

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 20, 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 Rick Beasley, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Executive Assistant to the City Manager Deisy Zavala Vazquez and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.

II. Invocation by Pastor David Roberts, Morning Star First Baptist Church

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Special Presentations

A. Oath of Office for Appointed Ward 2 Alderwoman Charlotte Williams

Mayor Guess commented it was a special occasion for Hickory City Council as they would be swearing-in the newest member of City Council. He asked Charlotte Williams to the podium and asked her to introduce her relatives or guests who were in attendance.

Ms. Charlotte Williams thanked everyone for coming out to the reception. She advised she had colleagues from work present, neighbors, friends, close friends, and her mother who would be holding the Bible. She thanked everyone for all the support they had given her. She was looking forward to this and was really excited about joining Council.

Mayor Guess administered the Oath of Office to Charlotte Williams while her mother held the Bible. Everyone gave Alderwoman Williams a standing ovation.

B. Presentation from the Greater Hickory Jaycees 2018 President Alison Reed

Mayor Guess asked Greater Hickory Jaycees 2018 President Alison Reed to the podium.

Greater Hickory Jaycees 2018 President Alison Reed thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. She was currently serving as the 2018 President and had been a Jaycee member for the past seven years. She was passionate about the organization and it was her pleasure to speak to Council about the Jaycees. She advised she would give Council an overview about who the Jaycees are, and what they do. She would discuss their achievements over the past year and some of the goals which they have for the upcoming year, as well as some ways Council could support them in what they do. Jaycee was short for junior chamber. The Jaycees are a part of an international organization, Junior Chamber International, which was also referred to as JCI. JCI was founded in 1915. Currently they have a presence in over 100 countries globally. There are over 5,000 local chapters and over 200,000 members in this global organization. They are a group of young active citizens age 18 to 40. Their mission was to create positive change in the world around us, not only locally but also national and globally. They do this by looking to find sustainable solutions to problems that they see, figuring out ways to get to the root of the problem, and looking for solutions that are going to be successful and what they continue to do from that point forward. They do leadership development through professional and individual development training through real world experience with problem solving through community involvement and also through collaboration with other organizations and groups. The Hickory Jaycees are actually a part of the North Carolina Jaycees. The North Carolina Jaycees currently has 22 chapters and over 500 members throughout the State of North Carolina. The Greater Hickory Jaycees were founded in 1948. They had been a presence in the community for the past 70 years. Currently they have 37 active members. Membership had declined a little bit over the past few years, as it had with many other civic organizations. At one point in their past they had as many as 150 members. That seems to be the case with a lot of organizations, but even though there are only a few of them they are still doing their best to try and impact the local community. As part of the North Carolina Jaycees there are several State priority projects that they focus on. The North Carolina Jaycees actually founded the Burn Center at Chapel Hill and still support the aftercare program there. They founded the Jaycee cottage at the Boys and Girls Home at Lake Waccamaw for teenagers that come from at risk families that need a place to stay. They also founded the Outpatient Treatment Facility at the Duke Cancer Center and continue to support them. Council was probably familiar with some of their local projects: they had been involved a number of years with Oktoberfest; they used to run Hickory Alive, the summer concert series that was held downtown on Union Square in Hickory. They had since moved that project to Conover, but it is still going strong. They had been involved with the City of Hickory Easter egg hunt with the Parks and Recreation Department. Currently they stuff candy in all of the Easter eggs and sponsor the prizes for that event. They support Christmas for Teens, which was a project they started to buy

Christmas gifts for low income teenagers in the community. They also work with Meals on Wheels to provide household items, and different types of support for 25 low income seniors in the community. Previously they had been involved with Charity Chase, which was a half marathon in Hickory that the Jaycees actually founded. It got a little too big and they passed that off to somebody else. They also used to be responsible for the Holiday Parade. There are a lot of projects here in Hickory that the Jaycees have been involved in. They want to develop local leaders. They want to get young professionals involved in the community. They want to give them a sense of civic duty to see how important it is to be involved with local government, with local businesses, with things that are going on. They want to make Hickory great. They are all here because they like the Hickory area and feel a sense of connection to it. They want to make it as good as they can so they are trying to develop leaders that are going to follow through with those goals. Their members come from a variety of professions. She is a veterinarian, they have nurses, attorneys, entrepreneurs and other business people. They are involved in a lot of different facets of the community with a wide variety of interest.

Ms. Reed discussed some of their highlights from 2017. They had a good year overall and had actually gained eight new members, which was always exciting for them. They feel like they are constantly fighting the battle of losing membership, so anytime they gain new members they are excited. They hope that they will continue with growth through this next year. In support of one of their State priority projects they had decided to focus most of their efforts on the Jaycee Burn Center at Chapel Hill. Several years ago they made the decision that at all of their fundraising events, rather than collecting tips and using them for other projects, they would take their tips and donate them to the Burn Center. They replaced all of their tip buckets with fire boots. Last year through raising tips, and also through running a chili cook-off, they were able to raise \$1,750 which they gave to the Burn Center in support of their programs. They also launched a new project last year, the Bourbon Beer and Barbeque Festival which was held in Conover. It was a great success. They were able to feature a local distiller from 1712 Brewing. They make all of their bourbon using grains which are locally grown. They were able to partner with them for that event. They had also continued their partnership with the Hickory Crawdads. Last year was their third year in running the Bases and Brews Beer Festival. That festival is always held the Saturday of Labor Day weekend at the ballpark. They try to feature North Carolina breweries and have continued to steadily grow that partnership over the last few years. In terms of community involvement, last year they started back the Distinguished Service Awards. That was something that the Jaycees had done for several years and it had kind of fallen by the wayside, but they felt like it was important to bring that back and to recognize local leaders for things that they are doing in the community. Some of the awards that were given were Outstanding Firefighter, Outstanding Emergency Personnel, Outstanding Educator and they also have an Outstanding Teen, which is a high school senior. A \$1,000 scholarship, sponsored by the Jaycees, goes to the teenager who wins that award. They were also able to purchase Christmas gifts for 60 low income teenagers from 33 families primarily in Caldwell and Catawba County. They actually had some people that reached out to them from as far away as Salisbury. They are hoping to grow that project even more in the upcoming years.

Ms. Reed discussed some of their goals for 2018 included continuing with the positive momentum that they have. They are planning a second year for the Bourbon and Barbeque Festival. This year, in addition to featuring the distillers that they had last year, they are going to have several others. Right now they are looking at four local distillers that are going to be involved as well as local entertainment and local food vendors. They had partnered this year with Hickory Tavern for St. Patrick's Day. They actually approached them about fundraising for them. They had agreed to donate some of their proceeds from their St. Patty's Day Bash to go directly to their Christmas for teen's program. They are hoping that they will be able to reach even more low income teenagers in this area. They want to continue to build the relationships that they have with their community partners. They have a good relationship with Hickory Parks and Recreation and also with the City of Conover, City of Claremont and the Town of Long View. The City of Hickory has continued to be one of their long term partners. They want to keep building those relationships throughout Catawba County. One of the things that they have really felt like focusing on the past few years was the problem that we all see with recruiting and retaining young professionals to the area. When Jaycees look at a situation their goal is to find a problem, and figure out a way to develop a solution. There are a lot of things in our City that we could think to focus on. They could focus on the opioid crisis, or food insecurity. There are a lot of different areas they could pick to work on, but because they are young professionals they feel like it is important to bring more young professionals to this area. We all came here for a reason, there is a reason that they have stayed here, and they want other people to come and see what there is to do. Their big focus has been on developing projects that are going to improve tourism and local economic development to bring people into Hickory to see there are things that are going on in this area. To have something for the people who already live here to go out and do. Between their Bourbon and Barbeque Festival, Conover Alive, and the Bases and Brews, these are all events that people enjoy. They are events where we get some tourism from outside areas. They had

