HICKORY
North Carolina
Life. Well Crafted.

A = Approved, A1 = Approved First Reading, A2 = Approved Second Reading, D = Deferred, NA = No Action, PH = Authorized Public Hearing, AD = Approval Denied

ACTION AGENDA

Hickory City Council
76 North Center Street

May 19, 2026
6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Invocation by Cliff Moone, Retired Clergy

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Special Presentations

NA A. Presentation of a Proclamation for Building Safety Month – May 2026. **(Exhibit IV.A.)**

NA B. Dr. Ric Vandett, Foothills Veterans Helping Veterans to Discuss Mission 22.

Dr. Ric Vandett requested the City to partner with Foothills Veterans Helping Veterans by installing a 22-mph speed limit sign in Hickory as a symbolic reminder to support veterans. The purpose was to raise awareness of veteran suicide, noting that 22 veterans die by suicide each day.

NA C. Assistant Public Works Director Carolina Kone, and Kevin Rogers, City of High Point and NC-APWA Board Representative recognized Assistant City Manager Steve Miller and awarded him with the Samuel Greeley Local Government Service Award.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

A. Ms. Revonda Lynch discussed a mother and son who were renting a place that did not have hot water, and the stove was not working. Their rent had also been raised since they moved in. She requested assistance from the Code Enforcement Division but had not been contacted by anyone.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A A. Regular Meeting of May 5, 2026. **(Exhibit VI.A.)**

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.

A2 A. Budget Revision Number 18. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below will be enacted by vote of City Council. 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.

A A. Approval of the Issuance of a Pyrotechnic Display Permit to PyroStar Entertainment for a Fireworks Display at Hickory Motor Speedway. **(Exhibit VIII.A.)**

Staff request approval to issue a pyrotechnic display permit to PyroStar Entertainment for a fireworks display at the Hickory Motor Speedway for May 9, 2026 (Rain Date, October 17, 2026). Kevin Piercy, General Manager of Hickory Motor Speedway, submitted a request to obtain permission to conduct a public fireworks display. The North Carolina Fire Code requires an operational permit for the use and handling of pyrotechnic special effects material. The Hickory Fire Department Fire & Life Safety Division shall review all required documentation for the event, including Alcohol Tobacco and Firearm's (ATF) License, Operator and Assistant Operators Permits from North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal (NCOSFM), Site Plan, and the one-million-dollar liability insurance policy. The Fire & Life Safety Division will also inspect the pyrotechnics display area before the event to ensure compliance with NCOSFM Guidelines, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) NFPA 1123 Code for Fireworks Display, and NFPA 1126 Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience (if applicable). Staff recommend approval of the above pyrotechnics display, subject to drought conditions and the Fire Marshal's final approval.

A B. Approval of the Purchase of a FINN Mulch Blower in the Amount of $150,324.84 from James River Equipment Utilizing the Sourcewell Contract. **(Exhibit VIII.B.)**

Staff requests Council's approval of the purchase of a FINN mulch blower in the amount of $150,324.84 from James River Equipment. The Parks and Public Properties department regularly installs mulch throughout many different areas of the city. As the amenities and park locations grow, a greater need for efficiency is needed to complete these installations. This piece of equipment is being purchased with funds from the Public Services Parks and Public Properties' Capital Budget. Equipment specifications for this machine have been approved by the Parks and Public Properties and Fleet divisions based on current needs. The equipment will be purchased utilizing Sourcewell contract pricing to ensure the best purchase price. Staff recommend Council's approval of the purchase of a FINN MBH6 mulch blower in the amount of $150,324.84 from James River Equipment.

Notice was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on May 2, 2026.

PH C. Call for a Public Hearing for Consideration of the City Manager's FY2026-2027 Recommended Budget. **(Authorize Public Hearing for June 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).**

A D. Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Thomas-Gordon-Shook (TGS) related to the Kenworth Sidewalk Connector (BL-0165) in the Amount of $324,831.20, Contingent on North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Approval. **(Exhibit VIII.D.)**

Staff requests Council's approval of an Agreement for Professional Services with Thomas-Gordon-Shook (TGS), Consulting Engineers for Preliminary Engineering and Design Services related to the Kenworth Sidewalk Connector – BL-0165 in the amount of $324,831.20, contingent on North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) approval. The City applied for and received Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding approval for $2,800,000 (with 20% City match of a $700,000) from the Greater Hickory MPO and NCDOT for the Kenworth sidewalk connector. The project area contains missing sidewalk segments that are critical for connecting NC 127 and Kiwanis Park to surrounding neighborhoods. These gaps currently prevent safe pedestrian access between the park, nearby neighborhoods, and the broader sidewalk network that links residential areas to other areas of the City. Preliminary Engineering is needed to design the Kenworth sidewalk connector. Staff requests Council's approval of an Agreement for Professional Services with TGS in the amount of $324,831.20, contingent on NCDOT approval.

A E. Approval of an Agreement for Professional Services with Rummel, Klepper, & Kahl, LLP in the Amount of $625,124.72 Related to the Aviation Walk Connector Multi-Use Trail and the Aviation Museum Connector Multi-Use Trail. **(Exhibit VIII.E.)**

Staff requests Council's approval of an Agreement for Professional Services with Rummel, Klepper, & Kahl, LLP for construction, engineering and inspection (CEI) services related to BL-0067 ($312,562.36) – Aviation Walk Connector Multi-Use Trail and BL-0115 ($312,562.36)– Aviation Museum Connector Multi-Use Trail, contingent on North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) concurrence. The City applied for and received State Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding approval for BL-0067 for $1,600,000 (with 20% City match of $400,000) from the Greater Hickory MPO and NCDOT for Aviation Walk Connector Multi-Use Trail. The multi-use trail will connect 17th Street NW Extension with the Aviation Walk. The City applied for and received Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding approval for BL-0115, for $2,400,000 (with 20% City match of $600,000) from the Greater Hickory MPO and NCDOT for the Aviation Museum Connector Multi-Use Trail. The multi-use trail will connect the Aviation Museum to the Aviation Walk Connector and the rest of the Hickory Trail System. Rummel, Klepper, & Kahl, LLP were selected on qualifications-based proposals and was concurred with by NCDOT. Staff recommend Council's approval.

A F. Approval of a Cemetery Deed from the City of Hickory to Mary King, Located in Southside Cemetery, Containing 80 Square Feet, Designated as Lot No. C, Section 6, Spaces 3 and 4. (Prepared by City of Hickory). **(Exhibit VIII.F.)**

A G. Approval to Apply for the Safe Streets for All Grant for Road and Intersection Improvements to Highway 127 from 12th Avenue NE to 16th Avenue NE. **(Exhibit VIII.G.)**

Staff requests Council's approval to apply for the Safe Streets for All Grant for road and intersection improvements to Highway 127 from 12th Avenue NE to 16th Avenue NE. The City of Hickory adopted the Hickory Moving Forward Comprehensive Safety Action Plan on April 16, 2026, a plan funded by a 2023 Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning Grant. The Hickory Moving Forward Safety Action Plan and the City of Hickory's High Injury Network mapping have identified the intersections of Highway 127 at 12th Avenue NE to 16th Avenue NE as high priorities for addressing with updated safety features for all road users. Staff recommend that City Council approve the application for the Safe Streets for All Implementation grant of $2,500,000, with $2,000,000 from the SS4A federal grant and $500,000 from the City of Hickory as a local match, for improvements to Highway 127 from 12th Avenue NE to 16th Avenue NE.

A H. Approval of a Professional Engineering Services Agreement with McGill Associates, P.A. for the Henry Fork Streambank and Sewer Improvements in the Amount of $47,636. **(Exhibit VIII.H.)**

Staff requests Council's approval of a Professional Engineering Services Agreement with McGill Associates, P.A. for the Henry Fork Streambank and Sewer Improvements – Engineering Report/Environmental Information Document, in the amount of $47,636. This project will consist of replacement and relocation of sewer lines, the rehabilitation of manholes, and the restoration and hardening of streambanks to prevent future issues and enhance resilience. The Department of Environmental Quality has received over $253 million in appropriations earmarked specifically for wastewater projects in areas affected by Hurricane Helene. The City of Hickory has qualified for a $5 million dollar loan with 100% principal forgiveness. A request for qualifications was issued for this project in January 2026. Statements of qualifications were received from four interested firms: McGill Associates, KCI Technologies, Timmons Group, and McAdams. Proposals were reviewed by City staff and ranked McGill Associates as the firm best positioned to complete the project based on their firm's experience and design team qualifications. Staff recommends Council's approval of the agreement with McGill Associates, P.A.

A I. Approval of the Citizens' Advisory Committee Recommendation for Assistance through the City of Hickory's Housing Programs. **(Exhibit VIII.I.)**

The mission of the City of Hickory's Community Development Division is to preserve the existing housing base, enhance ownership opportunities for all of its citizens to obtain decent housing, and provide a quality environment conducive to the safe and healthy

growth of its citizenry. The seven-member Citizens' Advisory Committee was formed to provide for citizens' input in the facilitation of the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, as well as any other similar community enhancement funding the City may receive. The following requests were considered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on May 7, 2026:

- *Elissa Collins located at 321 3rd Street SE, Hickory was recommended for approval of up to $25,000 under the City of Hickory's Housing Rehabilitation Program.*
- *Gloria Montgomery, located at 537 6th Avenue SW, Hickory was recommended for approval of up to $15,000 under the City of Hickory's 2026 Urgent Repair Program*

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

A1 J. Budget Revision Number 19. **(Exhibit VIII.J.)**

1. *To appropriate $2,970 in donation revenues towards a lighting project at Hickory City Park.*
2. *To appropriate a total of $36,482 in donation revenues towards various Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism programs.*
3. *To appropriate $16,000 in revenues from the sale of equipment towards equipment upgrades at the Fire Department.*
4. *To appropriate $47,636 in State revolving loan revenues towards a professional services agreement with McGill Associates for the Henry Fork streambank environmental report.*
5. *To appropriate a total of $3,500,000 towards the Kenworth Sidewalk Connector Grant Project for a professional services agreement with Thomas-Gordon-Shook Engineering. $2,800,000 comes from Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds from the NCDOT, and $700,000 comes from General Fund Balance.*
6. *To appropriate a total of $1,805,904 towards the Aviation Walk Connector Grant Project for a professional services agreement with Rummer, Klepper, and Kahl LLP for construction, engineering, and inspections services. $1,790,843 will come from State Transportation Block Grant funds and $361,181 comes from General Fund Balance. This amount will be added to the original appropriation of $194,096 in 2024 for a project total of $2,000,000.*
7. *To appropriate $1,500 in police department donations towards the Cops for Tots program.*

X. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

X. Informational Items

XI. New Business

A. Public Hearings

A 1. Consideration of the Community Development Block Grant 2026 Annual Action Plan. – Presentation by Community Development Specialist, Anna Beth Walker. **(Exhibit XI.A.1.)**

Staff requests Council's consideration of the Community Development Block Grant 2026 Annual Action Plan, for submission as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 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 prepare an Annual Action Plan as an extension of the CDBG Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Funds will be used to develop stronger communities by providing decent housing, creating suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for people of low and moderate incomes. This plan sets priorities among these needs and sets out the action plan for use of available funds on a yearly basis. The City's strategy for

administering 2026 federal funds for community development and housing, the proposed budget line items are as follows: Housing Rehab/Purchase Rehab Program - $175,000; Public Infrastructure and Facility Improvements - $150,000; Small Business Assistance Program - $4,000; Public Service Activities - $59,000; Contingency - $10,188; Program Administration and Fair Housing - $63,000; Total CDBG - $461,188. The Citizens Advisory Committee reviewed the draft plan at their May 7, 2026 meeting and recommended approval. Staff recommend approval of the FY 2026-2027 CDBG Annual Action Plan.

Notice of the public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on April 18, May 7, and May 19, 2026.

B. Departmental Reports

A 1. Update on the EMAS and Retaining Wall Projects at Hickory Regional Airport – Presentation by Airport Director Chad Hunsucker. **(Exhibit XI.A.2.)**

A 2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

CATAWBA COUNTY EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR HICKORY
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Hickory Representative — Jeff Cline Eligible for Reappointment

Mayor Guess Nominated Jeff Cline for reappointment as a Hickory Representative on the Catawba County EDC Board of Directors for Hickory.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) Appointed by City Council
Ward 1(Wood Appoints) (Lynn Sampson Resigned 5-5-2026) — VACANT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Caucasian (Council Appoints) — VACANT
Caucasian (Council Appoints) — VACANT
Caucasian (Council Appoints) (Jennifer Seaman Resigned 5-3-2026) — VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints) — VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints) — VACANT

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
(Term Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms with Unlimited Appointments) (Appointed by City Council)
Burke County Representative (Mayor Appoints with Recommendation from Burke County) — 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

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 6 (Patton Appoints) — VACANT
At-Large (Council Appoints) — VACANT

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

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

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1)(6) to consult with the attorney regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of April 7, 2026 - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)
2. Discussion of a Personnel Matter - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6)

XV. Adjournment

***Hickory City Code Section 2-56. Public Address to Council:**

"When conducting public hearings, considering ordinances, and otherwise considering matters wherein the public has a right to be heard, when it appears that there are persons present desiring to be heard, the Mayor shall require those opposing and favoring the proposed action to identify themselves. Each side of the matter shall be given equal time. Those opposing the proposed action shall be allowed 15 minutes for presentation, followed by 15 minutes for those favoring the action, with the opponents then to have five minutes for rebuttal and the proponents to then have five minutes for surrebuttal. Those persons on either side shall have the right to divide their allotted time among them as they may choose. The Council, by majority vote, may extend the time for each side equally. On matters in which the person desiring to address the Council does not have a legal right to speak, the Council shall determine whether it will hear the person. The refusal to hear a person desiring to speak may be based upon grounds that the subject matter is confidential, that its public discussion would be illegal, that it is a matter not within the jurisdiction of the Council or for any other cause deemed sufficient by the Council. Any person allowed to speak who shall depart from the subject under discussion or who shall make personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who shall become boisterous while addressing the Council shall be declared out of order by the Mayor, or by vote of the Council, and barred from speaking further before the Council unless permission to continue shall be granted by a majority vote of the Council, under such restrictions as the Council may provide."

**The City of Hickory holds all public meetings in accessible rooms.
Special requests for accommodation should be submitted by individuals
with disabilities at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.
Phone Services (hearing impaired) – Call 711 or 1-800-735-2962**