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

June 16, 2026
6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Invocation by Alderman Anthony Freeman

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Special Presentations

Communications and Marketing Manager Dana Kaminske introduced Intern Annabel Fox.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

A. Mr. Bob Post, 1006 12th Avenue NW, Hickory, thanked Council and staff for the sidewalk project along 12th Avenue NW between Old Lenoir Road and 10th Street Boulevard. He asked Council to consider implementing a City committee to focus on improving safe pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the City of Hickory.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A A. Regular Meeting of June 2, 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 21. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**

A2 B. City Manager's FY2026-2027 Recommended Budget. **(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 a Resolution to Cancel the Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting on July 7, 2026. **(Exhibit VIII.A.)**

A B. Approval of a Lease Agreement with Flex Crew LLC, and Appalachian Aero Group, LLC for Hangar, Office, and Shop Space at Hickory Regional Airport. **(Exhibit VIII.B.)**

Staff requests approval of the lease agreement with Flex Crew LLC and Appalachian Aero Group, LLC. The City currently leases hangar, office, and shop space to Flex Crew, LLC and Appalachian Aero Group, LLC for aircraft management and aircraft maintenance. Hangar and office spaces are located on the West Ramp of Hickory Regional Airport. The proposed lease spans a 10-year term, projecting an estimated revenue of $2,772,338. Flex Crew presently oversees ten aircraft based at Hickory Regional Airport. These aircraft significantly contribute to the City's tax revenue. Furthermore, Flex Crew's annual purchase

of over 130,000 gallons of jet fuel is anticipated. This long-term agreement consolidates both LLCs into a single contract, streamlining administrative processes and providing additional hangar space to accommodate more aircraft at Hickory. Staff recommend City Council's approval of the lease agreement with Flex Crew LLC and Appalachian Aero Group, LLC.

The public notice of the lease was advertised in the Hickory Daily Record on April 25, 2026.

A C. Approval of the Request to Name the Hickory City Park Tennis Complex in Honor of Kathy Kim. **(Exhibit VIII.C.)**

Staff requests approval to name the tennis complex at Hickory City Park "The Kathy Kim Tennis Complex". Kathy Kim has been a cornerstone of tennis in the Hickory community for decades. Over the past 50+ years, she has introduced countless players to the game and has been instrumental in promoting tennis throughout the region. Her lifelong dedication to teaching, mentoring, and growing the sport has left a lasting impact on generations of players. In her 80s, Kathy continues to teach five days a week and leads multiple women's leagues. Her passion, energy, and commitment to tennis embody the very best of what community recreation represents. Naming the Hickory City Park Tennis Complex in her honor would be a fitting and lasting tribute to her remarkable contributions and will not only celebrate her enduring legacy but also inspire future generations to enjoy and grow the game of tennis in Hickory. The only cost to the City of Hickory would be the purchase and installation of signage on the building. This proposal has received unanimous support from both the Greater Hickory Tennis Association and the Hickory Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Commission. Staff recommends approval of this request.

A D. Approval to Write-Off Uncollectible Accounts Totaling $136,088.88, in Accordance with North Carolina General Statutes. **(Exhibit VIII.D.)**

Staff requests Council's approval to write off uncollectable accounts totaling $136,088.88. In accordance with North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) a list of accounts to be written off is submitted for Council's approval each year, in conjunction with the annual audit. The NCGS establish that all street assessments, demolitions, nuisance violations, and property taxes that are over ten years old are no longer collectible and should be written off in conjunction with the annual audit. For the current fiscal year 2025-2026, there is $16,237.50 in unpaid property taxes which exceed the ten year limitation. The City of Hickory's Accounting Division requires all other accounts that are over eighteen months in arrears to be written off to comply with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in order to more fairly represent financial assets of the City on the balance sheet. For the current fiscal year, this amount is $119,851.38. Current fiscal year write-offs total $136,088.88, compared to $126,142.07 for FY 2024-2025. Even though these accounts will be written off, the Finance Department will continue to pursue collection of the debts. All eligible accounts over $50 are submitted to the North Carolina Debt Setoff Program for collection. As of May 28, 2026, the City of Hickory has collected $23,367.59 from the garnishment of North Carolina State income tax refunds and North Carolina State lottery winnings during this current fiscal year. Staff recommends approval to write-off uncollectible accounts for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

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

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 June 4, 2026:

- *William Coats, located at 621 9th Avenue Drive SE, Hickory was recommended for approval of up to $15,000 under the City of Hickory's 2026 Urgent Repair Program.*
- *Dorothy Conner, located at 590 30th Avenue Circle NE, Hickory was recommended for approval of up to $15,000 under the City of Hickory's 2026 Urgent Repair Program*
- *Nancy Peterson, located at 611 5th Avenue SW, Hickory was recommended for approval of up to $25,000 under the City of Hickory's Housing Rehabilitation Program.*
- *Phyllis Chester, located at 1526 20th Street Drive NE, Hickory was recommended for approval of up to $25,000 under the City of Hickory's Housing Rehabilitation Program.*

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

A F. Approval of a Correction Cemetery Deed Transfer from William F. Fox and wife, Sally M. Fox to Larry Todd Taylor and wife, Karen Taylor, Located in Oakwood Cemetery, Containing 40 Square Feet, Grave 8, Designated as Plot M, Lot 1, Section 49. (Prepared by Raven M. Barron, Attorney at Law). **(Exhibit VIII.F.)**

A G. Approval of a Cemetery Deed Transfer from Rebecca Wilfong Wood, to Eileen Marie Conway, Located in Oakwood Cemetery, Section 47, Plot A, Cemetery Lot Number 6, Space 1. (Prepared by Jason A. Knight, Attorney at Law). **(Exhibit VIII.G.)**

A H. Approval of a Cemetery Deed Transfer from Rebecca Wilfong Wood, to John Carlos Grubbs, Located in Oakwood Cemetery, Section 47, Plot A, Cemetery Lot Number 6, Space 4. (Prepared by Jason A. Knight, Attorney at Law). **(Exhibit VIII.H.)**

A I. Approval of a Cemetery Deed Transfer from David M. Setzer, and wife, Julie Dale Setzer; Martha Setzer Rice, and husband, Randall W. Rice; David M. Setzer, and Martha Setzer Rice, Successor Co-Trustees of the Jean P. Setzer Revocable Trust, to David Clyde Lail, and wife, Cathleen Cheniae Lail, Located in Oakwood Cemetery, Containing Approximately 160 Square Feet, more or less, Designated at Block B, Lot No. 2, Section 46. (Prepared by L. Oliver, Noble Jr., Robert A. Mullinax, PLLC, Attorney at Law. **(Exhibit VIII.I.)**

A1 J. Budget Revision Number 22. **(Exhibit VIII.J.)**

1. *To appropriate $148,482 in insurance reimbursements towards fire repairs at L.P. Frans stadium.*
2. *To appropriate $17,346 in NCDOT transportation grant revenues towards runway lighting improvements at the Hickory airport.*

X. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

X. Informational Items

XI. New Business

A. Public Hearings

A 1. Consideration of the Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of Property Located at 3440 Eller Drive, Newton, Containing Approximately 5.56-Acres, Identified at PIN 3711-15-52-8710, Owned by Gregory Raniszewski – Presented by Planning Manager Cal Overby. **(Exhibit XI.A.1.)**

Consideration of the voluntary non-contiguous annexation of property located at 3440 Eller Drive, identified as PIN 371115528710, containing approximately 5.56-acres. The applicant has petitioned for the voluntary non-contiguous annexation

to obtain future city services. The property is currently located within the City's extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and zoned R-1 Residential. The applicant has requested, if annexed, the property be rezoned to R-3 Residential. The intention of the annexation and rezoning is to provide sewer service so the property can be subdivided into 12 building lots for single-family homes. The current tax value of the property is $66,100. Tax revenue generated by annexation of the property would be $300.76. Upon completion of the homes previously outlined, tax values and revenues would increase. Upon analysis, staff determined the petition meets the statutory requirements for voluntary non-contiguous annexation, and adequate public services are available. Staff find the petition to be in conformity with applicable statutes and recommend approval of the petition.

Notice of the public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on June 6, 2026.

A1 2. Consideration of Rezoning Petition 26-04 for Property Located at 3440 Eller Drive, Newton, Containing Approximately 5.56-Acres – Presented by Planning Manager Cal Overby. **(Exhibit XI.A.2.)**

Consideration of rezoning petition 26-04. The property owner petitioned for voluntary annexation of 5.56 acres of property located at 3440 Eller Drive, Newton, which is located within Hickory's extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). As part of the voluntary annexation petition the owner has also requested, upon annexation, the property be rezoned from R-1 Residential to R-3 Residential. Permissible uses within the current R-1 Residential district consist mainly of one and two family residences, and manufactured homes, at a maximum density of two dwelling units per acre. The minimum lot size for single-family, two-family, and manufactured homes is 21,780 square feet. Permissible uses within the requested R-3 Residential district consist mainly of single-family, two-family, a multifamily residential, at a maximum density of eight units per acre for single-family and two-family residential and ten units per acre for all other residential development. Minimum lot sizes for single-family and two-family residences are 5,445 square feet, and 21,780 square feet for all other residential uses. The Hickory Regional Planning Commission held a hearing on May 27, 2026 to consider the petition. Upon closing the public hearing, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission acknowledged the petition's consistency with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Based upon its findings, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission voted 7-0 to recommend approval of the petition. Staff concur with the recommendation of the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

Notice of the public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on June 6, and June 13, 2026.

A1 3. Consideration of Text Amendment 26-03 Amending the City of Hickory's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance - Presented by Planning Manager Cal Overby **(Exhibit XI.A.3.)**

Consideration of Text Amendment 26-03 amending the City's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. City staff received notice from NC Emergency Management that a new model Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance has been released. To remain compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the City's existing Ordinance must be updated to include all required new language and regulations. Staff collaborated with NC Emergency Management to prepare an updated draft. The Ordinance is essential for maintaining eligibility for federally subsidized flood insurance and works together with the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to identify hazard areas and enforce development regulations that reduce property damage. The Hickory Regional Planning Commission reviewed the proposed amendments on May 27, 2026, and unanimously recommended Hickory City Council's approval of the proposed amendments.

Notice of the public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on June 6, and June 13, 2026.

B. Departmental Reports

A 1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large (Council Appoints) Bianca Carter Eligible for Reappointment
At-Large (Council Appoints) Jeff Gniadek Not Seeking Reappointment

Mayor Guess nominated Bianca Carter for reappointment as an At-Large Representative on the Business Development Committee.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) Appointed by City Council
At-Large (Council Appoints) Mary Young Eligible for Reappointment
At-Large (Council Appoints) Steven Kiger Eligible for Reappointment
Small Cities Project Area (Council Appoints)
Mark Huggins Not Eligible for Reappointment

Mayor Guess nominated Mary Young and Steven Kiger for reappointment as At-Large Representatives on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) Appointed by City Council
Ward 2 (Williams Appoints) Cliff Moone Not Eligible for Reappointment

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
African American (Council Appoints) Phyllis Michaux Eligible for Reappointment
African American (Council Appoints) Brenda Ramseur Eligible for Reappointment
African American (Council Appoints) Ida Clough Not Seeking Reappointment
Caucasian (Council Appoints) VACANT
Caucasian (Council Appoints) VACANT
Caucasian (Council Appoints) VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT

Alderwoman Dula nominated Phyllis Michaux, and Brenda Ramseur for reappointment as African American Representatives on the Community Relations Council.

Alderwoman Williams nominated Zikiaya Hall for appointment as an African American Representative on the Community Relations Council.

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
(Term Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms with Unlimited Appointments) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) Beth Berry Eligible for Reappointment
Ward 5 (Dula Appoints) Robert Lelewski Eligible for Reappointment
Burke County Representative (Mayor Appoints with Recommendation from Burke County) VACANT

Alderman Seaver nominated Beth Berry for reappointment as Ward 3 Representative on the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

Alderwoman Dula nominated Robert Lelewski for reappointment as Ward 5 Representative on the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 4 (Freeman Appoints) Allison Little Not Seeking Reappointment
Ward 5 (Dula Appoints) Dianne Straley Not Seeking Reappointment
At-Large (1) (Mayor Appoints) Dr. Rebecca Alt Not Seeking Reappointment
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 (Freeman Appoints) Wesley Christopher Eligible for Reappointment
Ward 5 (Dula Appoints) Melissa Alderman Eligible for Reappointment
Ward 6 (Patton Appoints) Pam Walters Eligible for Reappointment
At-Large (Mayor Appoints) (David Wortman Resigned 6-2-2026) VACANT

Alderman Freeman nominated Wesley Christoper for reappointment as Ward 4 Representative on the Public Art Commission.

Alderwoman Dula nominated Melissa Alderman for reappointment as Ward 5 Representative on the Public Art Commission.

Alderwoman Patton nominated Pam Walters for reappointment as Ward 6 representative on the Public Art Commission.

PARKS RECREATION AND SPORTS TOURISM
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) Grover Linebarger Eligible for Reappointment
Ward 4 (Freeman Appoints) Timothy Shuford Eligible for Reappointment
At-Large (1) (Council Appoints) Elaine Seaver Not Eligible for Reappointment
At-Large (4) (Council Appoints) Douglas Locascio Eligible for Reappointment

Alderman Seaver nominated Grover Linebarger for reappointment as Ward 3 Representative on the Parks Recreation and Sports Tourism Board.

Alderman Freeman nominated Timothy Shuford for reappointment as Ward 4 Representative on the Parks Recreation and Sports Tourism Board.

Alderwoman Dula nominated Taylor Lelewski for appointment as At-Large (1) Representative on the Parks Recreation and Sports Tourism Board.

Mayor Guess nominated Douglas Locascio for reappointment as At-Large (4) Representative on the Parks Recreation and Sports Tourism Board.

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) Elaine Seaver Not Eligible for Reappointment
Ward 4 (Freeman Appoints) VACANT
Ward 6 (Patton Appoints) VACANT
At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT
At-Large (Council Appoints) William Nathan Bost Not Eligible for Reappointment

SALT BLOCK FOUNDATION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council
Hickory Representative (Council Appoints) Jill Patton Eligible for Reappointment

Mayor Guess nominated Jill Patton for reappointment as a Hickory Representative on the SALT Block Foundation.

TRIVIUM CORPORATE CENTER BOARD
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Hickory City Council Member (Council Appoints)
Charlotte Williams Eligible for Reappointment

Mayor Guess nominated Charlotte Williams as a Hickory City Council Member Representative on the Trivium Corporate Center Board.

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large Not Including ETJ (Council Appoints)
Taylor Newton Not Seeking Reappointment
At-Large Not Including ETJ (Council Appoints) VACANT

Alderwoman Patton nominated Reanna Rice for appointment as an At-Large Representative on the University City Commission.

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

Youth Council Applicant Review Committee Recommends the Following Appointments:

At-Large	Clayton Crowley	Appointment
At-Large	Adrian Almanza	Appointment
At-Large	Ethan Melon	Appointment
At-Large	Taylor Stahlschmidt	Appointment
At-Large	Emme Oursler	Appointment
At-Large	Adley Drum	Appointment
Hickory High School	Mason Packard	Appointment
Hickory High School	McKinley Hilton	Appointment
Hickory High School	Amy Kilfoyle	Appointment
St. Stephens High School	Ella Barkley	Appointment
St. Stephens High School	Walker Cox	Appointment
At-Large	Noah Roeder	Reappointment
At-Large	Payton Scronce	Reappointment
At-Large	Xavier Springs	Reappointment
At-Large	Yangqing Shao	Reappointment
Challenger High School	Anthem Avangeline	Reappointment
Fred T. Foard High School	Evelyn Cinson	Reappointment
Hickory Career Arts Magnet	Stephanie Flores	Reappointment
Hickory High School	Charlie Bowman	Reappointment
Hickory High School	Cole Caudle	Reappointment
Hickory High School	Harrison Bogle	Reappointment
Hickory High School	Porter Bray	Reappointment
Private School	Evie Hight	Reappointment
Private School	Ella Sprinkle	Reappointment
St. Stephens High School	Bailey Danner	Reappointment
St. Stephens High School	Callie Canella	Reappointment
St. Stephens High School	Carson Fincher	Reappointment
St. Stephens High School	Change Ly	Reappointment
Homeschool		VACANT
St. Stephens High School		VACANT

Mayor Guess nominated all the students listed above for appointment(s)/reappointment(s) on the Youth Council.

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. 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