people that came from Charlotte, and some people that came from South Carolina for the Bourbon Festival last year, and also for Bases and Brews. They hope that these events get bigger and have people talking about them and get excited about them. These events are good for them because they do fundraise. They need money to support their community projects. She commented when you see us out at these events and they are selling beer they are doing it for a good cause. All of the money that is raised goes back into the local community. It also promotes leadership and development with their own people. It teaches us how to run these projects and reach out to community leaders and figure out what they need to do to make things happen. They also, just in general, want to have a positive focus. It is easy to be negative. As an organization nationally and statewide they had seen their numbers decrease. They had seen more and more people move and go other places. They have decided this year that they want to focus on what they do have. They have 37 people who are interested in being active, being engaged citizens, and making the community better. They don't want to get so hung up on trying to find ways to be negative about things and focus on the impact that they can make. They may be small but they feel like they can be a mighty voice for positive change in the community. In a time when it is easy to sit behind a computer screen and complain, but not offer any real solutions, in a time when young people are seen as being more selfish, more self-centered, less likely to get involved, in a place where it seems like it is easy to pack up and leave and go somewhere else, you have a group of Jaycees here who are willing to be active, involved, engaged and support the community. If that sounds like a good thing to Council, then they asked for their support. One of the best things Council could do for them was to follow them on social media, see what they are doing on Facebook, and on Instagram. Share their events with people that may be interested. Come out and see what they are doing. Most of their events are open to the public. Come out and spend time with other citizens in the community, drink a beer, listen to some music, and speak positively about them when people ask. It makes a lot of difference for people to hear the good things that young professionals are doing in the area. Their support goes a long way towards helping with that. When people want to know who the Jaycees are, and what they do, they are happy to tell them. They can do that all day long, but there are only so many of them and sometimes it feels like their voice gets lost with everything else that is going on, all the other focus that there is on other issues. Council's support means a lot. Anything Council could do just to let other people know what they are doing. If you know young professionals in your workplace, in your families, in your churches that want to get involved, send them their direction. They are always taking new members. They really want to just continue to be involved in the community and do the best that they can to make the City of Hickory a great place. She asked Council for any questions.

Mayor Guess asked if there were any questions or comments from Councilmembers. He thanked Ms. Reed and congratulated her on her Presidency for 2018. It was encouraging to hear her say that the young professionals want to be engaged and involved in our community. The City looks forward to a partnership in the future.

Alderman Seaver thanked Ms. Reed for all they are doing.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

- A. Mr. Dustin Strickland, 1172 18th Avenue NE, addressed City Council regarding consent agenda item "G" number "4", Budget Revision 17, regarding project 501001, a \$1.2 million dollar project. He commented the expenditures were approximately \$632,000 most of which was for the purchase of land. Since the project was being closed he wanted to know what the ultimate fate of the land was. He didn't know if Council could answer him now.

Mayor Guess advised that Council was not prepared at this time to answer questions, but citizen are allowed to make any comments that they like. Council would be glad to have the appropriate staff person get back in contact with him to specifically address his question.

Mr. Strickland understood.

City Manager Warren Wood advised that Dave Leonetti, Business Services Manager would be glad to meet with Mr. Strickland on that.

Mayor Guess asked Mr. Leonetti to get with Mr. Strickland after the Council meeting and at least let him know his contact information.

VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. Special Meeting of March 1, 2018.

Alderman Zagaroli moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver that the Special Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2018 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Regular Meeting of March 6, 2018.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Lail that the Minutes of March 6, 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 Alderman Williams that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approval of the North Carolina Department of Transportation Utility Construction Agreement in the Amount \$544,741.25 for the Construction and Relocation of Water and Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Related to the Sweetwater Road Extension. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- B. Approval to Renew the Annual Auditing Contract with Martin Starnes & Associates for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- C. Approval to Amend the Parking Ordinance for the Farmer's Market. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- D. Budget Revision Number 16. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- E. Opioid Litigation Contract. (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 Special Events Activities Application Sails Original Music Series, Dana Kaminske, City of Hickory Communications & Marketing Manager, City of Hickory, Sails on the Square Stage in Downton Hickory, May 4, 11, 18, 25; June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; and September 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018 from 2:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- B. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Downtown Hickory Food Truck Rodeo, Connie Kincaid, Executive Director, Hickory Downtown Development Association, City Parking Lot at the Corner of 2nd Street & Government Avenue SW, June 23, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- C. Approved the Special Events Activities Application New Testament Bible Reading, Pastor Kathy Johnson, Greater Shekinah Glory Church, Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, 76 North Center Street, May 2, 2018, 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- D. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Downtown Hickory Shuck & Peel Party, Connie Kincaid, Executive Director, Hickory Downtown Development Association, Union Square, November 10, 2018 from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- E. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Downtown Hickory Candy Crawl, Connie Kincaid, Executive Director, Hickory Downtown Development Association, Union Square, October 26, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- F. Approved the Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendations for Assistance through the City of Hickory's Housing Programs.

The following request were considered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on March 1, 2018.

- Billy & Latasha Singleton were approved for recommendation to City Council for first-time homebuyer's assistance to purchase a house located at 1013 33rd Avenue Loop NE, Hickory. They have requested \$10,000 for assistance with down payment and closing costs. The First-Time Homebuyers Assistance Loan is zero interest, no payments and repaid upon sale, refinance or payoff of first mortgage.

Funds are budgeted for these items through the City of Hickory's former Rental Rehabilitation Program income received in FY 2017 and/or program income received through the City of Hickory's Community Development Block Grant Program.

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

- G. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 17.

ORDINANCE 18-09
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 17

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 Ordinances noted herein.

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Culture and Recreation	500	-
TOTAL	500	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	42,412	42,412
Miscellaneous Revenues	500	-
TOTAL	42,912	42,412

SECTION 2. To amend the Water and Sewer Fun within the FY 2017-18 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	34,089	-
TOTAL	34,089	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	34,089	-
TOTAL	34,089	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	1,848	-
Transportation	9,444	-
TOTAL	11,292	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	40,141	38,293
Miscellaneous Revenues	9,444	-
TOTAL	49,585	38,293

SECTION 4. To amend and close out the East Hickory Redevelopment Plan Capital Project Ordinance (project #501001) within Fund 61 General Capital Projects, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	-	573,823
Other Financing Uses	42,352	-
TOTAL	42,352	573,823

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Investment Earnings	11,505	-
Miscellaneous Revenues	-	542,977
TOTAL	11,505	542,977

SECTION 5. To amend and close out the ARFF Equipment Capital Project Ordinance (project #652001) within Fund 68 Transportation Capital Projects, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	485	-
TOTAL	485	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	-	1,363
Other Financing Sources	1,848	-
TOTAL	1,848	1,363

SECTION 6. To amend and close out the Taxiway B.S. North Apron Capital Project Ordinance (project #650025) within Fund 68 Transportation Capital Projects, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	-	12,657
TOTAL	-	12,657

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	-	12,687
Investment Earnings	30	-
TOTAL	30	12,687

SECTION 7. To amend and close out the Brownfields Area Wide Plan Grant Project Ordinance (project #G5010E) within Fund 49 Multi-Year Grant Projects, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	60	-
TOTAL	60	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Investment Earnings	60	-
TOTAL	60	-

SECTION 8. To amend and close out the Rehab Taxiway B/S North Apron Capital Project Ordinance (project #650026) within Fund 68 Transportation Capital Projects, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	-	372,212
Other Financing Uses	38,293	-
TOTAL	38,293	372,212

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	-	334,991
Investment Earnings	1,072	-
TOTAL	1,072	334,991

- 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(s) recently occurred under this provision:

March 12, 2018 (BT#55): To recognize the receipt of insurance claim payments related to storm/tornado damages on 10/23/17 to the City Hall roof (\$575) and to the Hickory Police Station access system (\$302).

March 27, 2018 (BT#57): To recognize receipt of an insurance claim payment from private party insurance in the amount of \$2,265 for damages to a Police vehicle on 2/27/18.

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mayor Guess asked if there were any appointments to the Boards and Commissions.

BOND IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION

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

Alderman Ward 2 Appoints

Jennifer Beane expires 2-1-18 eligible for reappointment

Kay Schmucker expires 2-1-18 eligible for reappointment

(Note: The representatives for Ward 2 will continue serving until such time as the Ward 2 Alderman appoints or reappoints these positions.)

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

Business Development Committee Appointed Lori Alala
Catawba County Chamber of Commerce

Will Locke

Not Eligible

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 2 (Alderman Ward 2 Appoints)

VACANT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

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

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

Other Minority (Council Appoints)

VACANT

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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

(Appointed by City Council)

Burke County (Mayor Appoints)

VACANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Building Trades Profession (Council Appoints)

VACANT

Alderwoman Patton nominated Simon Lucas as Building Trades Professional on the Historic Preservation Commission.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)

(1) Positions

VACANT

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large Minority (1) (Council Appoints) VACANT
(David Williams no longer eligible)

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

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

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

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

YOUTH COUNCIL

(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

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli approval of the above nomination. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

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

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

Alderman Seaver mentioned this past weekend had been good for Hickory High School. In Greensboro, the Hickory High School orchestra won their 40th superior, 40 in a row. The Hickory High Key Club did very well in awards. They were one of only four distinguished key clubs in all of North and South Carolina. The theme was "Get on Board the Leader Ship". A lot of these kids learn to be servant leaders for the future of this State, this City, and our country. It was very exciting for Alderman Seaver to be there with them. He had done that for many years, it was his 30th district convention. The kids are still amazing.

Alderman Zagaroli mentioned Rotarian Idol winner Johnny White won a trip to Hollywood on American Idol and was representing Hickory. Jackie Finley was there and welcomed him to his appointment in Hollywood. We may have somebody on American Idol from Hickory.

Alderwoman Patton commented Council had their retreat and she thanked staff for an excellent job. She recognized two citizens, Bob Vollinger and Cliff Moone, who had attended. She thanked them for their involvement. It was a good retreat.

Mayor Guess reminded everyone that Council's retreats and meetings such as that are public and everyone was welcome to come at any time.

Alderman Williams welcomed Alderwoman Williams and congratulated her. He joked that it was great to not be the newest member of Council. He was looking forward to working with her.

Alderwoman Williams thanked everyone for the wonderful reception. She looks forward to working with everyone. She thanked staff for the support which she had received so far, and she knows she will receive in the future.

Alderman Seaver commented the learning curve is steep, so they would try and help her up the ladder.

Mayor Guess advised Alderwoman Williams would find that this job is very easy because they have the best staff that anyone could ask for. He meant that sincerely. Staff makes their job really easy and they don't get enough credit, but they really do.

Alderman Seaver commented the rookie business is not too bad.

City Attorney John Crone advised if anyone wants to know how hard Council works, just ask the two citizens that were present at the Council/Staff retreat. It was a mile a minute and covered a lot of stuff in a short period of time, which made a big difference in Council's engagement in that. It always astounded him at how that works out.

March 20, 2018

City Manager Warren Wood announced with the creation of the Office of Business Development Dave Leonetti had been promoted to the Business Services Manager. There was a vacancy for the Community Development Manager and there was a new employee which was introduced at the retreat. He introduced and welcomed Karen Dickerson.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk