's revenues were also included in that figure. He noted in investment earnings we had approximately \$40,000 in hand of our \$125,000. He advised that miscellaneous revenues were primary insurance reimbursements or donations. He mentioned that the Kiwanis Clubs were raising money for the Kiwanis splash pads, so those dollars would be reflected in that category. He discussed other financing sources which were made up of a couple of components. One was we balance our budget with fund balance that we have accumulated from the last fiscal year. We also appropriate fund balance. He mentioned the lawsuit that the City had settled earlier this year. Fund balance had been appropriated which was included in that figure as well. Any commitments or encumbrances that the City committed to as of June 30, 2016 rolled forward into this fiscal year so that we are able to spend them. That is what made up primarily the other financing sources category. Overall revenues we had received almost \$30 million dollars of our \$52 million dollars which we have in hand. Approximately 58 percent of our budget has now been received. As of today we had received significantly more in property tax revenues since the deadline was January 6th.

Mr. Miller discussed the expenditure side. He pointed out the categories there, or the functional area, and/or department. He pointed out a few of the items: information technology, with 50 percent of the year complete, was a little over in that category. They provide computer equipment for the whole City which are purchased out of their department. They had made most of those purchases which are capital purchases that can be made at any time during the year. The capital and operating are coming out of that particular department. Likewise, there was some capital equipment in the legal department. Everyone should be around 50 percent because we are 50 percent of the year complete. He noted the debt service of approximately \$1.4 million dollars, we had paid almost half of that year to date as well as other financing uses. Those uses are the general fund sending money to another fund. For example we sent a little over \$900,000 to our capital reserve fund for future capital needs. We send money to the storm water fund to help provide those storm water services in the City. We also help support the solid waste fund about \$200,000. Those other financing uses for the general fund, is the general fund supporting other funds with those dollars. He advised there was approximately \$3.3 million dollars in encumbrances which were committed, those were contracts and or capital items which we had committed to that we will spend some time during the rest of the year. To date, through December, our revenues had exceeded our expenditures by about \$2.8 million dollars through December, which is typical at this time because you are getting a lot of the property tax revenues at the end of December.

Mayor Wright asked if the legal settlement was in the revenues and expenses.

Mr. Miller advised they had to appropriate fund balance. He noted the fund balance number appropriated, which went up, meaning spending the fund balance that was on hand as of June 30th, that goes up, and likewise the encumbrance line item because we paid out as other financing use as well. But from the budgetary basis you have to get it into your budget, because we didn't have it in the budget as of July 1st.

Alderman Lail questioned the debt services. He asked if that was mainly the convention center.

Mr. Miller confirmed it was primarily the convention center. The City had one more payment for the recreation center, which would be Stanford, and Ridgeview Recreation. That recreation debt falls off of the books.

Alderman Lail commented the distinction with the convention center is it is funded through a separate income stream.

Mr. Miller advised the revenues would come in that we received from the TDA and then that helps pay for that TDA debt in the form of occupancy tax. Mr. Miller pointed out the property tax revenues. We had received almost \$20 million dollars through December 31st. That was about a 1.2 percent increase higher than last year at this time. He advised depending on the day that December 31st hits, in fact we got shorted a day, they received a day more last year at this time. He was not too concerned about that. The main thing is we want that in the black, we do not want that in the red. We want to continue to see our property tax revenues growing because that is our primary revenue source. He explained in 2016 the City increased the tax rate to offset a loss in the privilege license revenue that the General Assembly took away from us. That revenue stream was no longer available to the City at \$1.1 million dollars. He explained if you take the \$1.1 million dollars out of this particular revenue stream, than we earned a net 3.76 percent. You have to take out the tax rate increase to compare apples to apples.

He reiterated we had a net increase of approximately 3.76 percent last year at this time, again 1.8 percent this year we are growing, certainly some optimism. He discussed sales tax revenues which was the second largest source of revenue. We want to see this growing. He advised we had only collected five months to date in the sales tax revenue because we get those back from the Department of Revenue in Raleigh. The retailers send those sales tax dollars to Raleigh, they keep them for 45 days, they earn interest on those dollars for 45 days, and then they send them back to the City. We had not received December's sales tax revenues yet, we had only received July through November. He stated the positive here is the \$4.1 million dollars, which is almost a four percent increase through the prior year. He hopes we haven't slowed down, we had a really good year last year and the year before. He commented through December we are growing. We are just not growing as quickly as we were the prior two years. He stated we had a lot of catching up to do from the 2012, 2013, 2014 years. We are basically back at the levels that we were before the great recession. Total budgeted revenues were approximately \$9.3 million dollars so we are almost halfway there.

Mr. Miller pointed out the number of building permits that had been pulled. In residential we had added two additional permits. In the calendar year, between 2015 and 2016, we had 292 residential permits or we increased by two permits. On the commercial side that activity, as far as numbers, had actually decreased almost nine percent. We went from 416 permits in 2015 to 379 permits last year. That was the bad news, the number of permits was less. The good news was the next set of figures. On the value of those permits residential had increased almost seven percent, \$20 million dollars in value for those permits. Looking at commercial, we had almost doubled the value between 2015 and 2016. From \$52 million dollars in 2015 to \$100 million dollars in 2016. He pointed out one caveat, which still leaves us a good number, Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) Work Force Solution complex was a \$20 million dollar permit. He advised you have to put that in perspective. We are not going to get tax revenue from that because CVCC does not pay property taxes. If you pull that out we still had a healthy \$80 million dollars in commercial value that we had seen in 2016. To his knowledge none of that would have been taxed at this point. We will see that tax revenue next year and possibly the year after that. By the time the County accesses that property, when it is complete, it will be after the fact because they access on January 1st of every year. That is a positive trend. He highlighted some of the building activity. The biggest thing he had seen was that this activity was not in one particular area. It was not just Highway 70 or one quadrant. It was every quadrant of the City which was certainly promising. It was primarily commercial, he noted there were two residential projects which were in the works. An 80 unit apartment plan on Springs Road beside the Sam's Express and Walmart. There is a planned 144 unit residential complex in Viewmont behind Publix. He commented that Publix was scheduled to open in February. He mentioned the expansion of US Conec, a multimillion dollar addition. Hobby Lobby will be located off of I-40, a big gateway right there in the City that everyone sees. Corning Cable Systems with a multimillion dollar expansion. Frye Duke LifePoint ER expansion, almost 11 million dollars. MDI has a multimillion dollar expansion. Klingspor, multimillion dollar expansion. Summit Credit Union, located near City Hall, is going to be a nice looking building which is going up. A lot of good activity and a wide variety of business, industry and residential projects that we are excited about. He advised there may be a couple that he didn't add. He mentioned a car wash on 127 will be going up and the Regal building is being demolished. A good momentum for the City of Hickory. He discussed the values July through December, the last six months look. He pointed out the \$20 million dollars for CVCC was included in that number. If you take that down to \$40 million dollars he showed how it compared over the last seven years and you see that there were only two years which were above \$32 million dollars and this being one of those. It is certainly a positive trend for us for the future.

Mr. Miller discussed the water and sewer fund. He advised that was the City's second largest fund. It is not supported by property tax or sales tax. It is fee generated. It is an enterprise fund. It is supposed to support itself. It does that. We are running slightly behind pace on our sales and services. He noted almost 49 percent here. He noted that it was timing with the fall and winter months. Those revenues will pick back up in the spring as we work our way into warmer weather as more water usage occurs. This fund was approximately \$30 million dollars, the second largest fund. He didn't see any issues with the revenues here compared to prior years. On the expenditure side he pointed out the various expenses for this fund. The water plant was doing a major generator project. Those expenditures were ongoing and they were above 50 percent which was what was causing that particular line item to be above 50 percent. The pretreatment and lab function of that was also over 50 percent, but there were some capital items in the budget that they had already spent as well. Overall the expenditures were approximately 51 percent of the year complete. At this

particular point the revenues were under our expenditures by \$3.9 million dollars, but the primary reason for that was the encumbrances. We had committed those funds and he was counting those as spent even though they are not spent. That will work itself out by the time we go through the year. The water and sewer fund still remains healthy and it is a tremendous asset for the City of Hickory. Mr. Miller asked if Council had any questions.

Mayor Wright joked is there any question they should ask.

Mr. Miller replied since the former Assistant City Manager/CFO is returning to Hickory he thought he would have plenty of questions from him over the coming months.

Mayor Wright thanked Mr. Miller.

3. 2017 State Legislative Agenda.

Each year the City of Hickory prepares a list of key issues and talking points for the City leaders to use in their conversations with their legislative delegation at the State and Federal level. The Legislative Agenda explains how the City of Hickory views potential legislation and initiatives to change current laws, information for seeking funding requests and is an important communication tool that guides Staff and City leaders to successfully deliver the message on these key issues. The Legislative Agenda includes issues on the local, State and Federal level that are of particular importance to the quality of life for residents in the City of Hickory and the surrounding Community. Members of Council and Staff use this Agenda while meeting with the Federal and the State delegation. City Staff work with an in-house local government liaison and lobbyist on issues at the State and Federal level. Staff requests Council's adoption of the 2017 State Legislative Agenda for the City of Hickory for use in effectively communicating key issues in the coming year with our legislative delegation.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt asked the City's Governmental Affairs Manager Yaidee Fox to the podium to present Council with the 2017-2018 State Legislative Agenda. She advised Council had a copy of it at their seat as well as a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

Governmental Affairs Manager Yaidee Fox presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation. She discussed an overview of the Legislative activity for 2015 and 2016 and looking forward into 2017 and 2018 on what they can anticipate or expect. She recapped some of the things they had started doing over the last couple of years as they brought some things in-house. They had maintained local and regional delegation relationships; attended various rallies, i.e. the sales tax redistribution, historic tax credit rallies; established new partnerships, they had signed in with the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) affiliate group, the resort towns and convention cities; invited State and Federal Legislators to various local events, not just the one that we host, but the community update and legislative reception or the "Thank You Event" which we do twice a year. They had also invited them to various functions like the 911 ceremony. She noted on the slide the overview from what they had done from 2015 and 2016, both on the State and Federal side, the different partnerships that they had engaged and the various meetings which they had participated in. She refreshed Council on events from 2015, sales tax redistribution was very heavy. There was a huge proposal for the 50/50 formula to be initiated. That was one of the things that they worked very hard with partnerships with other cities, counties, various different partnerships and groups, chambers, businesses on; there were a lot of people behind that. While it did get changed it did not impact Catawba County which was one of their goals. There was also some reinstatement into the funding for Historic Tax Credits. They provided more funding for the Powell Bill. She clarified she didn't mean additional funds but they did provide money for that because it has to be appropriated every year. They also passed forward some economic development incentives and funding. They increased the municipal vehicle tax cap. The City actually charges \$5 per vehicle, we were allowed to charge \$10. It now has been increased to \$30 in 2015, however we still do \$5. In 2015 Federal lobbying was also brought in-house. That was when the first trip was taken to DC, and actually applied for the TIGER Grant. They met with USDOT and several congressional delegation members there and really provided a statement of what had been going on in our community. They talked about the bond projects and they continued to strengthen those relationships.

Mrs. Fox discussed 2016, the short session, a lot of that was called cleanup. A lot of technical language that needed to be straightened out. There were a lot of things that came up very early on that brought up a lot of discussion on local control. There was various bills in different forms and fashions that developed. It

also brought forth some legislation on municipal revenues, discussions on the rural needs, discussions on rural versus urban, economic development incentives were also proposed and put into a study, various land use, transportation bills were all reviewed and a change to the local elections. In 2016 they also pursued the TIGER Grant for a second round. While they were requesting funding they also talked to them about other items. Their biggest thing was letting them know what is going on here, and then trying to find out how we could help them with things that they needed too.

Mrs. Fox discussed looking ahead for 2017. She advised they started last week. They came in and made their assignments for their committees. Moving forward they make those discussions for filing of bills. Next Wednesday will be the first day that they can begin filing bills. She advised that is when things get really busy. She highlighted some of the things they anticipate that can come up: transportation; last week there was a house panel that actually met and did a proposed draft legislation to increase the local input for transportation project funding decisions. That will help with the impact for both regional and divisional level projects for the State transportation improvement process. Moving forward that will be one item that she will monitor as well. She advised that rural needs had been a topic that had come up a lot and they don't anticipate that to change. She mentioned that she had saw something about that today. During the interim period there was a committee that actually studied the economic development issues. They met again last week. They didn't do an actual legislation but they talked about the work group. Last year when they talked about what was coming up, there was a discussion about a study group that would have about ten Legislators look at the different aspects of how to change the county tiering system. That was one of the discussions they had about reevaluating, redefining that current county tiering system. They discussed last week eliminating the current population based adjustment factors and they also talked about establishing numeric economic development goals and having those goals to relate to JDIG funding (Job Development Investment Grants). They haven't necessarily flushed out the mechanics of how that would work because a lot of it would be targeted towards distressed areas, but moving forward they anticipate they will hear a little bit more detail. She will keep monitoring that as well. She discussed water issues. She referenced the Town of Carthage's water case which was also something that had been finalized with the North Carolina Supreme Court ruling. They anticipate various topics of water issues or anything about local control. She advised this case was about some fees/charges on homebuilders to operate and expand water and sewer systems. That led to a lot of discussion about local authority. She discussed local option sales tax. In 2015 there was the sales tax redistribution discussion. Last year it was the local option sales tax. While that was actually being tied to the tiering system, nothing actually came about on that proposal. They do anticipate heavy discussions coming forward. She discussed the downtown development grants. The last two State budgets had actually named specific towns and municipalities for key funding for downtown grants. The City was actually a recipient last year and used those funds to help with the lighting in our downtown. Moving forward they want to make sure that is something that they keep at the forefront as they talk to our Legislators and let them know how much we appreciate their support in those efforts. She discussed Powell Bill funding. They want to make sure that is appropriated once again. They anticipate hearing some legislation of some type on body worn cameras. Some Legislators have called for revisiting of the legislation that had recently been passed. They are not sure what that will look like, but anticipate they will hear more on it. She discussed opioid abuse and treatment. Several cities invited us to different workshops and focus groups. There are a lot of Legislators who want to see some type of legislation looking forward. What that will be they don't know, but as they have all been working together in these work groups they anticipate something will be coming about.

Mrs. Fox discussed the focus for 2017-2018. She referenced the copy of the legislative goals that Council had received. One of them was to protect our municipal revenue sources, especially sales tax. She mentioned Mr. Miller's presentation in which he noted how heavily impacted all of our revenue stream is with a lot of different things including the sales tax. She wanted to make sure that we protect those sources as best as we can to make sure that anything that happens to weaken or remove any kind of municipal revenue stream is opposed by the City. Maintaining local management and ownership of local assets, including utilities, and any other assets that we might have. We are moving towards the process of making sure we protect any measures that allow us the ability to make sure that we are always maintaining a high standard of service. Anything that would lessen that or remove it we would be opposed to that. She discussed municipal support for economic development. She had mentioned earlier about the reevaluating they had been doing on the tiering system. They had some conversations about that in the past and wanted to see some type of

change because they wanted to make sure that we were included in that as well. They encouraged the legislation that provides us the opportunity to have incentives for developers and make sure that we can fully support our area in growing and economic development. She discussed municipal infrastructure needs, including maintaining our Powell Bill funds. Obviously it is very important for us to have that for our infrastructure. There are so many people that come here during the daytime hours, so the coming and going is very harsh on the roads. The Powell Bill funds are very helpful in that aspect, and many other areas as well. Knowing that would be sustained would obviously be a benefit to us. They would oppose any legislation that would weaken or remove such funding. She discussed land use regulations. They would be monitoring that. That is always something that comes up. There is generally some sort of language that comes up about land use regulations. If there are any changes that might weaken our current authority they would certainly look into that and discuss it with Staff, and oppose anything as needed. She discussed monitoring the changes for the municipal elections. In last year's session there was Session Law which actually passed. It intended for municipal elections to be moved to 2020. When they mentioned that they also said there needed to be a study done to talk about how that would be implemented and what that change would look like. They assigned it to a committee to actually review during the interim. That committee never met. At this time there is no information on that, but they will continue to monitor it. They had not heard anything but had been asking about it, to see if there is anything coming up on that issue. Some additional discussions that they had been hearing was several Legislators wanted to look at and review what they consider a concern regarding the Local Government Retirement System (LGRS). They would support any kind of legislation that would increase that, but certainly oppose anything that would weaken or remove that as it currently stands. Given the fact that we have a lot of wonderful things that we want to do they would encourage or pursue any kind of grant opportunities to help our area continue to grow, whether that is the bond projects, infrastructures, departmental needs, or anything else.

Mrs. Fox discussed the Federal goals for next year. They had not heard yet if there was going to be a TIGER grant. They anticipate hearing something in the next couple of months, whether that will be funded, or if it will be something different, or how to go about maybe pursuing some type of transportation funding for any projects or different projects in our area. They don't know at the moment what that is. As soon as they do know they will reevaluate that internally and move forward with a plan.

Mrs. Fox commented she wanted to touch base on just a little bit of what had been happening over the last couple of years and what we are looking at for the future and let Council know what she is paying attention to in the upcoming session. She looked forward to hearing Council's comments on anything that they had heard or the proposed State legislative agenda.

Mayor Wright commented as soon as we hear anything about the TIGER Grant, let's go to Washington.

Mrs. Fox responded, yes, certainly.

Alderman Seaver asked if it was the Congress of Cities that comes up in March. Council use to go up quite often. He thought maybe Council could go back again this year. It had been eight or nine years since he had been.

Mayor Wright commented he didn't think any of them had been. He asked if it was in Council's budget.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised Staff could check into it. They would want to be strategic about when they go to DC and the timing with the TIGER Grants would probably be the best plan. The other date is a popular date and they are often told it is too competitive with other cities trying to see their Legislators and we can shine brighter if we are there on our own different date.

Mayor Wright commented that Mrs. Fox had done a good job with getting them appointments.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded right, we can call up and go at a moment's notice which is fantastic work.

Mayor Wright commented she is a beltline veteran.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt replied exactly. She joked she would be on the talk shows before long. She advised Council if they were comfortable with the legislative agenda they might consider giving it a thumbs up of support, or sort of in

a resolution. This was a very informal document and Staff could bring it back for a more formal vote in a couple of weeks. There was not a rush.

Alderman Tarlton asked if they just voted thumbs up.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded that was just her slang. She advised if Council felt comfortable Staff was looking for an interest in these topics.

City Attorney John Crone suggested say support what has been presented in the presentation of the documentation and along with that move forward with what is on the legislative agenda.

Mayor Wright commented there were a couple of things in there that he would like to talk to Staff privately about.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented there was no rush.

Mayor Wright wanted to make sure that he understood where they stood on it. It asked if that was okay.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised Staff could bring it back. They wanted to introduce it to Council tonight.

Mayor Wright advised it looks great, he just had a couple of questions about it.

4. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

BOND IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 2-1; 3 Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Mayor Wright Appoints

Michael Thomas expires 2-2-17 eligible for reappointment

Mayor Wright nominated Michael Thomas to the Bond Implementation Commission.

Alderman Lail Appoints

Suzanne Trollan expires 2-2-17 eligible for reappointment

Alderman Lail nominated Suzanne Trollan to the Bond Implementation Commission.

Alderman Tarlton Appoints

James "Jim" Campbell expires 2-2-17 eligible for reappointment

Alderman Tarlton nominated James "Jim" Campbell to the Bond Implementation Commission.

Alderman Seaver Appoints

Norman Cook expires 2-2-17 eligible for reappointment

Alderman Guess Appoints

David Roberts II expires 2-2-17 eligible for reappointment and (Unexpired Term of Jerisha Farrer resigned 11-28-2016, (term expires 2-2-2018))

Alderman Guess nominated David Roberts II and Clise Johnson Plant to the Bond Implementation Commission.

Alderman Zagaroli Appoints

R. Alan Barnhardt expires 2-2-2017 eligible for reappointment

Alderman Zagaroli nominated R. Alan Barnhardt to the Bond Implementation Commission.

Alderwoman Patton Appoints

Rob Dickerson expires 2-2-2017 eligible for reappointment

Alderwoman Patton nominated Rob Dickerson to the Bond Implementation Commission.

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

Business Development Committee

Catawba County Chamber of Commerce
 Citizen's Advisory Committee
 Community Appearance Commission reappointed Charlie Hayes
 Community Relations Council
 Hickory International Council
 Hickory Regional Planning Commission
 Historic Preservation Commission
 Library Advisory Board reappointed Carolyn Sinclair
 Parks and Recreation Commission reappointed Dean Proctor
 Public Art Commission reappointed Jennifer Helton
 Recycling Advisory Board reappointed Norm Meres
 University City Commission
 Youth Council

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

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

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments)
 (Appointed by City Council)
 Burke County (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

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

Mayor Wright nominated Ibiyemi Carrol to International Council.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

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

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)
 Position 9 VACANT

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

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

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

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

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

Alderman Seaver advised on the Bond Commission one of his appointees did not wish to serve again. He asked if he needed to take names for the approved list or could they find someone not on the list. He asked if he had to stay on the list.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised Council had the approved list, but we are always accepting applications. If there was someone that was interested Alderman Seaver could ask them to submit an application.

Alderman Seaver confirmed if he had someone in mind then they could just submit an application and get on the list.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded yes sir.

Mayor Wright asked if there were any others from Alderman Seaver's ward, or if he knew of any others who were on the list.

Alderman Seaver advised he only had one to start with out of his ward.

Alderman Guess responded you don't have to pick from that list you can solicit.

Alderman Seaver commented they need to get on the list so get them to apply.

Mayor Wright suggested before Alderman Seaver went down that road he might want to look and see if there was anybody that he wanted to consider. Mayor Wright asked if it was anybody from that ward.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised that those were not ward specific they were Council member appointed specific.

Alderman Seaver commented they were encouraged to get some from wards but he had a difficult time doing it.

Mayor Wright mentioned to Scout Moretz that these are people they are appointing to volunteer their time to help Council out. He commented there are approximately 200 people in Hickory serving on our boards and commissions. Probably 240 with the bond commission.

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 Wright commented the sinkhole seems to be showing progress. He still didn't see \$4.2 million dollars.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk