

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Vernon Tarlton  
Danny Seaver

Aldermen

Hank Guess  
David P. Zagaroli  
Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Mick Berry, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Governmental Affairs Manager Yaidee Fox and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Alderman Zagaroli called the meeting to order. All Council members were present except for Mayor Wright and Alderman Lail.
- II. Invocation by Rev. George Coates, Pastor, Hartzell Memorial and McQueen's Chapel United Methodist Churches
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations

- A. Presentation of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015. This is the twenty-first consecutive year the City has received this recognition.

Alderman Zagaroli read and presented a Resolution honoring the Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Budget Analyst Cameron McHargue, and Finance Officer Melissa Miller, for the distinguished budget presentation award for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.

RESOLUTION 16-02  
RESOLUTION OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL  
HONORING THE HICKORY BUDGET OFFICE STAFF  
UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED  
BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015

WHEREAS, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has bestowed upon the City of Hickory's Budget Office the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the twenty-first consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, this award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting, representing a significant achievement by the City of Hickory, and reflecting the commitment of the City Council and Staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting; and

WHEREAS, in order to receive this budget award, the City of Hickory Budget Office satisfied nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation that are designed to assess how well a City's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Hickory City Council hereby recognizes and honors the Budget Office Staff upon receipt of the DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD and its continuing efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

- B. Presentation of a Proclamation to Crawdads General Manager, Mark Seaman, Recognition of the Crawdads as the 2015 South Atlantic League Champions.

Alderman Zagaroli read and presented a Proclamation to Crawdads General Manager, Mark Seaman, Conrad, and other Crawdads Staff in attendance, in recognition of the Crawdads as the 2015 South Atlantic League Champions. A standing ovation was given to the Crawdad's Staff.

General Manager Mark Seaman displayed the 2015 South Atlantic League Champions Trophy and presented it to the City so they could display it for a week or two.

Mr. Charles Young thanked Council for the honor. He commented that the stadium is looking better and better, the plantings are starting to mature. The remodeling had also been very good for the fans. He felt better about the relationship than he ever had in the 24 years that we have had a ball team. He felt like that they are partners in trying to bring family entertainment to Catawba Valley. He recognized the young staff that were in attendance and commented that we are trying to get college educated people to come here. He stated they have some of the very best working at Frans Stadium under the leadership of Mark Seaman. He commented they are an exception group of young people

doing an exceptional job. He advised that he walked in the Christmas parade in which they were the Grand Marshall of. He walked because he wanted to get a feel for the crowd. He commented that people in this area recognize Conrad the Crawdad. He advised that he and his wife had come from Longview Elementary School where they handed out groceries in the PORCH program. Conrad was in attendance helping them. The little children were heartwarming. He referenced branding and commented that this is a real brand, people recognize Conrad. He commented about the netting at the stadium and advised they protect their fans. He thanked City Council for the recognition and their support. He presented a photograph of the Crawdads at their Championship winning night in Asheville.

Alderman Zagaroli asked how long the City could keep the trophy.

Mr. Young commented that at least a week. They are going to spring training and will have a ceremony there preceding a major league exhibition game. He referenced the major league Rangers and advised that three of them had hit home runs in an exhibition game and they all three had played here in the last three or four years.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of March 1, 2016

Alderman Guess moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver that the Minutes of March 1, 2016 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Special Meeting of February 25, 2016

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver that the Special Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2016 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Special Meeting of March 3, 2016

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton that the Special Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2016 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.

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

A. Approval of Temporary and Permanent Easements with Piedmont Natural Gas on City-Owned Property Located Off of Dietz Road. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

B. Acceptance of the Offer to Purchase City-Owned Property Located at 159 12<sup>th</sup> Street Court SE in the Amount of \$81,000. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

C. Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 18. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

D. Consideration of an Ordinance to Restrict Un-Muffled Engine Noise within the City of Hickory Limits. (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 on First Reading a Community Appearance Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by Rahe Bryce, LLC Located at 200 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW in the Amount of \$3,897.50.

City Council created the Community Appearance Grant program in 1999 to provide economic incentives for property owners to improve the general appearance of properties located within the City's designated Urban Revitalization Area. The Community Appearance Commission reviews applications for the grant program and forwards a recommendation of approval or denial to City Council. The grants are designed as a reimbursement grant in which the City of Hickory will match the applicant on a 50/50 basis. The maximum grant amount from the City of Hickory is \$5,000. The grant proposal put forth by Rahe Bryce, LLC involves the renovation of an existing non-residential building.

The proposal involves the installation of new stonework around two street side lower elevations of the existing commercial building. The applicant has provided two bids which total \$7,795 and \$17,100. Using the lower of the two bids, the request qualifies for a \$3,897.50 grant. The current tax value of the property is \$349,400. The value of the grant represents approximately 1.1 percent of the properties' tax value. On February 22, 2016, the Community Appearance Commission considered the grant request. Upon consideration the Community Appearance Commission, utilizing the City Council approved grant scoring criteria, scored the grant in the medium category (15 to 19 points), and voted 5 to 2 to recommend City Council's approval of the grant request.

- B. Approved the Special Events Activities Application, Hickory Oktoberfest 2016, Connie Kincaid, HDDA Executive Director, Hickory Downtown Development Association, event Times: October 7, 2016 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; October 8, 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; October 9, 2016, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Set-up begins October 6, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. and Clean-up ends October 9, 2016 at 11:00 p.m. Alcohol sales will end at 10:30 p.m. on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and 5:00 p.m. on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - C. Approved the Special Events Activities Application, Charity Chase Half Marathon, Kelly Pulliam, Chair, Rotary Club of Catawba County, June 5, 2016, 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Hickory Elks Lodge to the Sails on the Square.
  - D. Approved the Special Events Activities Application, Patriots Day, Fire Chief Fred Hollar, City of Hickory, September 11, 2016 3:00, p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Union Square.
  - E. Approved the Special Events Activities Application, Pinwheels for Prevention/National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Kate Landry, Community Education & Outreach Coordinator, Children's Advocacy & Protection Center, April 1, 2016, 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Zahra Baker All Children's Playground at Kiwanis Park.
  - F. Approved the Special Events Activities Application, Good Friday Gathering, Caleb Hayworth, Operations Pastor, Vintage City Church, May 25, 2016, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., downtown Under the Sails.
  - G. Called for a Public Hearing – For Consideration of Rezoning Petition 16-01 for Approximately .48 Acres of Property Located at 225 S NC Highway 127. The Petition is to rezone the Property from High Density Residential (R-4) to Office & Institutional (OI). (Authorize Public Hearing for April 5, 2016)
  - H. Called for a Public Hearing – For Consideration of Rezoning Petition 16-02 for Approximately 2.44 Acres of Property Located at 826 21<sup>st</sup> Street Drive SE, 828 21<sup>st</sup> Street Drive SE, 857 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Court SE, 863 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Court SE, 903 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Court SE and a Portion of 830 21<sup>st</sup> Street Drive SE. The Petition is to Rezone the Properties from High Density Residential – 4 (R-4) to Industrial (IND). (Authorize Public Hearing for April 5, 2016)
- IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None
- X. Informational Item
- XI. New Business:
- A. Public Hearings
  - B. Departmental Reports:
    - 1. Approved on First Reading Contract Addition with Freese Nichols to Proceed with Bond Project Designer RFQ.

At the February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council Planning Workshops, Council reviewed the timing of bond projects under the purview of the Bond Commission. The next step is to select the best qualified designers for the Riverwalk, City Walk and the two gateways on US 321. Staff recommends Council amend the contract with Freese Nichols for \$27,000 to perform services in assisting the Bond Commission, Staff, and Council in selecting and contracting with designers for the three projects and approve the budget amendment.

City Manager Mick Berry advised that Staff had talked with Council at their planning sessions on February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He commented that the City is well into the planning process for the bond project. The City had employed the services of the engineering firm Freese Nichols for the past nine or ten months. As discussed at Council's planning session there was a great consensus among the Bond Council, Staff and City Council of the good partnership that had been formed to make these critical decisions to move the work forward. He asked Council to consider a contract change, Amendment 2, with Freese Nichols. This was an

addition to the original contract, in which services had previously been provided, in the amount of \$27,000 for Freese Nichols to provide the City with the RFQ process, and consultant selection. Putting together the RFQ, helping the City publish the RFQ, and then evaluate the responses. Working that through the Bond Commission's subcommittees as was talked about at Council's planning sessions. Staff felt like their expertise would help Staff in evaluating and negotiating those design contracts. Their rate will be \$9,000 for each of the projects, City Walk, Riverwalk trail, and the US 321 Gateways. Staff recommended that Council consider that amendment to the contract. He pointed out that Staff was able to work with Freese Nichols to reduce their original contract by a little less than five percent, \$20,000. That credit will be carried into Amendment 2 for the services of \$27,000. He advised that Mr. Charles Archer with Freese Nichols was present if they had questions to ask him. He advised that Staff recommended Council approve the contract amendment and also the accompanying budget amendment. He advised that the budget amendment was located on Page 167 of their agenda. The amendment would move funds from contingency into general capital projects where we are accounting for the bond expenditures, \$27,000 to execute that contract.

Alderman Tarlton moved seconded by Alderman Seaver approval amending the contract with Freese Nichols in the amount of \$27,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderwoman Patton moved seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 19. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-12  
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 19

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory, that pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	27,000	-
TOTAL	27,000	-

SECTION 2. To provide the revenue for the above, Contingency funds will be used as follows:

FUNTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Contingency	-	27,000
TOTAL	-	27,000

SECTION 3. To amend the General Capital Projects Fund the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	27,000	-
TOTAL	27,000	-

SECTION 4. To provide the revenue for the above, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

FUNTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	27,000	-
TOTAL	27,000	-

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

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**

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

**HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

Burke County (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT Since 8-6-2008

Brookford (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT Since 6-2006

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)

(7) Positions VACANT

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

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

At-Large Minority VACANT

**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**

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

Ward 3 VACANT

**RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD**

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

Ward 3 VACANT

Alderman Seaver advised that he was still looking for people to serve on the Public Art Commission and Recycling Advisory Board for Ward 3.

Alderman Tarlton asked Parks and Recreation Director Mack McLeod how long the At-Large Minority position had been vacant on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Parks and Recreation Director Mack McLeod advised over a year.

Alderman Tarlton commented that needed to be filled as well.

3. 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

Alderman Seaver commented that citizens still had time to go vote.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Alderman Zagaroli

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City Clerk