

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

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

A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Warren Wood, Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley, Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, Deputy City Clerk Crystal B. Mundy and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Reverend Sandi Hood, Peace United Church of Christ Carolina Caring
- III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Guess recognized a Boy Scout in attendance and asked him to introduce himself.

Boy Scout Brydon Dickens introduced himself and advised he was from Troop 234, First Methodist Church, and he was with his mother. He was working on his citizen's badge.

- IV. Special Presentations
- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard
- VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting of March 2, 2021

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2021 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Special Meeting of March 9, 2021

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Special Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2021 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.

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

- A. Budget Revision Number 16. (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.

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approved a Community Appearance Grant in the Amount of \$5,064 for Non-Residential Property Owned by David K. Blanton Located at 819 Old Lenoir Road NW.

The Community Appearance Commission recommends City Council's approval of a Community Appearance Grant for non-residential property owned by David K. Blanton located at 819 Old Lenoir Road NW in the amount of \$5,064. City Council created the Community Appearance Grant program to provide economic incentives for property owners to improve the general appearance of properties located within the City's 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 \$7,500. The grant proposal involves improvements to the building which include painting and cleaning of the building, new landscaping, and a new awning. The applicant also intends to do additional site work to address drainage. The property is located within the City's defined Urban Revitalization Area and is eligible for the consideration of a Community Appearance Grant. The applicant has provided two estimates for the work listed above, with the exception of the awning. There was difficulty locating a second local vendor for the proposed awning. The lowest of the bids totals \$10,128, which qualifies the request for a \$5,064 grant. The subject property's current tax value is assessed at \$260,700. The requested grant amounts to 1.9 percent of the property's tax value. The Commission reviewed the application and after compiling the Commission's

comments, staff determined the Commission scored the application in the high category of the grant program's scoring criteria. Given the Commission's score of the application, staff recommends funding of the grant application in the amount of \$5,064.

- B. Called for a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of Property Owned by Larry and Cindy Williams, Containing Approximately 4.573 acres of Property (which includes street right-of-way), Located at 4763 1st Street NW, Hickory, Identified as PIN 3715-15-53-4888 and PIN #5715-15-53-2719. (Authorized Public Hearing for April 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

RESOLUTION NO. 21-08
RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED
UNDER G.S. 160A-31 AND/OR 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition from Larry and Cindy Williams requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on March 2, 2021 by the City Council of the City of Hickory; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-31 and G.S. 160A-58.1 provide that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY:

THAT, the Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above-described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the City Council the result of her investigation.

CERTIFICATE OF SUFFICIENCY

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA:

I, Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk, do hereby certify that I have investigated the petition attached hereto and have found as a fact that said petition is signed by all owners of real property lying in the area described therein, in accordance with G.S. 160A-31 and/or G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended:

Property of Larry and Cindy Williams, containing 4.573 acres more or less, located at 4763 1st Street NW, Hickory, and identified as PIN 3715-5-53-4888 and PIN 3715-15-53-2719.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 2nd day of March 2021.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION 21-09
RESOLUTION FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION OF ANNEXATION,
PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31 OR G.S. 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of the area described herein has been received; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory has, by Resolution, directed the Clerk to investigate the sufficiency thereof; and

WHEREAS, certification by the Clerk as to the sufficiency of said petition has been made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY:

Section 1: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 6, 2021 in the Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina.

Section 2: The area proposed for annexation is described as follows:

Property of Larry and Cindy Williams, containing 4.573 acres more or less, located at 4763 1st Street SW, Hickory and identified as PIN 3715-15-53-4888 and PIN 3715-15-53-2719.

Section 3: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in The Hickory Daily Record, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-10

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE INTENT TO ANNEX INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY LARRY AND CINDY WILLIAMS AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SAME

WHEREAS, Larry and Cindy Williams are the owners of certain real property as described herein, which property contains 4.573 acres more or less, located at 4763 1st Street NW, Hickory and identified as PIN 3715-15-53-4888 and PIN 3715-15-53-2719; and

WHEREAS, such property is currently located in the City's extra-territorial jurisdictional (ETJ); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of the City of Hickory to annex such property into the corporate limits of the City of Hickory as authorized by N.C.G.S. Section 160A-31; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Hickory City Council, sitting in open session this 16th day of March, 2021, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body of said Council, duly called and posted in accordance with the statutes of the State of North Carolina, as follows:

Section 1: That the Hickory City Council does determine that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of the City of Hickory to annex the property described hereinafter into the corporate limits of the City of Hickory.

Section 2: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 6, 2021 in the Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina.

Section 3: The same being that property reflected on a maps entitled Larry Williams Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 1, City Boundary subject property outlined in red; Larry Williams Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 2, Zoning subject property outlined in red; and Larry Williams Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 3, Aerial Photography subject property outlined in red.

Section 4: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in The Hickory Daily Record, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

C. 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 March 4, 2021. The following applicants are recommended for approval for assistance under the City of Hickory's 2020 Urgent Repair Program. The program provides qualified low-income citizens with assistance for emergency-related repairs not to exceed \$10,000.

- Linda Greene, 829 Main Avenue NE, Hickory, Up-to \$10,000
- Christina Griffin, 527 6th Avenue SW, Hickory, Up-to \$10,000
- Darryll Wilson, 3124 5th Street Place NE, Hickory, Up-to \$10,000

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

D. Approved an Amendment to the Vacant Building Performance Agreement with Jacomine Investments, LLC.

Jacomine Investments, LLC was approved for a Vacant Building Revitalization funding in the amount of \$20,000 to renovate the vacant former Emporium Building at 16 2nd Street NW, in May 2019. The owner is currently renovating the building for retail space, craft

entrepreneurs, and food service or a coffee shop. The owner is investing at least \$165,000 in real property improvements to rehabilitate the building, which made the project eligible for a \$20,000 forgivable loan. The owner has completed the HVAC repairs. The bathroom repairs are underway. Additional improvements will include improvements to the outdoor façade that will harken back to the building’s time as the former Woolworth’s store. These improvements will make the building attractive, usable, and marketable to potential tenants. Due to delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing downtown construction, Jacomine Investments has requested a 365-day extension to complete the improvements and occupy the building. The Business Development Committee reviewed the extension request and recommends approval. The revised deadline for completion of the improvements and occupancy of the building will be May 20,2022. Staff recommends that City Council approve the Vacant Building Performance Agreement Amendment with Jacomine Investments, LLC.

- E. Approved a Cemetery Deed Transfer from Lori Gruenhut Voss, unmarried, to Kevin Alan Plant, married, in Oakwood Cemetery, Section 55, Plot M. Lot 6, Space 2, containing 40 square feet more or less. (Prepared by Susannah L. Brown, Attorney at Law)
- F. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 17.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-08
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 17

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, 2021 and for the duration of the Project noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2020-21 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	9,978	-
General Government	7,000	-
TOTAL	16,978	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	17,722	744
TOTAL	17,722	744

SECTION 2. To amend the Fleet Fund within the FY 2020-21 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Government	41,500	-
TOTAL	41,500	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	41,500	-
TOTAL	41,500	-

SECTION 3. To amend the Water and Sewer Fund within the FY 2020-21 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	757,259	-
TOTAL	757,259	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	757,259	-
TOTAL	757,259	-

SECTION 4. To amend the Water and Sewer Capital Reserve Fund (Fund 075), the expenditures shall be changed as follows.

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	757,259	-
TOTAL	757,259	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	757,259	-
TOTAL	757,259	-

SECTION 5. To amend the Transportation Fund withing the FY 2020-21 Budget Revision, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Transportation	1,857	-
TOTAL	1,857	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,857	-
TOTAL	1,857	-

SECTION 6. To amend the 2018 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Project Ordinance (#G5110W), the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	-	25
Other Financing Uses	84	-
TOTAL	84	25

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Investment Earnings	59	-
TOTAL	59	-

SECTION 7. To amend the 2018 Justice Assistance Grant Project Ordinance (#G5110X), the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	-	320
Other Financing Uses	359	-
TOTAL	359	320

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Investment Earnings	39	-
TOTAL	39	-

SECTION 8. To amend the 2019 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Project Ordinance (#G5110Y), the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	-	300
Other Financing Uses	301	-
TOTAL	301	300

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Investment Earnings	1	-
TOTAL	1	-

SECTION 9. 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 – None

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Hickory Police Department Presentation Regarding the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project – Presentation by Hickory Police Chief Thurman Whisnant

City Manager Warren Wood asked Hickory Police Chief Thurman Whisnant to the podium for a presentation on the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project.

Hickory Police Chief Thurman Whisnant presented a PowerPoint presentation. He thanked Council for the opportunity to share with them their newest partnership and training initiative that they were lucky to be a part of. The partnership was with Georgetown University Law Center's Innovative Police Program. As Mr. Wood said, their project that they are now a part of was called ABLE, which stood for Active Bystandardship for Law Enforcement. He explained active bystandership. He knew that everyone was familiar with the George Floyd incident. Following that, he was reading through some articles and came across an interesting program that was brand new offered by Georgetown University. It was also featured in the FBI National Academy Associate. He referred to the PowerPoint and showed an excerpt from the article which described the program. While everyone had heard about the George Floyd incident, they probably had not heard of this one. On May 31st, following the George Floyd incident, there was civil unrest in Seattle related to that, and what they probably did not hear of was there was another incident and an officer probably without even realizing what he had done had placed his knee on the neck of an arrestee. It was caught on video by a local journalist, but there was another officer there who immediately took action. That was what they mean when they say active bystandership. It was not passive bystandership. The officer actually took the other officer's knee and moved it. The suspect was a combating suspect, and they were able to get the person in custody. By doing so, in those five seconds, it probably saved an officer's career, prevented harm to a citizen and for all they know kept a situation in our nation from further escalating. This caught his attention, and they were looking for this as one of the things that they could do to always try to get better. Something official in the core values. It was an interesting program. They also found out the Concord Police Department had also applied. They were a little bit ahead of them, they had not started the training, but they had been approved.

Chief Whisnant discussed how the ABLE Program was designed. It was created through Georgetown and it was a training program designed, if accepted into the program, to create a police culture in which officers are taught to intervene. Hickory Police Department had a duty to intervene clause in their Use of Force Policy, well before George Floyd, they had one for years. They have a whole lot of policies, it was something they talk about every year, but they had never trained on it. They train for a whole lot of things and do scenario-based training, but this was just not something that anyone had ever thought of and this was something that they could actually do scenario-based training on. It was designed to prevent this conduct. The program was designed to fit well within some other things that they do. It promoted officer health, wellness, and resiliency. When they talk about intervention on the scene of something, it was also designed for if you see a coworker that maybe has signs, maybe something was going on at home, or maybe they were just not acting normally, something was bothering them. When you really think about that, you think about how hard it was to approach them and offer that help to somebody. He thought a lot of times they were programmed to say, "Well, that's not my business, or I don't want to impose". They really have to get out of that way of thinking on things. This program was designed and was accomplished through teaching police officers what signs to look for when other coworkers need help. It focused a lot on moral courage. He mentioned probably a year and a half ago, he gave a presentation on Blue Courage which was also a wellness and resiliency program that they were fortunate to get through a grant program. He thought they were still the only agency in North Carolina that had done that department wide. This really fit nicely with the Blue Courage Program. More courage to intervene. They do a lot of the escalation training. They had done that and were doing that prior to the Ferguson incident. Every year they had done some sort of de-escalation training, usually several times a year. This kind of adds the peer intervention part to that. It was de-escalation with intervention. Another thing that people really

do not think about was if you think about how hard it was and it kind of goes against the norm to intervene. Folks do not do it because they do not know how a person was going to react. One thing that they were stressing was rank does not matter. They have permission, if he were not doing something right as the Chief of Police, it was known and understood that he would expect that. They expect to help one another. Not only how to intervene but how to receive intervention if it was necessary. And when you think about interaction and scenario-based training, they do scenario-based training virtually in everything they do. But for some reason, they had never done scenario-based training on intervention. They talk about intervention with another coworker, would it be on the scene of a critical incident, where there was a use of force incidents or whether it was you come to work one day, and something was just not quite right with your partner. They really have got to change that way of thinking.

Chief Whisnant advised he had first heard about this program in October, and it was brand new. The way the program works was if they were selected into the program, they could get up to three instructors that were trained from your staff and then they come back to your agency to train your agency. They were fortunate enough to receive two in the 7th Session that Georgetown offered. He discussed the application process. They had to have a letter of support from City Management, which they got. He had to write a letter and say that they were committed, and they had to have a policy that fits with their guidelines, which they already did and did not have to change anything. They had to have letters of support from community groups. They were fortunate enough to get letters from the NAACP in support and the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Discussion Group. They sent those letters and their policies in, and they had to have proof of a strong existing officer wellness program, which they did. Part of that was the Blue Courage Program. They were accepted and were the second agency in North Carolina and one of the first seven in the Country to be accepted. To put that into perspective there were almost 18,000 police agents in the United States and there was over 500 in North Carolina. It was now being endorsed and had formed a partnership with the FBI National Academy. There were some States that were already looking at making this mandatory as part of their basic law enforcement training. He looks for this to be something that was really going to grow and to be sought after with the FBI picking that up. He was really glad that they were able to get this training.

Chief Whisnant discussed the training, which was eight hours initially, yearly. Most of their supervisors had already been through the training. Their two instructors had already received the training from Georgetown. It was no cost if accepted. They have schedules to where they should have most or all of their department trained by mid to late summer. For the new employees, their plan was to do the two days of Blue Courage and then add a day for this program. Another thing they talked about was peer intervention and how it works. Other professions have done this for some time, for example pilots and copilots. They have a system of checks and balances. There was a peer intervention expectation that those lives were at stake. Another example would be surgeons. He referred to a successful peer intervention program, "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk". Thinking about that and that probably prevents more drunk drivers than any enforcement action could ever be done by all law enforcement, it was that intervention. That was the primus behind all of this. It was real interesting training, and he was encouraged. Their supervisors went through it and there was a lot of interaction and a lot of buy in. The officers enjoyed it and really embraced it. He was really encouraged by that. The workforce end result that they know and hope for was to save lives, save careers, potentially prevent the criminal prosecution of law enforcement, reduces stress within an agency, increases public trust and makes it more likely that the community would support law enforcement, prevents trauma to the communities they serve and builds respect for their profession, which was something that they need right now. They worked very hard and always had at Hickory. They did not do this in Hickory in their agency to necessarily fix anything, but they were always looking for ways to get better. That was their philosophy and core values focus within their department. This program fit very nicely with everything that they do.

Chief Whisnant shared a quote from the training, "The best person to help an officer was another officer with awareness, skills, and courage." He advised this was a brief overview of ABLE and they were in the middle of training now. He asked Council for any questions.

Alderman Seaver asked if there was any track record of how successful this had been in other places.

Chief Whisnant advised it was so new, the ABLE Program really just started in October of last year, so they were really on the front end of it. He could not

imagine that it will not have a very positive impact. There was a program in New Orleans which was similar and some of the principles and the EPIC Program had shown to be very successful there. It was merged into this and some of those same folks with New Orleans Police Department were on the ABLE team. It kind of morphed into that. He could see this being a nationwide movement among law enforcement.

Alderwoman Patton asked if they would have any metrics to gauge how it was working within the department of how many interventions there were.

Chief Whisnant commented the goal was that folks do not hesitate to intervene. He referred to the incident he shared in his first PowerPoint slide. He had seen that video and he did not think the officer realized what he was doing, and he did not think he realized that the other officer intervened. It happened that quick. There are some strategies that are taught through this course and some other things go into detail. There was some follow-up that goes along with that. For example, the incident they talked about. After it is over and everybody was safe then they are back to headquarters, then the officer that intervened would probably go to the other officer and say I took your knee off the guy's neck. Some of that he was sure they would know. The goal was to create a culture, and hopefully they already have that. But anything they could do to help facilitate that. Create a culture to where it just happens without hesitation it happens on the front end. Obviously, metrics they could measure were use of force. Their use of force was already extremely low. He thought the last statistics that he saw was around one percent of the people that they arrest. When you consider the people that they interact with and the numbers for calls for service, he thought the statistics from a year or so ago, the likelihood that a Hickory Police Officer would have to use force in an end result of any call, was .019 percent chance. It was already extremely low. Their goal was to not have to use force. The good thing was that the reality was most people were polite and cordial even during enforcement encounters. The Police Officers are polite and courteous, and the citizens are polite and courteous. We live in a very good community and are very blessed here. That was their goal, to keep it safe for everybody. Anything they can do. They will continue to look for programs like this just to be better. You cannot talk about it enough.

Alderwoman Patton commented they were fortunate with their law enforcement.

Chief Whisnant agreed.

Alderwoman Williams commented with this, she assumed it was grant funded.

Chief Whisnant responded that it did not cost them anything.

Alderwoman Williams asked if there were any commitments required.

Chief Whisnant advised they offered to share with other agencies. He wrote that in his letter actually. The agency has to get accepted into the program because they have to show their use of force policy and they are agreeing to certain core values that they were going to follow. They did not have to change anything, they already fit into what was required. And so, they offered that, and they said it was great. They were going to offer it to surrounding agencies. They were going to know about it, but they would actually have to apply, get accepted into the program, and then their instructors could then go help teach, but as far as sharing the program, they have to go through the Georgetown application process.

Alderwoman Williams was amazed that growth could sometimes be cutting edge.

Chief Whisnant advised they read a lot, and they stay pretty active in their professional organizations and associations, to try and stay innovative and stay on the front of things, that is what they want to do.

Alderman Seaver asked if this was open for only governmental police forces.

Chief Whisnant commented as of right now his understanding was it was open to agencies, but he believed they were transitioning to where they were trying to get some involvement from the different police academies in different States. Police Academy trainees and cadets are exposed to this. That would be great. He could see the International Association of Chiefs of Police for North Carolina getting on board with this. He thought it had grown even more than they expected. The concept seems simple, but it was an eight-hour training, and it is eight hours of engaged training and you really walk away motivated and refreshed.

Council members thanked Chief Whisnant.

Mayor Guess thanked Chief Whisnant for seeing the value in this program and they looked forward to the partnership that it was going to create.

Chief Whisnant appreciated that, and they feel very supported.

2. Update on Non-Bond City Projects – Presentation by City Manager Warren Wood

Mayor Guess asked City Manager Warren Wood to the podium to present Council with an update on non-bond City projects.

City Manager Warren Wood presented a PowerPoint. He mentioned there had been a lot of focus on the City bond projects. He would discuss the non-bond related projects. With COVID they had not had groundbreaking and had been limited in celebrating a lot of the things that had come about. He advised there was a mixture of projects and initiatives that he would discuss that had occurred in the last year to year and a half. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a photo of Ridgeview Library renovations. He pointed out on the photo what it would look like when complete. It was an over 2,000 square foot expansion, a complete renovation inside, an over a million-dollar project, and it was well on its way and should be done sometime this summer.

City Manager Warren Wood referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a photo of some firemen. He advised they had received a class one ISO rating. Right now, only around one percent of all fire departments in the Country were class one. He thought there was just 17 in North Carolina. He noted that was a testament to the funding that City Council provides to the Fire Department and also it allows commercial fire insurance rates in the City to decrease by a certain percentage.

City Manager Warren Wood referred to the PowerPoint and displayed photos of two affordable houses in the Ridgeview community.

Business Services Manager Dave Leonetti advised the first home was under contract and they were working on the second one.

City Manager Warren Wood displayed a photo of the Miracle of Hickory Park. They did a small event for the sign, but the actual monument was now complete and looked really good there. It was formerly Jaycee Park, and now it was Miracle of Hickory Park.

City Manager Warren displayed a photo of the first artificial turf field at Henry Fork. They plan on doing another one and had a meeting earlier that day to start keying up the next one out there. It was getting a lot of use with all of the rain a lot of High School soccer and lacrosse programs want to come and utilize the field because it was dry and not muddy. It was jammed packed with usage.

City Manager Warren Wood displayed a photo at Taft Broome Park. He pointed out the new picnic shelter, and some grills, and other amenities. He showed a photo of the waterpark. The Lilly family gave a donation for naming a field there. Tom and Kathleen Lilly Field. They also took the money and did some improvements on some of the facilities on that field as well. He commented they would have a lot of ribbon cuttings to make up for lost time when we get back to normal.

City Manager Warren Wood displayed a photo of Bruce Meisner Park. He pointed out a frame of a picnic shelter that was going up, it would also have bathrooms, trails, and a parking lot.

City Manager Warren Wood showed a photo of The Untouchables Archway. This project was not a City of Hickory project per se, but the City contributed financially. The United Arts Council undertook this project. The 1964 Ridgeview High School Football team was undefeated and never scored on. They were legendary and this was the field that they had, the home of the Ridgeview High School Panthers.

Mayor Guess advised on this project the artwork has been postponed because they wanted to do it when things were back to normal. They intentionally postponed the artwork that was going to be on the signs so they could have more fanfare and have more people out when it was completed.

City Manager Warren Wood advised it said September. He continued the presentation displaying photos of the first phase at Glenn Hilton Park boardwalk. The bridge was the first phase, and they were working through the recommended budget process now to do another section of that next year. He displayed a photo at Highland Recreation Center renovation at the skate park. He noted that City Council provides funding for all these projects through the annual budget process. He displayed a before and after picture of the LP Frans Clubhouse renovations. He commented it was a complete transformation. He commented the before picture looked like a fraternity house. He advised this was through a partnership with the Texas Rangers, a tremendous improvement there. He displayed a photo of the bathroom renovation at Kiwanis Park. That was a great need. He also showed photos of the bathrooms at Lowes Foods City Park. They plan on renovating at least two sets of bathrooms every year just to keep that process going. Jaycee Park was going to be another one that was on the list.

Alderman Seaver advised they were actually putting a new one in at Kiwanis Park field two.

City Manager Warren Wood confirmed that was correct. He displayed a photo of the new hangar at the airport. They were getting really good inquiries about planes after this publicity. That was going to pay dividends. He thought that was going to fill up quicker than what they may have thought. The new hangar project was complete.

City Manager Warren Wood displayed a photo of the big water tank that was going up on Springs Road. It was not a completed project. He showed schematic drawings of a new biosolids facility that would be replacing the sludge composting facility currently at Fairgrove Business Park. It would be relocated to the Henry Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant. This would be about a \$30 million dollar project. There was a small partnership with the City of Conover on this project.

City Manager Warren Wood advised the City had two grants regarding the new sewer line going in at the airport. He displayed a map of the area. They needed to increase the sewer capacity and they are really optimistic about economic development opportunity at and around the airport. They received an Appalachian Regional Commission grant, on the part that Burke County owns. That project was under design. He advised they also got another Appalachian Regional Commission grant, also in partnership with Burke County, to rework the road. He displayed a photo of 9th Avenue NW. He noted basically from L.P. Frans Stadium where it shuts down to a two-lane road it would be two travel lanes, center turn lane, and curb and gutter. The Aviation Walk was going here and there would be street lighting that would go all the way up to Goat Farm Road past the airport. That would open that up more for heavier use of traffic. That was in design. He showed another photo of a 16-inch waterline installation along 9th Avenue Drive NW to the Hickory Airport. They had water service at the airport, but not enough of capacity to supply, so they installed the 16-inch waterline last year. That project was complete up to the airport.

City Manager Warren Wood displayed a map and pointed out Highway 70, 4th Street SW, and the Walmart Neighborhood Grocery Store. He advised this was planned and funded through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), a transportation project for an intensive street crossing to allow folks a safer way to get across the street to Highway 70 and the Book Walk. It was funded through the MPO, but not designed. He displayed another map of 2nd Avenue SE and he noted this was similarly through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He pointed out the EMS base on Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard, and 2nd Avenue SE. He advised this would straighten this intersection out and signalize the intersection. It would create a travel connection all the way through. The project was funded but not yet under design, but the next phase would be improvement for that intersection. He displayed a map of 17th Street NW extension to Clement Boulevard. He pointed out Corning's headquarters, Highway 321, and 17th Street and the dead-end road. It would go all the way through to Clement Boulevard and tie in. This was going to be very important when US 321 comes in. There would be limited access off of the side roads. This would be a real important north south connection that allows folks to go from the Clement area all the way up 1st and 2nd Avenue and vice versa. That would be a through connection project and again funded through the MPO process.

City Manager Warren Wood advised there was more projects, but he wanted to just give Council an idea of some of the things that they had funded, started on, and got funded for. Those were some of the things they had been missing with COVID. He advised there were two brand new videos related to the bond projects, one was the City Walk and the other one was related to Trivium. He

played the first video of City Walk. He pointed out a segment of the video was downtown activity construction in the City Walk project. He showed the second video which was Trivium. He pointed out on some segments of the video, the Corning building going up, the road that was going all the way through, a graded site, and a photo on Robinwood side. He asked Council for any questions.

Mayor Guess commented the meeting was mostly staff present tonight and there were a few residents present and he appreciated them being present. He reminded everyone that in addition to the bond projects, and all of these non-bond projects that they had seen, the City's staff of 650 plus had continued with the normal regular services with no decrease in any of those services. They were providing not only the normal services that were expected and traditionally provided, water, sewer, police, fire, parks and recreation and everything else. They continue to do all of that and then on top of that the bond projects, and on top of that the non-bond projects that they had seen. He wanted to make it clear particularly for those people that may not be aware of all that the staff and the City had going on. He thought the entire staff should be commended, because he did not know of too many municipalities, they all do the traditional things, but to do these and the traditional things and not decrease any services it was commendable to him.

City Manager Warren Wood commented Council provided funding for this, and then staff does the work. Even during COVID. It was a testament to their employees. They came to work every day. And Council came to every Council meeting. They thought it was important for Council to show that they were coming to work, and the staff was too. It had been a testament and it was never a problem with people complaining about coming to work. Some of these companies, States and cities are having all these issues. We had not had anything like that and that was a testament to the employees.

Mayor Guess commented a tremendous increase in workload and everything considering that the City has going on. Obviously, all of that falls on the 650 plus coworkers and they appreciate that.

Alderman Wood asked if they were hearing anything from the private companies that were doing this construction on material delays and shortages and how that was affecting their timelines.

City Manager Warren Wood advised aluminum in particular. Some of these little specialized parts. As an example, the air cargo at the airport had skyrocketed. They are flying washing machines and dishwashers. There was a critical shortage. He referred to the foam in Texas for furniture. COVID had really put a dent in some of the supply chain lines and created a lot of issues. Some of the stuff had been finding wood products, 2x4's had skyrocketed as an example. Some of the things are available but you are going to pay an arm and a leg to get them. Moving forward with these final few projects that they were going to have to get out, most of that was going to be asphalt and concrete. Asphalt had gone up, concrete not as much. They would see some of that.

Alderman Wood commented that he gets a lot of people wondering about the different projects going around town that were slated for completion but were getting pushed out. He thought it was important that there were material shortages across the board. He was talking to a gentleman over the weekend that owns a hardware store, and he said his suppliers notified him that they will not receive wood handle implements through the end of the year. There was that much of a shortage on wood right now.

City Manager Warren Wood commented the delay on the 3rd Street bridge, on the west side of Union Square was because of the aluminum handrails. The same issue with the Riverwalk. It will come in; it was just going to take longer.

Alderwoman Patton thought it was exciting to see everything they were doing, and staff was doing to set the groundwork for future development. She thought it was wonderful.

City Manager Warren Wood responded that he had never seen, on the private sector side, anything like it in terms of the activity and the inquiries that are out there. The economy was really coming back, and they were excited about some of the projects that were teed up on the private sector side. They need more housing.

3. 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 HRP) (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
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

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 4 (D. Williams Appoints) VACANT

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)
Position 3 (Mayor Appoints) VACANT
Position 9 (Mayor Appoints) (Unexpired Term of Rebecca Clements) VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Youth Council Applicant Review Committee Recommends the Following Appointments:

FTF VACANT
HCAM VACANT
HHS VACANT
Homeschool VACANT

Mayor Guess commented they were in pretty good shape. There were a few vacancies. If anyone were interested in a vacancy or serving in the future on any of the Boards and Commissions, they could have a discussion with any Council member. Obviously, that information was available, and he encouraged everyone. He commented the City's website was phenomenal and full of information and certainly all of the information pertaining to the Boards and Commissions were there, as well as information pertaining to all of these projects that they had talked about. If they were interested in that they could come and see 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

Alderman Seaver commented he gets his second shot tomorrow.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk