



**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

October 6, 2026
6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation by Reverend Amanda Sowards, Chief Executive Officer of Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
- NA** A. Presentation of a Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week October 4 – 10, 2026. **(Exhibit IV.A.)**
- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard
- VI. Approval of Minutes
- A** A. Regular Meeting of September 15, 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 5. **(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 Cemetery Deed from the City of Hickory to Carolyn Thompson, Located in Southside Cemetery, Lot No. A, Section 3, Spaces 23 and 24. (Prepared by the City of Hickory). **(Exhibit VIII.A.)**
- A** B. Approval of the Issuance of Pyrotechnic Display Permits to PyroStar Entertainment for Fireworks Displays at Hickory Motor Speedway. **(Exhibit VIII.B.)**

Staff request approval to issue pyrotechnic display permits to PyroStar Entertainment for fireworks displays at Hickory Motor Speedway on October 17, 2026, (no rain date) and October 24, 2026, (rain date - October 25, 2026). Kevin Piercy, General Manager of Hickory Motor Speedway submitted requests to obtain permission to conduct public fireworks displays. 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(s), 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(s) 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 displays, subject to drought conditions and the Fire Marshal's final approval.

- A** **C.** Approval of Amendment Number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Thomas, Gordon and Shook Consulting Engineers in the Amount of \$34,885.21, Contingent on North Carolina Department of Transportation Concurrence. **(Exhibit VIII.C.)**

Staff requests Council's approval of amendment number 2 to the professional services agreement with Thomas, Gordon and Shook (TGS) Consulting Engineers for construction phase services including design modifications and consulting services as directed by the City of Hickory during the construction phase of BL-0115, the Aviation Museum Connector Multi-Use Trail, in the amount of \$34,885.21, contingent upon North Carolina Department of Transportation concurrence (NCDOT). Amendment number 2 will be an extension to TGS's existing contract, adding construction phase services including design modifications and consulting services. Staff recommends Council's approval of amendment number 2 in the amount of \$34,885.21, (\$27,884.17 – Federal / \$6,977.04 Local), contingent upon NCDOT concurrence.

- A** **D.** Approval of a Resolution for the Tentative Award to State Utility Contractors Inc. for the NW Sewer Extension Project in the Amount of \$3,591,146. **(Exhibit VIII.D.)**

Staff requests approval of a Resolution for the tentative award to State Utility Contractors Inc. for the NW Sewer Extension Project in the amount of \$3,591,146. The project was advertised on August 4, 2026 and 6 bids were received on September 15, 2026. The lowest bid was from State Utility Contractors, Inc. The award is contingent on NCDEQ issuing an authorization to award. Staff recommends Council's approval of a Resolution of tentative award to State Utility Contractors Inc. for the NW Sewer Extension Project in the amount of \$3,591,146.

- A** **E.** Acceptance of the Bid and Award the Contract to Eagle-Wood, Inc. in the Amount of \$1,226,702 for Sandy Pines Park Phase One. **(Exhibit VIII.E.)**

Staff requests acceptance of the bid and award the contract to Eagle-Wood, Inc. in the amount of \$1,226,702 for Sandy Pines Park Phase One. The selected consulting firm Benesch has completed parcel surveying, design plans, and required permitting for the project. Planned improvements include a parking lot, sidewalks/trails, an accessible restroom, play structures and cornhole amenities, and associated site development. Four valid bids were received, and the lowest responsive bidder was determined to be Eagle-Wood, Inc. Staff recommend Council's acceptance of the bid and award the contract to Eagle-Wood, Inc. in the amount of \$1,226,702.

- A** **F.** Approval of a Resolution Accepting the Donation of Equipment for the Hickory Public Library. **(Exhibit VIII.F.)**

Staff requests Council's approval of a Resolution authorizing the Hickory Public Library to accept donations of equipment to benefit library services. The library does not currently have procedures in place that provide guidance in accepting equipment from individuals or businesses. The ability to accept appropriate donations of equipment for use at the Hickory Public Library will further the library's mission, reduce public expenditures, and enhance the Library's facilities and services. Staff recommend approval of the Resolution accepting the donation of equipment to benefit library services.

- A1** **G.** Budget Revision Number 6. **(Exhibit VIII.G.)**

1. *To appropriate a total of \$39,378 in youth sports sponsorship and activities revenue to be used for Parks and Recreation programming.*
2. *To appropriate a total of \$27,645 in insurance reimbursements towards the replacement of a damaged vehicle at the Hickory Police Department.*

3. *To appropriate a total of \$158,483 in insurance reimbursements from FY26 and FY27 towards completing repairs at L.P. Frans Stadium. \$77,067 will come from FY26 insurance funds that fell to fund balance, \$53,405 will come from reimbursements from ServPro and Travelers, and in the current year \$28,011 will come from the Insurance fund property claims account.*
4. *To appropriate a total of \$213,789 from General Fund Balance to be used for construction services at Sandy Pines Park.*
5. *To appropriate \$40,000 in prior year donations to HPD from General Fund Balance to replace gym equipment at the Hickory Police Department.*

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – Item “F”

Item “F” was removed from the consent agenda, discussed, and approved by City Council.

X. Informational Items

XI. New Business

A. Public Hearings

- A1**
1. Consideration of Rezoning Petition Number 26-08 for City-Owned Property located in Burke County at 964 and 970 Airport Rhodhiss Road and an Unaddressed parcel to the East, total 24.39 Acres, from Burke County R-3 Residential to City of Hickory Planned Development – Presented by Planning Manager Cal Overby. **(Exhibit XI.A.1.)**

The City of Hickory has petitioned for the rezoning of City-owned properties located at 964 and 970 Airport Rhodhiss Road and an unaddressed parcel to the east, which total 24.39 area in total size. The request is to rezone the properties from Burke County R-3 Residential to City of Hickory Planned Development (PD). The petition originates as part of the recent annexation of the subject properties. The City's intention is to use the properties for the location of the future Catawba River Environmental Education Center (CREEC). This facility will be open to the public for educational and recreational purposes. The Hickory Regional Planning Commission held a hearing on September 23, 2026 to consider the petition. There were no speakers during the hearing. Upon closing the public hearing, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission found the petition to be reasonable, and unanimously recommended City Council's approval.

Notice of the public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on September 26, and October 3, 2026.

B. Departmental Reports

- A**
1. Approval of a Resolution in Support of the Catawba-Wateree River Basin Integrated Water Resources Plan as Developed by the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group – Presented by Public Utilities Director, Will Hamblin. **(Exhibit XI.B.1.)**
- NA**
2. Planning Director Brian Frazier to Introduce Kimley-Horn regarding Hickory by Choice 2050 and the Land Development Code Update, with the Opportunity for Questions from City Council.
- NA**
3. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) Appointed by City Council
Small Cities Project Area (Council Appoints)

VACANT

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) Appointed by City Council
Ward 2 (Williams Appoints)

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)

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)

Ward 4 (Freeman Appoints)

VACANT

At-Large (1) (Mayor Appoints)

VACANT

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 4 (Freeman Appoints)

VACANT

Ward 6 (Patton Appoints)

VACANT

At-Large (Council Appoints)

VACANT

At-Large (Council Appoints)

VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

Homeschool

VACANT

St. Stephens High School

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)(3)(4) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

1. *Approval of Closed Session Minutes of July 21, 2026 - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)*
2. *Discussion of Potential Economic Development - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(4)*
3. *Consult with Attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege - NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3)*

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
