

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 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, Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, 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 Pastor Ginny Wright, The Fellowship 1.3

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Special Presentations

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of July 19, 2022.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams that the Minutes of July 19, 2022 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.

A. Budget Revision Number 2. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

B. Annexation Agreement Ordinance with the City of Newton. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

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

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.

Alderman Zagaroli moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Approved the Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement with Exodus Outreach Foundation, Inc. in the Amount of \$10,000.

Approval of the agreement between the City of Hickory and Exodus Outreach Foundation, Inc. for FY 2022-2023 funding through the City's Community Development Block Grant Program. In February 2022, the City of Hickory Community Development Division requested applications from local nonprofit organizations for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended funding for these applications as part of the City's Consolidated and Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan was approved following a public hearing on June 21, 2022. The CDBG funding agreement describes the requirements for the City and Exodus Outreach Foundation to ensure that all applicable federal regulations are met. Funds will be used to provide salary support to the employment services coordinator at Exodus Homes, which provides support to homeless and previously incarcerated persons with substance abuse issues. Exodus Outreach Foundation has requested and been approved for funding in the amount of \$10,000 through the City of Hickory's Community Development Block Grant program. Staff recommends approval of the CDBG funding agreement between the City of Hickory, North Carolina and Exodus Outreach Foundation, Inc.

B. Approved the Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement with Family Care Center in the Amount of \$6,000.

Approval of the agreement between the City of Hickory and Family Care Center for FY 2022-2023 funding through the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. In February 2022, the City of Hickory Community Development Division requested applications from local nonprofit organizations for funding under the Community Development Block Grant Program. The Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended funding for these applications as part of the City's

Consolidated and Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan was approved following a public hearing on June 21, 2022. The CDBG funding agreement describes the requirements for the City and Family Care Center to ensure that all applicable federal regulations are met. Funds will be used to provide salary support to social work staff for their operation of "A Hand Up for the Homeless". The objective of the program is transitional housing and support services as families work to bring themselves out of homelessness. This program also provides transportation, help finding employment and/or further education as the families work to end generational poverty. Family Care Center has requested and been approved for funding in the amount of \$6,000 through the City of Hickory's Community Development Block Grant program. Approval of the Agreement will allow them to continue to provide housing and financial counseling for low to moderate income individuals. Staff recommends approval of the CDBG funding agreement between the City of Hickory, North Carolina, and Family Care Center.

- C. Approved the Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement with Hickory Soup Kitchen, Inc. in the Amount of \$9,000.

Approval of an agreement between the City of Hickory and Hickory Soup Kitchen, Inc. for FY 2022-2023 funding through the City's Community Development Block Grant Program. In February 2022, the City of Hickory Community Development Division requested applications from local nonprofit organizations for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended funding for these applications as part of the City's Consolidated and Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan was approved following a public hearing on June 21, 2022. The CDBG funding agreement describes the requirements for the City and the Hickory Soup Kitchen to ensure that all applicable federal regulations are met. Funds will be used to provide salary support for kitchen staff at the Soup Kitchen to ensure that they are able to provide hot meals and food pantry services to those in need. The Hickory Soup Kitchen has requested and been approved for funding in the amount of \$9,000 through the City of Hickory's Community Development Block Grant program. Approval of the attached Agreement will allow them to continue to provide much needed nutritional services to the City of Hickory's homeless and/or low-income community. Staff recommends approval of the CDBG funding agreement between the City of Hickory, North Carolina and Hickory Soup Kitchen, Inc.

- D. Approved the Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement with Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry in the Amount of \$10,000.

Approval of an agreement between the City of Hickory and Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry for FY 2022-2023 funding through the City's Community Development Block Grant Program. In February 2022, the City of Hickory Community Development Division requested applications from local nonprofit organizations for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended funding for these applications as part of the City's Consolidated and Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan was approved following a public hearing on June 21, 2022. The CDBG funding agreement describes the requirements for the City and Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry to ensure that all applicable federal regulations are met. Funds will be used to provide salary support to the Housing Coordinator/Neighborhood Engagement Team (NET) Case Worker to assist placing clients in transitional housing while offering wrap around services to prevent homelessness. Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry has requested and been approved for funding in the amount of \$10,000 through the City of Hickory's Community Development Block Grant program. Approval of the Agreement will allow them to continue to provide housing and financial counseling for low to moderate income individuals. Staff recommends approval of the CDBG funding agreement between the City of Hickory, North Carolina, and Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry.

- E. Approved the Community Development Block Grant Funding Agreement with AIDS Leadership Foothills-Area Alliance, Inc. in the Amount of \$10,000.

Approval of an agreement between the City of Hickory and AIDS Leadership Foothills-Area Alliance, Inc. for FY 2022-2023 funding through the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. In February 2022, the City of Hickory Community Development Division requested applications from local nonprofit organizations for funding under the Community Development Block Grant Program. The Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended funding for these applications as part of the Consolidated and Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan was approved following a public hearing on June 21, 2022. The CDBG funding agreement describes the requirements for the City and AIDS Leadership Foothills-Area Alliance to ensure that all applicable federal regulations are met. Funds will be used to provide support for a medical case manager position, which will assist persons living with HIV and AIDS to ensure that they remain in medical care and also receive other services as they are available. AIDS Leadership Foothills-Area Alliance has requested and been approved for

funding in the amount of \$10,000 through the City of Hickory's Community Development Block Grant program. Approval of the Agreement will allow them to continue to provide much needed medical case management services to persons living with HIV and AIDS. Staff recommends approval of the CDBG funding agreement between the City of Hickory, North Carolina, and AIDS Leadership Foothills-Area Alliance, Inc.

- F. Called for a Public Hearing for Consideration of the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of Property Owned by MacLeod Family, LLC, Containing 10.052 Acres, Located at 2880 Main Avenue SE, PIN 3722-14-46-7983. (Authorized Public Hearing for August 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

RESOLUTION NO. 22-38
 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 MacLeod Family, LLC requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on July 21, 2022, 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 MacLeod Family, LLC, containing 10.052 acres more or less, located at 2880 Main Avenue SE, and identified as PIN 3722-14-46-7983.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 25th day of July, 2022.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION 22-39
 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 August 16, 2022, 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 MacLeod Family, LLC, containing 10.052 acres more or less, located at 2880 Main Avenue SE, and identified as PIN 3722-14-46-7983.

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. 22-40

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE INTENT TO ANNEX INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY MACLEOD FAMILY, LLC AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SAME

WHEREAS, MacLeod Family, LLC is the owner of certain real property as described herein, which property is located at 2880 Main Avenue SE, and identified as PIN 3722-14-46-7983, containing 10.052 acres more or less; 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 2nd day of August 2022, 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 August 16, 2022, 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 map entitled MacLeod Family, LLC, Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 1 Current City Boundary, subject property outlined in red; MacLeod Family, LLC Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 2, Current Zoning, subject property outlined in red; MacLeod Family, LLC Voluntary 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.

G. Approved the Issuance of a Pyrotechnic Display Permit to Contracted Pyrotechnics for Firework Displays at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Staff requests approval to issue a pyrotechnic display permit to Contracted Pyrotechnics for fireworks displays at Lenoir-Rhyne University after the Bears Club Annual Dinner and home football games. Aaron Bessey, Senior Associate Athletic Director at Lenoir-Rhyne University, submitted a request to obtain permission to conduct public fireworks displays on the following dates: August 18, 2022; September 3, 2022; September 10, 2022; September 24, 2022; October 8, 2022; October 22, 2022; October 29, 2022; and November 12, 2022. There are no rain dates requested. 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 issuance of pyrotechnics display permit.

- H. Approved the Agreements with the North Carolina Department of Commerce to Accept a Rural Transformation Fund Grant in the Amount of \$900,000.

Staff requests approval of the agreements with the North Carolina Department of Commerce LLC to accept a Rural Transformation Fund Grant. The Rural Transformation Fund is offered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce to provide funding to communities looking to stimulate economic development in their communities. The City of Hickory has been approved for a \$900,000 grant to aid in the purchase of property owned by Gary Dean Frye. The approximately 15 acres of property is located between the recently announced Appalachian State University (ASU) Hickory Campus and the Hickory Regional Airport. The property is under contract for \$1,800,000, and the proceeds from the grant will be used to complete the property purchase. There is no match required for the grant. The property to be purchased is strategically located between the ASU Hickory Campus and the Hickory Regional Airport. The 14.79 acres of property is located just to the west of US 321 between 9th Avenue NW and Clement Boulevard NW that is currently owned by Gary Dean Frye. The property addresses are 944/915 18th Street Place NW; 934/940 17th Street Drive NW; and 1675 Clement Boulevard NW. These properties are further described as Catawba County GIS PINs: 279316745820, 279315742851, 279311655152, 279311658175, and 279311753179. This highly visible property will be used for future economic development purposes that may include office, residential, and/or mixed-use development to complement the university, airport, and other amenities in the area. Staff recommends City Council's approval of the agreements with the North Carolina Department of Commerce to accept a Rural Transformation Fund Grant.

- I. Accepted the Bid and Approved the Contract with Nature Trails LLC in the Amount of \$350,000 plus \$50,000 Contingency for Construction of the Trivium Corporate Center Natural Trail System.

Staff requests Council's acceptance of the bid and award of the contract for construction of the Trivium Corporate Center Natural Trail System with Nature Trails LLC in the amount of \$350,000, plus \$50,000 contingency. Trivium Corporate Center is the business park recognized in the Bond projects to receive money from bond proceeds for development. The City, Catawba County, and the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) have worked on development of the project to a condition that is receptive to marketing. As the original Trivium site has been successful and only three lots remain, the partnership has purchased additional properties to expand the success of the business park. This phase of the project will consist of approximately 18,500 linear feet of 5-foot-wide natural walking trail with stream crossings, boardwalks, landscaping, and restoration on the project. Staff initially placed the project out for bids and only received two bids. The project was readvertised, and bids were opened on June 28, 2022. The two bids received for the project were: Nature Trails, LLC - \$350,000; and RES Carolinas, LLC - \$609,295.28. Catawba County will participate in the project with 50/50 split. Staff recommends Council's acceptance of the bid and award of the contract for construction of the Trivium Corporate Center Natural Trail System with Nature Trails LLC in the amount of \$350,000, plus \$50,000 contingency.

- J. Approved a Proclamation for National Health Center Week, August 7-13, 2022.
- K. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 3.

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-28
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 3**

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, 2023, and for the duration of the Project Ordinance noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2022-23 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Government	900,000	-
Public Safety	35,787	-
Other Financing Uses	38,895	-
TOTAL	974,682	

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous	961,893	-
Other Financing Sources	12,789	-
TOTAL	974,682	-

SECTION 2. To amend the Solid Waste Fund within the FY 2022-23 Budget Ordinance the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	38,895	-
TOTAL	38,895	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	38,895	-
TOTAL	38,895	-

SECTION 3. To amend the Water/Sewer Fund within the FY 2022-23 Budget Ordinance the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	1,779,613	-
TOTAL	1,779,613	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	1,779,613	-
TOTAL	1,779,613	-

SECTION 4. To amend the Hickory Metro Convention Center (#700012) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	87,525	-
TOTAL	87,525	-

To provide funding for the above, the Hickory Metro Convention Center (#700012) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous	87,525	-
TOTAL	87,525	-

SECTION 5. To amend the Northeast Wastewater Treatment Facility FEMA Grant (#803309) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Water & Sewer Capital Projects	6,030,698	-
TOTAL	6,030,698	-

To provide funding for the above, the Northeast Wastewater Treatment Facility FEMA Grant (#803309) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	1,779,613	-
Restricted Intergovernmental	4,251,085	-
TOTAL	6,030,698	-

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 – None
- X. Informational Item
- XI. New Business:
 - A. Public Hearings
 - B. Departmental Reports:

1. City of Hickory Construction Projects Update – Presented by City Manager Warren Wood.

City Manager Warren Wood presented a PowerPoint Presentation. He advised there was a lot of private sector development going on in town. There were also a lot of City projects underway. Some of these got lost in the mix of the bond program and all that. He wanted to reorient Council with some of what was going on. Related to the bond program, the 10-miles of trail, the last two legs, the Historic Ridgeview Walk should be bid out this fall and then the OLLE Artwalk would come hopefully shortly after that. With these projects, there was just so much bureaucracy involved because a lot of money was Federal, and you have so many more hoops to jump through. He thought they had jumped through their last hoop with Historic Ridgeview Walk. Duke Energy had to start moving poles, and then they could get underway on bidding that out, and the same with the OLLE Artwalk. There would be more poles to be moved along the OLLE Artwalk. Everything else was under construction. He noted the progress with the Aviation Walk and the Riverwalk was all starting to come together. They were excited about where they were there. There were a lot of other projects that they have going on. To some degree staff was doing double duty. They had the projects that they ordinarily have and then the bond program on top of that. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out the road up to the airport. They City had a grant from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the \$2.8 million dollar project. Design was wrapping up now and they should be bidding that out this fall. It was going to smooth the curves out when the project was done. Three lanes, consisting of two travel lanes, a center turn lane, and of course the Aviation Walk would go up there. It would have new lighting, and curb and gutter. That was going to be a real good project to really make the travel to the airport a lot safer and easier, particularly smoothing some of those curves out. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out ASU Hickory, and US321 Highway. They have got the project to connect 17th Street to Clement Boulevard. The City had a grant of \$900,000 to buy some property that that road would be going through. That was a North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) funded project. They would have right away acquisition coming up. He noted 30% of the design was done. There was a public hearing that the DOT was going to hold at the Winkler Activity Building on August 11th. In addition to that the City had preliminary funding from the State through the MPO for the 17th Street extension multipurpose pathway. That was a 10-foot-wide multimodal path and would be tied in again to ASU Hickory and to the Aviation Walk. They had to get the final DOT board approval, but they felt really good about that. It would be a \$2 million dollar project there. ASU was very excited about the activity related to creating more connectivity both vehicular and pedestrian to the Aviation Walk.

Alderwoman Patton asked if there was a second public meeting.

City Manager Warren Wood asked the City's Transportation Planning Manager John Marshall if there was a second public meeting lined up.

Transportation Planning Manager John Marshall advised the one of the 11th was a drop by from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

City Manager Warren Wood commented Council could just drop in at the Winkler Activity Building from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. They did not anticipate a lot of the public coming out of that. It was not impacting very many people. They had been in contact with the property owners around it, and there may be some.

City Manager Warren Wood continued his presentation with the Aviation Museum and the Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) Workforce Innovation Center. Senator Dean Proctor was very instrumental in securing \$15 million dollars. The City has a partnership with CVCC to create the Workforce Innovation Center along with the Aviation Museum. The Sabre Society was raising money on the fundraising side to do the museum piece of it. Effort was still underway. They were still looking for the last \$2 million dollars. That was going to create a really unique facility and kind of a bookend to what ASU was doing at their ASU Hickory site. One of the things that this would do would be to get those planes moved out from in front of the terminal. The City was still pursuing commercial service. Those planes would have to move. If they were able to secure commercial service that would put the City in line for a million dollars a year in funding from the FAA towards the airport. That would be a great benefit if they could secure the public funding. Design was underway. City Council had approved the contract for that with McMillan Pazdan Smith. They were really excited about the opportunities that that was going to create. The focus that CVCC was going to have in terms of training was going to be industries of the future, so to speak. As an example, a lot of companies were

going to automated warehousing systems. Maintaining those sorts of things, the whole solar farm, of course aviation and they were looking at marine. A lot of different opportunities to provide training for the workforce of the future on the skill sets that they would need.

Alderman Zagaroli asked how they proposed to get those \$2 million dollars.

City Manager Warren Wood advised ultimately the Aviation Museum; the Sabre Society was fundraising. The City was partnering with them on the fundraising. They had another event in September. They had a number of events and had gotten quite a bit committed but they were still moving towards closing the final gap.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if it was private funding.

City Manager Warren Wood replied yes.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller advised they would pick a date in September and would certainly ask the media to help publicize it and invite citizens to come and hear about the projects.

City Manager Warren Wood commented the City had \$2 million dollars committed there. The City would own that facility. There would be some sort of arrangement with the Aviation Museum folks on volunteer hours and that sort of thing. There may be some fulltime staff. They were talking to Catawba County who typically funds the maintenance at CVCC's facility. They were having a conversation with them, and they may put some money in the pot too in exchange for some maintenance. There were some other things behind the scenes that were taking place in terms of fundraising. ASU was really excited about that.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed Springs Road sidewalks. He mentioned there were major gaps in the sidewalks on Springs Road. Thanks to Mayor Guess and Alderwoman Patton they had secured \$3 million dollar tentatively from the DOT through the MPO process for a project to close some of those gaps. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out the existing sidewalks and what was proposed. That would go a long way towards pedestrian safety in the Springs Road area.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed an NCDOT project, the widening of US 321 Highway to a six-lane super street right in front of the ASU Hickory facility. DOT had a lot of funding struggles. The City was very fortunate this one made the cut, and it was a huge project. Two new bridges coming over the river. The City was going to take ownership of the current northbound bridge over the river and turn it into a pedestrian bridge with the idea of tying that into MDI as kind of the second phase to the City's trail system. That was going to be a great improvement and would also improve the look coming through that corridor there. A lot of exciting things happening on the US 321 corridor that would be coming forward in the next few months. They were excited about that and that project.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the roundabout at 16th Street and 21st Avenue NE. That intersection in the evening was a beast. They were used to roundabouts now; they had their first one and they seemed to have figured out how those work. They were hopeful that this one would be equally as successful. He advised it was 80% funded by the State 20% by the City. They were waiting on a supplemental agreement from the DOT and then they could begin advertising for design services. That was really going to help traffic flow through that area. There was also going to be a roundabout at 29th and 16th but they punted on that one because of the eventual widening of 29th Avenue to four lanes. They would get around about there at 16th Street NE and 21st Avenue.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed airport hangars. They had two new hangars now. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a photo. This was the second new hangar, containing 12,000 square feet, and would hold four large planes. They have a waiting list. He noted there was a lot of demand for aircraft hangar space at the airport. They do not have enough space. One of the things that they want to do was create a series of T-hangars. He thought they had 12 on order. T-hangars were just kind of single slip hangars for aircraft. Those would be coming in September. This would be the thing that necessitated closing runway 119, the secondary runway. One of the things that this would allow them to do was get some of the smaller aircraft out of the hangars to be able to put larger aircraft in the hangars to start building the tax base and then it becomes kind of a self-funding sort of program. The City also had a partnership with Burke County too. They agreed to 50% of any additional property tax

revenue that was produced at the airport. They give back the money to the City to put back into more hangar development. He thought this past year they paid \$73,000 because that was half of the additional aircraft revenue that they had gotten out at the airport. That was going to be a real good partnership, they would benefit, and the City would too. They would see that coming in September.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the Hickory Metro Convention expansion. No property tax money went into this. This was all revenue generated from the hotel/motel occupancy tax. When you come stay at a hotel in Hickory, you pay a 6% tax and that comes back and helps fund this operation. They had a 40,000 square foot expansion. The design was done. They would be going out for bids. After this was done, it would be larger than Winston-Salem's Convention Center and all on one level. For Western North Carolina they would be on par with Winston-Salem and their Convention Center.

Alderman Seaver asked if the occupancy taxes were governed by the State.

City Manager Warren Wood advised there was special legislation passed that enables that tax to be charged and it dictated that it comes back to the City. The City in turn gives it to the Convention Center for them to operate, which also was money they used to pay their lease, and those lease payments were used to pay the debt service on the building.

Alderman Seaver questioned if there was a certain set rate for that.

City Manager Warren Wood responded it varies. He mentioned there was others that had higher than 6%. It was 5% and they had the legislation changed to add an additional 1% so they could do the parking deck out there. There was no cap that he was aware of on where they could go.

Alderman Seaver commented if they decide to raise it, they have to go through the State.

City Manager Warren Wood advised that was correct, it would be special legislation. This was supposed to be a \$15 million dollar project. This was a large project. Going back to the State may be something that has to happen to fund the facility.

Alderman Seaver mentioned in some places it was 9-10 percent.

City Manager Warren Wood commented a lot of the resort communities have a higher rate. This one was really unique; it was the only one that he knew that the cities or counties do not put property tax money into it to operate it. It was fully people staying, the heads in beds, and then paying the taxes. That was exciting.

Alderman Seaver commented self-sufficiency was perfect.

City Manager Warren Wood agreed. There were potentially two more hotels on the drawing board coming. The demand was back. When they looked at the City's hotel/motel occupancy tax numbers, they were way past Covid, in fact having some of the highest months they had ever had in terms of revenue generated off the hotel/motel occupancy tax. The demand was back, which was a good thing.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed CVCC's Public Safety Center and Burn Training Facility. This was a partnership between the City and CVCC. They were developing a public safety training facility off of Sweetwater Road. They could drive by there and see it. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a photo of the facility. The City's firefighters previously had to go to Morganton to do their fire training at a facility they had there. That was taking companies out of service to send them to Morganton. They do not have to do that anymore. They could do the training right here in town.

Mayor Guess mentioned that Congressman McHenry visited that site today.

City Manager Warren Wood advised that was a partnership, a half a million-dollar building, that the City had priority use over at that the Public Safety Training Facility with CVCC. That was another partnership with them. They also had a large driver training pad out there for emergency vehicles and that sort of thing. That was a real good facility that would enable the City to keep some costs down as well, not having to go to Morganton.

City Manager Warren Wood referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a photo of Bruce Meisner Park. They had the ribbon cutting on this one. It turned out to be a great park. They were looking at playground options out there now. He noted that he drives by there and there were a lot of people out there walking, walking their dogs, and pushing strollers. It was a real good amenity that had been added. He mentioned that Highway 127 North was going to be widened to a four-lane road between Cloninger Mill, either up to the grocery store complex there, which was Shiloh Church Road or going a little bit further up towards Richey Road. There was going to be a multi-use path that was going to connect this park up to the shopping center in Bethlehem. That was a part of that project. There was another piece of that 10-foot-wide multimodal path that would be connecting that up the road.

Alderman Seaver commented it would not require its own bridge.

City Manager Warren Wood advised it would be built on the western bridge, you would have to cross the street. The existing bridge would remain, that would be the northbound and then the other bridge would be built to the west of it, to the left as you were looking into Alexander County, it would be on that side was his understanding.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they had completed their second turf field at the Henry Fork Soccer Complex, and fortunately it was up and out of the flood zone, so they would not have to worry about flooding. The other one was too only because it was built higher. This had been a great asset. Kids playing soccer and lacrosse and whatnot. These rainy days would put them out of business in terms of practice and games and now kids could enjoy that even when it had been raining. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a photo that was looking west. There was room there to build two more fields. He thought that would pretty much build that park out. They had to think about parking. There was also some space there to add some more parking. That was going to be a great complex over time, when they get two more fields built out there.

Alderman Seaver asked how many total fields they would have there at that site if he was built out.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller advised 11.

City Manager Warren Wood mentioned the BBT Park, driving down I-40 before you get to Forsyth County there in Bermuda Run, the City would not have as many as they do, but the City would be competitive with them in terms of tournaments and that sort of thing. They were really excited about that.

Alderwoman Patton commented the parking was a real issue with the soccer tournament last year and the restrooms.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they need to talk to Catawba Valley Youth Soccer Association (CVYSA) and others, depending on how many teams they have coming in, they need to look at multiple sites which was what they had done in the past, it kind of diluted the problem. They stuffed them all in there which created some issues. The City had a priority use agreement with Hickory Public Schools and has the use of all their fields. There were a lot of options. They had used Fred T. Foard's fields before. There were options to have really as many teams as you wanted. They need to think about working with CVYSA and Rotary and spreading some of those out. That was an issue the last tournament. He noted there was a restroom facility planned on that because it was kind of a hike to get to the restroom from there. There would be a small restroom facility planned in that area. He mentioned that this whole park was actually a partnership with Long View. They covered parts of the utility costs, they had a 11% interest in this park, this was another partnership with the City of Long View, and they pick up some of the operational costs.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the Ridgeview Branch Library's grand opening, which occurred about nine months ago. Two rooms were dedicated to Z. Ann Hoyle and Dr. Webster Lytle. That had been a great asset and they were going to build some steps up from the parking lot to the library to make that easier. Another great asset that would be right on the Historic Ridgeview Walk as well. They were excited about that.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the Murray Basin sewer project. It was a \$5.5 million dollar project sewer extension. It was approximately 50% complete. This was an interesting project because with this it was going to open up some property for development, but also it was diverting flow that they were paying the

City of Conover to treat. It was the City of Hickory's flow. This project would actually pay for itself over a number of years by diverting that flow, and the City would not have to pay the City of Conover anymore. He advised Murray basin was located around the Section House Road area. The flow that would come to the Henry Fork Plant would be where that would feed into.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the biosolids facility located at the Henry Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant. It was the City's single largest project that they had ever undertaken. The City got a tremendous interest rate of 1/10 of 1% on \$30 million dollars. Construction on that project would begin in September. City Council previously awarded the contract to the contractor. They would be up and running at the Henry Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant site for that. The City of Conover would own a share in that, so they would own a share of the costs. The City would also have Maiden and some others that have wastewater treatment plants, Newton, if they so choose, the City will charge them to come utilize that facility.

City Manager Warren Wood referred to the PowerPoint and displayed an aerial photograph. He pointed out Falling Creek, Cloninger Mill Road, Bruce Meisner Park, and the Northeast plant. He advised the City had received a FEMA grant for Falling Creek stabilization of the banks just on the City-owned property and also doing work around the pump station to prevent that from flooding. They had some flooding issues at that pump station. They had to report every time they had a spill. That was going to eliminate that happening. He pointed out the location of the pump station and noted that was where the changes would be made to keep that area from flooding, and they would be doing creek stabilization all along Falling Creek along the bank there. He noted that was a \$7 million dollar project funded by FEMA. There was also another one that they had requested, almost identical to this for the Snow Creek pump station. They City has a pump station off of Snow Creek Road and they have the same issue with flooding. That actually scored high, so they felt good about it, they just had not been notified about that one yet. If they got that one, that was probably another \$5 or \$6 million dollars for that project. That would take care of two major pump stations in terms of flooding and spillage into the river.

City Manager Warren Wood mentioned that City Council approved, and they had confidence in staff to pull these off. He appreciated that and approval of the funding. Of course, the taxpayers write the checks in terms of the taxes they pay. He thought there was not a staff person out here that had not been involved in some of these projects. They kind of divide and conquer when they divide these projects up to manage workflow. You have all the operational side of things that staff does. He knew Public Works Director Steve Miller and Public Utilities Director Shawn Pennell look at who comes through the door every day so they can assign work assignments to make sure trash was picked up, and water lines and sewer lines were maintained, and all that. Even with the operational struggles they have had on some level with staff, they had been able to do these projects. He knew that some of these projects had taken longer, but they had some momentum now about getting some of these wrapped up.

Alderman Seaver commented that operations were growing too with the population and all of the business. He asked how many staff members he anticipated having to add because of that.

City Manager Warren Wood responded for example residential sanitation routes had a formula and when they hit a certain number then they would have to add another truck and another driver. They had been able to maintain so far, but there were a few 100 housing units in the pipeline. You would like for these to be tight together so they would not have to drive out because it was more costly when you were having to drive out to serve these. Most everything was relatively close to town, so that would help. They had a formula in place that kind of dictated that. They did a recognition award, one of the things they do internally was recognize above and beyond kind of work. They had a half a dozen sanitation drivers the other day that they recognized who stayed over till 9:00 p.m., it was drivers and supervisors and maintenance workers just to make sure all the limbs were picked up on that day. They were soaking wet. They made sure that they gave them a little something. They worked overtime until 9:00 p.m. making sure that those routes were done and that was kind of a little bit of an invisible service. A lot of folks do not realize what went into those sorts of things. He tells people that working on that brush truck picking that yard waste up was the toughest job in the City. A lot of the other ones get a lot of publicity.

Alderwoman Patton mentioned every time she sees them in her yard, she always goes out and speaks to them and says thank you.

City Manager Warren Wood commented that he always tries to make sure his limbs were cut up just like they like them so they do not complain about him any more than they might already.

Alderwoman Williams commented not all municipalities have that service.

Alderwoman Patton mentioned that if you leave your stuff in the tarp it was easier for them, which was what she does.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they had been able to keep it all going. He thanked the City's staff for all the work they had done getting all these projects done and making sure the operations were going.

Mayor Guess commented they talk a lot about the bond projects and sometimes they miss talking about the traditional things that staff had to take care of. There was the increase in population, add onto that the bond projects, and then you add on top of that the non-bond projects. They really did need to commend the staff in all of the City's departments. It was not just one department it was everybody works together very well.

City Manager Warren Wood interjected on top of that being short staffed.

Mayor Guess reiterated on top of that being short staffed. They could not say thank you enough and he hoped that those present this evening would pass that along so that everybody hears that. He knew that they probably did not hear it enough, but they really did appreciate them. There was no way that they could have the success that they have if it was not for those dedicated and committed co-workers in the City of Hickory and they really did appreciate it.

City Manager Warren Wood concluded his presentation.

Mayor Guess asked for any questions. That was a lot. Council was used to hearing about the Bond projects, but these were all non-bond projects.

City Manager Warren Wood commented that it seemed like a few years ago they did not have hardly anything going on and now it was off the charts. It was a good situation to have.

Mayor Guess commented that does not include the stuff that might be in the pipeline.

Alderwoman Patton mentioned the nice thing that she keeps hearing said was partnerships and she thought that was really gave them a lot of momentum, that was working with others.

City Manager Warren Wood commented the partnerships were like our secret sauce, they could get a lot more done working with people than they could just doing things by themselves.

Mayor Guess interjected that includes their Legislators.

City Manager Warren Wood replied absolutely.

Mayor Guess commented that was all great news. He thanked City Manager Warren Wood.

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Ward 6 (Patton Appoints) VACANT

At-Large (Outside City but within HRPA) (Council Appoints) VACANT

At-Large (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

Alderman Seaver Nominated Malcolm Linebarger as the Differently Abled and is African American Representative on the Community Relations Council.

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments)

(Appointed by City Council)

Catawba County Representative (1)

(Mayor Appoints with Recommendation from Catawba County

VACANT

Catawba County's Recommendation: Steve Mull

Mayor Guess Nominated Steve Mull as a Catawba County Representative on the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints)

VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Ward 4 (D. Williams Appoints)

VACANT

RECREATION AND SPORTS TOURISM COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints)

VACANT

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Ward 6 (Patton Appoints)

VACANT

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

At-Large Not Including ETJ (Council Appoints)

VACANT

At-Large Not Including ETJ (Council Appoints)

VACANT

At-Large Not Including ETJ (Council Appoints)

VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

Fred T. Foard High School Representative

VACANT

Youth Council Applicant Review Committee Recommends the Following Appointment:

Madeleine Hetzel for Fred T. Foard High School Representative

Mayor Guess Nominated Madeleine Hetzel as a Fred T. Foard High School Representative on the Youth Council.

Alderman Zagaroli mentioned he was full in all of his appointments, but Mr. Tony Jackson who was present, and was very interested in serving in some sort of capacity. He requested that Mayor Guess and Mr. Jackson get together to see if there was a slot for Mr. Jackson in any of the Commissions.

Mayor Guess responded that he would certainly do that. He mentioned that if anyone in the audience was interested or knew someone that might be interested, please do not hesitate to let Council know and they would see if they could facilitate that.

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

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

Mayor Guess mentioned the Lenoir-Rhyne University Stadium and advised they would be amazed at the progress that had been made. He thought it was less than five-weeks until their home opening game at the new stadium. They were looking forward to that.

Mayor Guess advised Allen Mitchell Sr. had passed. The viewing would be Friday at Allen Mitchell Funeral Home and the funeral on Saturday at Friendship Baptist Church. Allen Mitchell, his wife, and his entire family had been a tremendous asset to the community and lifelong friends

of his. He knew that several people in attendance could say the same thing. He asked everyone to remember the family of Allen Mitchell during this time.

Aldерwoman Williams congratulated the three Council members and the Mayor who were just re-elected. She was looking forward to serving with them for at least another term.

Mayor Guess noted the formal swearing-in would be during their next Council meeting.

City Manager Warren Wood advised Council members to notify the Clerk who they would like to swear them in.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk