

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

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

A quorum was present.

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

- I. Mayor Wright called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Alderman Seaver
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
  - A. Presentation of FY 2016-2017 Board and Commission Work Plans. Presenters will be allotted five (5) minutes to make their presentations to Council.

| Board/Commission                     | Presenter         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Business Development Committee       | Dr. Dana Chambers |
| Citizens' Advisory Committee         | Cliff Moone       |
| Community Appearance Commission      | Charlie Hayes     |
| Community Relations Council          | Clise Plant       |
| Hickory International Council        | Hani Nassar       |
| Hickory Regional Planning Commission | Brian Frazier     |
| Hickory Youth Council                | Chase del Charco  |
| Historic Preservation Commission     | Jody Blake        |
| Library Advisory Board               | Sally Anderson    |
| Parks and Recreation Commission      | Lloyd Coley       |
| Public Art Commission                | Todd Hefner       |
| Recycling Advisory Board             | Norm Meres        |
| University City Commission           | Ryan Edwards      |

Mayor Wright advised there were 13 of the City's Boards and Commissions who would make presentations. This is always an exciting time to hear what is going on, what is being conducted and carried on by our good citizens.

Dr. Dana Chambers, Business Development Committee Chair, presented the 2017 work plan and budget. They worked very hard this year to streamline their objectives and goals for 2017 and beyond. The prior committee members had done such an awesome job getting this committee up and running, seven to eight years ago. Some of their goals had transitioned since then as they had been accomplished along the way. She highlighted some of the items on the work plan; the Vacant Building Grant program, which also included some demolitions for appropriate sites in town. It had been a very popular program and they had very strong applications and they anticipate that to continue going forward. She thanked Council for their support of that. Along with the Vacant Building Grant they go to development and permitting, which was a financial impact of zero dollars, but their committee is committed to looking for ways to continue to streamline the process for business owners and to help get new businesses started and existing ones to become stronger. She discussed strategies and business spaces. They streamline that to include creative business space, not a big line item, but one they talk about a lot at their meetings is incubators, coop, shared spaces, especially how do you get some of these smaller businesses into teens and entrepreneurs to share resources, rent space, etc. That is ongoing. She discussed innovative cities incentives. She mentioned the Business Startup Grant, and the CDBG Micro Enterprise Grant. Dave Leonetti had been instrumental in helping them understand this grant and working with small existing and new businesses. They were very pleased to help a citizen this past year with the specific company called CNC for Hire. He has a very specialized tooling machine that has many applications in furniture and other industries. He is actually leasing a site within the space of another company. They had been able to help him upgrade some of his equipment that fell under that grant, so there was a line item for that one. She discussed public awareness, which included solicitation of community ideas. This was a big goal for them this year, to help continue networking with the business associations like Viewmont, Old Lenoir Road, the DDA, and hopefully the mills are continuing to organize that area near the college as a business association and get a forum started to kick-off in November 2017, dovetail that in with Lenoir-Rhyne University Global Entrepreneurship week. People are already coming out for those events, and we have something tied in with that, then we are not taking up yet another time and space for people. Hopefully that will get some bodies out to network. Not recreate the wheel. We have a lot of "baby" associations that are trying to get going and it would help them network with the existing ones. They also continue to recognize business programs. She referenced the awards for the 75 plus year companies. They would like to continue that and maybe in the future recognize some of

these smaller businesses as they hit their milestones of one, five, and ten years. She discussed internship and mentoring. She referenced the SWAG program which is a community program done through CVCC for teen entrepreneurs and getting them to come forward with ideas. They have a competition and the winner gets an iPad. That had been well received and they had a good turnout for that. She advised those were the highlights. She stated Council could see the financial impact at the bottom of their plan. They always appreciate Council's thoughtfulness on those requests. She thanked Council for their attention and she thanked Dave Leonetti and Yaidee Fox, awesome City staff. She very much appreciated them.

Mr. Cliff Moone, Citizens' Advisory Committee Chair, presented a PowerPoint presentation. He thanked Council for the opportunity to serve as the Chair on the Citizens' Advisory Committee. He listed the other committee members serving on the Citizens' Advisory Committee, Vice Chair Mary Young, Yvonne Setzer, Ola Mae Williams, Lydia Doll, Rodney Garren and David Myers. He thanked them for the hard work they are doing on this committee as well. The Committee meets the first Thursday of the month at noon of each month unless there are no items to discuss in terms of a grant or other activity. He reports each month back to the Committee, and they are very thankful for this, on the Bond Implementation Committee's work as well. He felt that was a great way to spread the word about what is happening on the Bond Implementation Committee. He pointed out some recent highlights on the PowerPoint showing a photo of the Optimist Park improvements. That building was completed and built this year out at the Optimist Park which was done with the funds that the Committee gets. The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) offers funds for helping with rehabilitation for housing rehab. He showed a photo of two houses, one was in process of a roof and the other one the roof had just been finished. This was some of the funds that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds go towards. He showed a photo of the City of Refuge afterschool program, which they support and other non-profits like this. He noted in the picture that some of the City's Youth Council members were involved in that as well. They constructed the picnic shelter and bathroom at West Hickory Park, actually City workers did that. Infrastructure improvements in low to moderate income neighborhoods, and continuation of the City's housing rehabilitation program and support for the Habitat repairs program as well. The funds they dispersed support seven local non-profit organizations, Cooperative Christian Ministry, Exodus Homes, Habitat for Humanity, and also Habitat repairs, Hickory Soup Kitchen, Safe Harbor Rescue Mission, and City of Refuge afterschool programs. He advised the 2017-2018 work plan represents the citizens in planning, assessing and reviewing the City's community development programs; recommend loan applications to City Council for various housing related programs offered to low and moderate income families within the City of Hickory including the renovation of existing homes through the City's housing rehabilitation programs; continue to investigate options for development of City-owned property as affordable housing; and to provide funding for infrastructure and public facility improvements in low to moderate income neighborhoods. He thanked Council.

Mr. Charlie Hayes, Community Appearance Commission Chairman, presented a PowerPoint presentation. He advised they help entities within the City of Hickory, coordinate activities with individuals and others to help improve the appearance of the City. They have to be either organizations or businesses. Last year they had ten matching fund grants, seven were for businesses, one for a civic organization, those were both in Community Appearance Commission grants, and also landscape grants. They also promote the tree preservation. They administer the City's beautification awards program. They also provide public education for litter reduction. They also do Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration, which is coming up next month at the SALT Block. They give away tree seedlings and give out information on beautification and preservation initiatives within the City. He advised for their budget this year they had spent everything for 2016-2017 except for \$1,500 so far. They are waiting for someone to come up with one more application to spend that. Their request for next year for the 2017-2018 budget did not have an increase, it would be the same. He thanked Council.

Ms. Clise Plant, Community Relations Council Chair, presented a PowerPoint presentation. She advised she was honored to be the Chair of the Community Relations Council (CRC). She commented their mission statement was to promote positive relationships through dialogue, education, programs, and resources. She advised their work plan for 2017/2018 consisted of continuing with their grant cycle, sponsoring a multicultural event that recognizes individuals and groups. Also, they have a retreat every year that is part of their training session for the CRC members. They also sponsor community events such as their annual movie night, which the public comes and donates canned food items to the designated foodbank. This past year they decided that PORCH (People Offering Relief for Community Hunger) would be the recipient. She showed a photo of past recipients noting the Hickory Public School Bus. She was very excited about the bus because that bus goes throughout Longview neighborhoods and they are hoping to expand this summer to more neighborhoods. They also want to promote literacy to adults who are unable to read. Right now they have over 1,000 books in their bus and they are hoping to expand to more neighborhoods and hours this summer. She referenced the Hickory Community Theatre which puts on a production, the best

Christmas pageant ever, for the Pre-K children at the Community Ridge Daycare. She showed a photo of Paul Richardson. He was a recipient of the Quilt of Valor. He was a Navy Dentist and retired in the reserves. He also has a practice with other partners across the street from Catawba Valley Medical Center where he provides free oral surgery for veterans who served in World War 2. She encouraged anyone who might see or know Mr. Richardson to thank him for his service. She showed a slide of a past recipient, Hickory Museum of Art in conjunction with the Theatre and the Patrick Beaver Library which focused on celebrating diversity with its tribute to the Harlem Renaissance and Visual Jazz. She showed the past 2016 Human Relations Award recipients. She mentioned retired Chief Tom Adkins for his service and dedication for keeping our City safe, Alan Jackson, the co-founder of the Footcandle Film Society, and the Hickory Museum of Arts. She showed an article which was in the Hickory Daily Record which highlighted their past grant recipients. Jenkins and Oakwood partnered with the Bright Star Theatre that put on performances about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. At the end of the show the children participated in a question and answer session where they asked questions about the show and about what they had learned through Black History Month. They hope they can expand these performances to other schools in the area. She asked Council for \$17,000. They use every single bit of that money. The majority of the funds goes toward organizations that promotes diversity and human relations. They also feel that they have lived up to their mission statement. She commented that \$17,000 was a lot of money, but the help that Council offers these organizations through grants to be able to expand their services and empower our citizens is priceless. She thanked Council for the opportunity to speak to them.

Mr. Hani Nassar, Hickory International Council, presented a PowerPoint presentation. He presented the work plan and the events that they had for the last year. He was impressed with Ms. Clise Plant's presentation and wanted her to join Hickory International Council because she could help them with some grants. He commented she was very good at doing grants and this was an area that they lacked in and they were trying to improve their grants. He advised she had helped them a lot this year as well. They were a Board/Commission of the City of Hickory that was a programming board. They had grown to do that and have members which represent Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, Belgium, Romania, German, Canada, Japan and the United States. He had just came from the Pangea Model Un Conference. They had presented the Hickory International Council's story as a sponsor of this event. The International Council along with Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU), and the Boy Scouts explorer program were the three legs of this sponsorship for the Model United Nations. He advised it would be March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> next year also at LRU. They have a sponsorship for them every year. They also have the International Film Festival for Children which they do every April. They target the fourth, fifth and sixth graders in Hickory Public Schools, Catawba County Schools, and Newton-Conover City Schools. They have approximately 2,000 children who come and watch international films, short films ten to fifteen films every two hour session. They had received over 500 films from about 50 different countries. The members of the film committee goes through all of them and they present them to the school systems and they decide which movies to show. They also have a poster competition. He showed a photo of the winners from last year. They had not received and analyzed the posters from this year, but the children from fourth, fifth and six grades present posters. They grade them and give them monetary support for their education. He discussed Folkmoot USA which is the International Folk Festival of North Carolina. He advised this was the 33<sup>rd</sup> year in Waynesville, North Carolina. They had brought it to the Drendle Auditorium for the sixth year. They started with one event in July, and now they have two events back to back on the same date, July 23, 2017 also at the SALT Block Drendle Auditorium. Folkmoot invites ten different nations to come. They pay for their way to come here but then they are hosted by Folkmoot for two weeks for ten days. They come and they visit through different cities in Western North Carolina as far east as Hickory. He listed the countries which represented Folkmoot last year. Folkmoot came to the SALT Block Auditorium. As part of the community connection, which is two-fold, they have collaboration with the Footcandle Film Society. They bring to the Carolina Theatre three to four international movies every year, once a quarter. Tomorrow and Thursday they are showing Toni Erdmann, which was the runner-up for the foreign film award winner from the Oscars this year. The Statesman was the winner. He advised it would be shown, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:00 at the Carolina Theatre. He invited everyone to go see this movie. It was a German film and was three hours long, but it was supposed to be a good movie. They had increased their collaboration with the non-profits. They had worked with the Hickory Museum of Art through various years and now they are starting to do work with Western Piedmont Symphony. They have a collaboration with the Tesla Quarter on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Drendel Auditorium. They have collaborated with the Western Piedmont Symphony to give \$10 seats, normally they are \$22, they are going to support them for \$12 every seat which will bring the seat to \$10 which allows individuals, who normally don't watch, or don't go to Western Piedmont Symphony performances to be able to do so. In September they also have the Great Decisions program, which is a Foreign Policy Association program. Approximately 30 members of the community tackle eight topics which are decided upon by the Foreign Policy Association. They bring a book here that is usually finished by December, and they discuss those eight topics every year over eight separate weeks in September and October. They also have the grant

program. They started with two grants and are now going to three grants, and they hope to be able to provide more grants in the future. The winners for this year were mostly or all Hispanic oriented programs. He referenced several events which were held for Hispanics. He showed a list of the winners for December 2016 through June 2017. He advised the year would finish with the International Christmas Concert. This year it would be December 16, 2017 at Drendel Auditorium. Normally they have the Romania Baptist Church choir do the program and they will be doing it again this year, but they will bring a guest from either Tennessee or Georgia. They also hope to be able to increase the various international individuals who can help them with this concert. He advised their budget is normally \$13,000 but they requested another \$2,000, for a total of \$15,000. The reason for doing that was they are going to more collaboration in the community, as he mentioned they did it with the Museum and now are doing it with the Western Piedmont Symphony and others. They are trying to go to more grants, more than two grants by increasing the grant amount to \$1,500. They rely a little bit on businesses to support them financially and would like to rely less on that and more on the City. With the Great Decisions program they normally lead their own programs, but they are starting to invite guest speakers to make the program a little bit more diverse. They think with all of that there will be another \$2,000 tax on them. He hoped that Council would honor that request. He asked if Council had any questions.

Mr. Brian Frazier, Hickory Regional Planning Commission, discussed the goals and objectives of the Hickory Regional Planning Commission for the next year. One of their goals was to complete the five year review of Hickory by Choice 2030. It was a little over five years old already, and he and staff had been working on it for approximately a year with the Planning Commission through a five member subcommittee. They have one more meeting on March 22, 2017 which will be a drop-in for citizens, neighborhood groups, associations, etc., to review the plan with them. It will be going to the Planning Commission in the month of April, and then hence to Council after the Planning Commission's recommendation in May for the re-adoption of the five year comprehensive plan. Soon thereafter they will be working on the Land Development Code, they had been working on that for many months as well. That will be coming to Council later this spring. The only real big changes that they have is they will be updating their demographic information in Hickory by Choice 2030 as well as adding two new chapters, Public Health and Historic Preservation for Council's review. That was the big thing for the Planning Commission in the next year. Also they will continue to expeditiously review all applications and to monitor the City's Brownfield program through his office, and himself as program manager. They are looking at presenting the final plan for the Southside area-wide planning grant, a \$200,000 planning grant which Council was aware of. That should go to the Brownfield Advisory Group on March 29<sup>th</sup> and then to the Planning Commission at their April meeting, and hence to City Council for their comment in May. The grant needs to be wrapped up by the end of June. They have been working with the consultants basically in Ridgeview, Kenworth, Green Park and West Hickory looking at redeveloping part of that 127, 70, South Center Street corridor, and looking for opportunities for that in those catalyst Brownfield sites that we all know so well. They also have a grant application to EPA that was submitted this past Christmas for \$600,000. That would be a coalition environmental assessment grant, a coalition between the City of Hickory, and the City of Newton as well as the Town of Longview. He advised we can help them by our knowledge and experience and they can formulate their own Brownfields program because they have a sizeable number of suspect and known Brownfield sites as well. He thinks we have a pretty good chance of securing additional funding sometime this coming May. He advised they would have the Planning Commission continue to stay current on various updates and planning legislation in North Carolina and across the country. The planning office will pay through the Planning Department's budget for any training. There is a quasi-judicial hearing process coming up in Charlotte in the next couple of months, and for them to continue to guide City Staff on any projects that they know of that may be coming up. He advised the budget as always requested was zero. He asked Council if they had any questions.

Mayor Wright commented he was not sure that was completely factual. They do a lot of in-kind like paying salaries and all.

Mr. Frazier replied, we do.

Mayor Wright commented he may have the biggest budget of anybody on the list.

Mr. Frazier commented he didn't know about that, he thought there was water and sewer somewhere.

Mr. Chase del Charco, Hickory Youth Council, advised he was a junior at Hickory Christian Academy and the Chair of Hickory Youth Council. They were a group of teens from high schools all across the City that gather to learn about the City and to get involved in the community. They had done this in several ways already this year. They served at the Community Care Center to help them get organized and prepared to serve the community better. They had also visited the Airport as Council to learn about how the City is involved in that aspect of the community. They also served monthly, as Mr. Moore

previously said, with the City of Refuge program where they help at risk youth, help them with homework, and anti-bullying strategies and the like. They also threw a holiday party at the inpatient rehab center at Frye Regional to bring the holidays to those that can't make it home because they are in the hospital. That is always a very fun time. Some of their own members are actually in an orchestra so they had been able to bring music to them as well, which had been a blast. His favorite part of this year had been hosting the mini-grant conference for all of the State Youth Councils. Youth Councils from all over North Carolina came to Hickory. They showed off the beautiful City to them and selected one council to fund with a grant. For the remainder of this year, they plan to host the annual Easter egg hunt where hundreds of kids will come to Henry Fork and hunt for Easter eggs. They are also teaming up with the Catawba County Youth Council to host an elected and appointed official's event where teens from all over Hickory can come to learn how County and City governments are interrelated and connected. He discussed their budget, which they asked for the same budget, \$3,600. He discussed a breakdown of those funds, \$300 go to dinner and supplies. It is in their bylaws that three meetings out of all of their meetings each year will be held at some City facility, anywhere from the shooting range at the Police Department or to the Fire Department, or even the Airport, so \$300 go towards those meetings; \$2,000 for sending their members and chaperons to the State Youth Council Conferences where they can be represented and to put their name in the pool for grants; \$300 for training the Youth Council members, that is their first meeting of the year where they really get focused and get prepared for a productive year; \$400 for holding events with local youth and getting them involved in City government; \$250 for marketing and Youth Council service events; \$350 for their t-shirts, which are moving billboards. That totals \$3,600. He thanked Council for their time and consideration.

Mayor Wright commented what a bargain, \$3,600 and we get these outstanding young volunteers.

Alderman Seaver mentioned they also stuff a lot of Easter eggs.

Mayor Wright advised he gets to blow the horn to start the kids.

Ms. Jody Blake, Historic Preservation Commission Chair, presented the fiscal year 2018 work plan. The purpose of the Historic Preservation Commission is to safeguard the heritage of the City by preserving properties which embody important elements of its cultural, social, economic, political, or architectural history. She discussed their past activities and achievements. The Commission is tasked with reviewing and approving certificate of appropriateness (COA) requests made by property owners within the City's local historic districts and landmarks. The Commission and its staff had reviewed four major and ten minor COA's this past year. The Commission had continued to partner with local preservation non-profits, particularly the Hickory Landmark Society. The Commission recently approved a request by the Hickory Landmark Society to help fund a new addition of their "Tavern to Town" book. This new addition will document the changes to historic properties in Hickory that have occurred over the last decade and include new findings uncovered during the 2015 historic properties survey commissioned by the City. Signage, demarcating the southwest downtown historic district was installed last year. These street sign toppers match the existing signage found in Claremont, Kenworth, and Oakwood districts. The upcoming fiscal year work plan request seeks \$11,100 in funding from the City. This was the same amount from the previous fiscal year. These funds will be spent across three different fields. Nearly half the funds will be used to cover costs related to program administration, general operations and for training and educational opportunities. The Commission is proud to be designated as a Certified Local Government (CLG). Hickory is the only CLG in Catawba County. As a CLG they are required to attend various training workshops annually. A smaller amount of funds will be allocated towards signage and the historic plaque program. As mentioned earlier all historic districts are now labeled with modern signage that compliments the recent wayfinding signage work the City has undertaken. Funds will also be dedicated toward outreach efforts. Adding additional features in tours to the recently completed downtown walking tour is one of the few goals for the coming year. Another is to work with the real estate community to insure that the buyers of historic properties are aware of the regulations as well as resources available to them. The final work plan objective was to pursue a State grant to expand the Oakwood National Register Historic District. A meeting was held in February and the grant had since been submitted to the State. The Commission will hear back around May if they will be receiving grant funds, and if so the matching funds will come from the General Fund. She thanked Council for their continued support of historic preservation in Hickory. She looks forward to working with Council to continue improving the quality of life in Hickory and its citizens by preserving its rich history and traditions.

Mayor Wright commented he gets so excited when people talk about signage.

Ms. Sally Anderson, Library Advisory Board, advised she had been a member for the last six years. To her there was nothing more exciting than a good book. She hoped that everyone had library cards and would come and visit the library and utilize the facilities, because they are really wonderful buildings that we have, both at Ridgeview and Patrick

Beaver Memorial Library. Their work plan for 2017/2018 had stayed the same as what they had from the previous year. She advised they had six key points. She recapped their primary goals are to participate in a minimum of at least two volunteer activities related to the library program and operations. Contribute to the Hickory Daily Record at least one article a year talking about library activities so they maintain some type of repore between themselves and the community so they don't forget they are there. They advocate for Public Library issues with the State Legislators, and the State library and local funders. They assist the library staff and the Friends of the Library as needed throughout the year. For example on Thursday they have a visiting writer series. She advised Erik Larson, author of the Devil in the White City, which is about to become a movie, will be at Hickory Public Library Thursday evening for an hour for a book signing and then going to Lenoir-Rhyne University and will be giving a presentation.

Alderman Tarlton confirmed that was March 9, 2017.

Ms. Anderson confirmed that was correct. She thought there were still tickets available, but you have to have a ticket to get in. She advised they could contact Lenoir-Rhyne University in order to do that. The book signing would be free, you don't need any kind of ticket for that. That was from 5:30 to 6:30 at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and his speech would be at 7:30. They also assist in the effort to solicit donations. They need money. Right now they are working on their solicitation letter for next year which they put out the second week in April which is National Library Week. She hoped they all got a copy and advised if they would like to make a donation in honor of someone it was a wonderful thing to do just to remember somebody like that. She advised over the last year there were over 347,000 visits to the library. Of that over 371,000 items were checked out and there were over 1,000 educational, informational, and entertaining programs provided to the citizens which is quite a huge service that we have. Over \$46,000 in endowment funds were used to purchase new tables and chairs for the children's department, early literacy computer workstations and educational software. They remodeled the first floor public restrooms and the children's restroom. They hosted ten authors, historian, musicians, and theatre groups. They have hoopla digital library, which enables you to get access to the library digitally so you don't have to go to the library to check out a book you can do it online. There are a lot of other services that they have to offer too. She hoped that Council would come and take advantage of what they have, it is a wonderful library system. She asked Council if they had any questions.

Mr. Lloyd Coley, Parks and Recreation Commission, presented a PowerPoint presentation. He thanked Council for the opportunity to present them with the 2017/2018 work plan for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He mentioned that David Williams, a member of the Commission, was also present. He advised one of their objectives was to support the completion of the Sandy Pines Park Masterplan as recommended in the 1997 Parks and Recreation's Masterplan, the 2010 Parks and Recreation's Need Assessment and endorsed by Hickory by Choice. Another objective was to strongly emphasize the Parks and Recreation Department's plan and efforts to renovate and upgrade existing recreational facilities and buildings. He discussed nine projects and all of those were funded projects. The first was the Southside Heights restroom facility that was completed. Additional parking at Hilton Park. Parking lot repaving at Civitan Park. Paved trail resurfacing at Hilton Park. The next five projects will be completed by the end of summer: restroom facility replacement at Fairbrook Optimist Dog Park; tennis court resurfacing at Westmont Recreation Center; parking lot repaving at Fairbrook Optimist Dog Park; Hickory Optimist Park phase two improvements, the only thing remaining there was the conversion of the single tennis court into four pickle ball courts; and the restroom facility and picnic shelter at West Hickory Park which is currently underway and is using Community Development Block Grant monies which are Federal level dollars for that particular project. Another objective was to support the development of the future Bruce Meisner Park as recommended by the approved Park Master Site Plan. Staff is currently in negotiation with the selected firm for construction drawings of phase one development plan. They continue to pursue collaborative public/private partnerships to upgrade and improve Hickory Parks and Recreation services. They are placing special emphasis and focus on the following three initiatives: the proposed improvement to the Rotary-Geitner Park by the Robert Lackey family; the proposed tennis complex improvements at Hickory City Park by the Great Hickory Tennis Association (GHTA), the GHTA had contributed \$50,000 towards their \$125,000 commitment; the completed Kiwanis Park splash pad, as of February 17, the Kiwanis Clubs had contributed \$57,860 of their \$100,000 commitment. They continue to support the City of Hickory's partnership with the Hickory Foundation YMCA to provide the opportunity for all City residents to participate in swim lessons. He noted from 2009 to 2016 there had been 2,406 participants. He asked Council if they had any questions. He thanked Council and the Parks and Recreation staff for creating the presentation. He acknowledged a special thank you to Mack McLeod for being his "Vanna White" this year.

Mr. Todd Hefner, Public Art Commission, presented a PowerPoint presentation, the work plan and budget for the Public Art Commission. He commented they had a busy year this past year. He advised they had completed the art walk brochure. It had been a longtime coming and it was something they hoped would be beneficial to the citizens of Hickory.

They had a busy year installing new artwork: "Generations" and "Love Makes the World Go Round" was added at Sally Fox Park; "Girl Studying" was being located and mounted at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library exterior; "Nature's Way" has been installed at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library. Installation in the coming year: "Orbiting Dots", "Solar Winds", "Last Dance of a Planetarium Nomad" by John Ross. These will be installed at the Hickory Regional Airport. Preparing for installation is the "Revolution Rise" it is to be determined where it is to be located. He asked for an Increase in budget this year due to the bench maintenance. They have twelve benches and two sculptures in need of repair. One of the future projects which they would like to do a request for proposal on, is a professional landscape plan for Sally Fox Park and where to locate sculptures as opposed to randomly selecting sites. They hope this will enhance the park. Their work plan included: continue public art program, art and sculpture acquisition, \$16,000; provide outreach educational efforts to build support for public art; and the continuing initiative art walk development, \$500 for brochure printing; public art webpage revisions and improvements; training and subscriptions \$500; also provide for maintenance of existing artwork, \$4,000 and enhance future projects. The total requested was \$21, 000. He asked Council if they had any questions.

Mr. Norm Meres, Recycling Advisory Board, was pleased to report the continued success of their move to single-stream recycling over the past couple of years. That expanded the scope of what they were able to recycle with residential locations and made it easier for the citizens to take their materials out to the curb and have them picked up once every other week. It had resulted in increasing volumes and participation and good feedback from the citizens and people seeing their garbage cans become empty as the recycling can gets fuller with lots of different items. Things had worked well with that. They are continuing to implement single-stream with businesses and multifamily dwellings. It was announced recently that Catawba County's ranking as a whole, out of 100 counties in the State, they ranked number one for overall recycling and also very good for residential recycling. They work closely with the County, Hickory is a big part of that. He advised the Blackburn location has electronics recycling year round. They work with the County on sponsoring the yearly household hazardous waste collection and those add up to real good results for recycling and continuing to be a leader in the State for recycling. He advised in this year's work plan they would continue to review the data that comes in as they pick up the recycling and look for areas of low participation and then try to work with those areas by publicizing and speaking to neighborhood groups. They are available to do that all of the time to help increase the awareness of recycling. They had done some continued improvements to the City's website, which is a good source of information on what can be recycled, where to take things if it is not obvious to put them out at the curb, and people that take reuse type of materials. A lot of good information on the City's website that is accessible to all of the citizens. They will continue to publicize and educate the public working with planning functions to be sure recycling is included in events like Oktoberfest, Earth Day, and those type of activities. They are continuing to look to expand recycling new opportunities if there are different materials, or just expand the scope of it as they continue to avoid putting things in the landfill. They always consider it important to keep education going toward the school children on recycling. They work with Catawba County each year to jointly sponsor a play for the fourth graders about recycling and it helps emphasis how that works and that had worked out very well for a number of years. He thanked Council for their support and asked for any questions.

Alderman Seaver asked if anyone on the Waste Reduction Commission had friends that lived in Ward 3. He had been looking for someone to appoint to that for two to three years or more and he would like to get that filled. He asked if they could put their heads together and think of someone, maybe someone he hadn't asked.

Mr. Meres advised he would ask at the next meeting and see if anyone from there was available.

Alderman Guess interjected Ward 4 as well.

Mr. Meres commented they would look and see if anybody had ideas, they are certainly welcome. They had a few relatively new members who had joined in the past two months and it is exciting to have some new blood and some folks and they would like more representation from the other Wards also.

Alderman Seaver thanked Mr. Meres.

Mayor Wright mentioned he had the pleasure of speaking to the Young Professions group and one young man asked how to get involved. Mayor Wright talked about the Boards and Commissions. He asked about recycling and he told him he was on. He asked Dana Kaminske or Sarah Prencipe if they had heard from him. They had not. He asked if they would help him follow up. He joked that they appointed him unofficially right there on the spot.

Mr. Meres commented they would take it, it is always good to have new blood.

Mayor Wright commented this is a very important activity for the City, and he thought we could take pride in the higher ranking that we have in terms of voluntarily recycling.

Mr. Meres replied we certainly can, everybody participates very well.

Alderman Seaver commented somebody has to take the credit for being number one so they would lay that on the Recycling Advisory Board.

Mr. Meres responded, us and Catawba County as a whole, but we are certainly a big part of Catawba County.

Mr. Ryan Edwards, University City Commission, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. He discussed progress of the University City Commission (UCC) this year. They were one of the newest commissions. Their mission was to broaden and deepen the relationship between the City of Hickory and Lenoir-Rhyne. He thought that they had certainly been making great strides as they move forward into this coming year they are looking to really make individuals, both on campus and throughout the City, more knowledgeable and more aware of what type of support and what their actual role is. Over the last year they had done a number of things behind the scene; they orchestrated the safety changes. They got the individual groups into the same room to make safety changes around the streets at Lenoir-Rhyne. He referenced the speed bumps between St. Andrews Church and the campus. They have University Christian High School, Lenoir-Rhyne and the City together. They spoke through the changes and had it assessed by the safety department and were able to make great strides obviously with a growing number of students there also with University Christian High School. They have a lot of pedestrian traffic through there. They were able to assess the speed, decrease the speed, and put in speed bumps. They not only worked on that side of campus, but the City also did an assessment on the other side, the street running adjacent to the soccer fields and the baseball fields and were able to make safety changes there as well. He thought that was one thing that they could certainly "hang their hat on" was getting those individuals in the same room together to get a deal together. They had great strides with the discount program which he had previously talked about. It had grown to 45 businesses in the area participating, offering discounts to students, faculty, and staff members at Lenoir-Rhyne. They had increased their exposure with the banners and the flags for those supports. He referenced a pennant which Yaidee Fox had provided him with. He advised if you are around a business in town, retail or restaurant, if they have a sticker in their door or window they are providing a discount to Lenoir-Rhyne students, faculty, and staff for that they are receiving exposure on campus. This year they had given flags and pennants, or both, to the participating members of that discount program, increasing their awareness and hopefully there will be more of those around town. They were pleased that had grown to 45 businesses through this year. They are also trying to drive going forward some economic impact numbers that discount program may have and also trying to see if they can have an app specific to this discount program created. They have a lot of people in the room that have some knowledge associated with that. They look forward to the next year and what that can be. They had supported numerous activities on campus, the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lenoir-Rhyne and the first annual 5K last year, which was centered on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and it is going to start being an annual event. They are happy to be helping promote that, and support that yet again. They have visibility at sporting events with their shirt sponsorship in the student section, "Bear Nation" has a large bear and logo on the front, on the back is the logo University City Commission and spelled out the City of Hickory and Lenoir-Rhyne working together. They are happy to do that again this year. They had taken part in opening convocation for the incoming freshman and transfers yet again, and a member of the Commission speaks. In years past they had a video created where they welcome the freshman and transfers to the first time, their first convocation on campus. That is always well received where they are actually providing them a welcome and a gift as well. They organized and cross promoted campus events and City of Hickory events with Connie Kincaid's help. He gave as an example making sure the students, and Lenoir-Rhyne faculty and staff are aware of what is actually going on in the City. That was a good example of some of the downtown events being able to work together on those and the City's help promoting Lenoir-Rhyne events as well. They look forward to that growing and making sure they don't have anything falling through the cracks and they are able to help each other in that regard. Their focus for this upcoming year as they look to continue to their efforts and also increase the awareness of the partnership between the City and Lenoir-Rhyne, as well as the opportunities with careers and internships for the students, hopefully helping young individuals stay in this area. That had always been a goal of theirs. With some turnover of some members and some individuals attending, he was happy with their progress to this point. They have some individuals attending consistently in the room that is actually making sure those type of programs succeed, that they have those people sitting in the room with them now. He was happy about that and looks forward to the coming year. He requested \$12,000 for the upcoming year to assist with the event partnerships, the promotional and marketing products, and also business partnerships and programs. He asked for any questions.

Alderman Guess referenced the increased exposure that the shops which have the logo and asked if that also included or had they been able to promote having the apparel for sale for Lenoir-Rhyne University onsite as well.

Mr. Edwards advised he had tried to answer that question in the past and hadn't done a good job of that because he hadn't had a good answer. There had been some headway made with a close to campus vendor that would provide Lenoir-Rhyne apparel. He knew that meeting was taking place, and that was moving forward. He had that on the radar that they need to make sure that they are part of that conversation as well. That had been a hang-up a lot of times. A sporting goods store maybe promoting the local universities, but unfortunately that doesn't happen here in Hickory and they haven't got a good answer for that for the individuals that run those sporting goods stores, the larger ones here in town.

Alderman Guess commented you see everything but Lenoir-Rhyne.

Mr. Edwards confirmed that was right. They are trying to take baby steps but there is progress on that whereas there had not been progress to this point. He advised that Fan Fare downtown did a great job, but in terms of apparel in a wide array that is something, he felt there had definitely been progress made.

Mayor Wright commented the City needed to get the banner or the flag hanging over in City Hall.

Mr. Edwards advised he had a big one.

Mayor Wright commented we need to have that so when people come here they see Lenoir-Rhyne is our community university, but that doesn't mean they get a discount on their water bill, but they would like to have that.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of February 21, 2017

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton that the Minutes of February 21, 2017 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

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

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

- A. Approval to Amend the Parking Ordinance for the Farmer's Market. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- B. Approval of Hickory International Council's Recommendations for Grant Funding. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- C. Approval of a Community Appearance Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by The Block 108, LLC Located at 26 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE in the Amount of \$5,000. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- D. Approval of a Landscape Incentive Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by The Block 108, LLC Located at 26 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE in the Amount of \$2,500. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- E. Acceptance and Award of the Proposal by Freese and Nichols, Inc. for the West Hickory Elevated Tank and Distribution System Project and Completion of the City's Distribution System Model in the Amount of \$71,220. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- F. Acceptance and Award of the Professional Services Agreement with Hulsey McCormick & Wallace in the Amount of \$91,000 for Completion of the Sodium Hypochlorite Generation Replacement Project. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

- G. Consideration of a Vacant Building Revitalization Grant Performance Agreement with The Block 108, LLC for Property Located at 26 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
  - H. Approve the Sale of City-Owned Property Located at 704 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Place SE to Jackie Robinson in the Amount of \$1,800. Notice for Upset Bid was advertised on February 10, 2017 in a Newspaper having General Circulation in the Hickory area. No Upset Bids were received. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
  - I. Budget Revision Number 18. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Item IX.

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

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

- A. Approved a Resolution to Declare Library Materials as Surplus and Donate the Materials to the Friends of the Library.

Staff requests approval of a Resolution to declare surplus 2,701 discarded library materials. These materials will be donated to the Friends of the Library to be sold at the Friends October 2017 book sale and/or at the "Corner Book Store" at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library. The sale of the donated and discarded books is the primary fundraising activity of the Friends of the Library, and discarded library materials comprise a significant portion of their inventory. The sale of these items ultimately benefits the library and is an appropriate means of disposing of unneeded materials. Public notice was advertised on the City's website, February 14, 2017. Staff recommends Council's approval of the Resolution to declare the library materials as surplus and donate the materials to the Friends of the Library for their use at the annual October book sale and/or the "Corner Book Store".

#### RESOLUTION NO. 17-10

#### A RESOLUTION OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL DECLARING SURPLUS LIBRARY BOOKS AND AUTHORIZING DONATION TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

WHEREAS, the Hickory Public Library declares a list of 2,701 discarded, out of date in poor condition, or no longer needed to meet the collection development goals of the library; and

WHEREAS, the Library wishes to dispose of said property to The Friends of the Library for their use at the annual October book sale and/or the "Corner Book Store" at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-280 allows the city to donate to another governmental unit within the United States, or a nonprofit organization incorporated after advertising and Council approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hickory, North Carolina:

SECTION 1. That authorization is given to the Hickory Public Library to dispose of the declared surplus in a manner serving the best interest of the City.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

- B. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Downtown Hickory Art Crawls, Connie Kincaid, Executive Director, Hickory Downtown Development Association, Union Square, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW, May 18, 2017, September 21, 2017, and October 27, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- C. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Downtown Hickory Shuck & Peel Party, Connie Kincaid, Executive Director, Hickory Downton Development Association, Union Square, November 11, 2017, 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- D. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Hickory Oktoberfest 2017, Connie Kincaid, Hickory Downtown Development Association, Blocks within Boundaries of 3<sup>rd</sup>

Street NW (W), Government Avenue SW (S), 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW, (N), Center Street (E), including Union Square, Event Dates: October 13, 14, and 15, 2017. Setup begins October 12, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. and clean-up ends October 15, 2017 at 11:00 p.m.

- E. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Hickory Crawdads home Run Trot 5K, Juliet Horan, Race Director, Fleet Feet Sports, 2500 Clement Blvd NW, LP Frans Stadium, May 13, 2017, 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- F. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Catawba County YoungLife Glow Run, Stephanie C. Bost, Committee Member, YoungLife, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive NE, Hickory Regional Airport, April 29, 2017, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- G. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Grand Opening Lowes Foods City Park, Allison Holtzman, Director of Friends of Hickory, Corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW and Main Street, Directly West of Union Square, March 18, 2017, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- H. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Sails Original Music Series, Dana Kaminske, City of Hickory Communications and Marketing Manager, Sails on the Square Stage in Downtown Hickory, May 5, 12, 19, 26; June 2, 9, 16, 23; and September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- I. Approved the Special Events Activities Application P3 Spring Concert, Rick Cline, Director, Piedmont Percussion Program, Sails on the Square, April 7, 2017, 5:00 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.
- J. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Pinwheels for Prevention, Kim Cline (CAPC Staff), Children's Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County, 805 6<sup>th</sup> Street SE, April 5, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- K. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Unifour March for Babies, Rebecca Moser, Development Specialist, March of Dimes, 2500 Clement Boulevard, April 22, 2017, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- L. Approved the Special Events Activities Application National Day of Prayer 2017, Charles Moretz and Christopher Harris, Managers of ARC, Inc., Event Date, May 4, 2017, 6:30 a.m., Sails on the Square, (Setup to Begin, May 3, 2017 at 5:00 p.m., Cleanup Ends May 4, 2017 at 10:00 p.m.)
- M. Approved the Special Events Activities Application 85 for 85, Kelly Davis, Director of Outreach, Lowes Foods, LLC & Friends of Hickory, March 25, 2017, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW and Main Avenue NW.
- N. Approved on First Reading the Annual Auditing Contract with Martin Starnes & Associates.

The North Carolina Local Government Commission does not require formal bid requirements for auditing services due to the professional relationship formed between auditors and clients over an extended work history. The Secretary of the Local Government Commission approves all local government contracts and invoices for audit or audit-related work. The Local Government Commission requires approval of the auditing contract on an annual basis. In 2016, the City of Hickory approved a three-year renewal contract with Martin Starnes & Associates. The annual renewal ending June 30, 2017 will be the second year of this contract with audit fees of \$57,675. Staff recommends approval to renew the annual auditing contract with Martin Starnes & Associates for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

- O. Called for a Public Hearing – Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of Robert and Florene Watford Property, Located at 1329 Zion Church Road, Containing 1.1518 acres. Authorize Public Hearing for March 21, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

RESOLUTION NO. 17-11  
RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED  
UNDER G.S. 160A-31 AND/OR 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition from Robert Jackson Watford and wife, Florene Harris Watford requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on February 23, 2017 by the City Council of the City of Hickory; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-31 and G.S. 160A-58.1 provide that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory deems it advisable to proceed in

response to this request for annexation.

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

THAT, the Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above-described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the City Council the result of her investigation.

CERTIFICATE OF SUFFICIENCY

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA:

I, Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk, do hereby certify that I have investigated the petition attached hereto and have found as a fact that said petition is signed by all owners of real property lying in the area described therein, in accordance with G.S. 160A-31 and/or G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended:

1329 Zion Church Road, Hickory, NC, containing 1.518 acres more or less.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 24th day of February, 2017.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION OF ANNEXATION, PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31 OR G.S. 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of the area described herein has been received; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory has, by Resolution, directed the clerk to investigate the sufficiency thereof; and

WHEREAS, certification by the Clerk as to the sufficiency of said petition has been made.

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

Section 1: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 21, 2017 in the Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina.

Section 2: The area proposed for annexation is described as follows:  
Property of Robert and Florene Watford located at 1329 Zion Church Road, Hickory, NC, containing 1.518 acres more or less.

Section 3: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in The Hickory Daily Record, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-12

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE INTENT TO ANNEX INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY ROBERT AND FLORENE WATFORD AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SAME

WHEREAS, Robert Watford and wife, Florene Watford are the owners of certain real property as described herein, which property is located at 1329 Zion Church Road, Hickory containing 1.518 acres more or less; and

WHEREAS, such property is currently located in the City's extra-territorial jurisdictional (ETJ); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety and well-being of the residents of the City of Hickory to annex such property into the corporate limits of the City of Hickory as authorized by N.C.G.S. Section 160A-31; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Hickory City Council, sitting in open session this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body of said Council, duly called and posted in accordance with the statutes of the State of North Carolina, as follows:

- Section 1: That the Hickory City Council does determine that it is in the best interest of the health, safety and well-being of the residents of the City of Hickory to annex the property described hereinafter into the corporate limits of the City of Hickory.
- Section 2: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 21, 2017, in the Council Chamber of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina.
- Section 3: The same being that property reflected on maps entitled Watford Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 1, Current City Boundary, subject property outlined in red; Watford Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 2, Surrounding Land Uses, subject property outlined in red; Watford Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 3, Current Zoning, subject property outlined in red.
- Section 4: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in *The Hickory News*, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

- P. Accepted on First Reading Pricing from Rodders and Jets Supply Company in the Amount of \$87,264 for the Purchase of a Sewer Line Inspection Camera.

The sewer line inspection camera is an integral part of the daily operations of identifying problems in the City's sewer system. The camera helps plan for capital projects, identify replacement and rehabilitation projects, and perform daily maintenance tasks. The camera is equipped with a forward and rear facing camera capable of zoom and tilt. Lights are also included with all necessary hardware to accommodate the varying pipe diameters the City owns. This equipment was specified and demonstrated by Public Utilities Department staff. The City of Hickory is a member of HGAC Buy and is purchasing this equipment through the purchasing cooperative that provides competitive pricing. This is a budgeted project in the FY 16-17 Collection System Capital Budget of the Public Utilities Department. Staff recommends Council's acceptance of the pricing and approval to purchase the camera from Rodders and Jets Supply Company in the amount of \$87,264.

- Q. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 19.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-08  
BUDGET REVISION NO. 19

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

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

| FUNCTIONAL AREA      | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Culture & Recreation | 2,000    | -        |
| TOTAL                | 2,000    | -        |

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

| FUNCTIONAL AREA    | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Sales and Services | 2,000    | -        |
| TOTAL              | 2,000    | -        |

SECTION 2. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

- R. Approved Applying for the 2017 Creative Give Back Grant through Creative Economic Development Consulting, LLC in the Amount of \$25,000 to Conduct Economic Analysis of Property Redevelopment Potential Along City Walk.

Creative Economic Development Consulting, LLC has announced the 2017 application process for the Creative Give Back Grant. Creative EDC has expertise in strategic planning, product development, organizational development, downtown and small business development, marketing, entrepreneurship, site selection, and many other areas of economic development. The City of Hickory would like to apply for this grant in the category of product development and downtown development specifically to request assistance with determining redevelopment opportunities for underused properties along

City Walk as it extends from the Lenoir-Rhyne University campus to 9<sup>th</sup> Street NE near the former Piedmont Wagon building now owned by Cornerstone United. The grant is for services provided by Creative Economic Development Consulting, LLC totaling an equivalent of \$25,000. Their staff provide the services at no cost to the City but will require a letter acknowledging the donation for tax purposes. Should the City wish to carry the scope of the project further, those additional costs would be borne by the City of Hickory. Such an extension of the scope and project will trigger City staff to bring the project back to Council for consideration of any additional funds before moving ahead. Staff requests City Council's permission to make application for the 2017 Creative Give Back Grant for economic development analysis along City Walk.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

A. Report of Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt's Travel to the NC City and County Management Seminar, Durham, NC, February 1-3, 2017, (Registration - \$335; Meals - \$102.50; Lodging - \$274.68; Mileage Reimbursement - \$159.43).

B. Budget Transfer Report

Under Section 22 (b) of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 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."

Under this provision, the following Budget Transfers occurred during February 2017:

Background: To expedite the availability of insurance-claims revenue to the appropriate department, the City has budgeted specific funds within the Risk Management division which, upon the case-by-case receipt of said revenues, may be transferred as necessary for making repairs and/or replacements in a timely manner.

1. February 28, 2017 (BT #50): \$12,467 received from citizen's insurance and transferred to the Traffic Department for damages sustained to a traffic control box at Springs Road/McDonald Parkway struck by a citizen motorist on 9/9/16.
2. February 28, 2017 (BT #50): \$500 received from citizen's insurance and transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department due to an impaired driver who struck and damaged the fence at Hilton Park on 1/31/17.
3. February 28, 2017 (BT #50): \$4,687 received from citizen's insurance and transferred to the Police Department for damage sustained to Police vehicle #78 on 1/7/17. This vehicle (2005 Chevy Impala) was totaled as a result of a motor vehicle accident in the snow.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt explained the Budget Transfer report. She advised these items were from accidents which had happened. An accident at Springs Road and McDonald Parkway took out one of the traffic control boxes, \$12,467 for that. The same day, \$500 from a citizen's insurance which dealt with the Parks and Recreation Department, an impaired driver who struck and damaged a fence at Hilton Park, and \$4,687 from insurance for a police vehicle that sustained damage as a result of a motor vehicle accident in the snow.

Alderman Seaver asked if was all from the same accident.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented that would be a busy day.

Alderman Seaver commented he was just wondering.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised it was all the same date, but there was a lot of work there.

Alderman Seaver referenced the TV ad which stated buzz driving can cost you \$10,000, this is more, which is why he was wondering.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised it was a couple of different dates.

Alderman Seaver commented if it was snowing that day that could contribute.

Mayor Wright confirmed that was just information.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt confirmed that was correct. This is part of the section of the ordinance which allows the City Manager to make payments and receive funds back in and report those out at the next Council meeting if they are under \$50,000.

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

1. Approved on First Reading Consideration of Closing a Portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE.

The City Clerk received a street closing petition request from Attorney Eloise D. Bradshaw, on behalf of Sunset Southstar LLC. The request is to close a section of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE. Sunset Southstar LLC owns three of the four tracts of property abutting the portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE and the other tract abutting 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE is owned by Triangle Properties Associates, LLC. Staff requests Council's consideration of the Resolution and Order closing a portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on February 10, February 17, February 24, and March 3, 2017.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt asked the City's Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer to the podium to present Council with a request to close a portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE in the northern section of town.

Interim Public Services Director Kevin Greer discussed the request for a partial closure of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE between 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the dead-end of that street. He presented a PowerPoint presentation and advised it was a short little street which was used as a driveway now on 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. It actually dead-ends on a piece of property which was also owned by Sunset Southstar. They actually own all four pieces of property that are adjacent. He pointed out Belle Hollow Shopping Center on the map. Belle Hollow has access off of 29<sup>th</sup> and also North Center Street or 127. This street only serves the four pieces of property which was why they had requested to close that section. The City has water and sewer located in the street. They are requesting the closure of that street. There was no unfavorable responses that were received. The only comment was we need to maintain an easement over those existing water and sewer lines to maintain that access to the area. The request before Council was the consideration of a Resolution and Order for the closing of a portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE between 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the dead-end of that street.

Alderman Guess asked what their purpose was for closing that.

Mr. Greer did not know but if you look on the GIS it really only serves as a driveway to that one piece of property, so they are probably trying to combine those four pieces of property into one. The same owner owns the gas station, the factory that is there, and the other two pieces are owned by the same property owner. He explained the area which was Belle Hollow Shopping Center.

Alderman Guess commented it looked like it would be convenient for them to have it.

Mr. Greer advised the only thing that it was used for was a driveway back to a piece of property. But if they own them all they can combine them and use them how they want to anyway.

Mayor Wright 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.

Attorney Ellie Bradshaw advised she represented Sunset Southstar. She advised they were the property owner which Mr. Greer mentioned. Sunset Southstar was asking to have this street closed. She had not been told exactly why they wanted this street closed, but she thought it had to do with setbacks. They would have ten feet. She advised the strip was 20 feet in width. If you close it half will go to Triangle Associates and half to Sunset Southstar. That would give them a ten foot deeper lot. She advised it was not used and noted on the PowerPoint the area which had never been really developed as far as anyone knows and the only purpose had been for the driveway located here. She advised she would answer any questions that Council might have.

Alderman Seaver asked about the property at the top of the map, he asked if it was part of the whole property.

Attorney Ellie Bradshaw explained the properties that Sunset Southstar owned. She pointed out a right of way to the north for 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, and the old Blockbuster property. She advised on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE there was a stub which served a house it did not connect, it was not physically open to the Belle Hollow property. She thanked Council for their consideration.

Mr. Hani Nassar wanted to ask a question.  
Alderman Guess advised Mr. Nassar raised his hand when Mayor Wright asked if anyone wanted to speak against.

Mr. Hani Nassar advised he just wanted to state a comment.

Mayor Wright asked Mr. Nassar if he raised his hand earlier to speak against it.

Mr. Hani Nassar just wanted to make a comment.

Mayor Wright declared the public hearing closed.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton approval of closing a portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE. The motion carried unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 17-13  
RESOLUTION AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Sunset Southstar LLC, and Triangle Properties Associates LLC owns property adjoining the following described area, in the City of Hickory, County of Catawba, which is further described as follows:

A Portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE, Hickory

Lying and being situate in the City of Hickory, Hickory Township, Catawba County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at an existing iron axle located in the eastern boundary of the property of Sunset Southstar, LLC acquired by deed recorded in Book 3284, Page 1890, Catawba County Registry, which axle is located Grid Bearing and Distance: South 29° 57' 35" East 490.86 feet from an existing PK nail found, NC DOT STAY 50A POT 10+00 NC Grid Coordinates established by the City of Hickory Engineering Department, Northing = 743891.01, Easting = 1308761.41 (nad 83 datum), thence from said POINT OF BEGINNING North 14° 48' 52" East 211.32 feet to a 1¼" solid iron pipe in the line of the property of Sunset Southstar, LLC, (NC Pin # 3704-16- 93-1743) Catawba County Tax Records; thence with the line of Sunset Southstar, LLC for two (2) calls: (1) South 79° 22' 15" East 10.05 feet to a new iron pin; (2) South 79° 22' 15" East 14.95 feet to an existing ½" iron rebar; corner of Triangle Properties Associates, LLC, acquired by deed recorded in Book 1826 Page 46 Catawba County Registry; thence with the common boundary of Triangle Properties Associates, LLC for four (4) calls: (1) South 32° 59' 02" West 15.70 feet to a point; (2) South 14° 46' 58" West 197.14 feet to an existing ½" iron rebar; (3) South 15° 19' 57" West 30.64 feet to an existing ½" iron rebar; and (4) South 15° 01' 13" West 163.67 feet to a point in the northern edge of the pavement of SR 1404 (29th Avenue NE), thence with the northern edge of the payment of 29th Avenue NE for three (3) calls: (1) South 75° 32' 35" West 11.75 feet to a new iron pin; (2) South 75° 32' 35" West 10.03 feet to a new iron pin; and (3) South 86° 02' 32" West 1.46 feet to a point, the southeastern corner of the property of Sunset Southstar, LLC (Book 3284, Page 1894); thence with the line of Sunset Southstar (Book 3284, Page 1894) North 15° 22' 25" East 134.32 feet to an existing iron pin at the base of a bent ½" rod, which iron pin is located South 75° 09' 53" East 164.12 feet from an existing ½" iron rebar in the eastern margin of the right-of-way of NC Highway No. 127 (North Center Street) and being the northeastern corner of the property of Sunset Southstar, LLC, acquired by a deed recorded in Book 3284, Page 1894, Catawba County Registry, and the southeast corner of the property of Sunset Southstar, LLC, acquired by deed recorded in Book 3284, Page 1890; thence with the boundary of Sunset Southstar, LLC (Book 3284, Page 1890) North 14° 38' 28" East 70.07 feet to an existing iron axle found, the POINT OF BEGINNING, and containing 8,249 square feet, more or less, according to a survey entitled "Street Closing Plat for a portion of City of Hickory 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE" dated December 15, 2016 by Darrin L. Reid, PLS of Darrin L. Reid Land Surveying and Planning, to which survey reference is hereby made for greater certainty of description.

WHEREAS, following the filing of said petition with the City Council, a notice of public hearing upon the question of closing and abandoning said area for public roadway purposes was advertised in *The Hickory Daily Record* in the issues of February 10, February 17, February 24, and March 3, 2017.

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

THAT, the above-described area be and the same is hereby ordered to be closed and abandoned for roadway or street purposes, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 160A, Section 299, of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and the Charter of the City of Hickory;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Hickory reserves the right, title and interest in any utility improvement or easement within the above-described street or roadway to be closed, pursuant to the provisions of 160A, Section 299, of the General Statutes of North Carolina; and

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that all rights, title and interest of the City of Hickory in and to the area covered by said street shall vest in the respective owners of the land adjoining said area, all in accordance with the provision of the abovementioned section of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

Mayor Wright explained to Mr. Nassar that Council had no problem with him speaking, except it was long established protocol that they don't do that. They would have people who keep thinking of more things they want to say and at some point you have to say look we can't have all of this give and take. He advised as a matter of protocol they just don't allow it.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Bond Commission Update

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised Council she wanted to share with them the status of the bond program. She thanked a number of members in attendance who are on the Bond Commission. Council had heard from quite a few of them who were Board Chairs representing those Boards on the Bond Commission. She advised they had heard this information last week and maybe even the week before if they were a Chair or Vice Chair. She presented a PowerPoint presentation. She discussed two projects. They had received an update from AMEC last week for the 30 percent review of City Walk and the 60 percent review of the gateway design at Highway 321 and 70. She advised these were points in time and not a final decision or final product. These were updates for Council to receive as well as what the Bond Commission had received last week. She started with the gateways. This project had evolved over the last four months or so, since November, where they talked quite a bit about how to bring attention to two gateways on Highway 321, Highway 70 and Clement. Clement since had been separated out because that intersection will change as a result of Highway 321's widening. It is hard to do a gateway there right now without it needing to be removed. They focused their attention on Highway 70 and 321. They had a number of discussions about should that area include monument signage with Hickory on it. Should it include more graphic structural maybe sculptural type signage? Maybe an architectural "H" or something that looks like furniture. All of this was presented to the Bond Commission in early December and to City Council on December 20<sup>th</sup>. They also held a workshop on December 20<sup>th</sup> with the Bond Commission just to keep things moving with them. She advised this was the option that was pursued a little further, it was two leaves representing different seasons of the year. She advised those were abstract representations of Hickory leaves. In an informal setting the group came down to saying that they felt some sense of connection with the leaves more so than an "H" or some other type of signage. She advised this is all still evolving and they are looking at just this one gateway. She shared the conversation which they had last week with the Bond Commission about the gateways. There are some new members and some members who spoke up and raised some great questions. One question raised was shouldn't all the gateways have a unifying theme with them. They heard that loudly and clearly and they need some guidance from Council and the Bond Commission further on that. The gateways which they have on the bond program to date are: Clement and 321, 321 and 70, and exit 125 on I-40 the Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard exit. Those are the three funded gateways at this time. A fourth one that could be considered is the gateway that just received funding from NCDOT at the Highway 321 Bridge gateway entrances that are being thought through and planned. No action had been taken on that yet to develop a RFP, but that is another gateway. Essentially they could have four that they could tackle at once if they wanted to pursue the comments that were made about unifying themes at all of the gateways. They also heard that it was important not to forget where we are and who we are and add Hickory into the wording somehow in the gateway design. That comment was made last week as well. There were also comments almost to the other side, that something more artistic and iconic would be a better gateway. She didn't know if it was anticipated to be without the word Hickory somewhere in there and if maybe the thought had changed that maybe the fact that we do need to say Hickory somewhere in that design. She advised that is where they are in their thinking,

but they are in a process of being about half-way through the design of the leaves. Certainly at a point where the work is not in vain. She showed a view of the leaves that could take out in terms of how a night-time view would be. They would be internally lit. The concept was that they had lighting both on them and up within and they would be substantially seen from Highway 321 day or night. She showed a concept drawing of the leaves which was shared in December. She showed the 60 percent design drawing in its infancy, just starting to flesh out materials. She advised they handed those plans out last week to the Bond Commission. She advised at this point the leaves were fairly substantial at 27 feet in height. She showed the gateway landscape plan. The landscape plan included the approach from the south to the north and having the two leaves sit here just after you have experienced a stained glass effect of landscaping and shrubbery and evergreens in this space. The remaining existing trees that are there today provide the backdrop. On the southbound side a similar landscape plan for that. The costs are still in development, certainly within our budget, but certainly they need some direction if this is not how we want to go. She commented it is hard to do this work in a big broad group and get all of the details captured when they had two opportunities to sit down with AMEC in the course of time to decide if we like this, are we ready to go forward. If this was something that needs more work maybe that is something that is shared with her so she can pass back to the group. She advised they were hearing questions from Bond Commission members as well. They had identified plantings that would be suitable. She commented it didn't look so exciting here because you don't see the landscaping that is below the photo. She advised this was just a photo shop rendering to get a sense of scale. That was all she had on that particular gateway. She asked Council if they wanted to talk about that or go through City Walk and come back to all of it.

Alderman Lail wanted to discuss this item now. He didn't think it worked to announce where you are in Hickory within an abstract piece of art. You have to go one way or the other. He asked had there been any talk about identifying our City, which he thought was important. Hickory as part of that landscape area.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised that came up. The appropriate time for that to come up was once they went through these drawings. Several members did comment on that last week. They got that feedback from the Bond Commission last week. It was not in these drawings because it was what they used last week to get the conversation started. She advised it had come up and she thought there were a number of people who thought it was important to have a Hickory monument sign of some sort in that landscape on that same triangle which is the northbound exit on to 70 from 321. It is a nice long exit if you visualize it, right for some improvement like this. She referred to the photo and said you can see it right there, it is a big grassy field except for in the back.

Alderman Tarlton asked if they were thinking like a chair or a loom.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised the thought was leaves for the sculpture design that the Bond Commission migrated to over some other options, including various versions of "H's" that looked like chairs, or sculpture. It was art, very nice subtle art that might have been an "H" as opposed to Hickory being a more deliberate way to say where you are. Of course that is the whole point, it is a gateway and they don't want people to think they just got off of the Lenoir exit and they didn't know. We want them to know they are in Hickory. Whatever that feature is in the center is still something they want feedback on from Council.

Alderman Lail advised he was okay with the feature if that was what she was looking for.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised she was looking for feedback on all of it.

Alderman Lail commented if they could incorporate Hickory within the whole scheme of the leaves and the landscaping. Great. If it is do the leaves, landscaping and then install a monument sign, no. That is a total disconnect, it has got to be incorporated within.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented it needs to be incorporated. This is the appropriate time to do that.

Alderman Guess agreed that it had to have both.

Alderman Seaver asked how many total gateways were being enhanced. All of them he assumed.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised the bond program had three funded. Exit 125 which is the big one on I-40, which is what is referred to as the main gateway into town. That one has not yet received an RFQ process, or design consultants selected, so that one is a little further down the list because I-40 interchange there is being reworked. We are working with DOT's schedule when they rework that interchange then we would be ready to partner with them on it.

Alderman Seaver commented so we are going to have one on the north and south on 321.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised it was Clement and 70 for the two that were chosen. She advised that Representative Adams was working hard with NCDOT to celebrate 321 and I-40, that cloverleaf's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She advised a wildflower program is being considered by NCDOT for the I-40 cloverleaf. You have that where that is not bond funds, it is NCDOT funds, but they would certainly go toward the overall enhancement of our gateways. Then you've got Highway 321 and 70 which is this project and Highway 321 and Clement which has to be delayed or deferred due to the highway widening. Then you have the gateways at the 321 Bridge that will be planned and those dollars blended in with the DOT Bridge project. Ones that didn't make the list, in terms of current funding, were exit 126 for Fairgrove, coming across the Alexander County Bridge at 127, or coming in from that same direction off of Springs Road. There were some minor gateways that were not in the funding program. Just these three.

Alderman Seaver mentioned coming back into Hickory from 70 west, he gets the same picture he had seen since the 1960's. It is almost the same on 70, Longview, before you get to Longview School. It seems like that one has been put in the history book. You feel like you are driving into the 1950s.

Alderman Tarlton commented there is not much of Hickory between 321 and Longview is there.

Alderman Seaver commented it is about to 33<sup>rd</sup>.

Alderman Guess advised 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

Alderman Seaver commented that thought went through his head when he was driving through there the other day.

Alderman Tarlton agreed with Alderman Seaver. It's kind of rundown.

Alderman Lail wished to speak about the question of the unifying piece of the gateway. He understood it. They did such a good job with the wayfinding. Obviously those have to be unified. They have got to be uniform. You are trying to direct people, and get them to anticipate where the next sign is and what it is going to look like. He didn't think our gateways could be that. He thought the gateways should sort-of stand on their own. He felt they served different purposes too. He referenced the exit 125 gateway where you might be dealing with cars at 65 mph and it might be something that is structural on the bridge as opposed to sculptural in the grassy area. He thought they would drive themselves crazy trying to unify a design, that even if we can get it there, he didn't think people would even then make the connection that it is a unified design unless you exactly duplicate it.

Alderman Seaver commented you would see the awesomeness of the structures, you don't have time to read the fine print.

Alderman Zagaroli advised he was a little disappointed with leaves. He didn't know what they mean to Hickory other than we have trees and leaves. As far as something iconic he was not sure somebody going through would later say "gee, I went through this town, I think was Hickory, I am not sure but they had leaves". He was just disappointed. The same firm also did the walkway.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised the pedestrian bridge.

Alderman Zagaroli commented that everybody loved the several arches. Wouldn't it be nice if maybe they took that idea and tried to do some gateways with that same feeling? He knew they were so far along at this point.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented they are far along, but in the terms of the gateway project, take a little bit of money to think about additional design. It would take them several more months of coming up with that design and taking it through the Bond Commission, but that is also what this process is about. We can't hit it a 100 percent every time, so here we are. Art is very

subjective. They just want to have the best project possible for the 321/70 interchange. She advised if Council wanted to deliberate and give the Bond Commission guidance the group would welcome it and she thought they anticipated gathering back together as soon as they could do a called meeting, and really tackle the feedback that they are getting. We just have to be real honest with each other if there is something that troubles you we have got to share.

Alderwoman Patton commented she liked all the LED lighting and she thought that was certainly a great feature to draw people's eye, but she was like Alderman Zagaroli with the leaves.

Alderman Zagaroli advised he would vote it down personally.

Mayor Wright asked how much they were spending.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented the estimates were not tied yet to this project because they have to get some clarity on what it is they are building. The whole project total is \$250,000 but that includes landscaping, inspections, and sculpture.

Alderman Tarlton commented that looks like a \$250,000 loop to him.

Mayor Wright asked \$250,000 for one gateway.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded yes, absolutely.

Mayor Wright commented he wasn't saying that is too much, but he was trying to look at it from the standpoint of the general public and what their reaction will be. Recognizing when it comes to art some people just say don't spend any tax money on art. They understand that. He personally could live with some subtlety, but he wanted people to know when they are a hundred miles away, he wanted them to remember that was Hickory, North Carolina when they saw that.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt assured Council they would get that part added in. She felt that had been a great comment.

Mayor Wright commented also, if there is a way to motivate people to get off the interstate. That is what he liked about Alderman Zagaroli's idea, if they see the pedestrian bridge, at some point they say "I wonder what that is and should we go see it". There is considerable economic value to getting them off the interstate.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt asked if they would repeat that bridge theme again at a different gateway. The sky is the limit with these projects, which is the hard part. One comment was, if it was a repeating theme, is it one feature that is iconic and repeats multiple times.

Alderman Lail commented if they miss it then they miss it all over the place then.

Mayor Wright commented if we had a chair out there, he wasn't saying that was the answer, but if we had a chair out there maybe somebody would say "you know what I bet they sell that stuff".

Alderman Lail joked that Mayor Wright wanted a sign that read this is a sign.

Mayor Wright liked the look of it.

Alderman Seaver mentioned we do have a leaf in the logo.

Alderman Tarlton liked the look of it, it just wasn't iconic.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt asked the leaves.

Mayor Wright stated it doesn't evoke Hickory. That person from Utah, when they get back to Utah, they are never going to remember that.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented if you saw Hickory next to leaves you would make that connection.

Mayor Wright thought that helps, and they also have to plant some Hickory trees, but that is another story.

Alderman Tarlton commented maybe build an old town tavern.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised staff was all about the process and they want to make sure the process is comprehensive. If Council would like AMEC to tackle another design.

Alderman Zagaroli interjected let's do that.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt continued Council could consider the leaves or another design for probably not too much. This whole total contract through the gateways was \$27,000. Maybe they see what they can get from another sketch.

Alderman Tarlton asked if they could give them a couple of more choices.

Alderman Seaver stated it wouldn't hurt to have choices for sure.

Alderwoman Patton commented they want to make Hickory the main theme and then attach leaves that somehow light.

Alderman Guess commented they look like they are falling.

Alderman Lail advised he was at the gateway meeting. He heard from the gateway folks that they did not want to be so literal with the gateways.

Alderman Zagaroli commented he thought it was wrong.

Alderman Lail commented actually they saw some early designs, like with H's and some other stuff, so actually they had seen more than the leaves.

Alderman Zagaroli referenced Rock Hill. When you go through Rock Hill you know you are in Rock Hill.

Alderman Lail commented you have the clock tower.

Mayor Wright stated we don't want a clock tower.

Alderman Zagaroli commented we don't want a clock tower, but.

Mayor Wright commented we want people to know you are in Hickory.

Alderman Lail advised he was a gorilla marketer too. Hit them in the head with it. He was okay with that. He knew from attending the gateway meeting, as a Council they have to decide what they want the gateway to accomplish.

Alderwoman Patton commented people to remember this was Hickory when they went through.

Mayor Wright asked Interim City Manager what she thought. They had certainly given her some things to talk to the Commission members about.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented maybe it is unfair for Council to have to deliberate here tonight. Maybe they want two weeks to think about and drive around and then give her some feedback in two weeks. That was one option. Number two, if they feel like they have enough feedback to give her, then if the option is to add another design, leaves with Hickory somewhere in it, and something else with Hickory in it, maybe the bridge or some concept like that, then they can certainly direct AMEC to look at that. She could work those projects back through the Bond Commission, get their feedback and bring them back to Council.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if Council would be out of order to ask AMEC to possibly have the feeling of that bridge in a sign.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded absolutely not. It will cost a little money to do that, but not a lot.

Alderman Tarlton commented to redesign or give us some more ideas.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented to come up with a sketch. If Council chooses that one, that was the part she was speaking of specifically, if they chose that other alternative than to get it to 60 and 100 percent construction drawings will be something that they have already spent money on. She advised that work had been done on the leaves, but she didn't think that work was not in vain. The leaf work could be used along City Walk where the scale might be more appropriate if it is smaller, and if Council was not interested in leaves as a

gateway then there is a lot of opportunity for leaves along City Walk and other places throughout the City.

Alderman Lail asked if it would be fair to direct Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt to talk to the Bond Commission and AMEC and to come back with a more literal gateway piece. Literal meaning it would say Hickory, or somehow hit you in the head not in a literal sense. A more literal option that might include the bridge. He saw were there was some divergence of thought. He asked if there was some divergence of thought more sort of abstract against more literal.

Alderman Zagaroli responded yes. He thought they are looking for a combination at something that might be an abstract, but also it hits you in the head that it is Hickory, it says Hickory, welcome to Hickory.

Alderman Lail commented maybe it is consistent with our brand.

Alderman Guess commented a sign with leaves around the edge and a tree in the middle.

Mayor Wright thought that one of the things that it would like her to do was go to the minutes of this Council meeting and identify the issues that were raised to conversations that were had. Let Council reflect on that over the next two weeks and let the Bond Commission be reflecting on that.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt thought that was fair.

Alderman Tarlton commented then they would have a meeting with them.

Alderman Zagaroli commented this Council has concern.

Alderman Seaver commented talking about something that draws you back to Hickory, "hey dad, let's go back to that town that had the blue leaves". It made him think about the Green Park Inn, the green horse. That horse was never meant to be green. It got painted by mistake. He was up there working when it got painted. He had nothing to do with it. It was iconic that it is a green horse. People talk about let's go by the place that has the green horse. Sometimes it comes out unintendedly to be iconic.

Alderman Tarlton asked what his chaps looked like after that.

Alderman Seaver commented his were fine, but someone did steal that horse shortly after it was first painted green.

Alderman Zagaroli advised it was gone.

Alderman Tarlton asked Clement Boulevard/321 gateway, and the whole 321 construction, as he understood it was going to stop left turns happening where the Waffle House and Yamaha is. He asked if they were making room for some signage on that corner for people coming north. A pointer sign to say the Waffle House is here now instead of going down there and having to make a U-turn around the river and come back.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt thought that was early and she thought that DOT would have to approve any such signage like that. Staff could look into that. They have been meeting with DOT on 321 so she could ask those questions about how signage works.

Alderman Tarlton commented they didn't have to approve the signs that we are putting up now.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised that project is being designed, so how it effects individual property owners, they are just not to that point yet. She would say this if further along in its development. They would need to ask those questions. She continued her presentation with the City Walk. She advised they are in the process of 30 percent plan review for City Walk. She had a full set of plans that they are starting to review which included all of the survey work. AMEC had that work done. Surveying all the way from Lenoir-Rhyne University all the way to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. They had identified all of the private property areas, all of the railroad right of way, the City's right of way, utility poles, etc. From that AMEC had begun to develop demolition plans for areas of asphalt, sidewalk, existing curb and gutter, and parking spaces that would not function in the same way with the new City Walk design. They have a number of sheets now that are forming into demolition plans. They are working on hardscape plans. She showed an image pointing out Highway 127, the car bridge, the railroad bridge, and the double helix in the middle, the pedestrian bridge. They had placed that within the

two functional bridges which are located there currently. When you drive by just imagine a 200 foot long, five foot higher elevated beyond the pavement height of the car-bridge and train-bridge, and 60 feet high in the air arch that is a double helix that is made of laminated wood and steel. That architecture and engineering work is being done right now.

Mayor Wright commented that he would sure love to see something reminiscent of the bridge down at the lake.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded absolutely. She thought they had the right designers to work on that. They are also working on Union Square factoring in some new areas for seating, also some additional parking and reworking the driveways through there. She pointed out City Walk itself which was the area which runs right along the wooden and brick post fence and the parking that is there gets shifted around. There was actually a gain of seven spaces in the Union Square area over what is there today, and yet they still fit City Walk into that.

Alderman Tarlton asked if the parking deck was part of this.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised it was not. She discussed examples of what they are tackling; grading, drainage, new asphalt and concrete work will get new drainage associated with it, landscaping plans are being developed, a roundabout plan is being developed. The City worked on that originally but she noted this was at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE. She referred to it as the dangerous intersection, or strange intersection, or that intersection because people know what you are talking about in that area. They are excited to have a roundabout as an opportunity in that area. Lining up 5<sup>th</sup> Street with Main Avenue as you approach the granary. She showed an overview of the bridge plans. She advised it was basically the engineers are now doing all of the calculations to determine how the bridge would be built and what structurally it needs to be in order to be safe and substantial. They are working on those plans now. She showed a computer model which they had developed. That bridge will need to be supported from the center, under the train and car-bridge. Right on 127 there will be a structure there. The City probably has 20 staff members that are reviewing those plans for everything, public utilities, fire, parks and recreation, and planning. A number of them are taking their time page by page and having meetings. Mr. Kyle Butler is compiling all of those comments and they are sending those to AMEC and getting that feedback. They will have a better set of drawings to start looking at in the coming months or so. Meetings with the railroad will happen soon hopefully, that is a conversation that needs to get started.

Alderman Guess questioned if the current structures, the highway and the railroad bridge, would get any kind of updates where you see them as well or would they stay the same as they are.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded certainly the car bridge is very nice. It is a very nice bridge, church rail and the nice pedestrian lights. The railroad bridge is the eyesore. They will be talking with the railroad about that.

Alderman Guess commented it would be a shame to put all of that railroad bridge looking like it does.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented she was going to go tell them shame on them. They need to put some paint on it or something.

Alderman Guess commented put some leaves on it.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised these are all evolving and at any point, when Council feels that things are not quite right, she asked Council to share it with her and she would try and keep coming back to Council and the Bond Commission every couple of months with these updates. Riverwalk is moving right along. They met with Duke Energy and had some great conversation with them. They did not hear anything negative, Duke Energy is very much in support of the Riverwalk designs as they are tentatively sketched out now. The next set of meetings that McGill is setting up is with the Department of Water Quality. One of the North Carolina Departments which establishes the riparian buffer and the rules related to building in that first 50 feet. From there they will move forward with Riverwalk and bring Council some designs later in the summer. She commented Council could take two weeks, think about it, and she would update the Bond Commission and they would go from there with two designs.

Mayor Wright advised any Bond Commission members wants to call any of Council and talk about it. He didn't want them to sense, and he didn't think it was

the case, that every time they get close to closing on something Council is going to throw a monkey wrench. He didn't want them to think that, he didn't believe they were going to do that. This is unique because the most visible, the biggest target for the scenic will be this stand alone, all by themselves, gateway features. People will take potshots at pieces of City Walk and Riverwalk, but it is going to be more of an overall concept. These are stand alone. He had no reason to believe there was an excessive price tag, but it is going to be viewed as a big price tag, and it is going to get potshots. He thought that all of Council would agree that they are not, every time something gets close to closing, they are not going to say no we need to go back to the drawing board.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised she would pass that on to them.

Alderman Tarlton commented this is the first time Council had done that.

Mayor Wright commented this is the first thing that has got close to closing. They owe them that. He would personally commit that he will not do that.

Alderman Tarlton commented unless you don't like it.

Mayor Wright commented he would rather deal with buyer's remorse five years from now than to deal with it.

Alderman Tarlton thoroughly appreciated all the work the Bond Commission had done. He would like to relook at the leaf thing.

Mayor Wright felt that Council was unanimous that they need to look at that one.

Alderman Seaver thanked Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt, not only is she doing her job as Assistant City Manager, the Bond Commission, Interim City Manager, and what else.

Alderman Zagaroli commented plus the other things.

Alderman Seaver thanked Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt.

Mayor Wright joked that Mr. Miller takes time off to rest.

Alderman Guess advised he had a volleyball tournament tonight.

Mayor Wright commented they could not express adequately their appreciation for Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller and all of the other folks who has pitched in and helped carry the load.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt advised it was a big group effort. She thanked Council.

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

BOND IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION

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

Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) VACANT

Alderman Seaver appointed David Baldwin as a Ward 3 Representative on the Bond Implementation Commission.

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

Hickory Regional Planning Commission appointed Meg Jenkins Locke

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

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

Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) VACANT

Ward 4 (Guess Appoints) VACANT

Alderman Seaver appointed Kelley Walker as Ward 3 Representative on the Community Appearance Commission.

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

(Unexpired Term of Nancy Yang (resigned 1-18-17), term expires 6-30-2019)

Alderman Seaver appointed Aaron Kohrs as an Other Minority Representative on the Community Relations Council. He advised he already served on the International Council but he could serve on two.

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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

(Appointed by City Council)

Burke County (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)

(2) Positions VACANT

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

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

Ward 4 (Guess Appoints) VACANT

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

Position 9 VACANT

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

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

Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) VACANT

Ward 4 (Guess Appoints) VACANT

At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

St. Stephens High School Representatives 1 Position

VACANT

At-Large Representatives 1 Position

VACANT

Challenger High School Representative 1 Position

VACANT

Alderman Seaver moved seconded by Mayor Wright 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 Wright was excited and thrilled about wayfinding. He didn't know, even a dedicated sign guy that you could simplify the elaborate and numbering scheme we have and get people around to the places they are going to go. He noticed out at Crowne Plaza, all of the signs have a green band at the bottom, as you are leaving the Crowne Plaza headed back to Hickory the word Hickory is on that band. He asked if there were others that had the word Hickory. He seemed to recall seeing one or two.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt thought there were at least 12. Every entrance point from outside of the City limits that is a major thoroughfare has two signs that say Hickory. Alderman Lail had made that great point when they were updating the wayfinding plan. Not every sign says Hickory because once you are in Hickory they hope you are understanding where you are, but the first two on your gateways is at each entrance point. She thought there were 12 of those.

Mayor Wright referenced the signs that have the band, as a personal observation, he didn't want to clutter them up, but the ones that have the band without the word Hickory they could put, subtle, "Life. Well Crafted". He was putting that out there for the Wayfinding Committee to think about. He asked if Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt was the Wayfinding Committee.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt responded yes sir, she and Kevin Greer were, Chuck Hansen gave it to Mr. Greer.

Mayor Wright commented just think about that.

Alderman Lail thought it was a very good idea.

Mayor Wright mentioned it should be subtle, it should be giant big letters like Alderman Lail would do.

Alderman Tarlton commented that would hit them over the head.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt wanted to think about that.

Alderman Guess asked if it was too late to add that.

Alderman Zagaroli and Mayor Wright commented that could be stuck on now.

Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt commented they don't want to stick things on them.

Mayor Wright mentioned he was on Hal Rowe the other day, and he thought that the people here might be interested in the questions that were submitted. They were submitted by a person who said he had moved to Longview but his sister still lived in Hickory. He asked why the Mayor wore those non-Hickory related hats. Mostly Mayor Wright wears Hickory hats. He asked about Hickory's tax rate compared to Longview. Mayor Wright advised the answer he gave was not the biggest item but a large item is we have a library. He was told that is a nickel on the tax rate. He didn't know that but he was told it was a nickel on the tax rate. We have extensive recycling. He didn't know what Longview had, recycling, taxes and fees. He commented you are paying for recycling here, and he didn't know what Longview has. He talked about Parks and Recreation, and the great programs we have. He talked about community policing. The things that he thought set us apart but cost some money. Our people have said they feel they want and deserve these levels of service. That explains Hickory, you will have to ask Longview about Longview. The next one was how many people will benefit from the \$40 million dollars. Mayor Wright's response was he thought that at the latest census estimate was 40,324 people and all 40,324 people are going to benefit from this. The City's objective is to attract and retain young people and the companies that employ them. That serves everybody in this City well. A side benefit is it makes Hickory a nicer place to live. He said that he could see people that might be homebound, or not able to move around who might not get to take advantage of some of the things that we are getting with the \$40 million dollars, but anybody else would just have to choose not to take advantage of it. He didn't mean to lecture this group because these are the supporters. He wanted to share that because those questions were asked and he believed the answers were pretty clear. We want to stand out and we all have to invest a little more.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk