A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Hank Guess
Tony Wood
Charlotte C. Williams
David L. Williams
Danny Seaver
Aldermen
David P. Zagaroli
Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Warren Wood, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.

II. Invocation by Reverend Kathy Wood, Executive Director Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Special Presentations

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

Mayor Guess advised that no one was present to be heard.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of May 5, 2020

Alderman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Williams that the Minutes of May 5, 2020 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

A. Budget Revision Number 23. (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 Wood requested Item "D" be removed from the Consent Agenda. Alderman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Williams approval of the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item "D". The motion carried unanimously.

A. Approved the Submission of a Grant Application to the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in the Amount of $350,000 to Assist in Funding Phase 1-A Development of Bruce Meisner Park.

Approval of the submission of a grant application to the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in the Amount of $350,000 to assist in funding Phase 1-A development of Bruce Meisner Park. The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund was established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1994 to fund improvements to the State’s park system, to provide matching grants to local governments for parks and recreation projects, and to increase public access to the State’s beaches. Grant funds are derived from revenues received from the excise tax that is placed on real estate property transfers in North Carolina, with 65 percent allocated to State parks, 35 percent to local governments, and 5 percent for coastal beach access improvements. Local governments can apply for up to a maximum request of $500,000. The grant program is administered by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. Grant applications are due by June 1, 2020 (which is one month later because of COVID-19) with the notification of grant awards occurring in late fall of 2020. If a grant is awarded, there is a three-year timeframe in which to complete the project. The $350,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant application request would assist in Phase 1-A park development of an initial, approximate ten-acre parcel. The total cost of Phase I-A is approximately $1,450,000; included in the project costs are 10 percent contingency dollars, 15 percent overhead/profit and general conditions dollars, and a 9 percent inflation factor (3 percent over 3 years). The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant, if awarded, would reduce the City of Hickory’s potential local match to $1,100,000. Since the Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Commission is not currently meeting they were notified by email of staff’s intention to pursue a grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. Benesch has agreed to prepare and submit the application for $3,500. Staff
B. Approved the Issuance of a Pyrotechnic Display Permit to Pyro Shows for Hickory Crawdads.

Douglas Locascio, General Manager of the Hickory Crawdads, has submitted a request to obtain permission to conduct a public fireworks display for Hickory High School graduates on Friday, May 29, 2020, (rain date Saturday, May 30, 2020). 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 recommends approval of the pyrotechnics display.

C. Approved Amending the Community Development Citizen Participation Plan with Expedited Procedures.

As part of the annual Community Development process, the City of Hickory provides for and encourages citizen participation in the development and implementation of the Consolidated Plan and any subsequent amendments, Action Plans and performance reports. Particular emphasis is placed on participation by persons of low and moderate income who are residents of low and moderate income neighborhoods and/or slum and blighted areas, and residents of public housing. The Citizen Participation Plan currently requires a 30-day comment period prior to the submission of the Consolidated Plan and subsequent Annual Action Plans. Comments are considered and incorporated in the final approved plans submitted to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In response to the current public health crisis HUD has offered waivers to reduce the length of the public comment period as well as removing the requirement for public hearings specifically regarding the additional CARES Act Community Development Block Grant allocation the City will receive. The additional allocation will trigger a substantial amendment to the City’s 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan. As required by HUD, the City of Hickory has received waivers to reduce the length of the comment period from 30 days to five days to be run concurrently with a five day period of public notice. Staff wishes to amend this Citizen Participation Plan to include language appropriate for this and future emergency situations. If approved, the changes to the Citizen Participation Plan will allow a more concise timeframe for adoption of the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan substantial amendment and subsequent receipt of the additional CARES Act CDBG Allocation to be used to prevent, prepare for or respond to the Coronavirus. Staff recommends that City Council approve the amended Citizen Participation plan to include expedited procedures to be used in emergency situations as allowable by U.S. Housing and Urban Development.

D. Removed from Consent Agenda and Discussed and Approved Under “Item IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda” an Agreement with Catawba Valley Engineering and Testing in the Amount of $95,000 for Construction Services Related to the Trivium Corporate Center Southern Site Development Grading and Road Development.

Staff requests Council’s approval of a construction materials testing and special inspections proposal with Catawba Valley Engineering and Testing in the amount of $95,000 for construction services related to the Trivium Corporate Center southern site development grading and road development. The City of Hickory identified an area in southeast Hickory that is large enough and conducive to development of a business park, convenient to major roadways and adjacent to significant utility infrastructure. The City of Hickory, Catawba County and Economic Development Corporation (EDC) have worked on development of this area as a business park for several years and the City and County have agreed to split the cost of development. Trivium Corporate Center is the business park recognized in the Bond projects to receive money from bond proceeds for development. The City, County and EDC have worked on development of the project to a condition that is receptive to marketing. Trivium Corporate Center southern site development improvements have been designed by CEC, Inc. and awarded to Neill Grading and Construction, Inc. for construction. As a component of construction, materials testing and special inspections are required to be performed by the North Carolina Building Code. Catawba Valley Engineering and Testing is a local engineering material testing firm that has been used for all Trivium Corporate Center projects to this point and are the most knowledgeable of soil conditions and required measures to render this site successful. This agreement will be funded from Bond proceeds and will be split equally between the City and County per a joint funding agreement. Staff recommends Council approval of a construction materials testing and special inspections proposal with Catawba Valley
Engineering and Testing in the amount of $95,000 for construction services related to the Trivium Corporate Center southern site development grading and road development.

E. Accepted the Bids and Awarded the Contract to M&M Construction of Banner Elk, Inc. in the Amount of $518,837.50 for Construction of the Westmont Area Water System Improvements.

Staff requests Council’s acceptance of the bids and award of a contract for the construction of the Westmont area water system improvements to M&M Construction of Banner Elk, Inc., in the amount of $518,837.50. Hickory Public Utilities Department has an extensive water distribution system containing multiple storage tanks serving other municipal, county, and bulk users. The water distribution system is comprised of 950 miles of 2 inch through 36 inch diameter water mains, 12 storage tanks, and 7 booster pump stations. The City of Hickory also maintains metering stations located in Conover, Maiden, Icard, and Mooresville. The City of Hickory Public Utilities Department annually identifies infrastructure for repair and/or replacement in the system. This area has been identified and is placed in the capital improvement plan for replacement. The project is located in the Westmont Neighborhood between Main Avenue NW and 2nd Avenue NW. This system is made up of galvanized and cast-iron pipe materials currently. Bids were advertised and received on April 28, 2020. Bids from contractors were submitted as follows: M&M Construction of Banner Elk, Inc. - $518,837.50; Hickory Sand Co., Inc. - $592,863; NHM Constructors, LLC - $692,996.50; and Neill Grading and Construction - $988,005. The Engineer and Staff have reviewed the bids received and have determined M&M Construction of Banner Elk, Inc. to be the lowest responsible bidder. This project will be funded with Fund Balance proceeds from the Public Utilities Division. Staff recommends Council’s acceptance of the bids and award of a contract for the construction of the Westmont area water system improvements to M&M Construction of Banner Elk, Inc., in the amount of $518,837.50.

F. Approved the Outdoor Lighting Agreement with Duke Energy in the Amount of $337,755.86 for Streetlights and Poles Necessary for the City Walk Bond Project.

Staff requests Council’s acceptance and approval of the Outdoor Lighting Agreement with Duke Energy in the amount of $337,755.86 for the addition of 145 street lights and poles necessary for construction of the City Walk bond project. The City Walk bond project is a component of the City of Hickory bond program that is being designed for construction. This project involves the complete renovation of Main Avenue from 9th Street NW east to 7th Avenue NE at Lenior-Rhyne University including two bridge elements and several pocket parks. The Union Square area portion of this project was previously completed. Duke Energy is the power provider in this area and the City is contracting with them to install and maintain 145 additional street lights in this project area. Staff requested the Outdoor Lighting Agreement with Duke Energy for the construction necessary to accommodate the City Walk bond project including the length of Main Ave from 9th Street NW east to 7th Avenue NE and the agreement addresses the number and costs of this requested construction. Duke Energy relocation is estimated to cost $337,755.86 per the agreement. This estimate was prepared by Duke Energy and recognizes all expenses they anticipate for the necessary construction. This project is budgeted as a component of the City Walk project and will be funded from bond sale proceeds. Staff recommends Council’s acceptance and approval of the Outdoor Lighting Agreement with Duke Energy in the amount of $337,755.86 for the addition of 145 streetlights and poles necessary for construction of the City Walk bond project.

G. Approved on First Reading the Traffic Ordinance Amendment to Reduce the Posted Speed Limit Along 9th Street NW and to Implement an All-Way Stop at the Intersection of 9th Street NW and 6th Avenue Drive NW and 7th Avenue NW.

City Council implemented a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program that enables citizens to request measures to improve traffic safety in the area where they own property. Citizens are required to submit an application to request measures and provide a reason for the request. Then, the City performs analysis to determine what, if any, measures are warranted. Citizens requesting traffic calming measures are required to complete and submit a petition with 75 percent of properties in favor of implementation for the request to move forward. Traffic Division staff received the completed petition from property owners along 9th Street NW from 4th Avenue Drive NW to 6th Avenue NW, 6th Avenue Drive NW from 10th Street Place NW to 6th Avenue NW, and 7th Avenue NW from 9th Street NW to 8th Street Drive NW with regards to the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program and have found the property owners to be in compliance with the guidelines. The petition does qualify for a speed limit reduction and an all-way stop on the roadways listed. Fifty-nine properties were included in the petition and fifty-one properties signed in favor of implementation. This represents 86 percent approval, which meets the requirement. Staff recommends Council’s acceptance and approval of a Traffic Ordinance amendment to reduce the posted speed limit along 9th Street NW from 4th Avenue Drive NW to 6th Avenue NW, 6th Avenue Drive

3
NW from 10th Street Place NW to 6th Avenue NW, and 7th Avenue NW from 9th Street NW to 8th Street Drive NW from 35 mph to 25 mph and implement an all-way stop at the intersection of 9th Street NW and 6th Avenue Drive NW/7th Avenue NW.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-22
AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL
AMENDING THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AUTHORIZED IN THE
HICKORY CODE OF ORDINANCES – ARTICLE III, SECTION 18-81

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

Amend the Traffic Ordinance by reducing the speed limit along 9th Street NW from 4th Avenue Drive NW to 6th Avenue NW, 6th Avenue Drive NW from 10th Street Place NW to 6th Avenue NW, and 7th Avenue NW from 9th Street NW to 8th Street Drive NW to 25 mph.

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

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

H. Accepted the Bids and Approved the Contract with James E. Harris Construction Co., Inc. in the Amount of $596,800 for the Replacement of Water Filtration Media and Nozzles in Ten Filters at the Water Treatment Facility.

Staff requests Council’s acceptance of the bids and approval of the contract from James E. Harris Construction Co., Inc. for the replacement of water filtration media and nozzles in ten filters at the water treatment facility in the amount of $596,800. In February of 2019, Council approved an evaluation of the water filters at the water treatment facility. This study was completed by Withers-Ravenel Engineers in November 2019. Based on the study findings and the engineer’s recommendation, it has been determined that the filters be rehabilitated by replacing filter components such as media and nozzles. This is the first major upgrade of the treatment filters since 1993. The Public Utilities Division systematically evaluates and replaces/updates components of the treatment process at all treatment facilities to ensure continued reliability of facilities. The Public Utilities Department realizes that components, such as filters, have a usable life expectancy of roughly 20 years. The filter units in use at the water treatment facility are over 25 years old and have been maintained through periodic addition of filter media such as anthracite coal twice during that time span. It is the recommendation of our engineers that the filter media and bed nozzles be replaced in order to ensure their continued performance and an adequate supply of treated drinking water is always available for citizens. This capital project is in the water treatment facilities current year budget. Bids were solicited on May 8th, 2020 and responses were received from James E. Harris Construction Co., Inc. - $596,800; and Kemp Inc. - $634,500. Staff has reviewed the bids received and has determined that James E. Harris Construction Co., Inc. is the lowest responsive bidder. This project will be funded from the Capital Budget for Public Utilities for FY 19-20. Staff recommends Council’s acceptance of the bid and approval of the contract from James E. Harris Construction Co., Inc. for the replacement of water filtration media and nozzles in ten filters at the water treatment facility in the amount of $596,800.

I. Called for Public Hearing for Consideration of the City Manager’s FY2020-2021 Recommended Budget. (Authorized Public Hearing for June 2, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

J. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 24.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-22
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 24

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 159.15 and 159.13.2, the following revision be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and for the duration of the Project Ordinances noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2019-20 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and Recreation</td>
<td>9,645</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic and Community Development</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>501,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Financing Uses</td>
<td>24,875</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>34,520</td>
<td>524,875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4
To provide funding for the above, the General Fund revenues will be amended as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Taxes</td>
<td>-500,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and Services</td>
<td>9,645</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,645</strong></td>
<td><strong>500,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 2. To amend the Water and Sewer Fund within the FY 2019-20 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection</td>
<td>518,838</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>518,838</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To provide funding for the above, the Water and Sewer revenues will be amended as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Financing Sources</td>
<td>518,838</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>518,838</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 3. To amend the Trivium Corporate Center Capital Project Ordinance (#B18001), the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Capital Projects</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>85,000</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To provide funding for the above, the Project revenues will be amended as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues</td>
<td>42,500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Financing Sources</td>
<td>42,500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>85,000</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 4. To establish the “Riding the Rails” Building Reuse Grant Project Ordinance (#G5010I) the expenditures shall be established as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic and Community Development</td>
<td>78,750</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>78,750</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To provide funding for the above, the Project revenues will be established as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Revenues</td>
<td>1,875</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Financing Sources</td>
<td>1,875</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>78,750</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 5. To amend the Transportation Fund within the FY 2019-20 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,000</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To provide funding for the above, the Transportation revenues will be amended as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNCTIONAL AREA</th>
<th>INCREASE</th>
<th>DECREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Financing Sources</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,000</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 6. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda - Item “D”

City Manager Warren Wood advised he and Alderman Wood had spoken about Item “D” prior to the meeting. There was a discrepancy in the write-up on the agenda which said the contract was for $85,000, and the contract itself said it was for $95,000. It was actually for $95,000. There was
a $10,000 after testing fee that may or may not happen but it was a part of the contract. He clarified the correct amount was $95,000.

Mayor Guess confirmed that was the only correction. He asked for any further questions.

Alderman Seaver asked the reason for the change.

City Manager Warren Wood explained there was a potential $10,000 fee for testing after the work was done and that wasn't picked up in the write-up, but it was in the contract, it was $95,000 maximum.

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of Item “D” with the noted change. The motion carried unanimously.

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

B. Departmental Reports

1. Accepted the Donation from CommScope in the Amount of $275,000 in Physical Equipment and Cabling to Install Wi-Fi on Union Square and Approved Consideration of a Naming Request for the Newly Added Stage on Union Square. – Presentation by Executive Assistant Manager Yaidee Fox.

Staff requests acceptance of the donation from CommScope in the amount of $275,000 in physical equipment and cabling to the City to install Wi-Fi on Union Square in downtown Hickory. Due to the sizable donation and impact to the community, Staff requests Council’s consideration of the naming request for the newly added multipurpose stage on Union Square. The City’s Naming Policy stipulates naming proposals can originate in one of three ways: 1. City Council, or an advisory board appointed by City Council, proposes a name for a building, park, street, open space or, an area within a building, park or public open space. 2. City Council accepts a donation of land, money, materials and/or services by an individual or organization where the donor has stipulated a naming will occur to recognize the contribution. 3. An application is received from a city citizen or group of city citizens who wish to recommend the naming of a park, building, public open space, street or a particular area within a facility. CommScope is providing equipment (in the form of a donation to the City of Hickory). Staff has been working with CommScope on the details of the services to be provided to the Union Square area of downtown Hickory. City staff has determined that by accepting the $275,000 in physical equipment and cabling for Wi-Fi can be installed on Union Square. Naming proposals that are categorized under number two are forwarded directly to City Council for consideration and approval. City staff has determined that the Union Square Wi-Fi equipment donation naming request would fall under number two. Staff recommended City Council’s acceptance of the $275,000 physical equipment and cabling donation and consideration of CommScope’s public facility naming request.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Executive Assistant Manager Yaidee Fox to the podium to discuss acceptance of the $275,000 donation from CommScope for Wi-Fi equipment and installation on Union Square. He noted that Mr. Burk Wyatt from CommScope was present as well.

Executive Assistant Manager Yaidee Fox presented a PowerPoint presentation. She advised Council that it had been the City’s goal to promote broadband accessibility along the Hickory Trail corridor, as well as encouraging private partnerships to assist towards the enhancements in the projects and the maintenance of the trails. She was pleased to bring some exciting news about the downtown area to Council. With Council’s consideration, visitors to the Union Square in downtown Hickory would soon be able to enjoy free Wi-Fi. She asked Council for their consideration of accepting the generous donation of $275,000 worth of product donation from the Hickory based global communications network provider CommScope. She referred to the PowerPoint and advised it was a snapshot of the equipment that they were going to be donating. It would provide high density Wi-Fi connection to outdoor public venues and allow a volume of wireless data to be able to be transmitted, along with over 24,600 feet of cable to be donated for this project. This was going to be the top of the line, the fastest, most current technology that they have available at this moment. Staff was very excited. She reiterated that this was just a few examples of some of the things that was included in the $275,000. She advised the coverage area that she was talking about. She referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out Union Square, part of the
Lowes Food City Park, 2nd and 3rd. She pointed out the area that would have access to the Wi-Fi. One of the other items for Council’s consideration was with the donation, there was a naming request for the new stage that the City had prepared, the multipurpose structure that was located on the other end of Union Square. She showed a picture of the structure. The request was for naming the multipurpose stage The CommScope Stage. Staff recommended the acceptance of the $275,000 physical equipment of the cabling donation, as well as consideration of CommScope’s naming request for The CommScope Stage.

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton acceptance of the $275,000 physical equipment and cabling donation and approval of CommScope’s public facility naming request for the stage. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Assistant Manager Yaidee Fox thanked Council for their consideration on those requests. The new Wi-Fi equipment would be installed in the next month, with service to be expected this summer. They anticipated that being actually as early as July. It was very exciting news forthcoming. The new stage sign would be installed and dedicated this summer. She introduced Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary at CommScope Mr. Burk Wyatt.

Mr. Burk Wyatt commented that nothing pleased them more than to be able to contribute to this community. This was right in their sweet spot of what their company does. Hopefully it was going to help the community be connected and communicate. That was the way the younger generation does it. He applauded Council for what they were doing with the Bond Commission effort and the City Walk and Riverwalk and everything that was connected to it. This fit right altogether in a great puzzle and a phase project that was going to keep growing. Hopefully, this would help other people see that they can be a part of a public private partnership and we’ll keep growing, increasing and improving our community. He thanked Council for all they do.

City Council Members thanked Mr. Wyatt.

Mayor Guess commented that Mr. Wyatt served as Chairman on the Bond Commission and he thanked him for all that he does for the community. He commented it was certainly above and beyond and Council appreciated it. Everybody would have use of it and it was something that was really going to enhance the downtown area and was going to bring folks to the downtown area. He couldn’t thank CommScope enough for the donation and he appreciated not just this donation, but all that CommScope had done for the City of Hickory throughout the years.

Mr. Wyatt advised that it was founded here forty some years ago by Mr. Frank Drendel and he was real supportive of this as was their current CEO Eddie Edwards. They wished they could have been here tonight, but we have COVID-19 issues. They would have another celebration at some other point in time. He thanked Council.

Council Members thanked Mr. Wyatt.

Mayor Guess commented that was certainly great news.

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large (Outside City but within HRPA) (Council Appoints) VACANT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT
Differently-Abled and is African-American or Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments) (Appointed by City Council)
Brookford (Mayor Appoints with Recommendation from Brookford) VACANT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Ward 4 (Alderman Williams Appoints)  
(Randall Williams No Longer Eligible to Serve)  
VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION  
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Ward 4 (Alderman Williams Appoints)  
(Randall Williams No Longer Eligible to Serve)  
VACANT

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)  
Position 3 (Mayor Appoints) (Matthew Fallaw Resigned 11-6-19)  
VACANT

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)  
Position 3 (Mayor Appoints) (Matthew Fallaw Resigned 11-6-19)  
VACANT

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

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMISSION  
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
At-Large (not including ETJ) (Council Appoints)  
(Matthew Maulding Resigned 11-9-2019)  
VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL  
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Hickory Career Arts Magnet  
At-Large  
VACANT

CATAWBA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR HICKORY  
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms with Unlimited Appointments)  
(Appointed by City Council)  
Position Two  
Jeff Cline Eligible for Reappointment  

Mayor Guess nominated Jeff Cline for Reappointment to the Catawba County Economic Development Board of Directors for Hickory.  

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the above nomination. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 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

Mayor Guess mentioned that Ray Barger, who had worked for the City of Hickory for 30 years and was the superintendent of the sanitation department for the City of Hickory and also was a veteran from the US Army and served in the Korean War, had passed away at 87 years old from cancer this week. He asked everyone to remember his wife, Dolly and daughter, Robin. His funeral would be a private service this week. Mayor Guess reminded everyone that Memorial Day was Monday, where we remember all of the veterans, both men and women that had died while serving our Country in the military. Memorial Day this year would be done differently than how it had been done in the past.

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1)(4) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that Council go into closed session to consult with the attorneys to discuss the items below. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of April 21, 2020 - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)
2. Discussion of Potential Economic Development - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(4)

Council convened to closed session at approximately 7:14 p.m.

Council reconvened to open session at approximately 7:26 p.m.

No action was taken upon return to open session.
XV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

_______________________________________
Mayor

_______________________________________
City Clerk