

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

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

A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Warren Wood, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Assistant to the City Manager Yaidee Fox and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Rabbi Dennis Jones, Temple Beth Shalom
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
  - A. Live Well Hickory Video Presentation – Communications and Marketing Manager Dana Kaminske.

City Manager Warren Wood advised Council the presentation was a new video in a series of videos which they had been producing. He asked the City's Communications and Marketing Manager Dana Kaminske to the podium to present the latest "Live Well Hickory" video.

Communications and Marketing Manager Dana Kaminske explained the video was in the City of Hickory's quality of life video showcase and was called "How Do You Live Well, Hickory?" They worked with some partners like Live Well Catawba, local businesses, and the City's Parks and Recreation Department, as well as others, to get the footage together for this video. They wanted to showcase all of the great activities that we have going on in Hickory. We have so much to do. She referenced outdoor activities, the lake, the new mountain bike trails, 24 parks, 6 recreation centers, 2 Senior Centers, and some amazing things in our City. We have two regional medical centers, which is great because not a lot of cities can say that. We have so much happening. We have farm-to-table restaurants. It is hard to capture everything in two minutes, but when you start to see the compilation of all of the videos that they have put together, you start to get a better feel for Hickory. They are pushing these out to their partners, the community, to the region and even to the State. And they are getting recognized and we love that. People are starting to learn about Hickory through our videos. She presented the video.

Mayor Guess thanked Mrs. Kaminske. He advised they had the privilege of sharing some of those past videos with different folks that came to Hickory at the Convention Center and different places. They had some really great comments, not only from them, but from some of the citizens. They look forward to the next one.

- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard
  - A. Mr. Richard Frye, 1004 13<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Hickory addressed City Council regarding a concern in his neighborhood. He advised Council he lived in southwest Hickory and there were two garages, one beside of him and one across the street from him. He inquired if there was an Ordinance which limited the number of vehicles allowed on a given square foot of property. He had tried to find the information and inquired where he could obtain that. He commented they seem to have way too many vehicles on these properties. Sometimes during the day there are cars that are almost in the street. When they have people making deliveries sometimes they have to park in the right of way in front of his house. The concern went beyond that. Many of these vehicles are dilapidated. He didn't know what the definition of junk cars was in Hickory, but he thought that should be clarified. He requested that be clarified with him. Many of these cars look junky. They have been sitting there for weeks, months, and some cases years. He came to Council six months ago and addressed this concern. He was handed over to Mr. Brian Frazier in zoning. He understood there were violations there. He did not see any changes in anything that was there. It had been beyond that, these cars are so tight in there that it promotes a dangerous situation in case of a fire. They also invite a stigma to the neighborhood which creates a lot of bad activity because of that. Since the last time he had addressed Council he had actually had one of his vehicles broken into and tools were stolen. Two weeks ago someone had stolen a lawnmower battery out of his lawnmower that was sitting behind his shop. With all of these vehicles it creates a stigma. Their neighborhood is disrespected. He wanted to know what they need to do in his neighborhood to get the same respect that other neighborhoods have. He was finding in southwest Hickory, not just there but in other locations, there was an accumulation of cars that were parked and some of them might not be wrecked, but they are parked. They probably don't run and they are probably parked there for parts, so they could pull parts off of them, but nonetheless this concerned him and he wanted to know exactly what he could do to get this problem resolved or find out if this was something that was legal and if it was not legal what could they do to fix it? If it is

legal, what steps could he take to see that maybe measures could be changed in the City to protect the neighborhoods? He requested someone to help him with that.

Mayor Guess advised Mr. Frye they could help him with that. The City Manager would direct the appropriate staff to get in contact with him.

City Manager Warren Wood advised that Mr. Frazier was not present and they have his contact information if he had been in contact with him. He would be glad to sit down with him in his office and find out where they were with all of that.

Mr. Frye thanked Mr. Wood.

Mayor Guess commented yes we do have code enforcement and yes we do have Ordinances. He was sure that someone from staff would be in contact with Mr. Frye and help him resolve this and answer his questions. He advised that Mr. Frye was the only person who had signed up to speak. He asked if anyone else in Chambers wanted to speak. He instructed if anyone else wished to speak to please approach the podium and give their name and address.

Mr. Robert Russell requested assistance to combat the jungle of kudzu weeds that was growing in and around the Ridgeview community, in particular on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. The weeds are growing out of control in various yards and fields and needed to be removed before they become a health hazard to the City and a safety hazard to the children who live in the community. He owns property in the back of a corner of Highway 127 and South Center Street and it could be considered as a Brownfield site based on its location to the Brownfield properties that exist around that particular area. They already have an abundance of pests, which they found in the Ridgeview area close by. Close to downtown, in Hickory, they found rats as large as squirrels. They had identified some snakes, raccoons, and groundhogs in the community as well. This is a hazard that is eventually going to trickle down. He had mentioned it before when he spoke to Council, they talked about Main Street and they talked about how great things are downtown, but this right down close to downtown. It is right in the midst of downtown to be exact. They have money that Brownfield receives to come here. They do a lot of non-essential things, which they call non-essential. Non-essential projects. Essential projects to him would be dealing with the infrastructure in the community, communities that exist, that is essential. Non-essential things could be considered as the Street Walk, the Book Walk and things of that nature. That could be considered non-essential. But we do have properties, in the Ridgeview community that he was concerned about. He was not present as an advocate in particular for Ridgeview, but as a property owner he was present because he pays taxes and he was concerned about that matter as a taxpayer. We have safety hazards, when we have boarded up houses that drug addicts can get into. When they get into those boarded up houses there are a lot of problems in those houses. He wouldn't go into describing the things that you would see. But there are a number of houses in the community that are boarded up and they are access to people who have drug problems, drug habits. Council knew how vast the problem was with opioids in the community. He was glad to have Mayor Guess in Ward 4 and Alderman Williams in Ward 4. It didn't take long to go through Ridgeview and in many areas, get a screen and look at some of the things that need to be done. It is not when they need to be done, they need to be done ASAP. We talk about revitalization, he wants to get from the City a \$6,000 gift, they could put it in his hands, he would make sure that it was used properly in getting the work that needs to be done. If it needs to be, then we need to put signs up for litter bugging. We have a lot of litter bugs. If we are going to continue to make Hickory an All-America City indeed we need to make it an All-America City in fact. That is really what we need to be looking at. He requested to try and get rid of some of the weeds, the pests and all of the other things that exist. Again, we have got two great leaders in the Ridgeview community, Ward 4. Anytime they want to come over there and walk through that neighborhood and let him identify and point out to them where he was talking about, he would be more than happy. He was sure that there were some folks who live close to that area, particularly people who are members of Hartzell United Methodist Church, who would be more than glad to accommodate them. This was his request for money, since words are empty. You have people that hear the gospel Jesus talked about, and a lot of other folks, people who hear the gospel receive it with their lips, but when their hearts are not really there. He hoped Council's hearts were here as Christian leaders of this community and they reach out. Let's get something done in that respect. He thanked Council and asked them for questions.

Mayor Guess commented once again we do have Ordinances and code enforcement.

City Manager Warren Wood commented they would like to take him up on the tour so they could get specific. He had Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller get Mr. Russell's contact information and staff would be in touch with him.

Mr. Russell asked how soon that would be. He would like to have some other people accompany him, maybe some church members to accompany him.

Mayor Guess advised staff would be in contact with him. He asked if there was anyone else in the Chambers who wished to address City Council.

Mr. Jim Koutsogoulas, advised he was in Ward 3, his property was a parcel identification number currently. His property was located across the street from Snyder's Trucking. He advised the last time he was in Hickory was in the early 90s. He went through Hickory in October. He forgot how much he loved this town and how much it reminded him of his hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina, back in the 70s and 80s when he was growing up. He liked it so much that he actually bought six acres in Hickory with a specific agenda. He mentioned he was a veteran, and had been discharged for about four or five years. His heart goes out to fellow veterans. The reality is, part of the thing that is missing once they get into civilian life, is quite frankly a mission. They have this wonderful skillset, which millions of dollars was spent in training them, and then once they are back out into civilian life, one of the biggest disconnects was that they miss doing something for their community. They lack a mission. He thought that gets some people into a downward spiral and of course the end result is they feel as if they are outside of their community. To that end, he represents a program called Vets to Farms in this end of the State. If a veteran wishes to pursue an agricultural business or endeavor, they try to structure it to get them to do that. That was what made him buy this property he was referring to. He proposed to City Council, how they would feel about him structuring something where our veterans, for the community, not exclusive to the veterans, basically do a back to basics, back to working with your hands kind of scenario, where they explore the skill trades, almost do a business incubator and an agricultural business in that area, which is very close to the Community College. It had been working fairly well. He had been doing it privately with his own property and funds in Charlotte. The property in Hickory became available and he liked it so much. He thought it fit in perfectly with the crafts and the skills that Hickory is known for. He would love to see this property actually have a blacksmithing forge, ceramics, etc. A very fundamentally welcome back to your hometown kind of environment. Where everybody can actually enjoy it, but predominately it is operated and structured for veterans as doing the heavy. He thanked Council and would like to see their opinion on the matter.

Mayor Guess advised that the City has some partners that are interested in veterans as well. He felt sure that someone from staff would be in contact with him.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they would get his contact information.

Mayor Guess asked if there was anyone else who wanted to address City Council. No one else appeared.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of June 5, 2018.

Alderman Zagaroli moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of June 5, 2018 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

A. Budget Revision Number 23. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

B. City Manager's FY2018-2019 Recommended Budget. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

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

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

A. Approved the Renewal of Taxicab and Other Passenger Vehicles for Hire Franchises.

Company	Taxicabs	Passenger Vehicle for Hire
Mile High Enterprises dba The Hickory Hop	0	8
Yellow Cab	8	5
Diamond Cab of Hickory	3	0
Hickory Limousine	0	3

Total	11	16
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Annually, these companies apply for a renewal of their Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the operation of taxicabs and other vehicles for hire. Hickory Police Department recommends approval of Certificates of Convenience and Necessity for the four businesses and vehicles for fiscal year of 2018-2019.

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

The following requests were considered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on June 7, 2018.

Each of the following applicants are being recommended for approval for assistance under the City of Hickory's 2017 Urgent Repair Program. This program provides qualified low income citizens with assistance for emergency related repairs not to exceed \$8,000.

- Paul Brooks, 711 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive SE, Hickory – up to \$8,000
- Anna Farley, 112 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Hickory – up to \$8,000

The Citizens' Advisory Committee recommends approval of the aforementioned requests for assistance through the City of Hickory's housing assistance programs.

- C. Accepted the 2018 Urgent Repair Program Grant from North Carolina Housing Finance Agency in the Amount of \$50,000 and Approval of the Assistance and Procurement Policies.

In January 2018, the City of Hickory Community Development Division applied for funding through the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency's Urgent Repair Program. The City of Hickory has been awarded \$50,000 through this program in order to assist approximately seven very low income homeowners with urgently needed repairs in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 per housing unit. The City of Hickory will provide an additional \$5,000 in matching funds, which are available from Rental Rehabilitation program income. The total program budget will be \$55,000. NC Housing Finance Agency requires the City of Hickory to prepare Assistance and Procurement Policies. These policies must be made available to the public and explain the guidelines of the URP18 program. The City of Hickory Community Development Department, in complying with the N.C. Housing Finance Agency's funding requirements for URP18, has prepared an Assistance Policy and Procurement Policy. These policies incorporate program requirements, applicant eligibility standards, and program capabilities. Upon approval by Hickory City Council these policies will be submitted along with additional required information to the NC Housing Finance Agency. Upon receipt and acceptance by NCHFA funds will be dispersed to the City of Hickory in order to begin repairs to eligible homes. Staff recommends City Council accept the 2018 Urgent Repair Program Grant and approve the Assistance and Procurement Policies.

- D. Approved the Issuance of a Pyrotechnic Display Permit to Hickory Motor Speedway.

Kevin Piercy, General Manager of the Hickory Motor Speedway has submitted a request to obtain permission to have a public fireworks display on July 7, 2018. The North Carolina Fire Code requires an operational permit for the use and handling of pyrotechnic special effects material. The Division of Fire & Life Safety Bureau shall review all required documentation for the events. The Fire Prevention Bureau will also inspect the pyrotechnics display area prior to the events to ensure compliance with all guidelines and codes. Staff recommends approval of the pyrotechnics displays.

- IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

- X. Informational Item

- A. Budget Transfer Report

Under Section 22 (b) of the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance, the City Manager is authorized to transfer appropriations with a report to City Council as follows:

Section 22 (b): "He may transfer amounts up to \$50,000 between functional areas including contingency appropriations, within the same fund. He must make an official report on such transfers at the next regular meeting of the Governing Board."

\*Note: To expedite the availability of insurance-claims revenue to the appropriate department once the City receives said funds, in lieu of a Budget Amendment the City has allocated specific funds within the Risk Management division which may be transferred as necessary for making repairs and/or replacements in the most timely manner.

The following transfer recently occurred under this provision:

June 12, 2018 (BT#81): To recognize an insurance claim payment in the amount of \$39,974 received for damages sustained to the outfield wall at LP Frans Stadium from storms during October 2017.

City Manager Warren Wood explained the budget transfer report. It was an insurance claim payment that the City had received, \$39,974, from damages that were sustained from the tornado in October of 2017.

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

1. Approved the Community Development Block Grant 2018 Annual Action Plan – Presentation by Community Development Manager Karen Dickerson.

In program year 2018, the City of Hickory will receive \$307,542 through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and approximately \$110,000 in program income for a total of \$417,542. Funds will be used to develop stronger communities by providing decent housing, creating suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for people of low and moderate incomes. The City of Hickory's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan is updated on an annual basis through the development of an Annual Action Plan. This plan sets priorities among these needs and sets out the action plan for use of available funds on a yearly basis. This provides for flexibility in determining priorities as the needs of the community change from year to year. The 2018 Annual Action Plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development upon approval by City Council. The plan will serve as the City's strategy for administering 2018 federal funds for community development and housing. The Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed the draft action plan at their meeting on May 3, 2018 and recommended approval of the proposed budget. Staff recommends Council's approval of the Community Development Block Grant 2018 Annual Action Plan.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on May 18, June 9, and June 19, 2018.

Mayor Guess explained the rules for conducting the public hearing.

City Manager Warren Wood asked the City's Community Development Manager Karen Dickerson to the podium to present Council with the Community Development Block Grant 2018 Annual Action Plan.

Community Development Manager Karen Dickerson presented City Council with a PowerPoint presentation. She presented the 2018 proposed budget allocation for the Annual Action Plan from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding that is received from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department. We are the principle city in our MSA and therefore we are an entitlement city. Entitlement cities receive annual grants from the CDBG program to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments and by expanding economic opportunities principally for low to moderate income persons. She advised this year the City was receiving \$307,542 for its annual allocation as an entitlement City. With that they also expect to have \$110,000 in program income for a total budget of \$417,542. She referred to a chart on the PowerPoint presentation of how they had laid out the budget. She highlighted the items: housing rehabilitation and purchase program; they wanted to provide funds to purchase and rehabilitate existing housing units chiefly for those low to moderate income individuals. Demolition of substandard structures; trying to fund some demolition of some blighted properties. Public infrastructure and facility improvements to provide funds to construct curbing, gutters, and sidewalk in those low to moderate income census tracts. They could also use the money for street resurfacing, installing streetlights, planting street trees, and rebuilding or rehabilitating facilities for public use. Down payment assistance; this was their program that provides funds to assists eligible first-time homebuyers to reduce the required down payment and closing costs. Small business assistance; they are looking at \$40,000 for small business assistance, which was a little bit more than they funded previously, but they are hoping to expand the program. They initially only did a microenterprise grant program which meant that the business owner had to be low to moderate income individuals and the maximum number of employees was five including the owner. They would now like to offer some particular funding, some loans towards business equipment, for people who are creating jobs for low to moderate income individuals where 51 percent of those people employed would be low to moderate income. Then they have the sub-recipients/nonprofits. This year \$8,000 to ALFA, \$8,000 to Hickory Soup Kitchen,

\$8,000 Exodus Homes, \$6,000 Safe Harbor, \$8,000 Cooperative Christian Ministry, and \$8,000 Family Guidance. For ALFA they are providing funds to support a Case Manager position for them for their program. Hickory Soup Kitchen the funds supports their operating costs. Exodus Homes it supports employment and transportation coordinators. Safe Harbor provides support for the organization's transitional housing program. Cooperative Christian Ministry to provide support to a recently developed anti-poverty program. Family Guidance to provide funds to support counseling to potential homebuyers and credit counseling, trying to help people get out of that circle of poverty. The administration line was \$56,000 which was to run the program internally at the City. They allocated \$1,200 to fair housing and which was their continued fair housing push. They want to make sure that everybody can get fair housing. There was a contingency of \$9,042. They also want to offer loans to incentivize business owners to create jobs for those low to moderate income individuals. They want to continue moving forward with the infrastructure and facility improvements in low to moderate income neighborhoods. They had already done some of this. They had been doing housing rehabilitation and would like to assist with demolition of dilapidated substandard structures that contribute to blight. Also the continued support for the six local nonprofit organizations. She showed slides of some of the improvements they had made at Cliff Teague Park. This park was located off of "C" Avenue. They also did some street resurfacing last year in front of this park and the street that goes behind it. She showed a photo which was taken in April. She pointed out they had done the curbing and sidewalk but had not paved the parking lot. She showed a photo which was taken on June 18, 2018, the parking lot had been paved and stripped and also new sidewalks. She was excited about the trail, which was an ADA accessible trail leading down to the playground. Before there was no way for someone in a wheelchair to get down to that particular little playground. The other thing that they did there was to resurface the basketball court. That was something they had done and they want to continue doing some improvements to this park.

Alderwoman Patton advised she was over there last week and it looked really nice.

Community Development Manager Karen Dickerson responded it was a real cute little park, if you haven't been there go visit.

Mayor Guess asked if there were any questions from Council. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the Community Development Block Grant Action Plan as presented.

#### OPPONENTS

Mr. Robert Russell advised he wasn't fully aware of all the good things that are being done with the Community Development Block Grant. But he knew that it seems that it focuses on the same individuals and the same projects over and over again. It is kind of routinely done and it does not seem to filter off into areas, and nonprofit organizations that really have viable issues that they would like to address. He didn't know if it was a patrons list that was basically the way it was divvied out. He knew when some people apply, and people who have legitimate projects have said that they have been denied over and over again even though they are doing constructive things. For example, the Classroom Connection Program does a lot in the community. That program has helped teachers and students with resources. That program has tried many times to get into the CDBG. They have not been given any type of consideration. Other programs, the Strive Program, for example, requested funds so they can help people who have opioid problems and help individuals with jobs and they even requested use of the old Jaycee building. Upon their request, within two weeks, the building was demolished because they said that building had some roof problems. No direction given to the group. How can they assist as the Council members? Any nonprofit organization that is doing good work in the community, that is helping to keep the image of the All-America City viable, and open for people to come from all around the State and all around the City and all around the community. He thought there needed to be a review on how the CDBG is divvied up. Because the way he sees it, it goes the same cycle over and over again. People who have relevant, viable programs are not given access to the resources they need to continue to grow their program. He thanked Council.

Mayor Guess asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak in opposition of the proposal.

Alderman Williams commented on Mr. Russell's comments. That was one of the things which had been brought to him after he was installed on City Council. That was one of the things that he wanted to bring back to the community. Providing the information to be involved in these opportunities because a lot of times

communities or sectors of the community are left out because of lack of knowledge. One of the things he is trying to bring back to the community was knowledge of these types of programs and how to get involved in these types of programs where they could receive these grants, and receive these types of funds because if not, like he said, it is possibly the same recipients. He would be in contact with Mr. Russell and if there was anything he could do to keep him informed on what the process may be. Mr. Wood and the entire staff would love to work with Mr. Russell going forward.

Mayor Guess asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the Community Development Block Grant Action Plan.

#### PROPONENTS

Ms. Liz Goebelbecker, 1055 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive NW, Hickory, advised she represented Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry, and the ministry which she serves which was NETworX, which was a direct recipient of the CDBG which had been so graciously offered. She thanked Council. There was a spirit of living well in Hickory and what that means. It means many things to many different people as we have heard even from our community members tonight and the City Council representatives themselves. From her little corner of the world she wanted to say that living well in Hickory means loving your neighbor well. That was what they try to do in NETworX. For virtue of offering them this block grant, they are supporting them in doing that work of loving our neighbor well. They have so many citizens that have had challenges and struggles in their life who desire a second chance. They desire the opportunity to transform their lives. We, as an intentional community of people in Hickory, choose to cross those invisible lines and join an intentional friendship with one another. Moving in and out of neighborhoods and everywhere that divides us instead of brings us together and we go out and we seek one another and we come together so that we not only can transform our own lives, but so that we can become community transformers, because when we change, and we know what it means to live in abundance and to live well, we want everyone to live that way. She thanked Council for their support and their financial support because they couldn't do that work without them, but she thanked Council also for the spirit in which it was intended, because she thought that it comes from a place where Council believes in the possibility and the promise, the value and the dignity, of every citizen that lives in this community. And for that she was very, very grateful. She thanked Council.

Mayor Guess asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Ms. Susan Walker, 739 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Hickory, Assistant Executive Director of Exodus Homes thanked Council for the partnership with the City, the continued partnership through the CDBG program. The \$8,000 which they would receive, should the budget be approved, would help them with the coordination of transportation and employment services. That was how they generate the revenue to support their programs. They are 75 percent self-supporting at Exodus through their own enterprises Exodus Works and through employing people in the community in local businesses. The coordination of the transportation of getting 63 people everywhere they need to go and working with the employers and their cooperate partners and their enterprises is at the heart of how they have survived over the past 20 years. She commented Council might remember that during the recessions they almost lost the organization twice. Once in 2010 and then again in 2013 when they were all laid off and it didn't look very promising for Exodus Homes. They are still here today. They are smaller, they are leaner, they are stronger, and they have big plans for where they are going in the days to come. These funds have been critically important to them as leverage for them to be able to generate their own revenue to support the programs. The return that the City gets on the dollar that they invest in Exodus Homes is amazing. She thanked Council for that and advised one of the most important partnerships that Exodus Homes has today was with the Hickory Police Department Code Enforcement division. They are the organization that is doing all the public nuisance mowing, all of the condemned building cleanouts, and all of the cleanup of the homeless camps. That takes a lot of coordination, a lot of transportation, a lot of getting work crews here and there. The Hickory Police Department has standards that they expect them to follow in terms of pricing the jobs, getting there, getting them done, and checking back. The CDBG money actually is helping Hickory Police Department doing the code enforcement work that Mr. Russell referred to, the kudzu, etc. That is the kind of things they do all the time for the City of Hickory today. These funds, should the budget be approved, are much appreciated and very important and one of the main reasons that she thought that they survived the recession. They are not rich by any means, but they are no longer the titanic, they are not going down anymore. They have a great future and they think as much as they do for the City of Hickory, as the City does for them, they also do that for the

City because the City has something to point to and say that is where our dollar went. Homeless people who used to be in prison or on the street are now the ones cleaning up, working and paying taxes, and 75 percent supporting the organization that they are living in. She thanked Cooperative Christian Ministry's, (CCM), NETworX program which Liz Goebelbecker spoke about. They have partnered with them so well with residents who are ready to leave Exodus Homes but just need a little bit of extra help. They need that team of allies from CCM, from the NETworX program. They are becoming stronger and stronger partners, so the dollar which Council puts into the CCM NETworX program, and the dollar they put into the Exodus Homes program is actually working together and they are ending generational poverty and helping them produce good, productive, law abiding, taxpaying citizens for the City of Hickory, which she thought was a great thing for everybody. She thanked Council.

Mayor Guess asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak in favor of the Community Development Block Grant Action Plan. No one else appeared. Mayor Guess closed the public hearing and asked for a motion or discussion from Council.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Williams approval of the Community Development Block Grant 2018 Annual Action Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approved an Amendment to the Ordinance for the Membership Provisions of the Hickory Youth Council – Presentation by Business Services Manager Dave Leonetti.

The Hickory Youth Council is a group of 30 high school students that provides input to City Council, staff, and other Boards and Commissions on issues important to youth. Members also learn about city government and perform community service projects. Membership on the council includes seats for Hickory High School, Saint Stephens High School, Fred T. Foard High School, Challenger Early College High School, Hickory Career Arts Magnet High School, private schools in the City Limits, homeschool, and at-large appointees. Membership is currently open to students living within the Hickory City Limits or extra-territorial zoning jurisdiction (ETJ). At times it can be difficult to fill spaces for Saint Stephens, Fred T. Foard, and Challenger given that many of the students attending those schools live outside the City Limits and ETJ.

The proposed ordinance would give priority to applicants living within the Hickory City Limits. This is not the case under the current ordinance, which treats applicants from the ETJ on equal footing to City residents. The proposed amendment would also give staff and City Council flexibility to appoint youth from outside the City limits but who attend a school with a designated seat on the council. Students from outside the City limits would only be able to be appointed if fewer applications are received during the spring recruitment period than there are seats on the council. The elimination of the reference to ETJ may actually result in more City residents on the council while also providing additional flexibility for harder to fill positions. This amendment will also make the application process easier to explain to potential applicants. Staff recommends Council's consideration of amending the membership provisions of the Hickory Youth Council Ordinance.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on June 8, 2018.

City Manager Warren Wood advised Council for their consideration was an Amendment to the Ordinance for the membership provisions of the Hickory Youth Council. He asked the City's Business Services Manager Dave Leonetti to the podium to present the item to Council.

Business Services Manager Dave Leonetti explained to City Council what the Youth Council was about. Hickory Youth Council was a group of 30 high school students basically for three purposes: they provide input to City Council and staff on issues that are important to youth; they learn about local government; and they perform community service projects. The proposed revisions to the Youth Council Ordinance would accomplish three additional things. It would provide flexibility in appointing members to harder to fill positions; insure that City residents receive priority in filling the vacant seats on the Council; and eliminate confusion about the extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). There was a lot of confusion that results from trying to explain the eligibility area, which was currently the City limits and the extra territorial zoning jurisdiction to both school officials and potential applicants. Very few people seem to know the location of the ETJ, but most can answer whether or not their home is located within the City limits. The proposed Ordinance would

allow City residents to have priority in filling the vacancies. Under the current Ordinance, ETJ and City residents are actually on equal footing. There was not really a prioritization there. When they have schools that have fewer applications received from them, there are openings on the Youth Council. Council would then have the flexibility to appoint interested non-city residents that attend that school. That could insure that those local schools have a representative on the Youth Council rather than letting the vacancy go vacant for the entire school year. Generally, most of the time if they don't fill it by October, it will go until May, because it is difficult to recruit during the school year. This could potentially be valuable at Fred T. Foard and Challenger early college high school, although this year they have two excellent applicants which City Council would be considering from Challenger, but at Fred T. Foard, they do have a vacancy. Very few of those students live in the City limits. They have had very good luck with that. Right now they are still searching for one more student from Foard. To have the opportunity to potentially have someone fill that spot would be excellent. The revised Ordinance represents a relatively small change, but should help increase the reach and the effectiveness of the Youth Council. He asked City Council for any questions.

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 an Amendment to the Ordinance for the Membership Provisions of the Hickory Youth Council. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 18-20

#### AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HICKORY AS THE SAME ESTABLISHES THE HICKORY YOUTH COUNCIL

WHEREAS, The Hickory City Council established the Hickory Youth Council by prior action of said Council; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Hickory Youth Council is to foster participation in government by all students in the City of Hickory, regardless of the particular educational establishment with which they are affiliated; and

WHEREAS, the Hickory City Council wishes to amend the membership provisions of the Youth Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, THAT ARTICLE VIII OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE HICKORY CITY CODE BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### ARTICLE VIII. YOUTH COUNCIL

Section 1. Membership; appointment; terms; compensation (Article 8, § 2-241)

Section 2-242 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Appointment. The commission shall be composed of 30 members appointed by the city council as follows:

(a) Appointment. The commission shall be composed of thirty (30) members appointed by the city council as follows:

- (1) Seven (7) Representatives from Hickory High School living within the corporate limits of the City of Hickory;
- (2) Seven (7) Representatives from St. Stephens High School living within the corporate limits of the City of Hickory;
- (3) One (1) representative from Fred T. Foard High School living within the corporate limits of the City of Hickory;
- (4) One (1) representative from Challenger High School living within the corporate limits of the City of Hickory;
- (5) One (1) representative from Hickory Career Arts Magnet High School living within the corporate limits of the City of Hickory;
- (6) One (1) representative for home schooled students living within the corporate limits of the City of Hickory;
- (7) Two (2) representatives from private high schools located within the corporate limits of the City of Hickory; and

- (8) Ten (10) at large members who are current high school students living within the corporate limits of the City of Hickory.
- (b) Applicants attending the designated schools and living within the corporate limits will be given priority in filling vacant seats. Applicants attending the designated schools but not living within the city's corporate limits may be considered for appointment based upon the availability of unfilled vacant seats.
- (c) Youth council members must attend the school which they are appointed to represent.
- (d) Each successor youth council member shall, without any further act or instrument or conveyance, become fully vested with all rights, powers, duties and obligations of his or her predecessor, with like effect as if originally named as a commissioner herein.
- (e) Members of the youth council shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for actual expenses incidental to the performance of their duties within the limits of funds available to the youth council and the policies of the city.
- (f) Youth council members may be removed from office by the city council for cause, including incompetence, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.

Section 2. Repeal (Article 8 § 2-245)

All ordinances or provisions of the Hickory City Code of Ordinances that are not in conformance with the provisions of the amendment occurring herein are repealed as of the effective date of this article.

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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

- At-Large (Council Appoints) (1 Year Term) Lori Alala  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve)
- At-Large (Council Appoints) (1 Year Term) Michael Ellwanger  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve)
- At-Large (Council Appoints) (1 Year Term) Ed Henson  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve)
- At-Large (Council Appoints) (2 Year Term) Jeff Hale  
(Not Eligible for Reappointment)
- At-Large (Council Appoints) (2 Year Term) Kirk Hobart  
(Not Eligible for Reappointment)
- At-Large (Council Appoints) (3 Year Term) Rich Brown  
(Not Eligible for Reappointment)
- At-Large (Council Appoints) (3 Year Term) Joan Long  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)

Alderwoman Patton appointed Brandon Hedrick as At-Large Representative on the Business Development Committee.

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

- At-Large (Council Appoints) David B. Myers  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)
- At-Large (Council Appoints) Cliff Moone  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)

**COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION**

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

- Ward 1 (Lail Appoints) Margaret Nealon  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)
- Ward 2 (C. Williams Appoints) VACANT

Alderman Lail reappointed Margaret Nealon as Ward 1 Representative on the Community Appearance Commission.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**

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

African-American (Council Appoints)	Crystal S. Killian (Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)
Caucasian (Council Appoints)	Mandy Pitts Hildebrand (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)
Differently-Abled (Council Appoints)	Beth Whicker (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)
Other Minority (Council Appoints)	VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints)	VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints)	VACANT

**EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR HICKORY**

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

(Appointed by City Council)

Hickory Representative	Stephen Shuford (Eligible for Reappointment)
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Alderman Lail reappointed Stephen Shuford as the Hickory Representative on the EDC Board of Directors for Hickory.

**HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

(Appointed by City Council)

Ward 4 (D. Williams Appoints)	Sam E. Hunt (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)
Burke County (Mayor Appoints)	VACANT
Caldwell County (Mayor Appoints with Recommendation from County)	James Noggle (Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)
Catawba County (Mayor Appoints with Recommendation from County)	Jeff Kerley (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

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

Licensed Architect (Council Appoints)	Ernest K. Sills (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)
At-Large (2) (Council Appoints)	Jody Blake (Not Eligible for Reappointment)
At-Large (3) (Council Appoints)	Jeff T. Mitchell (Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)

Alderman Patton appointed Mary Moorer as At-Large (2) Representative for the Historic Preservation Commission.

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)

(3) Position	VACANT
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**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

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

Ward 2 (C. Williams Appoints)	Walter C. Smith (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints)	Joy Tilton (Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)
Ward 6 (Patton Appoints)	Carolyn Sinclair (Not Eligible for Reappointment)
At-Large (3) (Mayor Appoints)	John T. Kenny (Not Eligible for Reappointment)

Alderman Patton appointed Gail Miller as Ward 6 Representative on the Library Advisory Board.

Alderman Seaver appointed Laci LeBlanc as Ward 3 Representative on the Library Advisory Board.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

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

Ward 1 (Lail Appoints)	Lanie Wood (Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)
Ward 4 (D. Williams Appoints)	Allen Mitchell Jr. (Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)
Ward 5 (Zagaroli Appoints)	David Crosby

Ward 6 (Patton Appoints) (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again) Jim Powers  
 (Not Eligible for Reappointment)  
 At-Large Minority (1) (Council Appoints) VACANT

**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
 Ward 1 (Lail Appoints) Jennifer Helton  
 (Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish To Serve Again)  
 Ward 4 (D. Williams Appoints) VACANT  
 At-Large (Mayor Appoints) Laura Costello  
 (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)  
 At-Large (Mayor Appoints) Beth C. Bowman  
 (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)

**PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)  
 Position 4 (Mayor Appoints) Dr. Michael K. Wimberly  
 (Eligible for Reappointment)  
 Tenant Representative (Mayor Appoints) Velecia Wynette Hackett  
 (Eligible for Reappointment)

**RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
 Ward 4 (D. Williams Appoints) VACANT  
 Ward 5 (Zagaroli Appoints) Robert Warmuth  
 (Eligible for Reappointment)  
 At-Large (Council Appoints) Jeffrey Enders  
 (Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)

Alderman Zagaroli reappointed Robert Warmuth as Ward 5 Representative on the Recycling Advisory Board.

**SALT BLOCK FOUNDATION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
 Hickory Representative (Council Appoints) Alderman Zagaroli  
 (Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)

Alderman Lail reappointed Alderman Zagaroli as the Hickory Representative for the SALT Block Foundation.

**UNIVERSITY CITY COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
 At-Large (not including ETJ) (Council Appoints) Muriel Gabriel  
 (Not Eligible for Reappointment)  
 At-Large (not including ETJ) (Council Appoints) Ryan Edwards  
 (Not Eligible for Reappointment)

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

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

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

Emma Lail	At-Large Representative
Nathaniel Watts	At-Large Representative
Lea French	At-Large Representative
Madison Midea	At-Large Representative
Mackenzie Fairchild	At-Large Representative
Lauren Seshul	At-Large Representative
Lucas Osborne	At-Large Representative
Liza Sakhonenko	At-Large Representative
VACANT	At-Large Representative
VACANT	At-Large Representative
Andrew Stephens	Challenger High School Representative
VACANT	Fred T. Foard Representative
Caitlyn Nalley	Hickory Career & Arts Magnet Representative
Aidan Nigrelli	Hickory High School Representative
Madeline Pitts	Hickory High School Representative
Carter Sinclair	Hickory High School Representative
Eric Schoellner	Hickory High School Representative
Emily Greene	Hickory High School Representative
Sophie Dickerson	Hickory High School Representative
Lillian Pitts	Hickory High School Representative

VACANT	Homeschool Representative
Chase Collins	Private School Representative
Peyton O'Neal	Private School Representative
Nicole Hicks	St. Stephens High School Representative
Hemani Patel	St. Stephens High School Representative
Kate Starr	St. Stephens High School Representative
Michael Sumpter	St. Stephens High School Representative
Rachel Hodakowski	St. Stephens High School Representative
Kaitlyn Day	St. Stephens High School Representative
Jonah Sanderson	St. Stephens High School Representative

Mayor Guess appointed the above Youth Council Applicants to serve on the Youth Council.

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

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

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

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

Mayor Guess and Alderman Zagaroli recently attended the SALT Block, specifically the Hickory Museum of Art Founder's garden was restored and repaired. In appreciation, not just to the City of Hickory, but for those that were represented there on that evening, they gave those in attendance handmade blown glass. Mayor Guess advised that Alderman Zagaroli had placed it on a wooden stand. They presented it to the City in appreciation for the help that they gave for the Founders garden on the SALT Block. Mayor Guess gave it to the City Manager to be displayed appropriately at City Hall.

Alderman Williams mentioned on June 20, 2018 it would be the 20th Anniversary of the Ridgeview Library. A celebration would take place at the Ridgeview Library at 3:00 p.m. There would be refreshments and should be a good event. They were hoping for a great turnout. He invited everyone to the event on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Ridgeview Library.

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1)(4) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

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

1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of June 5, 2018 - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)
2. Discussion of Potential Economic Development - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)(4)

City Council convened to closed session at approximately 7:50 p.m.

City Council reconvened to open session at approximately 8:21 p.m.

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the Authorizing Resolution with the Rural Economic Development Division North Carolina Department of Commerce for the Building Reuse Program Project "Design" building reuse application for the property located at 1501 13<sup>th</sup> Street SW. The City of Hickory would provide a five percent match for an estimated \$500,000. Mayor Guess took the vote: Ayes: Alderwoman Williams, Mayor Guess, Alderman Seaver, Alderman Zagaroli, and Alderwoman Patton. Nays: Alderman Lail and Alderman Williams. The motion passed 5 to 2.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-18  
City of Hickory  
Authorizing Resolution  
The Rural Economic Development Division  
North Carolina Department of Commerce  
Building Reuse Program  
Project "Design"  
Building Reuse Application

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized in 2013 funds to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division to stimulate economic development and job creation. A portion of the funding authorized the making of grants to aid eligible units of government to stimulate the creation of jobs through the expansion and renovation of buildings currently in use that will spur economic activity; and

WHEREAS, The City of Hickory desires to assist through grant funding the economic renovation of the former Ellis building located at 1501 13th Street SW, located in Hickory; and

WHEREAS, The City of Hickory intends to request from NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division grant assistance for the project from the Building Reuse Program for the "up-fitting" and renovation of the facility:

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

That the City of Hickory will provide a minimum 5% match for an estimated \$500,000 grant request, if approved for a grant.

That Warren Wood, City Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the City of Hickory with The NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division for a grant to assist in the pre-development of the project described above.

That Warren Wood, City Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as The NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

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

XV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk