

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Brad Lail	Jeff M. Cline	Hank Guess
Vernon Tarlton	Aldermen	David P. Zagaroli
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Warren Wood, Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Executive Assistant to the City Manager Deisy Zavala Vazquez and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Cline called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Pastor Anthony Freeman, Clinton Tabernacle AME Zion Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cline recognized a Boy Scout in attendance and asked him to introduce himself. The Boy Scout stated his name was Aiden Curtis with Troop 234. He advised he was working on his citizenship in the community merit badge.

IV. Special Presentations

- A. Presentation of a Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week, October 8-14, 2017.

Mayor Cline read and presented the Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week to Battalion Chief Matt Hutchinson and Fire Education Coordinator Terri Byers.

- B. Western Piedmont Council of Governments Presentation of their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Mayor Cline asked Anthony Starr, Executive Director, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, to the podium to present the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Mr. Anthony Starr, Executive Director, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, presented City Council with a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. He explained that the Council of Governments is an organization owned by the 28 local governments in Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and Alexander Counties. They function as the economic development district as designated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Every five years they are required to update the CEDS. They began this process last year. Alderwoman Patton is a delegate to the policy board. The board's appointed committee members began work on this plan. It was very diverse in terms of the background, geography, and the types of population that represents our region, but a particular emphasis that the executive committee had talked so much about was the 18 to 45 year old demographic and how they want to attain and attract those folks. They felt like it was important to have the committee reflect that population. As a result 75 percent of the committee were under the age of 50, 50 percent were under the age of 40, it was evenly male and female as well. All four counties were represented. He discussed why it was important. We live in an era of economic transition. Probably the most economic shifting we have seen since the beginning of the industrial revolution. He referenced all the changes in our region and throughout the country and the world. Our economy functions on a regional basis. Most of the public and businesses aren't really concerned with political boundaries. Although they are important, he didn't mean to diminish their significance, in the everyday life of the way our businesses function and the way people go about their lives, it is not a normal thing that they pay a lot of attention to. He referenced a map, 42 percent of our labor force, every day in our region, gets up and goes to work in a county different than the one they reside in. That is how much movement around every day happens, that is how our economy functions on a regional basis. On the PowerPoint he pointed out where the daily commuting patterns were between the counties. He advised there was a lot of public input that was taken through this process. They had nearly 1,000 respondents to their online survey. They had open ended questions in there. There were literally 6,000 or 7,000 open ended responses that were given through that process. They took the time to make sure those were read and summarized. Those were used throughout the process in the committees work to identify its priorities. There were a few survey items referenced in the presentation that City Council had a copy of in their agenda. He advised he had additional copies if others wanted it after the presentation. Regarding the survey results, you have to recognize sometimes they reflect reality and sometimes they reflect perceptions. They have to discern which is which as they make public policy and shape their efforts going forward. One of the questions; "Does your local government encourage small businesses to locate and grow in your community?" It was not talking about just Hickory but all local governments in our region; 55 percent said "yes", 28 percent said "I don't know", and 17 percent said "no".

Mr. Starr advised they started with a regional profile helping the CEDS committee understand what the trends were with our region. What is happening, so they could understand the nature of the problem, the challenges and the opportunities that we have. He showed on a graph the last 15 years our region actually saw a small decline in population. Catawba County saw only a one percent increase in population over the last 15 years. More interestingly was over the next 20 years we are projected to have a 2.2 percent increase in population, Catawba County 3.5 percent. That is not an annual increase that is the increase over 20 years. He advised that was a projection. The projection takes current trends and extends them forward. That doesn't mean that changes that we are undertaking, such as the City of Hickory's work with the bond initiative, the 1764 Park, and other efforts can change those outcomes significantly. We lost 40,000 jobs from 2000-2015. He referenced the graph which said manufacturing, 34 percent of our workforce was directly employed in manufacturing in 2000. It is now down to 28 percent, it used to be as high as 60 percent. Perhaps we have hit bottom, and he hopes we have, but you have to consider the national average for the average community is only nine percent in manufacturing employment. We have a lot of ground that we could lose if we are not aggressive in staying ahead of these curves and trends.

Mr. Starr discussed unemployment rates. Referencing a map he explained, the green bars represented the size of the labor force. A trend, the labor force had been shrinking, which was not unique to our region that was nationwide. Baby boomers are retiring and coming out of the workforce. The blue bar reflected the actual number of people employed. As a result our unemployment rate has actually decreased the last several years, and that is a good trend. At first it was mostly due to the labor force decreasing, but we have seen real job growth in the last few years, which is a positive development which they hope will continue. He pointed out on the graph the numbers which reflected the unemployment rate from 2010 to 2017, at one point we were close to 17 percent unemployment in the region. We are now down to 3.9 percent. As the CEDS committee works on their strategies in all the subject areas, they grouped themselves into six subject areas in the plan: economic development, workforce, infrastructure, housing, marketing and community life. He highlighted economic development in which they talked about the modest improvement that we have had, 5.7 percent growth. We are not as large as some of the explosive growth that some of the large metros have seen in the State, but we are better than several of the other 15 metros in North Carolina. Our poverty rates were increasing. He referenced a graph noting in all ages it started to decrease slightly, it got up to 16.7 percent in 2010. In 2010 one out of every four children in our region was below the poverty line.

Mr. Starr discussed recommendations. One recommendation was to construct shell buildings in the economic development category. He commented those of you who have worked in local government for a long time understand how the expectations have changed in this game. Earlier in his career it used to be that all they wanted was the zoning in place and the right cash incentives. Then they wanted you to have utilities to the site ready to go. Then they wanted you to have the site graded. Now they want you to have the building, at least dried in, maybe not the floor in place but the shell up. There is a whole philosophical argument about the role of local government, but those are the market forces that we have to deal with and recognize today. Catawba County had started a couple of shell buildings, Alexander County just completed one and they had been successful. One of their counties looked at a study and last year 80 percent of the requests from prospective businesses wanted a shell building that was between 50,000 and 100,000 square feet. We have almost zero inventory that meets the criteria for that in the region. That is why this is an important step. The CEDS committee thought that we ought to have one building ready at all times, one building under construction, and one building in the planning stages, so that we have a pipeline of buildings coming online in our region. That would be among four counties. He showed pictures of recent buildings which had went up. He advised another recommendation was to keep working on building reuse grants, and other grant opportunities. The COG is pleased to partner with the City and continues supporting the City's effort with that. There had been a number of very good building reuse grants with the mill district and other opportunities throughout the City. We need to really take advantage of some of our assets like the Engineering Technology Center, the Manufacturing Solutions Center in Conover, the new campus for the North Carolina School of Science and Math in Morganton, although it is in Burke County and Morganton, it will have great positive impacts for Hickory and throughout our region. You are going to have over 100 highly educated faculty there with the best and brightest residential High School students in the State. They are going to have part of their childhood always shaped by this region as a result. That is going to be talent that we might be able to retain some of those or bring back at some point.

Mr. Starr discussed workforce. The committee went through some of the same statistics. A question on the survey was, "How well does your community work to maintain skilled workforce?", 43 percent thought "adequate", 16 percent thought "good" and 35 percent "poor or little". He knew there were a lot of efforts on this front between the school systems, the community colleges, and the COG's workforce development board. There are a lot of partners involved there working on that but sometimes perceptions don't always

lineup and sometimes it tells us we need to do more to make people aware of the opportunities there.

Mr. Starr commented educational attainment still matters. He referenced a graph for our region the income levels by degree for the residents in our region. The more education you have the greater income except for one small anomaly there, those who were a high school graduate or equivalent actually had a higher rate of income slightly than those with some college or an Associate's Degree, which was counterintuitive. He explained his theory of why the data reflected that. We know that our baby boomer generation has a higher rate of high school education versus college education. They are at the peak of their earning potential if they haven't retired. Whereas a higher rates of educational attainment for an Associate's Degree is occurring with our younger population, and they are at the beginning of their careers when they are earning less. He felt that was a little bit of an anomaly there, which is why that shows that, over time that will reverse. Strategies along the workforce included aligning our efforts and pathways with K12 Education, the community colleges, what skills are needed, not just degrees but certificates, training programs to have the labor in place that our manufacturers need. They also want to try to put accurate wage information in the hands of the manufacturers. They get a lot of feedback on this front as the workforce development board for the region about what is a competitive wage and what isn't and they are balancing all of those interest. They will put the information in the hands of the businesses to work on that.

Mr. Starr discussed infrastructure. Economic development is greatly impacted by the infrastructure that we have in place and we are blessed to have a really strong infrastructure systems in our region. Last year the COG was able to help with the local governments including Hickory and others with \$10 million dollars in grants, 30 projects, \$75 million dollars in private investment and almost 300 jobs. We have to just keep helping in supporting our local governments in that respect being partners to help the local government's visions and policies. Also in infrastructure, transit oriented development is very popular. Public transportation fixed routes. In the south we have a stickler with busing. That really isn't the case with national companies that are looking to locate here from other places that come from other parts of the country where that is. They are asking about that. Do you have public transportation that is adequate to serve their workforce? That is a growing trend that they have to stay ahead of and certainly Greenway is doing a good job with the limited resources that they have. There is a very complex ranking system with our highway and transportation projects. City Council members would know this that sit on the MPO Board in the COG's agency, which prioritizes their road projects. The COG's staff members and John Marshall work really hard and smart about how our projects and priorities are categorized in a way that ranks the best it can to get them moved ahead quickly in the State's ranking system. They know that those transportation improvements oftentimes lead to greater economic development opportunities. The bottom line, explore opportunities for coordination and consolidation of utility systems. They are mainly not talking about that with municipalities although that is always on the table. In our counties we have a number of nonprofit water systems. He referenced Burke County which has approximately 14 different nonprofit water systems. Some of them do a really good job and some of them struggle mightily. If there are chances to consolidate and coordinate efforts there that goes to improving the infrastructure for our region.

Mr. Starr discussed a healthy housing market, which is also important. He referenced a graph and pointed out the owner occupancy rates which had dropped from 68 percent down to 60 percent. At the same time our vacant housing units had increased or almost nearly doubled in the last 15 years. That was directly tied to our economy. Other things are improving. This is an area which they are working on. There has been a regional vacant housing and substandard housing taskforce that has been formed to work on this with the local governments as well. Regarding housing, he hears this a lot from their economic development directors in our counties about housing and our Chambers of Commerce and how some of the employers saying we don't have enough housing, the type that we need or want for our workers. Part of that is because of the 15 metro areas in North Carolina we have the highest percentage of homes built before 1980. At the same time we have the lowest percentage of homes built since the year 2000. Again, that has been directly related to our job situation. That brings challenges there in terms of those homes. Not to say there is anything wrong with a home built before 1980, we just know there is a higher correlation with maintenance issues and the condition of the home as it gets past the 40 year mark. They are continuing to work on that with the taskforce. New market rate housing is a big discussion among local governments as well. How can we get more market rate housing within and near our downtowns? That is certainly popular in the large metro areas and it is an asset or an attribute that we need to develop further for our downtowns in our region. Affordable housing is always an issue as well.

Mr. Starr discussed marketing which came up a lot. They got so much public input on this topic through the public survey as well. We have lost a lot of those folks in the 18 to 45 year old age group and this statistic really showed that. Of the 15 metro areas in North Carolina, age 25 to 34 we had the largest decrease in that population in North Carolina at 22.5 percent. Many of the efforts that the City of Hickory is taking on now and has already

accomplished are helping reverse those trends but we have to keep at it and keep thinking about what are the things that we need to be doing to attract that population or retain that population as they come up through our school system. He showed a graph of the population trends. Some of the recommendations were convene a regional marketing taskforce, not to replace any of the individual community efforts, or branding, or take away any community's individual identity, but we have tremendous assets in our region. If you are a resident of Hickory you have these parks, sidewalks, trails, the lake, all of these amenities, but if you have a festival in a neighboring town you go to it because you enjoy it. You might go to the festival in Valdese or Morganton. You might like Wilson's Creek in Caldwell County. Those are all assets that our residents can also take advantage of. We ought to claim that as a region and say these are all really Hickory's assets, all the regions assets and that regional approach would be helpful.

Mr. Starr discussed community life or quality of life which was another category which was discussed at significant length. There is a lot of talk about public participation in the decision making process. Downtown revitalization was important and came up a lot and accommodating our younger and senior residents was a key element. Our region is now more diverse than it has ever been. Right now we are at 87 percent white/or Caucasian, 7.1 percent African-American, 7 percent Hispanic, and 3.2 percent Asian. He noted that the Hispanic population is a growing aspect and it will soon become the largest minority for our region. We have seen tremendous growth in the number of older residents that we have. Partly because of the residents we do have are getting older, but we also have some retirees that move here. We are not a big retiree destination yet, but that brings both opportunities in terms of you have all of these retirees with this talent and experience, things that they can volunteer with our City Commissions and other efforts to make our communities better. It also means new challenges for our local governments, new demands on services whether it be our hospitals, our EMS systems, any other medical services, senior services, and it is increased demands. He noted over the last 15 years we had a 56 percent increase from those 65 to 74 years old, 30 percent from 75 to 84, and 44 percent growth in 85 plus.

Mr. Starr discussed what is being done about the next generation of community leaders. He advised Hickory City Council was a pretty young council actually. The realities when they look around in the region is that they know by just the math that we are about to experience tremendous turnover with our elected officials and other appointed officials. They had been talking about this with baby boomers retiring from their professional careers. For a number of years that is happening and it is going to continue to happen. They also know that elected officials and volunteer positions people tend to serve longer in their life in that way, but that won't be forever. Are we being intentional about cultivating those next leaders in one form or fashion? Succession planning for all of our boards not just our elected boards. He advised that robust downtowns are a key attribute that they need to keep working on. He knew that the City of Hickory put a lot of effort into that, and there is always new opportunities that we need to be taking advantage of. He mentioned there was a lot of specifics in the recommendations which he didn't discuss just for time sake, but we need to keep working on regional healthy living initiatives as well and recreational opportunities. Certainly Hickory has been a leader with its recreational opportunities through the years. They had a recommendation to keep working on the opioid and illicit drug epidemic that we are experiencing particularly here in our region. This is not a public health or criminal justice plan but the CEDS committee felt like it was an economic development issue and they wanted to acknowledge it in the plan as well. He advised they were making presentations to their local government boards, and in the coming months they will talk with other groups as well to get the information out. This plan and all of the details are online on their website if anyone cares to visit that. He thanked Council for their time and he asked if they had any questions about the plan.

Mayor Cline asked if Council had any questions.

Alderman Lail commented they had very specific strategies in there, they even had measurements. He asked what the next step with a document like this was. So much of it was "the COG", a lot of it is local governments. How do we get some momentum on some of this stuff?

Mr. Starr responded they are talking about implementation now. He commented Alderman Lail raised a good point. All of these recommendations can't be implemented by the COG, it is going to be local governments taking action and this serves as a menu for our local governments to look at and implement and they are there to support them. They are discussing internally about how they keep this in front. The CEDS committee has agreed to meet at least twice a year to keep updated on that and to be ambassadors for taking action on some of these strategies. He plans to keep it in front of his board on a regular basis which of course involves one elected official from each region. They are internally organizing with their staff about who is going to take charge of each section of the plan and work with the interested local governments and interested partners in our region about how to move these things forward.

Alderman Lail commented we have gotten very serious in Hickory about economic development. He was sure he was aware of City Manager Warren Wood's reorganization with the City and our staff. Rationing up the focus and attention is vital. To come back within six months or a year and give Council an interim update on some of these measures on the CEDS performance measures, might be helpful. A lot of this stuff they kind of know intuitively. We live in the community, we do business, you kind of feel and you know it. It is good to look at data too.

Mr. Starr responded that is a good point and anyway they can keep this out in front of them. The last thing that he wants them to do, we develop this nice document, our staff puts hard work into it along with the CEDS committee, he doesn't want it to be just sitting on a shelf. He also recognized that if everything that gets accomplished in here goes through their agency then that probably means they weren't very successful. Probably a lot of it needs to happen organically in a number of different ways, but anyway that they can support those or help those efforts they will be glad to.

Alderman Lail commented there ought to be some initiatives there that are low hanging fruit that the commission could identify and pass off to the local governments, if it is Hickory, it might be Morganton or Connelly Springs. But there is low hanging fruit out there and we at least ought to try and grab it.

Mayor Cline asked for further questions.

Alderman Seaver commented when you mention the growth of the retirement community here in our area, he had read at least two or three articles that list best places to retire and Hickory is moving up the list.

Mr. Starr replied he had seen those. It brings a lot of benefits. He advised he was a County Planning Director in a really hot retirement community once and it brought a lot of great opportunities and assets. It brings its own set of challenges too, but any aspect does, but it certainly would be a benefit to our region.

Alderman Seaver also had seen an apartment development type thinking for inter-generational housing while he was in Germany. You have young, middle and old folks all together there in the same place.

Alderman Lail asked Mr. Starr if he had a sense of the top three initiatives, or the top three areas of focus. We are really focused on the job growth piece of it.

Mr. Starr responded the top three that come to mind are: the downtown focus, which was a key discussion throughout the CEDS committee and the public input; the regional marketing aspect came up quite a bit; and the shell buildings and the pad ready sites were the three things that came up the most in all of their discussions.

Alderman Lail commented that is consistent with the directions we are moving at the City.

Mayor Cline asked for any other questions or comments. He thanked Mr. Starr.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

Mayor Cline explained the procedure of persons requesting to be heard. He advised of the three minute time limit and called Mrs. Kayce Boggs to the podium to address Council.

A. Mrs. Kayce Boggs – Regarding Golf Cart Use on Public Streets/Highways

Mrs. Kayce Boggs advised this was her first City Council meeting ever. She was new to Hickory and had been here about a month. She was from Columbia, South Carolina and had relocated from Charleston, South Carolina. Her husband was a new dentist in the Granite Falls area. They moved into the Oakwood/Hillcrest area. They specifically looked for that area because of the convenience to downtown, YMCA, and the Oakwood/Viewmont School area. When she got there she really wanted to ride a golf cart. She asked City Council for their consideration in implementing an Ordinance in the City of Hickory for golf cart usage. She referenced the North Carolina Ordinance which was less than 35 mph streets. She advised on her way to City Hall she did not even go over 25 mph, the street out front was 20 mph, and she was only about a mile from City Hall. She advised 2nd Avenue NE was 25 mph. She felt that it tied in with the previous presentation because she was the demographic that they are wanting to retain, (between 18 to 45). She had just spent the last five years in Charleston where they could freely ride golf carts downtown and a lot of the local beaches too. She knew that it may be a concern that Hickory is not flat, but neighboring towns Maiden, Newton, Blowing Rock, are a few other areas that are probably very similar to the Hickory area that also already have ordinances for golf carts. If there is a growing interest in the retiree population here she felt that golf carts could offer a slower pace. They also might offer people who are not as interested in getting in a car coming to the downtown area. It is definitely what she wants to do. She

wants to enjoy the farmer's market, she wants to come to the yoga studio, the coffee house, use the golf cart to go to daycare, go to the parks and in general get out and enjoy her neighborhood. They have a bike trailer and it is kind of hard pulling a 30 pound child and a bike trailer around some of the area and there are not sidewalks and a good greenway yet. But she knew the City was working on a greenspace there. Within her specific neighborhood, she is within less than a mile of parks, churches, the downtown area, and the YMCA. A lot of people in the area could access those facilities with a golf cart if they were interested. More neighborhood interaction, it also promotes friendliness. She compared it to boating, when you are out on the water for some reason you connect with people more. When you are out golf carting, or biking, or riding, you connect with your neighbors more. She definitely thinks that is a thing that draws people when you are thinking about growing the City, and growing the downtown area. They just bought a house that was renovated and paid a lot more than if they would have moved outside of the City of Hickory especially because her husband is working in Granite Falls, but it was important to be in this area because they are the City's up and coming demographic that wants to build their family in this area. Less gas. Hickory is actually a perfect place because in the downtown area there is not as much infrastructure for bike paths and there is no money that will go into allowing this new form of transportation. She thanked Council.

Mayor Cline asked City Manager Warren Wood to look into this matter and advice.

City Manager Warren Wood responded he would.

Mayor Cline asked if anyone else wished to address Council. No one else appeared.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of September 19, 2017

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli that the Minutes of September 19, 2017 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

- A. Acceptance of a Temporary Construction and Permanent Easement for the Property of Edward Alan Lail and Sharon Turner Lail, being PIN 3724-19-60-6513, for Installation of Utilities Infrastructure. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- B. Acceptance of a Temporary Construction and Permanent Easement for the Property of Faith Adams Washman, Edward Alan Lail and Sharon Turner Lail, PIN 3724-19-60-2348, for Installation of Utilities Infrastructure. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- C. Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with Hickory Public Schools to Establish a Shared Access Initiative that will Streamline Student Access to Public Library Resources. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- D. Approval of a Supplemental Agreement for Reimbursement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in the Amount of \$78,980. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- E. Approval to Purchase Eight 2018 Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicles from Asheville Ford on the NC Sheriffs' Association Contract in the Amount of \$225,023.12. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- F. Budget Revision Number 7. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- G. Approval of the First Amendment to the Non-Exclusive Lease with Hickory Baseball, Inc. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- H. Consideration of Rezoning Petition 17-03 for Approximately 23.418 Acres of Property Located at 3061 Short Road, 1995 Startown Road, 2007 Startown Road, and an Unaddressed Parcel South of Startown Road. (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 Guess moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approved the Special Events Activities Application 2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's – Hickory, Mark Bumgarner, Volunteer Ambassador Alzheimer's Association, Western North Carolina Chapter, October 28, 2017 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. L.P. Frans Stadium, 2500 Clement Blvd., Hickory.
- B. Approved the Special Events Activities Application YMCA Kids' Marathon 2018, Jolleen Christians, Healthy Living Director, Adrian L. Shuford Jr., YMCA, YMCA of Catawba Valley, April 28, 2018 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., L.P. Frans Stadium, 2500 Clement Blvd., Hickory.
- C. Approved Awarding the Service Weapon and Badge to Retiring MPO Gene Walker.

Hickory Police Department requests City Council's approval to award retiring MPO Gene Walker his service weapon (Glock Model 19 -Serial # UVZ988) and badge upon his retirement October 31, 2017 after completing approximately 30 years of qualifying service to the citizens of Hickory. By authority of NC General Statute §20-187.2, City Council may award the service weapon and police badge to MPO Gene Walker upon his retirement from Hickory Police Department. Upon approval from City Council, the police badge and service weapon will be declared surplus and removed from the City's fixed asset inventory. Staff recommends City Council's approval of awarding the service weapon and police badge to MPO Gene Walker upon his retirement from Hickory Police Department.

- D. Approved a Proclamation for Dyslexia Awareness Month.
- E. Approved a Proclamation for "PANDAS/PITAND/PANS" Awareness Day.
- F. Approved on First Reading an Ordinance Modifying the Downtown Parking Deck Layout to Better Accommodate Customers Parking Needs.

Staff requests Council's approval to modify the downtown parking deck layout to better accommodate customers parking needs, ensure turnover of spaces and standardize requirements. Staff are continually looking for ways to improve the parking experience in Downtown Hickory and make best use of the available spaces. In December 2016, City Council approved a parking ordinance which changed the time restricted parking downtown to be three-hour everywhere, except near the post office along Government Avenue. The new ordinance left out the parking deck since it was assumed changes would occur during the water/sewer rehabilitation project. During the rehabilitation project, store owners have requested more time-restricted spaces be added and the unrestricted spaces be limited within the parking deck, specifically on the lower deck. The Traffic Division has analyzed the current layout of the parking deck and feels that modifications would make best use of the available spaces to optimize convenience to customers of businesses and ensure turnover of spaces. Changes include changing the time restriction from two-hour to three-hour to match the balance of parking downtown, increasing the number of time restricted spaces in the lower deck to 20, reducing the number of unrestricted time limit spaces to four, and relocating the reserved parking spaces in the lower section of the parking deck. The only recommendation for modification to the upper level of the deck is to change the time restriction on two-hour spaces to three-hour. The Traffic Division, Billing & Collections, and City Management have analyzed this request and feel it would be fitting. Traffic Division sign shop will make signage changes for these parking areas occur upon approval. Staff recommends Council's approval of an Ordinance to modify the downtown parking deck layout to better accommodate customers parking needs, ensure turnover of spaces and standardize requirements.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-30

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL
AMENDING THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AUTHORIZED IN THE
HICKORY CODE OF ORDINANCES – ARTICLE III, SECTION 18-81

WHEREAS, Article III of the City of Hickory Code of Ordinances be and is hereby amended through the modification of the official maps authorized therein as follows, to wit:

Amend the Traffic Ordinance by revising the layout of leased/assigned parking spaces, assigning 19 spaces from unrestricted time to 3-HR time restricted parking in the lower section and changing all remaining 2-HR time restricted parking to 3-HR time restricted parking throughout the Parking Deck between Trade Alley and 1st Ave NW.

All ordinances or provisions of the Hickory City Code of Ordinances which are not in conformance with the provisions of the Amendment occurring herein are repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

- G. Approved on First Reading the Lease Agreement with Rene Martinez, Jr. for the City-Owned Property Located at 1123 15th Street NE.

Staff requests Council's consideration of a lease agreement with Rene Martinez, Jr. to lease property owned by the City of Hickory, located at 1123 15th Street NE. This property is adjacent to the City's Public Services Complex. The City has rented this two bedroom home to City employees regularly since purchasing the home a number of years ago. Staff plans to continue renting the home until the property is needed for potential expansion of the Public Services Complex. Rene Martinez, Jr., a Police Officer in training, is interested in renting the home. The terms for the proposed lease will be one year with a monthly rent of \$350. The lessee will be responsible for the payment of all utilities furnished to the property and yard maintenance. There will be a required security deposit of \$350. Staff recommends City Council's approval of the attached lease agreement with Rene Martinez, Jr.

RESOLUTION 17-33
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, City Council of the City of Hickory desires to enter into a lease agreement with Rene Martinez Jr.

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

1. The City of Hickory owns property located at:

1123 15th Street NE, Hickory, North Carolina
2. City Council has received a Lease Agreement from Rene Martinez Jr. who desires to lease the property located at 1123 15th Street NE, Hickory for residential use.

The initial lease term is for one year, beginning November 1, 2017 and ending October 31, 2018. The lease fee will be \$350 per month due and payable monthly in advance on the 1st day of each month during the term of this agreement. The first month's rent is required to be submitted on or before move-in.
3. City Council intends to accept the Lease Agreement with Rene Martinez, Jr. at their City Council meeting scheduled for October 3, 2017.

- H. Approved on First Reading a Future Annexation Agreement for Joseph and Hedy Paussa for Property Located at 2614 36th Avenue NE.

Staff requests Council's consideration of a Future Annexation Agreement for Joseph and Hedy Paussa. The City of Hickory has a long-standing policy of requiring the owners of property outside the city limits to be annexed before connecting to the City's sanitary sewer system. However, sometimes the City is not able to immediately provide the necessary services required for annexation. In that event, Hickory City Council adopted a policy requiring the property owners to enter into a future annexation agreement with the City, which would enable the City to initiate annexation procedures when it is feasible to do so. The Paussa's own a single-family residence located at 2614 36th Avenue NE, which is part of the Hickory Woods subdivision. The property is also identified as PIN 3724-10-46-1086 on the Catawba County tax maps. The subject property is approximately 4,500 linear feet (0.85 miles) from the primary incorporated boundary of the City of Hickory. Over the past ten years the City has authorized six other future annexation agreements in the vicinity of the subject property. Upon analysis, staff has determined sanitary sewer is available to serve the property; however, due to the property's distance from the City's primary boundary immediate annexation is not recommended. Staff recommends City Council's approval of the Future Annexation Agreement for Joseph and Hedy Paussa to allow for connection to sanitary sewer.

- I. Approved a Cemetery Deed Transfer from Robert Steven Bailey and wife, Tonya P. Bailey to Steven Scott Lockhart and wife, Elaine H. Lockhart, Oakwood Cemetery, Section 58, Plot F5, Lots 1 and 2. (Prepared by Kevin C. McIntosh, Esquire).
- J. Approved a Cemetery Deed Transfer from Robert Lee Johnson, Jr., Single, to David N. Webber, Widower, Oakwood Cemetery, Section 48, Plot J, Lot 12, Grace Space 1 and 2. (Prepared by Kimberly H. Whitley, Patrick, Harper & Dixon, LLP).
- K. Approved a Cemetery Deed Transfer from David N. Webber, Widower, to Robert Lee Johnson, Jr., Single, Oakwood Cemetery, Section 48, Plot J, Lot 10, Grace Space 1 and 2. (Prepared by Kimberly H. Whitley, Patrick, Harper & Dixon, LLP).
- L. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 8.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-31
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 8

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

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Contingency	-	28,500
General Government	28,500	-
TOTAL	28,500	28,500

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.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

1. Approved a “No Wake Zone” at the Lake Hickory Marina Located on Limbaugh Lane NW. – Presentation by Planning Director Brian Frazier

Staff requests Council’s consideration of the City’s submittal of an application to establish a “No Wake Zone” at the Lake Hickory Marina located on Limbaugh Lane, NW. The application for said “No Wake Zone” would be made to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The application was originally requested by the owners of the marina, Troy and Janet Cowan. Such an application must be made by the local municipality. The Wildlife Resources Commission has concluded an investigation of safety conditions at the marina and have identified strong reason to create a no-wake zone in the waters around the marina. The property owners would be responsible for all associated costs for the placement of signage, marker buoys and all future maintenance. Staff recommends that City Council approve a “No Wake Zone” for the area immediately adjacent to the Lake Hickory Marina, as recommended by North Carolina Wildlife Resources.

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

City Manager Warren Wood asked the City’s Planning Director Brian Frazier to the podium to present City Council with a request for a “No Wake Zone” at the Lake Hickory Marina located on Limbaugh Lane NW which is located right off of Highway 321 in Caldwell County but in the city limits of Hickory.

Planning Director Brian Frazier presented a PowerPoint presentation. He advised the City had an application request for a “No Wake Zone”. He pointed out on a map the 321 bridge heading north into Caldwell County, City of Hickory proper, and Limbaugh Lane off of 321 and the Lake Hickory Marina which was the area that they were looking at for the “No Wake Zone”. It would not be channel wide, it would be in the immediate vicinity of the marina itself, the docks, the gas pump and the rental boat slips. The request for a “No Wake Zone” was made to the City by Troy and Janet Cowan, who are recent residents to the area. They bought the marina several months back. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has concluded that there is a strong reason to consider a “No Wake Zone” in the waters immediately surrounding the marina. This is something where the application does not go directly to the State of North Carolina, it goes to the municipality that the marina, the area of request, is situated, hence the City of Hickory. He discussed the action steps; Council would review and or approve any request. The Office of State Budget and Management reviews the physical impact of the request. There would be no cost directly effective to the City of Hickory. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission conducts a project review. The process could take up to eight months for the State and all associated cost would be paid by the owners of the marina, Mr. and Mrs. Cowan. He advised they were present if Council had questions. There had been some incidents of possible property damage, water swamping boats, jet skis, and people on the dock slips creating a dangerous situation by people going quite fast with their watercraft up and down the channel of the lake. He advised this is the normal State process. He thought it was going to be a lot more complicated, but it is pretty straightforward

with the State. The head of the program can always be found quite easily and the State had been extremely cooperative. They had sent Wildlife Control officers out to access the situation and to work with Planning Staff and the applicants. It had really been a straightforward process. He asked if Council had any questions.

Mayor Cline asked Council if they had any questions.

Alderman Lail asked if Council got a recommendation from the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Mr. Frazier responded they had made a recommendation to grant preliminary approval once the Council has made their recommendation. He had sent in some standard State paperwork to the Wildlife Resources Commission and they will basically make a decision within eight months. It is required for the local municipality that has planning and zoning jurisdiction over the applicant property area to review and conduct a public hearing for input. He reiterated this would not be channel wide, nobody had requested that.

Alderman Tarlton asked how far from the docks would it come.

Mr. Frazier advised that is yet to be determined by the Wildlife Resources Commission. He understood in talking with them that it would not even be half of the channel.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if the Cowans' shouldered the cost of the signage.

Mr. Frazier replied yes, signage, placement of buoys, maintenance and upkeep.

Mayor Cline asked for any further questions. He explained the rules for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Cline closed the public hearing.

Alderman Lail commented this is the first time, since 2003 when he came on Council, the first time hearing a "no wake" issue. He didn't know if the statutes had changed. He didn't think that Council had the benefit of all the data. They don't know exactly where the "No Wake Zone" is going to be. As a general rule "No Wake Zones" are particularly around marinas and piers. In fact, at Lake Norman within 150 feet of any pier or dock is automatically a "No Wake Zone". He thought this was a little bit surprising and the process was a little confusing. He was supportive.

Alderman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the "No Wake Zone".

Mayor Cline commented it has been moved and seconded, he opened it up for discussion.

Alderman Tarlton commented that "No Wake Zone" buoys have always been a confusion to him and most boaters. If you can read it does that mean you have to slow down? If it is 50 feet off the end of the pier and you can read it 150 feet away are you in violation of the law. He felt Council needed to know the answer to these questions before they approved it.

Mr. Frazier concurred that the process was a little bit confusing. He kept asking the State, is this it? Can I have some more information? They said that's it, it is a pretty straightforward thing. He commented they want a Resolution from City Council. It would be nice if he could provide them some information. He advised he was telling them all he knew about the situation beyond that. The marina, when it was under different ownership several years ago, those marina owners had also requested a "No Wake Zone" review and the State Conservation Officers made a negative recommendation prior to it ever coming to the City Planning staff hence to Council so it was never a hearing. He stated he was certainly more than willing to go back and report to Council as to what the Conservation Commission had to say, but that was all the information that they were requesting or asking for.

Alderman Tarlton commented that would be very much appreciated. He is up and down that stretch of the river a lot. He could just see getting pulled over, "can't you see that "No Wake" sign over there?" "No sir, I see a buoy but I can't read it". How does that work? He would like to have the answer to that question. He sympathized with the marina owners. They have a marina on the main channel, so is Lakeside Marina, and the one down at Taylorsville Beach is on the main

channel also. They don't seem to have similar problems. Lakeside is not in the City's jurisdiction anyway and neither is Taylorsville Beach.

Mr. Frazier advised so far the State has considered that there is a good chance for property damage and personal safety and injury and that is why they are exploring it. It is interesting how the resolution comes upfront, they are not after the full application and the study, but there is no control that he and his staff had over that.

Alderman Guess commented just because Council passes a Resolution that starts their process.

Mr. Frazier confirmed that starts their process. They could still approve or deny.

Alderman Guess commented that Council is just asking them to start the process to review it.

Alderman Tarlton commented that Council does not know what they are approving.

Alderman Lail advised that the Resolution says that they are supportive of it, there is no doubt about that.

Mayor Cline asked if there was any further discussion of Council. There was none. He asked for the vote. The motion carried with a vote of 6-1. Ayes: Mayor Cline, Alderman Lail, Alderman Seaver, Alderman Guess, Alderman Zagaroli, and Alderwoman Patton. Nay: Alderman Tarlton.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-31

A RESOLUTION OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL
EXPRESSING SUPPORT IN ESTABLISHING A NO WAKE ZONE ON LAKE
HICKORY LOCATED TO THE NORTHEAST OF THE CURRENT U.S. 321
BRIDGE AND ADJACENT TO LAKE HICKORY MARINA LOCATED AT 6706
LIMBAUGH LANE; AND TO FORMALLY REQUEST THE N.C. WILDLIFE
RESOURCES COMMISSION TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, Lake Hickory, northeast of the current U.S. 321 bridge and adjacent to Lake Hickory Marina, located at 6706 Limbaugh Lane, is a popular location for boating and general recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, currently this area of the lake is not designated as a "no wake zone"; and

WHEREAS, acceleration and deceleration, along with the wake generated by the boats traveling on the lake creates a variety of issues harmful to the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens using the lake; and

WHEREAS, Hickory City Council has been made aware of the request to implement a "no wake zone" on Lake Hickory, northeast of the current U.S. 321 bridge and adjacent to Lake Hickory Marina, located at 6706 Limbaugh Lane; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute §75A-15, the Hickory City Council will conduct a public hearing for the consideration of the establishment of a "no wake zone" on Lake Hickory; and

WHEREAS, Hickory City Council desires to express its support for this effort as an important means of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens.

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

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct, and are incorporated into this Resolution and are hereby specifically made a part hereof.

SECTION 2. After holding a public hearing, October 3, 2017, the City Council of the City of Hickory hereby expresses its support for a "no wake zone" on Lake Hickory northeast of the current U.S. 321 Bridge and adjacent to Lake Hickory Marina, located at 6706 Limbaugh Lane.

SECTION 3. Planning Director, Brian Frazier is directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its execution.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Authorized Staff to Apply for TIGER Grant Funding from the US Department of Transportation.

The 2017 TIGER Discretionary Grants provide funding of up to 80 percent of project costs in urban areas for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a region, or metropolitan area. There is a \$5 million dollar minimum funding request this year. The City of Hickory's TIGER request for the total project cost will be \$20.2 million dollars. The project scope includes projects that connect to the already funded City Walk Pedestrian Greenway. Projects will extend City Walk in two directions across Hickory into Burke County, Caldwell County, and south to I-40 Exit 125. The grant will serve as the catalyst for the City's economic development initiative, which is focused on revitalizing city infrastructure and connecting the Central Business District to surrounding neighborhoods, commerce, recreational and education facilities. This project was discussed as a priority focus area by the City of Hickory during the Inspiring Spaces Master Plan initiative. Bond Program funds and NCDOT grant funds will be used for the match. Funds will be used for critical infrastructure improvements such as streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, gateways, trails, and streetscapes to promote the City as a choice location to live, work and play and one where businesses want to locate, invest and expand. The project will streamline transportation modes to the City, provide improved access to low and moderate income neighborhoods and underutilized areas and provide safe accessibility for bicycles and pedestrians. A total estimated project cost of \$20.2 million dollars has been identified for the grant submittal based upon the projects. The request includes an acceleration of the NCDOT STIP funding (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) for Old Lenoir Road, currently scheduled to receive funds from NCDOT for construction in 2022. This TIGER grant request is based upon a 30 percent match from the City of Hickory of \$6.06 million dollars of the total project. The minimum amount of match is 20 percent. The previous planning processes over the years, including the 2035 Hickory Long Range Transportation Plan, Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and Inspiring Spaces, and the \$40 million dollar Bond Program have made this project ripe for completion. Staff recommends that City Council authorize staff to apply for the TIGER Discretionary Grant in the amount of \$20,200,000 with a cash match of \$6.06 million dollars.

City Manager Warren Wood advised as part of the City's bond program, staff was requesting authorization to apply for a TIGER grant from the US Department of Transportation. This is a Federal application for grant funding relating to the bond program. He asked Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt to the podium to present the item to Council.

Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt presented a PowerPoint presentation. She advised the request from staff was to approve a Resolution authorizing the City to submit the application for the TIGER Grant. This is the third year for our submittal. This process is through the Federal US DOT. It doesn't have the same timeframe each year so we have been anticipating this grant to come forward, and now it is here. Each year the grant has specific criteria, it has its own unique characteristics and we have submitted several projects from our bond program in the past. She shared a modification of the TIGER grant application that had pieces from the previous applications and a few new items. She advised that TIGER stands for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery. She reminded Council the bond program was approved in 2014 for \$25 million dollars and \$15 million dollars, along with Park 1764. There had been a Bond Commission group of 42 that had been working with the City since then. Currently we are at 60 percent review with City Walk and Riverwalk is in conceptual design. We are moving toward a meeting in late October for that subcommittee. Highway 70 and 321 gateway is at NCDOT for a review. We are moving toward streetscape RFQ's to be developed for this fall. Our project relates well to the USDOT TIGER grant criteria. The bond program already identified one of the key points in that grant program and that is connectivity. We are pretty excited that our plan had that naturally and it is something that we can promote in our application. The grant includes Lenoir Rhyme Boulevard and the City Walk. She showed on a map on the PowerPoint 4th to 9th section of City Walk which was also labeled as a streetscape, it turns north; she showed the 9th Street piece; then it runs along Old Lenoir Road; and then all the way up and eventually connects to the Riverwalk. We really have shown that the pieces that the Bond Commission selected were about creating a connective trail all the way through town. The TIGER Grant is related to regional connectivity. Safety and economic competitiveness are some of the other aspects of the grant project that the Feds have put together. We believe that our project is

connectivity at a regional level because it will be connecting all the way on the south end to Interstate 40, exit 125, all the way to Burke and Caldwell Counties with the projects that she would show Council. She showed a list of the specific ideas that came out of the grant which they would have to address. There is a team of them working on this right now. She advised Council could see what the categories are. The benefit cost analysis is very important and they had submitted that every year, but part of what that requires them to provide is some data that shows that the results of the improvement from the grant offset some of the negative things that have happened maybe with public safety, deaths related to traffic, poor traffic conditions or poor pedestrian conditions, or related to economic development and redevelopment, which is all factored into the benefit cost analysis. She showed the list for this year. Book Walk was the first one. They are still looking at linking the Ridgeview Library complex area to the Patrick Beaver Library complex area at the SALT Block. That path may have a twist and a turn depending upon some existing conditions on the ground. There are some utilities that are on 1st Street SW that are in the sidewalk, trying to make sure which side of the road is better for a potential pathway, and reducing the number of times we cross streets so we keep the public safe. They are looking at all of that, but generally it connects the Ridgeview Library and Recreation Center to the SALT Block. She discussed the 9th Street segment which was 4th to 9th and then up 9th. Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard was the streetscape. Streetscape seven and eight are jointly considered Old Lenoir Road. We have always included in the TIGER grant the downtown parking deck. It is on our bond program but it sits on the "bubble". It didn't make the \$35.5 million dollars, but it sits there and if we get grants we might have a chance to fund the downtown parking deck. They recently added the improvements that they would like to make to the northbound bridge that exist today over Lake Hickory, the 321 Bridge. The City of Hickory has been talking with NCDOT and it is our goal and DOT's wish that the City take that bridge over. It has been surveyed and inspected for safety and maintenance. It is something that the City could take over nicely. It is the newer of the two bridges on 321 today. With the 321 project that bridge would have been demolished, but the City asked that it not be demolished and that we keep it for a pedestrian bridge. The DOT tells us that you just can't let people walk out there the way it is, you need to modify that bridge for safety. We need some funds for that and they are going to put that in this grant. She showed a photo of a map and pointed out Interstate 40, Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard, the City Walk, the Book Walk, 9th Street section, Old Lenoir Road, and the pedestrian bridge across 321. She showed the map of the fully connected bond program. They are excited to be able to share this with USDOT in this third round. Third time is the charm we hope. We have some dollar amounts tied to it now. If we got all of this money, minus the work we are doing on 1764 this addresses all of the streetscapes left, the only piece it doesn't do is the gateway at exit 125, so that one gateway is not funded. She showed the dollar amounts as they were broken down. She referenced the amounts were on the maps and explained the breakdown of the funds. The Book Walk was roughly estimated at four million dollars. They don't have that number any more specific because they haven't done the preliminary engineering cost estimate for that. They feel they can use that number safely because they have measured linear feet of what Old Lenoir Road would be and the same linear feet that they are anticipating for Book Walk and Old Lenoir Road comes in at about \$2.2 million dollars so four million dollars should get all of the improvements that they would want to make nicely along the Book Walk. She discussed the pedestrian bridge, commenting that Mr. Kevin Greer advised she was about a half a million dollars under on that number, but what they want to do is ask for a significant number there and that makes the project move forward for the pedestrian bridge. The downtown parking deck number was what was in the bond program. All of that totaled \$20,200,000. She explained the breakdown. The TIGER grant requires an 80/20 match. They like cities to do better than 20 percent. They are showing a full \$6,060,000 as 30 percent of \$20 million dollars. We pay our dues of our match, cash to them through our bond project funds that are existing today, but what we show USDOT, and they had this similar instance last year, Old Lenoir Road has been placed on the State Transportation Improvement Plan at \$4.4 million dollars and our match is \$880,000. The impact to the USDOT for TIGER is less than what would be otherwise required. Their number would be higher because we are adding that in for something to be considered. It is just funds that the USDOT doesn't have to pay it is coming from the State, so \$9.7 million dollars is the amount for TIGER and then our match and we show that the balance is made up already of a good project funded already. That provides some traction for the USDOT to consider our project and possibly approve it. They are getting letters from the Bond Commission members right now. They are pleased and happy that they are writing those again. She thanked them. We also are getting some of the Boards and Commissions to send their letters in and corporate letters of support. She encouraged anyone in attendance to write a letter and submit to Deisy Zavala in the City Manager's Office. Any staff member would take those letters, and if anyone would like a format they would provide one to them, or see them after the

meeting. They are also getting a lot of civic letters as well. She advised there is a big staff team, a very important group of people working hard on this. You learn about these TIGER grants and they give you about 30 days to get it all together and it is a huge application. She recognized the staff members on the team, Yaidee Fox, Dave Leonetti, Kyle Butler, Deisy Zavala and some really good statisticians at Hickory Police Department, and some great maps from Public Services.

Mrs. Surratt advised the Resolution requested City Council's permission for the City to apply for the City's portion to be \$6,060,000 at 30 percent of a \$20.2 million dollar project. She advised she would be happy to go back to any of those items for clarification.

Mayor Cline asked if Council had any questions for Mrs. Surratt.

Alderman Guess commented he was glad to see that the Book Walk finally had made it to the top of the lists. They had talked about that in several meetings and discussions and he thought that the third time was going to be the charm.

Mrs. Surratt thanked Alderman Guess.

Mayor Cline asked if there was any additional questions or discussion.

Alderman Zagaroli requested the form for the letter. Other Council members requested it as well.

Mrs. Surratt advised she would send it to all of them.

Mayor Cline thanked Mrs. Surratt for her work. He asked for a motion to approve the Resolution to submit the application for the TIGER grant. Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton approval of the TIGER Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Warren Wood advised City Council to make a serious run at this there would be a trip to D.C. to meet with Senator Burr and/or Senator Tillis to discuss this that would be coming in the near future.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-32

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HICKORY TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2017 TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT GENERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY (TIGER) GRANT

Intent/Purpose:

WHEREAS, on or before October 16, 2017 the City of Hickory will apply to the US Department of Transportation for the 2017 TIGER Grant. This will be the third year for a submittal by the City of Hickory, and the scope of the project has been amended to more closely reflect the work of the Bond Commission for the Bond Program. The project scope includes projects that focus on regional connectivity and completion of the Bond Program by linking these projects o the already funded City Walk Pedestrian Greenway. Below are the projects that will extend City Walk in two directions across Hickory into Burke County and Caldwell County and also south to I-40 Exit 125.

- Book Walk: 7th Avenue SW (1st Street SW Urban Greenway of the Inspiring Spaces Plan) connects 1st Street SW, has the potential to connect US-70/NC127 to Center Street and the downtown providing linkage to the Ridgeview Library/Recreation Center. The SALT Block will connect downtown Hickory using the additional pathway. The City Walk connects at 3rd Street NE, and connects 3rd Street NE to 5th Avenue NE leading to the SALT Block.
- 9th Street and Main Avenue Streetscape
- Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard (Streetscape 4)
- Streetscape 7, Streetscape 8 (Old Lenoir Road)
- Downtown Parking Deck
- Pedestrian Bridge improvements for the existing Northbound Hwy 321 Bridge

TIGER Scope Elements	Estimated Project Cost
Streetscape 7 (Old Lenoir Road)	\$4,400,000
Streetscape 8 (Old Lenoir Road)	\$1,700,000
Streetscape 9 (9th/Main Ave)	\$1,900,000
Streetscape 4 (LR Blvd)	\$3,200,000
Book Walk	\$4,000,000

Pedestrian Bridge Improvements Northbound Hwy 321 Bridge	\$1,500,000
Downtown Parking Deck	\$3,500,000
TOTAL	\$20,200,000

A total estimated project cost of \$20.2 million dollars has been identified for the grant submittal based upon the projects above. The request includes an acceleration of the NCDOT STIP funding (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) for Old Lenoir Road, currently scheduled to receive funds from NCDOT for construction in 2022. This TIGER grant request is based upon a 30% match from the City of Hickory of \$6.06 million of the total project. The minimum amount of match is 20%. See table below.

Hickory Local Match for TIGER Request	\$6,060,000
Hickory Local Match for STIP	\$880,000
STIP Allocated	\$3,520,000
TIGER Request	\$9,740,000
TOTAL	\$20,200,000

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Hickory is hereby authorized to submit a TIGER grant application in the amount of \$20,200,000 and will commit 30% or \$6,060,000 as a cash match.

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
 Small Cities Project Area (Council Appoints) VACANT
 (Lydia Doll Resigned 9-6-2017)

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
 Ward 2 (Tarlton Appoints) VACANT
 Ward 4 (Guess Appoints) VACANT
 Ward 6 (Patton Appoints) VACANT

Aldерwoman Patton nominated Nicholas (Nick) Seiler as the Ward 6 Representative on the Community Appearance Commission.

Alderman Tarlton nominated Katherine Mull as Ward 2 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

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments)
 (Appointed by City Council)
 Burke County (Mayor Appoints) VACANT
 Catawba County (Mayor Appoints) VACANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
 Historic Properties (Council Appoints) VACANT
 Building Trades Profession (Council Appoints) VACANT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)
 (4) Positions VACANT

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
 At-Large (2) (Mayor Appoints) VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

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

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

Position 1	Grover Lineberger (Eligible for Reappointment)
Position 9	VACANT

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 4 (Guess Appoints) VACANT

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large (not including ETJ) (Council Appoints) VACANT

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

At-Large Representative	VACANT
Challenger High School Representative	VACANT
Homeschool Representative	VACANT
St. Stephens High School Representative	VACANT

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

Tri Pham, At-Large Representative

Mayor Cline nominated Tri Pham as an At-Large Representative on the Youth Council. He asked if there were any other nominations for boards and commissions. There were none. He asked for a motion to approve the nominations.

Alderman Seaver moved seconded by Alderman Lail approval of the above nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

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

Mayor Cline asked if there were any matters not on the agenda or general comments by members of Council, City Manager Wood or Staff.

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

City Manager Warren Wood announced that Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt had verbally accepted the position of City Manager for the City of Bozeman, Montana. He joked that they were hoping that the final negotiations would fall through. The folks from Bozeman are getting a good one and she is going to do great up there. She had worked for the City of Hickory for ten years and had done an outstanding job through the whole bond program from the site visits, to the accomplishment of grants. We are going to miss her. She will be with the City until the end of October. He reiterated she was in final negotiations. He commented if the folks from Bozeman were watching you got a good one, our loss but your gain. He wished Mrs. Surratt well and commented she would do great things. He mentioned that Bozeman is the home of the Montana State Bobcats, so she will be gearing up with her Bobcat attire. He advised he had looked at the weather channel before he came to the meeting and the low tonight was 24 degrees.

Everyone gave a standing ovation to Mrs. Surratt. City Council joked that they needed to vote on that or hold a public hearing.

Mayor Cline asked if there was any further business to come before Council. There was none.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk