

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Brad Lail	Rudy Wright	Hank Guess
Bruce Meisner	Aldermen	David P. Zagaroli
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Mick Berry, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Deputy City Clerk Sarah Prencipe 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

Mayor Wright recognized Boy Scout, Nick Sadowski who was in attendance with his father Joey Sadowski. Nick was working on his civics merit badge.

City Attorney John Crone advised that Nick was his nephew and that he was a good young man.

A. Alan Barnhardt – Update on Catawba Science Center Projects

Mr. Alan Barnhardt thanked Council for the opportunity to speak about Catawba Science Center. He commented that Council may not know how many people they serve and the importance of the Catawba Science Center to the community. He advised that they see approximately 130,000 visitors. That includes approximately 53,000 students and teachers from over 26 counties. They are drawing people in from all over the region. On any given day you might see buses from Buncombe County, Wilkes County, Avery County or Mitchell County, and all of these other counties coming into Catawba Science Center to the SALT Block. He thanked Council for their support of the SALT Block. Catawba Science Center like many non-profits in the community continues to face challenges in support. Approximately 50 percent of their support comes from philanthropic gifts and the other money comes from earned income off of program revenues and admissions. As businesses move out of the community or are sold off, unfortunately they lose some of the philanthropic support that they receive. The State budget has represented approximately seven percent of their budget. It is going down and they will lose about 30 percent of that over the next two years. There are challenges ahead.

Mr. Barnhardt discussed the Portal to Science program and had handouts available for Council members and citizens. They previously had a program called “Free Friday”. The intent of that program was to allow financially challenged families to have access to hands on science experiences. They are encouraging people to get excited about science, to go into a field in science, and become productive members of our community. They found that with the “Free Friday” program it did get to some of those financially challenged families, but it had some problems. It was only Fridays, but that didn’t work for people that had to work on Fridays. They changed the program to Portal to Science. This program had been developed over the last year in conjunction with four different county Department of Social Services (DSS), and with the Public Health Department in Catawba County. They are partners in distributing Portal to Science Passport cards. He advised that it is a wallet card, and also a key fob for up to 20,000 families in Alexander, Burke, Catawba, and Caldwell counties. It is open to financially challenged families that are certified by DSS as being on some type of Federal assistance program. Those cards allow those families to come in any day that Catawba Science Center is open. The access has improved, and they are working with partners in collaborating with those people that serve those areas. He advised that the information is being distributed to lots of other non-profits in the community. He dropped off the information to Partnership for Children. The whole concept is how we get children on a pathway to science careers, which are so important to our community. He stated that this is a great program and asked for citizens to pass the information around. They are not just promoting the Catawba Science Center but also the Hickory Museum of Art. They can pick up both of them from DSS. The annual card is free, but there is a \$1.00 per person charge to come to Catawba Science Center rather than \$6 for a child and \$8 for an adult. He commented that this is free and there are some great art exhibits over at the art museum.

Mr. Barnhardt advised that Catawba Science Center had received a Google grant in the last month. Those normally stay in Caldwell County. The purpose of the grant that they just received is to promote innovation and connections to the general public about CAD design, and computer design with output to 3D printers and laser cutters. The program is designed to connect local businesses and science professionals to youth and their families. He advised that businesses could contact the Science Center if they were interested in creating a hands on program that excites children, and gets them thinking about a career

path into their business. They are looking for all kinds of ideas and people to engage in and be partners with. On Saturdays they will do one program a month. For children in grades 5-8 who want to go further into some type of computer technology or IT, they are going to create a tech club on Sundays so they can come in and do something more in depth. It will all be challenged and themed based, and a whole lot of fun. The first one will teach robotics and how to program robotics. There are lots of other programs. They are doing great stuff in this community and they want to be partners with other folks out there. He thanked Council for their time.

Mayor Wright commented that he and his wife had hosted a family from Brazil last week. They had been guidance counselors/advisors for a Rotary exchange visitor in 1997. She returned from Brazil with her family. He advised that they saw the lake, Crowdads, Hickory High football, and lots of other things, but their favorite thing was the Science Center. Mayor Wright commented if you have grandchildren take them to the Science Center, they will have a ball. If you have children you can take them too.

Alderwoman Patton commented that she had taken her granddaughter there for their science afternoon and she had a blast. It was good.

Mayor Wright thanked Mr. Barnhardt.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Special Meeting of September 1, 2015

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 1, 2015 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

B. Regular Meeting of September 1, 2015

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 1, 2015 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A. Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 21 (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

B. Grant Project Ordinance Number 1. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

C. Consideration of Changes to Hickory City Code Ordinance Chapter 4 – Animal and Fowl. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

D. Approval of an Invitation to Bid and Contract to Huffman Grading Co. Inc. in the Amount of \$121,287 for Additional Parking at Glenn C. Hilton Jr. Recreation Park. (First Reading Vote: Ayes: Alderman Meisner, Alderman Seaver, Alderman Guess, Mayor Pro Tempore Zagaroli and Alderwoman. Nay: Alderman Lail)

E. Approval of the Glenn Hilton Park Settlement Agreement in the Amount of \$10,000 and Budget Ordinance Amendment 5. (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 Meisner moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. Approved on First Reading a Landscape Grant for Non-residential Property Owned by First Lawyers, LLC, Located at 858 2nd Street NE in the Amount of \$2,500.

City Council created the Landscape Grant program in 1999 to provide economic incentives for property owners to improve the general appearance of their property. The Community Appearance Commission reviews applications for the grant program and forwards a recommendation of approval or denial to City Council. The grants are designed as a reimbursement grant in which the City of Hickory will match the applicant on a 50/50 basis. The maximum grant amount from the City of Hickory is \$2,500. The applicant, First Lawyers, LLC has provided two bids for the removal of two existing hard surfaced areas, which are to be replaced by brick sidewalks and landscaping beds. Both estimates exceed \$5,000, and qualifies for the full \$2,500 grant. The Community Appearance Commission voted unanimously (7-0), at their August 24, 2015 meeting, to recommend funding of the requested grant in the amount of \$2,500.

- B. Approved on First Reading a Community Appearance Grant for Non-residential Property Owned by Phillip McCluney Located at 903 10th Street NE, in the Amount of \$5,000.

City Council created the Community Appearance Grant program in 1999 to provide economic incentives for property owners to improve the general appearance of properties located within the City's designated Urban Revitalization Area. The Community Appearance Commission reviews applications for the grant program and forwards a recommendation of approval or denial to City Council. The grants are designed as a reimbursement grant in which the City of Hickory will match the applicant on a 50/50 basis. The maximum grant amount from the City of Hickory is \$5,000. The applicant, Phillip McCluney has provided two bids for the renovation of an existing commercial building. Both estimates exceed \$10,000, and qualifies for the full \$5,000 grant. The Community Appearance Commission voted unanimously (7-0) at their August 24, 2015 meeting, to recommend funding of the requested grant in the amount of \$5,000.

- C. Approved on First Reading a Community Appearance Grant for Non-residential Property Owned by Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) Located at 31 1st Avenue NE, in the Amount of \$5,000.

City Council created the Community Appearance Grant program in 1999 to provide economic incentives for property owners to improve the general appearance of properties located within the City's designated Urban Revitalization Area. The Community Appearance Commission reviews applications for the grant program and forwards a recommendation of approval or denial to City Council. The grants are designed as a reimbursement grant in which the City of Hickory will match the applicant on a 50/50 basis. The maximum grant amount from the City of Hickory is \$5,000. The applicant, Cooperative Christian Ministry has provided two bids for the renovation of the exterior of their facility. Both estimates exceed \$10,000, and qualifies for the full \$5,000 grant. The Community Appearance Commission voted unanimously (7-0) at their August 24, 2015 meeting, to recommend funding of the requested grant in the amount of \$5,000.

- D. Approved the Special Events Activities Application for Rodney Atkins Concert, Megan Meade, Director of Community Relations and Events, Hickory Crawdads, October 17, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. at 2500 Clement Boulevard NW.

- E. Approved the Special Events Activities Application for Symphony Under the Sails, Mandy Pitts, Communications Director/Brand Manager, City of Hickory, September 20, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Sails on the Square Stage in Downtown Hickory.

- F. Approved the Special Events Activities Application for Time of My Life Tour, Megan Meade, Director of Community Relations and Events, Hickory Crawdads, October 16, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. at 2500 Clement Boulevard NW.

- G. Approved a Cemetery Deed from City of Hickory to Charlie Crews (Southside Cemetery, Plot 4F, Lot Number 7 and 8, Section 4) (Prepared by Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula).

- H. Approved the Transfer of a Cemetery Deed from Austra B. Friday, by and through her Attorney-in-Fact, Paul Marshall Friday to Betty Beshears, (Oakwood Cemetery, Section 36, Block Q, Lot 2 gravesite numbers 002 and 003) (Prepared by Attorney John G. Fuller).

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

The following requests were considered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on September 3, 2015: Each of the following applicants are being recommended for approval for assistance under the City of Hickory's 2015 Urgent Repair

Program. This program provides qualified low income citizens with assistance for emergency related repairs not to exceed \$7,200.

- Cassell (Cassie) Deal, 1609 17th Street NE, Hickory
- Rosalyn Reinhardt, 721 7th Avenue Court SE, Hickory
- Doris Sanders, 410 2nd Street SE, Hickory

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

- J. Approved on First Reading Acceptance of the Bid and Award of the Construction Contract to Hickory Sand Company, Inc. for the Construction of the Sherwood Forest Sewer Project in the amount of \$748,924.50.

In 1998 Sherwood Forest was identified as a part of the future service areas for the City of Hickory sanitary sewer system. Staff applied for State Revolving Grant funds for completion of this project on April 1, 1999. Staff resubmitted an updated Preliminary Engineers Report in 2009. NCDENR Division of Water Quality and NC Construction Grants and Loans issued final approval on May 10, 2010. The project was approved for a grant to fund construction of necessary sanitary sewer infrastructure to provide public sewer to the homes in this subdivision. City Council approved the Resolution accepting the application for grant funds in July 2010. The project was advertised for bids and found Hickory Sand Company, Inc. to be the lowest responsible bidder. Staff recommends Council accept the bid and award of construction contract with Hickory Sand Company, Inc. in the amount of \$713,261.50, and a contingency of \$35,663 for a total of \$748,924.50 for the Sherwood Forest sewer project.

- K. Approved the Acceptance of the 2015 Justice Assistance Grant in the Amount of \$19,555 and to Serve as the Lead Agency in the Grant Process for a Combined Amount of \$32,455.

Hickory Police Department requests permission to accept funds from the 2015 Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) to purchase 12 additional body-worn cameras, hardware, hardware service/replacement, and digital evidence management storage. City of Hickory and Catawba County received notification of approval to receive a combined allocation of \$32,455 under the 2015 Assistance Grant Program. Catawba County is eligible for a direct award of \$12,900 and the City of Hickory is eligible for a direct award of \$19,555. There is no match required. The City of Hickory has agreed to serve as lead agency in the grant application process. Hickory Police Department recommends acceptance of the JAG grant to purchase the additional body worn cameras, hardware, service and digital evidence management solution in the amount of \$19,555 and to serve as lead agency in the grant process for a combined amount of \$32,455.

- L. Approved Acceptance of the Bulletproof Vest Grant for the Purchase of Bulletproof Vests for Police Officers.

Hickory Police Department requests permission to accept a grant to assist in funding the purchase of bulletproof vests for police officers. The grant will pay up to 50 percent of the cost of NIJ approved vests purchased by Hickory Police Department. Forty-five vests have been requested at an estimated price of \$750 for each vest. Hickory Police Department has a mandatory wear policy for all uniformed officers while on duty. Funds are placed in the police department budget uniform line item annually to purchase vests for police officers. Life expectancy of each vest is approximately five years. The Police Department recommends acceptance of this grant to receive up to 50 percent funding to purchase bulletproof vests for police officers.

- M. Approved on First Reading Grant Project Ordinance Number 2.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-44
GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE NO. 2

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory, that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted for the duration of the project.

SECTION 1. To amend the FY2015 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	34,150	-

TOTAL	34,150	-
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To provide the additional revenue for the above, the revenues will be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Governmental Revenue	16,672	-
Other Financing Sources	17,478	-
TOTAL	34,150	-

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

- N. Approved on First Reading Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 6.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-45
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 6

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

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety		17,478
Other Financing Uses	17,478	-
TOTAL	17,478	17,478

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

- IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

- X. Informational Item

- XI. New Business:

- A. Public Hearings

- 1. Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires the City of Hickory, as a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funding recipient, to report on CDBG monies spent within the previous fiscal year. This report, the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) evaluates the effectiveness of the use of resources in addressing identified goals and objectives cited in the Annual Action Plan which is prepared before the fiscal year begins. The CAPER outlines the City's CDBG expenditures from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Staff recommends approval of the FY2014-2015 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on September 4, 2015 and September 15, 2015.

City Manager Mick Berry asked the City's Community Development Manager Dave Leonetti to the podium to present Council with the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for FY2014-2015 which is related to the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Community Development Manager Dave Leonetti stated that each year the City is required to submit a report on its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities. It is called the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). This report details how the City spends the Community Development money over the course of a program year. In 2014-2015 the City received approximately \$310,000 in its annual entitlement grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. It also received approximately \$171,000 of

program income from repayment of loans made with Community Development funds in previous years. This report details the City's spending for the 2014-2015 project year, which ran from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. During this time period the City spent approximately \$496,000 dollars. This included some funding spent from previous years. The budget rolls from year to year with an allotted amount of time in which to spend the money. These are broken down into four basic groups of spending. Housing activities, public services, infrastructure and facility improvements, program administration and fair housing activities. The City conducted two main housing activities during the year, \$29,000 was spent on down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers, which assisted four families in achieving homeownership for the first-time, or the first-time since a family situation changed. Also the City and Habitat for Humanity partnered through various programs to spend approximately \$23,000 on housing rehabilitation. Five households were assisted through this program. This number only speaks about CDBG funding spent on housing rehabilitation. The City also received money from the Housing Finance Agency of North Carolina that is not included in this report. Approximately 12 families a year are also helped through that program. A number of families were approved in the springtime, prior to the end of the fiscal year, however no money was actually spent on their cases yet. They are under construction currently. The City also provided approximately \$53,000 in grants to seven public service agencies during the fiscal year for a variety of different services. Community Ridge Daycare received funding to improve their infant room. Exodus Homes received funding for an Employment Transportation Coordinator. Safe Harbor received funding for their day shelter program. Cooperative Christian Ministry received funding for their health clinic. The Soup Kitchen received funding to help with their kitchen staff. ALFA received money to help provide the cost of the Case Manager's salary. Regarding infrastructure and facility improvement projects there were four projects, three of which had significant spending during the fiscal year. The Kiwanis Park restrooms and picnic shelter, which was a carryover from the previous year. It finished in August. There was approximately \$98,000 of that which was spent during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The total project cost was approximately \$240,000, which was spread over 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. Approximately \$79,000 was spent to resurface three neighborhood streets in low and moderate income areas; 7th Avenue SE, in the Kenworth neighborhood was resurfaced, 8th Street SW in the Green Park neighborhood was resurfaced, and 3rd Avenue SE in the Ridgeview neighborhood was resurfaced during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The Optimist Park has reopened, with Phase One complete with the outdoor gym and the walking trail and drainage improvements. Approximately \$141,000 of that was spent in fiscal year 2014-2015. The remainder approximately, of that \$210,000 project, will be paid in this fiscal year. He advised that Council would see that again next year along with Phase Two which will be going out to bid in the next week or so. He advised that \$2,700 was for final the project which was interior renovations at the Ridgeview Library. Those are underway. There is approximately \$40,000 of improvements remaining. That property is owned by Inter Faith Housing Development Cooperation. The City had provided them with some loans and grants and also worked with them through the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office to get a Certified Local Government Federal Preservation Grant to help with the exterior renovations. Last year they received some donated shingles from Habitat to help do the roof. This year they are working on the inside of the building. All of the rough in work for the plumbing, mechanical and electrical had been finished and all of the framing. Previously it was a "U" shaped room with an office and small restroom which was not handicap accessible. That was torn out and they put in a larger restroom and office on the south side of the building. Now there is one large room, a small office and a restroom that is handicap accessible. The framing is complete. All the work will be done to the Secretary of the Interior standards because that is a historic building. The only other spending from last year was program administration and fair housing activities in the amount of approximately \$69,000, which is less than 14 percent of the total spending on administration. He advised Council that their agenda packet contained the complete report and he would be happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Wright 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 report. No one appeared. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the report. No one appeared. Mayor Wright closed the public hearing.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the FY2014-2015 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. The motion carried unanimously.

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

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Approved on First Reading Acceptance of the Bid for the Water Treatment Facility Emergency Power Generator Replacement Project with Crowder Construction Company in the amount of \$2,699,000.

The City of Hickory Water Treatment Facility was last upgraded in 1993. This upgrade included the installation of a new emergency generator that would provide power for the facility in the event of a power failure. The emergency generator is a permit required critical piece of equipment for operations of the facility. The existing generator is approximately 24 years old and has exceeded the mechanical life of the unit. Vendors cannot provide replacement parts to repair the existing unit. In October of 2014 Council approved contracting with HDR Engineering, Inc. to evaluate the existing conditions, and analyze the generator for proper sizing. The project was advertised for bids and found Crowder Construction Company to be the lowest responsible bidder. The bids received are below the Engineer's Estimate of \$3.0 million dollars. Staff recommends Council accept the bid for the Water Treatment Facility emergency power generator replacement project with Crowder Construction Company in the amount of \$2,699,000. This project is planned as a component of the FY 2015-2016 Capital Budget to be funded from Capital Reserves.

Mr. Berry asked the City's Assistant Public Services Director Kevin Greer to the podium to present Council with the acceptance of a bid to replace a generator at the Water Treatment Plant.

Assistant Public Services Director Kevin Greer advised that Staff was requesting Council to accept the bids for the project that was bid August 21st. Originally the project was slated for bids on August 13th, there were only two bidders that attended the bid and offered bids. Therefore Staff had to send back all bids not opened and re-advertised for bids on August 21st. He advised it was the same two bidders that came and offered bids. The bids received were from Crowder Construction, out of Cary, but this office is working out of Charlotte. The lowest bid was \$2,699,000. Brushy Mountain Builders in Lenoir was the second bidder at \$2,880,000. The engineers estimate for the project was just over three million dollars and that includes contingencies and the engineer's construction administration contract.

Mr. Greer gave an overview of the project. He presented a PowerPoint presentation and pointed out the main entrance road and the administration building of the water plant. Currently they have a single 1750 KW generator at this location. They are proposing the installation of two generators on the other end of the basin to split that load. The existing generator was purchased used in 1986 as military surplus. The generator was refurbished and was put into service in 1993, which makes it approximately 22 to 23 years old after the refurbishment. The generator itself was sized to only run the minimum amount. It was to pump water out of the plant. In the event of a power failure they can either run the raw water coming in to produce water or they can run the finished water going out to get water to customers. They cannot do both, which is a limitation in the plant. The project was prompted by the gradual mechanical failure. He estimated the generator to be approximately 40-50 years old and they don't make parts for it anymore. They have had two different companies, which previously were used for service contracts, which will no longer offer a service contract on the generator. The generator has two ends, the diesel engine end is the one that they can still work on, and the power generation end they can't do anything with because it is old solid state equipment that they can't get parts for to keep it going. Since the upgrade in 1993 the progressive thought from Council and Staff is to keep the City not on the cutting edge, but in the front pool. When the plant was built there were hydraulic valves, now we have electric valves. There are 74 big electric valves in that plant now that controls lines, those were previously hydraulic. They have a sodium-hypochlorite generation system. They formally used chlorine gas, but went away from that in 2003. Now they use onsite generation at the facility which is a big power demand when it is running. He advised that the City's Regional Water Plant has approximately 97,000 residents that are served water day in and day out. We would probably be in the 200,000 to 300,000 range if you include people visiting the mall, restaurants, hotels, or passing by. That 97,000 does not count those folks. The City's facility really has a lot of responsibility. Staff wants to make sure that we are keeping things as reliable and sustainable as possible. The generator is a permit requirement. In the authorization to construct the plant having a running generator was a component of the permit.

Mr. Greer advised that this project is included as a part of the 2015-2016 Capital Project Budget. It was budgeted to be taken from Water Plant Capital Reserve.

They banked money over the years to do upgrades at the plant to help them expand the ability. It will help to run more pieces of the plant to be more sustainable. He advised that the request to Council was acceptance of the bids. He advised that this is not award of the contract, just accepting the bids. That way they can keep the contractor moving forward. The generator itself is an approximate nine month lead time. This will be a long drawn out project once they actually get it awarded and under contract. It will take quite a while. This first-step will help the contractor with some certainty on scheduling his workload.

Alderman Meisner commented that the City had enlarged the plant in 1988 to 32 million gallons. He asked what the capacity was now.

Mr. Greer advised that it is 32 million gallons.

Alderman Meisner questioned the usage.

Mr. Greer commented that this time of year usage goes down some. We average just under 12 million gallons per day. From 2002 to 2005 we would have been in the 15 to 17 million gallon range. Right now we are happy when we get to the 12 to 13 million range. He commented that is a direct correlation to the plumbing codes and our customers being real intelligent when it comes to the City asking for conservation and water use wisely. Just use what they need. Our customers really respond to that. We are careful and sincere when we ask people to actually conserve water.

Alderman Guess asked if the new generator would run with natural gas or by diesel.

Mr. Greer stated that they designed the generator to run by diesel. The way the State looks at it is, if you have a diesel generator that is all that you have to have. If you have natural gas you have to have an equivalent amount of diesel fuel on site to back up the natural gas. They would have to have two tanks if they went with natural gas. The generator will be able to run finished pumps and three raw pumps, plus the chemical system, all the flocculators, and the electric valve. We will really be able to run the plant when power is out completely. Not turn these pumps on and turn these pumps off, run it completely. With two there is redundancy. Right now they can actually run the plant on one generator. If you run it on one generator for two or three days it will have to be shut down to refuel it or service it. They would then have another one to run. Once they get into that 17-18 million gallon range it would take two generators. Right now they would be able to run off of one.

Alderman Seaver asked if the old one would be there for a backup.

Mr. Greer responded no sir.

Alderman Guess asked if it would be scrapped or left on site.

Mr. Greer advised that it would be scrapped, it will be salvaged.

Alderman Seaver commented that people in Hickory and Catawba County are very intelligent. Look at how the recycling has went, we are probably number one in recycling in the State of North Carolina. It is the same kind of things that people think to do.

Mayor Wright moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver acceptance of the bid to Crowder Construction Company in the amount of \$2,699,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright stated that he moved seconded by Alderman Seaver and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Accepted the Southwest Hickory Revitalization Strategy Plan for the Southern Desk and Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill. **(Exhibit XI.B.2.)**

The City of Hickory applied for two Community-wide Brownfield Assessment Grants from the US EPA in November 2011. In May 2012, the City received notice that it had been selected to receive two \$200,000 grants to assess petroleum and hazardous materials contamination at Brownfield sites. The City's environmental consultant, AMEC Foster Wheeler, subcontracted with CIII Associates to compete a redevelopment strategy for the former Southern Desk and Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill sites. The City hosted a public workshop in May 2015. After reviewing the existing conditions at the sites, speaking with residents, and conducting market analysis, CIII Associates has presented a mixed use vision to guide future

development at the two sites. Staff recommends that City Council accept the Southwest Hickory Revitalization Strategy plan for the Southern Desk and Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill sites.

Mr. Berry asked the City's Planning Director Brian Frazier to the podium to present Council with the Southwest Hickory Revitalization Strategy Plan. He commended Mr. Frazier for procuring Federal Brownfield funds over the last several years. This is another product from those Federal grants that he has been able to get.

Planning Director Brian Frazier introduced Howard Thurston, from Amec Foster Wheeler. Mr. Thurston had been the City's Chief Consultant for the Brownfield Grant for the past three year. Mr. Frazier also introduced Clark Hipp, from Hipp Architecture out of Wilmington, and Clark Henry, President of CIII Associates. He advised Council that Staff was requesting acceptance of the Southwest Hickory Revitalization Strategy Plan for both the Southern Desk and the Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill sites. The Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill is also known as S&W Chemical. The residents that attended the workshop preferred that the site be called Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill. Mr. Frazier thanked the team and his Staff. Since the Brownfield programs inception in 2007 the City had received a million dollars in Brownfield money from EPA, \$800,000 of that had been in Brownfield assessment monies through Region 4, Atlanta. He advised that \$200,000 was the area wide planning grant which Staff have been reviewing statements for the RFQ that was sent out. That will be coming back to Council as well. The City is in the process of closing out the three year, \$400,000 grant. Since the program's inception Staff assessed 40 sites in the City of Hickory, helping to create, in this vast public/private partnership, over 500 jobs in that time period. This grant will close by the end of September, Staff has 90 days to report back to EPA. He advised that they are ahead of schedule and have finished all of their assessments. Phase 1 and 2 were conducted on the Southern Desk site. It came up clean within all State and Federal perimeters. That site is under the City's ownership now. The S&W or Ivey Weaver site had a Phase 1 and 2 on it. It does need some remediation, but most of that remediation could probably be in capsulation by a parking lot. A lot of that capsulation was done over at Hollar. It is not prohibitive for that site to be redeveloped. As part of the \$400,000 grant, the City can do plan redevelopments and programing for sites. They put together the consultant team for the Southwest Hickory Revitalization Strategy area focusing on these two mill sites and the surrounding neighborhood. It was a stipulation of the grant agreement and EPA was more than thrilled that the City was doing this. They also had some good public involvement. Beyond those assessments that were done, the EPA allowed them to do some of the cleanup, and some tank remediation. They did this redevelopment planning through CIII Associates, Hipp Architecture, and Amec Foster Wheeler. They hosted a public workshop in May of 2015. It was well received and they spent a lot of time reviewing the project area with the residents and the meeting discussions focused on various conceptual reuse scenarios, not just for the neighborhoods but specifically for these two project sites. He asked Clark Henry to the podium to present a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the findings with the citizen team in the southwest neighborhood.

Clark Henry discussed the PowerPoint presentation, which included the process that they used, the approach that they took, and some of their findings in terms of site conditions, community identity, and the outcome of the workshop as well as the strategy, and some recommendations to overcome some of the obstacles that were identified. Their job was to listen and to formulate a plan, that they hear from broad community involvement, and that it is not developed in isolation. They worked closely with the Brownfield Advisory Group (BAG) as well as with City of Hickory Staff to learn about the area, the City's initiatives, and other overlapping priorities. He advised that the City's Planning Department and the Brownfield Advisory Group had selected this area. He had worked on Brownfield revitalization for the last fifteen years and was specialized in the small area planning around Brownfields. He commended Mr. Frazier and Staff for using the Brownfield money in this manner, the cutting edge in Brownfield grants. He had spent millions of dollars of EPA's Brownfield grants all on assessments. He stated that he wished that when he was working for a City that he would have been doing what Mr. Frazier is doing. It is widely recognized by the EPA that sites don't get developed by themselves, and communities don't get revitalized on a whole without sites being redeveloped. There is a relationship there. Just by providing site assessments, sometimes the site doesn't get catalyzed into redevelopment. This area is a perfect candidate. He commented that it is really close to downtown, it is a gateway from Longview. There is a really strong historic character in the neighborhood. A very proud neighborhood that has been changing over the last couple of decades, but there are people who are really committed to seeing its future reflect its proud history. There is a really great connection to downtown on the other side of the tracks for bike and pedestrian connections. It is highly visible. However, they recognized that there are some significant constraints.

Mr. Henry discussed the process. They did background research, a site visit to meet with City Staff and the Brownfield Advisory Group, a tour of the community, and scheduled a workshop. The idea behind the workshop, is to develop conceptual renderings that reflect the priorities that they are hearing from the community and from City Staff and other stakeholders. You want a plan to be actionable. They summarized all of that information in a report. He pointed out a graph on the PowerPoint presentation which described their approach. Identify what the community's priorities are and its history. They translate that into conceptual renderings. He advised that the images on the screen and in the report are not specific architectural plans that are proposed for the site. These are generally reflective of the priorities and aspirations that they have heard over this process. They put the data through a feasibility study. They looked at income and growth rates to see how feasible this is over what kind of timeframe. If they see gaps or obstacles then they make recommendations for the City to proactively tackle those. On May 14, 2015 they convened at the Westmont Community Center and made some presentations. They had a facilitated group discussion where the community talked to them about their desire for it to be the Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill site and not the S&W Chemical site. They discussed the sites history, the community grew up around the cotton mill. Housing was developed to accommodate the workers and it was a self-contained community. You didn't have to go to other places in southwest Hickory, you could be there all on you on. That has changed. They facilitated that discussion, but also had hands on exercises with large aerial maps. He showed pictures from the workshop on the PowerPoint presentation. They wanted to talk about land use. What should go here? What can go here? Through some of their background research and some of their discussions with the community they identified a need for quality rental housing in Hickory as a whole, but especially in southwest as well and on the west side. They evolved the discussion into what it should look like. What scale? How should they align transportation? What kind of amenities are here, or not here? What are you having to leave your community for to access, that you would like to access in your neighborhood now?

Mr. Henry discussed identity. There are a lot of longtime residents, people in multi-generational residents who want to stay and want to age in place. They want their children to come back if they have left. There are a lot of newer residents. It has become a very multi-cultural community. They have a very proud history of what it represents not just to Hickory and a community unto itself, but all of North Carolina. These sites were really critical to developing that strength of character. There are a lot of commercial vacancies, a lot of sites in disrepair, and a strong perception of crime on the streets. It wasn't safe to be around at times. These are not unique to this community but they wanted to engage that and find solutions for that here.

Mr. Henry commented that they did not necessarily want to get another mill site, which was not the vision. In terms of vitality and vibrancy, a street life, neighbors communicating with each other. They wanted to engage and provide activities for youth. The Westmont Recreation Center and the park down the street are great assets but they could use more. They want it to be self-contained again. They don't want to drive everywhere to get what they need to get in terms of retail goods and also services. He asked Mr. Clark Hipp to the podium to discuss the site design and some of the development elements.

Mr. Clark Hipp commented that the overall design does attempt to incorporate some of the concerns that they heard from the community including the need for housing, community greenspace, retail opportunities, and larger potential commercial uses. In the overall design they attempted to create a place. Their goal with this design was to try and create a place that is unique and identifiable to the southwest community. They created a central element at the corner of 1st Avenue SW and 17th Street SW. They separated the uses between the sites. He pointed out on the PowerPoint presentation the Southern Desk site. For this site they visualize the potential for housing and ground level retail along 1st Avenue. That creates a vibrant street presence. That vibrant street presence with the retail is something that helps revitalize the community, and helps create identity. It also helps "putting eyes on the street", which is one way to battle crime in an area is to have more people. The ground level retail is an opportunity along 1st Avenue, housing above and behind those units. They discussed the potential of 16,000 - 17,000 square feet of ground level retail. That would be broken up into 1,400 square foot units. Those were just projections, 1,400 is a number used in retail as a good median number. Individual shops could use 1,400 or you could combine them to make 2,800 or more if needed. Then there is the potential for residential. There would be a question if they were large or small units. A market study would need to be undertaken to determine what would be the best use for residential, whether they are smaller or larger units. They tried to incorporate parking behind

the property off the street. They tried to pull the buildings closer to the street to create that vibrancy and provide ample parking to the back, behind those spaces for both the residential and the retail. They also included the potential on 17th Street for a less active, more of an office type commercial use; 17th Street being less traveled. They thought that it was more of a quieter type of commercial space.

Mr. Hipp discussed the former Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill site. He advised that the citizens attending the meeting did not want it called the southwest site, they preferred the Ivey Weaver site. They have a lot of pride in their community. This site would be more suitable for a park or more of a passive type use for various reasons; 1) the topography, and 2) because of the beautiful existing trees. The potential here is for a park, but also a larger commercial type use that would be closer to Highway 321. Because this is a larger site there is the potential to subdivide it in this way. This building acts as a buffer from Highway 321. If you were to develop residential or quiet space in the form of a park it would provide that type of buffering. That pad is approximately 33,000 feet. You could do a single story 33,000 square foot commercial type facility or potentially a two-story. There is potential for adequate parking for a structure of 66,000 square feet. The park itself would be more of a passive type park, it would not include ballfields, and that sort of thing. It would become a community asset. It would help reflect the pride that the community has for who they are, where they are, where they have been. It has the potential for walking trails, event type spaces, facilities in the site, and parking. They see this as an important element of community pride and something that the community would rally around.

Mr. Hipp discussed the defining element at the corner of 17th Street and 1st Avenue. Having a centralized focused element that incorporates, and is involved in both sites, helps to create a true place. This plaza has the potential to include historical markers, information signage, benches, and fountains. All elements that would help define this place as unique and draw people to the site, and to demonstrate pride in the community, which is what they heard from their community meeting. He asked Clark Henry back to the podium.

Mr. Clark Henry commented that they "painted" a pretty ambitious future for this intersection, and for these two particular properties. At this stage in the revitalization plan they thought it appropriate to take a pretty high level look at demand and feasibility. He displayed a short list of the types of data they looked at which included the census data, income levels, population growth across the three county area for Catawba, Caldwell and Burke counties. They looked at retail market place, profile, and a market place potential within a one mile radius of the site; to take a look at that area to see what kind of money is being spent from people inside that area, but in facilities outside of that area. They looked at housing surveys for Catawba, Caldwell and Burke counties as well a look at housing demand. In general growth is slow. Compared regionally in other cities and statewide averages, Hickory as a whole city is growing much slower, but especially in this neighborhood. There was a population loss up until 2012 within a one mile radius of these properties. It is projected, according to their data sources, to grow. Modest, but growth is good. Housing demand does exist, it is just a question of how much and which housing. Income levels especially in the direct neighborhood within a one mile radius are significantly lower than regional or statewide averages, especially with approximately 20 percent of the population within a one mile radius earning less than \$15,000 a year, a median household income.

Mr. Henry discussed the retail gap analysis which identifies different trade groups and industry groups and the amount of money. They focused on a one mile radius of this intersection and they identified all of the money to where there is positive retail gap. For example if there is a million dollars being spent, \$214,000 dollars being spent on a home furnishing store that is coming from within the community, but it is going to other communities. These are not necessarily signs that if you put a home furnishing store in this neighborhood that all of that \$214,000 will be there, nor is a sign that \$214,000 of revenue is enough to support a home furnishing store. There are some indicators of demand that will fit into some of the recommendations later. For both properties they felt there was some overall constraints. Market readiness related to population growth and income levels about near term implementation. What they had provided conceptually was not something that would happen overnight. The City could take a near, mid, and long term view. The ultimate build out would be a long term view, but there are actions to be proactive and make interventions in this neighborhood that are near term, that yield near term results and near term results that ultimately will cascade into a fuller realization of the plan. The population growth rates are a problem, income levels are low. Site control at the former Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill is a constraint. The City does not own the site, but they recommended that the City try to work towards that, or work in partnership with the current owner. There had been some

discussions that the City had took ownership of the Southern Desk site. The perception of crime in the area and some of their recommendations would help alleviate those perceptions.

Mr. Henry advised for Southern Desk look for partnerships. People within the immediate neighborhood need some quality rental housing. We also know that some revitalization to incorporate more commercial, we need some mixed income, some higher incomes in the neighborhood to mix with the current income levels. Partnerships with different types of developers can help there. The sites are really large footprint sites. Also recommendations of considering State development. He advised it would be important to create an incentive package. The City should assemble a list of things and it can help private developers with infrastructure improvements. Working with Raleigh and tax incentives is rough, but he recommended that the City try to work in that direction. He advised that he had made recommendations in other places for the City to provide some rental guarantees for commercial spaces. If a private developer doesn't fit in, find a commercial tenant, that the City has some rent guarantees. He advised that it might not take hold in the first try, with the request for proposals for development. With the site control the City should assemble something more specific for request for proposals and issue it broadly to the development community, not just looking locally or regionally, but looking statewide and throughout the southeast. He encouraged creative thinking on these development teams. Challenge them to do things like partner with the City, non-profits, and community groups to help this come true. The fact is that yes, we are growing. The other areas that are growing are becoming more and more expensive and as that happens other development interest are going to start looking here closer and closer. Our economy is coming back, housing values and commercial values are going up. Municipalities that have land like this, there is a lot of private development. There is investment interest in Hickory. You might have to put it out there a couple of times, make some changes, and learn from the development community. Continue policing and code enforcement. In the residential neighborhood and in some of the older commercial properties code enforcement has not been what it could be. There is that perception they have some really nice homes next to some homes with really poor livable conditions. Another thing to consider with a longer term vision for full redevelopment is to do something interesting with the site in the interim. Even passive greening. Making sure that the site is clear, and hosting community events, doing something on the site to create activity. A property can sit vacant and nobody wants any part of it, until you start doing something with it. When they start doing assessments and cleanup on Brownfield properties they start getting calls. Events, passive greening, plant grass across the whole thing, a sunflower patch, community gardens. He advised they are working in Wilmington on a community garden interim use. There are a host of things that could help activate the site. When you get people active on the street scape crime goes down. Eyes on the street is a tried and true strategy.

Mr. Henry advised for the former Ivey Weaver site control is the first obstacle. He encouraged the City to try and take site control. A park here would add to the gateway element and place making capacity in getting people on the street. There are two parks within a mile radius, but the capacity here, for this park to create the center section of this neighborhood as a destination in southwest rather than just somewhere people are driving past. It really takes hold when you use this as a publically available greenspace. He reiterated continuing policing and code enforcement. Stage the park development in the near term. Do something lighter as perhaps acquire some State grant funding for a full construction buildout. Active programming of activities within this park space really goes a long way to building that since of pride back, and showing interest and providing proof that the City is a strong partner for development teams. For the commercial component of the former Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill site he reiterated acquire the site, and RFP or partner with the developer, or the property owner to issue an RFP. That might not stick right of way. Talk to other people. They talked about this would be a great site for another call center. Another goal here would be to start employing some of the people in a neighborhood that could use it. He advised there was a long list of "to do's" on Brian Frazier's desk. He advised that an RFP was one way to get that done and work with the private owner to help make that happen.

Mr. Henry reiterated the long term vision, taking near term steps. Within the report there are number of these items to take this in the near term, there is a longer list of recommendations that get more specific. They realize that looking at the neighborhood now you don't see this. Neighborhoods like this in other cities across the country have totally been transformed over the last 20 to 30 years. Perception is a big issue and the City can help overcome that. Structural determinism, you build it and they will come, isn't a perfect strategy. In a community like this if you don't do anything they want come. The City needs to be very proactive in terms of programming in the investment. The parks space is not

in the parks plan or the needs assessment for 2015 that showed more population growth in northeast rather than here. He encouraged Council to revisit that assumption and to be proactive to help make sure that the population here is coming back and to revisit it. Even the needs assessment is 15 years old at this time. There have been a lot of economic and demographic changes over the last ten years. He encouraged Council to include this in the plan.

Mr. Brian Frazier advised Council that Staff recommended the acceptance of the Revitalization Strategy Plan for the area described. He asked if Council had any questions.

Alderman Patton commended the Planning Department for their work with the Brownfields.

Mr. Frazier thanked Alderman Patton and stated that they had a lot of great support from within City Hall, the public/private partnerships work the best.

Alderman Patton commented that it had made a lot of difference in a lot of neighborhoods.

Alderman Guess reminded everyone that the Code Enforcement Division is really what got the City where we are at today. That was one of the most difficult assignments that they had. They were able to take that and get it to where we are at today. There is not anything on the site, but it is certainly a tremendous improvement from when the structure was there and we weren't sure of how to get it to where it is at today.

Mr. Frazier advised that it is a great reuse site.

Alderman Guess stated that the other aspect is that the City does not have much, if anything in that property as far as ownership. He questioned how the City had obtained that.

City Manager Mick Berry advised that the owner gave it to the City. There were some funds involved in some of the demolition, but not much. Most of it was done because he recycled all of the materials. It was a pretty good deal.

Alderman Guess commented that all in all we are in good shape on that Southern Desk property.

Mr. Frazier commented that the only problem that the City would face is that the General Assembly passed a law a few years ago that allowed not only demolition in place, but burial of construction and demolition material in place. That is great for the former or current owner of a site. When you are demolishing a building and you dump the demolition debris, which is not inspected by anyone at the State or Federal level, into a hole. That saves them a lot of money, but the new owner is stuck with getting that stuff out of the hole which is ten times more expensive. We do have quite a bit of site debris on that site. That is something that we will have to work around. Is it an impediment? Yes. Is it a deal killer? Absolutely not.

Alderman Zagaroli asked who the owner was of the Ivey Weaver property.

Mr. Frazier commented that it was Mrs. Whitener. Mrs. Whitener's son-in-law, Byron Yarbrough from Realty Executives had been marketing that property. That property had been on the market for some time. They lowered the price slightly. There had been some interest. It is not something that we would want to take the first offer on, not with all of this work that we have done. Make no small plans, a famous planner once said. With Inspiring Spaces, and Hickory by Choice 2030, the million dollars of Brownfields, and another 40 million dollar bond initiative this is something that the City needs to take a look at and look at the big picture. We shouldn't have to settle.

Alderman Guess stated that in the interim he would like to see the City do something with it, if it wasn't anything other than plant grass there or landscape.

Alderman Lail agreed with Alderman Guess. He appreciated Mr. Henry's comments about activating it or creating something there, some activity or energy. That takes effort, money, programming to the extent that there is opportunity for that.

Mr. Frazier stated that recently they had a grocer make some inquiries about one of the sites.

Alderman Lail commented that he liked the conclusion of the report, if you let the private sector do it you are looking at a much longer timeframe. He asked if they were planning on doing some RFQ's or RFP's.

Mr. Frazier commented that they would like to with permission of Council and the Manager's office.

Alderman Lail commented that Council was not voting on whether to send out for RFQ's or RFP's at this time.

Mr. Frazier advised that this was just accepting the plan.

Alderman Lail was intrigued or puzzled with the residential up against the railroad. That is a relatively high volume rail line.

Mr. Frazier advised eight freights per day. It is a little noisy.

Alderman Lail agreed on the noise. Another constraint for the site, but certainly not a deal killer.

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderman Guess acceptance of the Southwest Hickory Revitalization Strategy Plan for the Southern Desk and Ivey Weaver Cotton Mill. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Wright commented that this is in an area where a lot of people get confused whether they are in Hickory or Longview. As we are making these improvements he doesn't want them to be confused. As a sign guy he always thinks of signs first.

3. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

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

Other Minority VACANT

Other Minority VACANT

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

Brookford (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT Since 6-2006

Catawba County (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)

(9) Positions VACANT

Alderman Guess nominated Joseph R. Getlein Jr. to the International Council.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

At-Large Minority VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

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

Ward 3 VACANT

Ward 4 VACANT David Whitley resigned 9-9-2015

At-Large (Mayor Nominates) VACANT Mylinda Strittmatter resigned 9-8-2015

Alderman Guess nominated Edwin Dennis, Ward 4 Representative, Public Art Commission.

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

Tenant Representative (Mayor Nominates) VACANT

Mayor Wright nominated Velecia Hackett as Tenant Representative, Public Housing Authority.

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

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

Ward 3 VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

Hickory Career Arts Magnet VACANT

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

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

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

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

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

Alderman Seaver thanked the community for supporting the Kiwanis Golf Tournament this past Friday. He advised that several Council members had participated in one form or another. He commented it was one of the best they had in the past ten years. He thanked Hickory and the surrounding community that participated.

Mayor Wright commented approximately 148 participants.

Alderman Seaver commented the biggest one in a while.

Alderman Patton mentioned the Pops Concert Sunday night, Sails on the Square, at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Wright commented that his visitors from Brazil loved the Sails, concert, and the sense of comradery, and the sense of community.

Alderman Guess reminded everyone that it was 100 days until Christmas.

City Manager Mick Berry pointed out that this would be the last meeting that Mandy Pitts would be in attendance in her capacity as an employee of the City of Hickory. She had been attending meetings for 17 years, approximately 400 plus meetings. He commented that she would be missed, and congratulated her and wished her luck.

Mandy Pitts commented that she would be back in February requesting money.

Mayor Wright commented that the City's association with the Tourism Development Authority, he was glad that it was going to be in great hands. He commented that if someone would have asked him who would be the best person to think of for that job, if he had enough time to think about it, and if we could afford to lose her in the City, and no we can't, he probably wouldn't have named her. Other than that he would have named Mandy Pitts.

Mayor Wright commented that the State budget is getting closer to a negotiated settlement. He commented that at the present time the City may not lose any sales tax dollars. That is good, and it has not been without effort. He thanked Yaidee Fox, the City's Registered Lobbyist. He said that Yaidee Fox was the best Registered Lobbyist that anybody has in North Carolina, and she has worked diligently and prodded the rest of them to get involved. She even got Alderman Zagaroli to go down. Alderman Guess went as well. We have also received help from the League of Municipalities, and the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition.

Alderman Lail commented that the Mayor had also been there more than once.

Mayor Wright confirmed that he had been there, and some of it was for some other groups, some for the City of Hickory, and some because Mrs. Fox made him attend.

Alderman Guess commented and golf and grandkids.

Mayor Wright admitted golf and grandkids.

Mayor Wright advised that Council would have a special meeting tomorrow night to discuss the role that the City has taken in the past with respect to Hickory Housing Authority, and whether they think that there is going to be any change in that role as the Housing Authority moves forward along with the rest of HUD Nationally in setting up a different public housing delivery structure. He advised that Council would not be discussing any personnel matters, or issues that are being controlled by the present Board of the Hickory Housing Authority, but Council would talk about the City's role in the past and where they see it going in the future.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

September 15, 2015

Mayor

City Clerk