

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 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Brad Lail Vernon Tarlton	Hank Guess Aldermen	David L. Williams David P. Zagaroli Jill Patton
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A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Warren Wood, Interim Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley, 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 except for Alderman Seaver.
- II. Invocation by Sandi Hood, Director of Community Outreach, Catawba Valley Hospice and Palliative Care
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
  - A. United Arts Council Economic Impact Study – Presentation by Alan Jackson

Mayor Guess asked Mr. Alan Jackson to the podium to present the United Arts Council Economic Impact Study.

Ms. Kathy Greathouse came to the podium and thanked Council for the opportunity to present their study. She advised they wanted to do an economic impact study for the Arts Council for many years. They wanted to quantify the City's investment in them and let Council know the true value of it. They got the opportunity under the auspice of Americans for the Arts. During 2016, 25 of cultural organizations submitted pretty detailed financial information. They collected over 860 audience surveys during the course of the year. The final results were pretty wonderful. She advised quite a few people participated. Their Board President Ken Wilkinson was present, as well as board volunteers and cultural organizations. They were excited to share this news with Council. She turned the presentation over to Mr. Alan Jackson.

Mr. Alan Jackson presented a PowerPoint presentation. The study was performed by the Arts and Economic Prosperity in Catawba County project. It was a project which they submitted data from two sources: 1) the arts and cultural organizations across the County. They had 25 represented organizations that provided financial and budgetary information to the study. 2) The intercept in person surveys that were conducted throughout the year 2016 at the various events which were held in the community. 880 of those total, they needed 860 to submit to the process, so they exceeded that number. Those two sources of data were compiled by this organization. Their job was to take this information and show the outcome of the economic impact of our arts and cultural organizations and then also show how it compares to other communities where they conduct the same survey. During the course of 2016 they conducted 381 surveys in different communities. He advised the comparisons that he would show were a full assortment of communities across the United States, 381 total. A mixture of both cities and counties and some other districts that conducted the survey.

Mr. Jackson explained the data. With the surveys being collected, they did the in person surveys throughout the year. That was all volunteer driven, members of the Arts Council staff, going out to these different events throughout the community and gathering people to complete surveys afterwards. He showed a list of all of the different events that had surveys represented from their audiences. He noted some of them were a little higher than others: Lenoir-Rhyne University's visiting writers series, Music in the Mill, and the Symphony, however those were from multiple performances or multiple events throughout the year from some of those events. Overall when you wrap this up all together it was a good representation of a lot of the events that are going on throughout the County. They felt that no one event really overly dominated the surveys and they got good representation from a lot of different places. He advised these were where the surveys were collected that they submitted to the organization for the report that they put together. He stated what the total results show on this was that our arts and cultural organizations that they submitted data for and that represent Catawba County generate \$49.2 million dollars in economic activity for the County. He explained that comes from two sources which they identified: 1) the actual spending by the nonprofit arts and cultural organizations themselves, salaries, operating expenses, using vendors in the area, etc. All that money that the actual organizations themselves spend make up \$12.6 million dollars of that economic impact. 2) The other \$36.7 million dollars comes from the event related spending by audiences. He advised that was the two "pots" they come together to make that \$49.2 million dollars in total impact. Overall, the arts and cultural sector support an equivalent fulltime job of 1,442 jobs. That didn't necessarily mean 1,442 full-time employed people, but taking the hours that people are paid for time and combining those,

it is the equivalent of that many fulltime jobs. It also generates close to \$30 million dollars in household income to local residents. He advised this is how money is spent and makes its way back into households through income, through contributions, scholarships, or whatever these other revenue sources may be. It does end up back into household income over the course of the year. That was the impact that it measured for them with the study. From a government revenue standpoint, our arts and cultural organizations deliver \$4.2 million dollars in 2016 to local and state government revenue as well. Those were some of the total results. He advised he would show how it compared to some of the other communities that the survey was conducted, and what really makes up some of those individual numbers.

Mr. Jackson highlighted what the key outcomes were: total impact \$49.2 million dollars. When they compare us against a subset of their database that are similar size regions, they based it on population, we are being compared against populations between 100,000 and 250,000. In Catawba County, we are on the lower end of that scale, maybe 150,000 or so. When we compare ourselves against the other communities in the survey, our total impact of \$49.2 million dollars is 57 percent higher than their median of \$31.3 million dollars in those other communities. The national median of all 381 surveys they conducted was \$35.7 million dollars, so we are above that as well. In other words, they are saying that Catawba County, the arts and cultural organizations generate significantly more economic impact to our County than other communities where this survey was conducted of similar population sizes. As you break it down to some other elements, as he mentioned the full-time equivalent jobs, we are at 1,442 equivalent, the median of similar regions was 1,046, the national median 1,131. We are about 38 percent higher on the full-time equivalency of jobs we generate from the arts and cultural organizations. Household income was 50 percent higher than the local median. Local government revenue was 54 percent higher. State government revenue was 43 percent higher. The total economic activity generated by our arts and cultural organizations is anywhere between 35 percent and 55 percent higher in all aspects than what the median of studies that they conducted on similar population sizes. He advised that 57 percent more money was generated here through economic activity, generating 38 percent more fulltime equivalent jobs, 50 percent more household income than other areas in the database, 54 percent more in local government, and 43 percent more toward state government. He commented those were some great outcomes.

Mr. Jackson advised when you break out that information, that \$49.2 million dollars into the two groups, you have the money that is being spent by the arts and cultural organizations and then you have the money that is generated by audiences. Looking at just the money spent and generated by the organizations spending themselves, that was the \$12.5 million dollars which he mentioned of that \$49.2 million dollars. If you look at the median of other regions it was at \$14.5 million dollars. We are actually 13 percent lower than what other communities spend within those arts and cultural organizations. In this part of the equation they are actually below the median. We are spending less money within our arts and cultural organizations on average than other communities of similar sizes. We are also lower than the national median which is \$15.7 million dollars. That was the spending being done by the organizations themselves. We are about 27 percent lower on what the equivalent jobs are, 18 percent lower on household income, 32 percent lower on local government, and 40 percent lower on state government. That part of the equation we are performing lower. But what that tells us is we are spending and generating less money from our actual operating expenses and actual day to day operations of these arts and cultural organizations. The organizations themselves are spending 14 percent less money than the median of other studies. We contribute just from that part of the money, less the local government, less the state government, and so on. That is telling us that our arts and cultural organizations have lower operating expenses, paying employees, purchasing supplies, contract services, assets they acquired, etc., than other organizations on average, other communities that were surveyed. This was based on data collected from the 25 arts and cultural organizations that they had participate in the study.

Mr. Jackson discussed the audience spending, the other \$36.6 million dollars of that \$49.2 million dollar impact. We are 142 percent higher than the other areas we are being evaluated against in audience expenditures. He explained that means when somebody comes to an event that is put on by one of the arts and cultural organizations in the area, that money from the audiences was actually 142 percent higher than what other communities our size see from their audience income that has economic impact on the community. What we are seeing is a lot of money is being spent because of the kind of audiences they generate from our different events, different functions going on, festivals, etc., is generating more money at 142 percent higher than other communities that we are being assessed against. The national median was only \$18.8 million dollars. We are even higher than the national average of their studies, of all 381 studies they conducted. We are higher on the equivalent jobs from that audience spending, higher on the household income, higher on the local and state government revenue by 120 to 140 percent higher. He advised this is telling us even though our arts and cultural organizations are spending less money operationally than we see in other communities, the audiences that their events and functions are generating are generating significantly higher economic impact to our community and our county. Our audiences are spending and bringing into this County and

generating from an economic impact standpoint, 142 percent more than the median of other similar studies. Our audiences help provide 125 percent more revenue to local government and 138 percent more to state government than the other areas surveyed. What they showed us, this was what was generated from those audience intercept surveys that were done at all of these event throughout the year, was that attendees coming to an event, an arts or cultural event in Catawba County, spend an average of \$41.56 per person. That was everything except for ticket price. Ticket price was not calculated in that formula. That was true economic activity to the community. That was dining, they might have a meal whenever they go out for an event. Shopping, at the event, if they buy something at a festival, or clothing at a function. If they get a babysitter to take care of kids while they go to an event. The survey asked them to give them the amount cost and money they spent to come to this event. In other words money that they would not have spent if they had not been coming to this event in the first place. \$41.56 per person, per event, was the average based on the information they were provided. They were able to see from all of the data that was generated and all of the reports produced by those 25 organizations, we had 882,000 attendees of arts and cultural events in Catawba County in 2016 based on those 25 organizations. 60 percent of those people live in Catawba County. The other 40 percent obviously came from outside of Catawba County to attend these events. Catawba County residents spent an average of \$36.71 per person per event. Nonresidents spent an average of \$48.96 per person. Some of them are going to spend money on hotel rooms and greater travel distance.

Mr. Jackson discussed the demographic information about the people who come to these events. They thought that it was really interesting that our audiences are generating so much more economic impact than other audiences in other communities. They wanted to learn a little bit more about the demographics of that audience. Most of the audience between Catawba County residents and non-Catawba County residents was fairly similar but there were two or three really key differences. Almost 50 percent of the non-Catawba County residents that came to our arts and cultural events said it was the first time that they had been to that event or that facility before. You have a fairly significant percentage of people that we are bringing from outside the County that have not been to some of these events or to that particular event in the past. The age was what was interesting too. He referenced the chart and advised the Catawba County vs non-Catawba County resident's statistics. The highest bracket group for Catawba County residents attending our events was the 65 or older group with 35 percent of our audience coming in that age group. But when they looked for nonresidents, people who traveled to Catawba County, it actually spread out a little bit more evenly, 65 and older was 25.4 percent, significantly less than that same age group in the Catawba County residents. They had a much higher 18 to 34 age group, almost double the percentage of 18-34 attendees that we bring from outside of Catawba County than those who attend from within the county itself. He advised that younger audiences are going to be a lower total household income possibly as well. That proved to be the case as they saw the household income a lot more spread across the non-Catawba County residents as well. He advised that this is telling us that our audiences at arts and cultural events and activities not only are bringing in enormous crowds that are bringing a lot of economic activity to our area, but the people coming in from outside of the County, which is about 40 percent of them, are tending to skew younger, and tending to skew a little mixed income levels. It is an interesting mix to know that we are getting some younger attendance. He knew that we always look for this age group, young professionals, and people we want to bring to our area. They are coming to Catawba County in many of these cases for the arts and cultural activities that we are putting on by our nonprofits in the area.

Mr. Jackson advised overall what they really saw from this report was that the arts and cultural community has a significantly higher impact on economic activity than most other areas surveyed in the same survey process. He reiterated there was 381 total communities and we easily exceeded the national median of those. The main drivers of the economic activity are the events held in the County and the audiences attending them. The arts and cultural organizations themselves do not spend as much money as other communities surveyed do. They themselves do not generate as much economic activity but the work they put in building the audiences that come here more than make up for that number. These art and cultural organizations in Catawba County are bringing larger audiences to events and are having a greater impact on local and state government revenue while spending less money themselves as organizations to do so. It is a concept of efficiency for these organizations. He also felt it was the fact that we have a really strong volunteer community, people that are willing to put in their time and help with these arts and cultural events. He thought that we probably would have a higher than average volunteer base of people who would attend and help these events be successful. Some of the events which they had listed where they gathered surveys from were actually ones that were almost purely volunteer driven in some cases. A lot of that volunteer activity is helping to make those arts and cultural events really successful, costing less money for the organizations to put on, but the money they generate, the economic activity they generate for this County is enormous.

Mr. Jackson summarized, they also saw from the demographics that we do have a higher percentage of younger people traveling from outside of Catawba County to attend arts and

cultural events than younger people living within the County itself. We are attracting a little more disperse age group and income group from that. We are better at attracting younger lower income people, or different mixed income people to our events from outside of Catawba County than we are at the moment of attracting them from within our own County itself. That was based on the percentage of those surveys they collected. He advised there was a lot more detail to the report, but he wanted to make sure that Council understood and saw the highlights for that. When he was reading the report and trying to digest it in the presentation, looking at the numbers and understanding the impact that the audiences have, that they bring into this County by these arts and cultural organizations is enormous. Even if you want to argue some mechanics with the survey, was it truly representative of every population, and ever event that we have, keeping in mind that this survey was conducted the exact same way it was in all the other 381 communities. We have a really good benchmark comparison against other communities and we are far exceeding what other communities are doing from our arts and cultural organizations. He asked for questions.

Alderman Lail commented it is not measurable but he thought it was significant with our arts community and the quality of what we have as an economic development driver, using it with the EDC in presentations to perspective manufacturers, job creators. He knew that was one of the first things that Scott Millar would do. Mr. Millar would introduce them to our arts community.

Mr. Jackson replied that this was another tool in the tool built. This in itself wouldn't attract businesses but it would let businesses know that are interested in coming here if you are looking for a community that is going to support their employees with arts and cultural activities this is a great support to that.

Alderwoman Patton commented this is what is attracting people to our community. It is amazing the number of events that you put on, and everything that is available. She didn't think that people really realize what all is available here and the volunteers that they have. It is a wonderful organization.

Mr. Jackson gave credit to all of the arts and cultural organizations that put together not only outstanding events for the size community that we are and the makeup of the community we are, but also the variety of events too. He thought that was the thing when you really look top to bottom at all of the events across the County from January to December it covers a really wide spot of interest, types of populations, etc. All of that really pays into favor that we do get a fair number of people coming from outside of the County just to come here to the events that we have put on.

Alderman Lail commented he bet they had already put themselves on the agenda with the County Commissioners.

Mr. Jackson responded that he had already presented to them previously.

Alderman Lail thought that it was really important that the County got this message.

Mr. Jackson advised they had been giving this presentation at several places, the Arts Council organizations, the County, City of Newton as well. They really want to make sure that people throughout the County know the outcome of this because it is a countywide study. Although a fair number of those activities happen within Hickory it is representing the entire County and the breadth of things that we have going on Catawba County wise.

Alderman Zagaroli commented so there are really some things to do in Hickory. Very positive.

Mr. Jackson responded the study says there are a few, yes.

Alderwoman Patton commented there is something for everyone.

Mr. Jackson replied it definitely shows that those events look good on their resume as well, but is nice to have some numbers attached to it to actually see there is some economic activity from this. It is nice to have these events and they look good on a newspaper article, but it's great when you can actually see there is dollar impact to our economy from these events happening.

Alderman Zagaroli commented, excellent survey, fabulous.

Alderman Williams commented great stats from the age groups, educational, and household income. He asked what type of different ethnic groups they had. He didn't see a statistic in the report for the different ethnic groups that attend.

Mr. Jackson advised he didn't think that was part of the study that they really dug into too deep. He apologized, he wasn't recalling all of the demographics that were in the survey that was conducted. As far as what they reported back to them based on the data that they

had to submit to them, he advised Council had the report they generated. It gave them all of the analysis that they performed on the data. He apologized because he didn't have any more clarity on that answer. He encouraged City Council to read the report. There was a lot of good information in the report. He commented he had probably only discussed 15 to 20 percent of the highlights. They felt like those were the most impactful numbers to share. He thanked Council.

Mayor Guess thanked Mr. Jackson, Ms. Greathouse, all of the board members and volunteers, especially those present, this was extremely encouraging to hear and he looked forward to reading more about this. As Mr. Jackson had stated, perhaps if someone from the news media would help to pick up on this and tell more of our story, then that would be a positive point as well. He thanked Mr. Jackson.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of December 19, 2017

Alderman Tarlton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of December 19, 2017 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

A. Approval of a Future Annexation Agreement for Ghassan and Rana Alkoutami for Properties Located at 2811, 2815 and 2823 20<sup>th</sup> Street Lane NE, Hickory. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

B. Approval of an Offer to Purchase 21 Acres of Land Adjacent to Henry Fork River Regional Park in the Amount of \$265,000. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

C. Approve the Purchase of the Town of Hildebran's Sanitary Sewer Collection System in the Amount of \$500,000. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

D. Acceptance and Award of a Contract to Freese and Nichols, Inc. in the Amount of \$61,900 for the Evaluation and Design of the Lenoir-Rhyne University Area Waterline Improvements Project. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

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

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

A. Approved the Donation of Five Vacation Days to be Awarded as Prizes to City Coworkers who Contribute \$25 or More to the City's Rudy Project Fundraising Effort.

City Employees and the City's Leadership Academy participants are participating in fundraising efforts with Habitat for Humanity to honor Mayor Rudy Wright. The goal is to raise \$10,000 inside the City organization and the City Council, on behalf of the City, has pledged to match employee contributions. Having a "prize" to offer to those employees who give to the project will greatly increase the participation rate for our fundraising efforts. Staff requests City Council's approval of donation of five vacation days to draw for the Rudy project donors who give \$25 or greater.

B. Called for a Public Hearing for Consideration of Amending Article II, Section 4-26 and 4-29 of Chapter 4 Animals and Fowl of the Hickory City Code of Ordinances. (Authorize Public Hearing for January 16, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

C. Called for a Public Hearing for Consideration of Amending Chapter 24 of the Hickory City Code of Ordinances to Consolidate and Codify Regulations Regarding Solicitors, Peddlers, and Panhandlers into One Chapter. (Authorize Public Hearing for January 16, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

D. Approved Modifying the Union Square Parking Design to Better Accommodate Electric Vehicle Parking.

Staff requests City Council’s approval to modify the Union Square parking design to better accommodate electric vehicle parking. Staff are continually looking for ways to improve the parking experience in Downtown Hickory and make best use of the available spaces. An electric vehicle charging station was constructed in the western portion of the Union Square parking lot to be able to accommodate two electric vehicles. Many times non-electric vehicles are parked in the spaces nearest the charging station prohibiting electric vehicles the opportunity to charge. The Traffic Division has analyzed the current layout of the Union Square parking lot and feels that assigning the two adjacent parking spots to the charging station as “Electric Vehicle Parking Only” is appropriate. This will help to accommodate the growing number of electric vehicles and encourage these drivers to visit downtown. The spaces will adhere to the already existing three hour parking limitation within Union Square thus ensuring turnover for more customers. The Traffic Division Sign Shop will make signage changes for these parking areas upon approval. Staff requests City Council’s approval to modify the Union Square parking design to better accommodate electric vehicle parking.

- E. Approved the Installation of an All-Way Stop at the Intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW and 5<sup>th</sup> Street Drive NW.

Staff requests the approval of an all-way stop installation at the intersection of 5th Street NW and 5th Street Drive NW as warranted by the Traffic Calming Guidelines. The City received a completed petition for additional traffic calming near the intersection of 5th Street NW and 5th Street Drive NW. This same area went through traffic calming several years ago and the speed limit was reduced to 25 mph. Based on recent speed studies it appears traffic is still speeding through the neighborhood. Following the City’s Traffic Calming Guidelines, the recommendation the installation of an all-way stop at this intersection to further reduce speed. The Traffic Division has received all necessary paperwork from residents within the area with regards to the Traffic Calming Guidelines and have found the residents to be in compliance with the guidelines and the petition does qualify for the all-way stop at the intersection listed. Forty-three properties were included in the petition and thirty-five signed the petition creating more than the required seventy-five percent. If approved the changing and installing the signage and markings will be performed by the Traffic Division Signs/Markings Shop. Staff recommends the installation of an all-way stop at the intersection of 5th Street NW and 5th Street Drive NW as warranted by the Traffic Calming Guidelines.

- F. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 12.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-01  
Budget Revision Number 12

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

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Culture and Recreation	338,375	-
Other Financing Uses	5,065	-
TOTAL	343,440	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	338,375	-
Public Safety	-	5,065
TOTAL	338,375	5,065

SECTION 2. To establish the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Project – 2017 (project #G5110U) within Fund 049 Multi-Year Grant Projects, the expenditures are to be established as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	10,128	-
TOTAL	10,128	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	5,063	-

Other Financing Sources	5,065	-
TOTAL	10,128	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	500,000	-
TOTAL	500,000	-

To provide funding for the above, the Water and Sewer Fund revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	500,000	-
TOTAL	500,000	-

SECTION 4. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

1. Approved the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of Property Owned by Herbert and Brenda Stepp, Located at 1021 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive NW, containing .652 Acres, PIN 3704-14-34-8492 – Presentation by Planning Manager Cal Overby.

Herbert and Brenda Stepp have submitted a petition for the voluntary contiguous annexation of 0.652 acres of property located at 1021 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive NW. The annexation area consists of a lot which contains a single-family residence. The annexation is being requested in order to gain sewer service from the City of Hickory. The subject property is currently located within Hickory’s Extra-Territorial Jurisdictional Area (ETJ) area, and zoned Medium Density Residential (R-2). The current tax value of the property is \$317,800. If annexed with its present value, the property would generate approximately \$1,800.34 in additional tax revenues. Upon analysis, staff has determined the petition meets the statutory requirements for voluntary contiguous annexation, and adequate public services are available. Staff finds the petition to be in conformity with applicable statutes, and recommends approval of the annexation petition.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on December 22, 2017.

City Manager Warren Wood asked the City’s Planning Manager Cal Overby to the podium to present Council with a voluntary contiguous annexation request for property owned by Herbert and Brenda Stepp, located at 1021 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive NW.

Planning Manager Cal Overby presented City Council a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed the request for a voluntary contiguous annexation for property owned by Herbert and Brenda Stepp for property located at 1021 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive NW. He advised the property was slightly over six tenths of an acre in size. The closest ward to the property would be Ward 6, Alderwoman Patton’s ward. The current development of the property is one single family residence and future development is that also. The annexation was being requested in order to gain access to the City’s utility system. He showed a map of the property and pointed out the subject property, the City’s extra territorial area (ETJ), the City limits, and another parcel also owned by the Stepps which was vacant and the other parcel contained their primary residence. He pointed out 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive to the cul-de-sac, a State maintained roadway. The City does have access to get sewer into the property. He pointed the location of where the sewer would be located. He showed a 2017 aerial photo of the area. It was predominately single family residential or vacant forested land. He noted the subdivision on the map. He advised the zoning in the area, the entire area, whether it is in our City limits was all zoned R2 which is the City’s single family district. That is what the use of the property is and is proposed to remain. He stated upon evaluation Staff determined that adequate services were available to serve the property, they are not expected to fall below acceptable levels and annexation does meet or exceed all requirements under the General Statutes of North Carolina. He asked for questions from Council.

Mayor Guess 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 voluntary contiguous annexation of property owned by Herbert and Brenda Stepp, located at 1021 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive NW, containing .652 Acres. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

<b><u>COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
Ward 2 (Tarlton Appoints)		VACANT
Ward 4 (Williams Appoints)		VACANT
<b><u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
Other Minority (Council Appoints)		VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints)		VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints)		VACANT
<b><u>HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments)		
(Appointed by City Council)		
Burke County (Mayor Appoints)		VACANT
<b><u>HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms (Appointed by City Council)		
Building Trades Profession (Council Appoints)		VACANT
<b><u>INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL</u></b>		
(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)		
(2) Positions		VACANT
<b><u>LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
At-Large (2) (Mayor Appoints)		VACANT
<b><u>PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
At-Large Minority (1) (Council Appoints)		VACANT
(David Williams no longer eligible)		
<b><u>PUBLIC ART COMMISSION</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
Ward 4 (Williams Appoints)		VACANT
<b><u>PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)		
Position 1	Grover Lineberger	
	(Eligible for Reappointment)	
Position 9		VACANT
<b><u>RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
Ward 4 (Williams Appoints)		VACANT
<b><u>YOUTH COUNCIL</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
Challenger High School Representative		VACANT
Homeschool Representative		VACANT
St. Stephens High School Representative		VACANT

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

January 2, 2018

Alderman Zagaroli referred to the United Arts Council's Economic Impact Study and commented that he hopes that the Chamber has this information so they could pass it on to perspective movers and shakers that have come to Hickory. This is phenomenal that a town this size has this much to offer. He thought we have to toot our own horn as much as we can.

Mayor Guess mentioned this past week another coworker with the City of Hickory had passed. Mr. Terry Watts was an engineer for 16 years with the City of Hickory. He worked in storm water in the Public Services Division. He asked for everyone to remember Mr. Watt's family in their thoughts and prayers.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk