

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Tony Wood	Hank Guess	Anthony Freeman
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, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, 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 Major David Repass, Co-Officer in Charge The Salvation Army of Greater Hickory and the High Country
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations

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

Boy Scout Johnny (inaudible last name) introduced himself and advised he was from Troop 1.

Mayor Guess asked him if he was in attendance to earn a badge.

Scout Johnny advised he was present to earn the Citizenship in the Community Badge.

Mayor Guess welcomed him.

- A. Presentation of a Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week to Hickory Police Department Telecommunicators.

Mayor Guess asked Hickory Police Department Telecommunicators Summer, Erica, and Abby to the podium. He advised Summer was the supervisor for the Telecommunicators at the Hickory Police Department and Erica and Abby also worked in telecommunications. They recognized the City's telecommunications each year during this time, but they wanted to especially let them know that it was not just during this week of the month that they wanted to recognize and celebrate them, but they appreciated their service all year long. Telecommunications were just like fire, police, and other service personnel, public services, and other folks. They do not just work Monday through Friday. They work all day, all night, every day, weekends, holidays, 365-days a year. There were a lot of folks in the City of Hickory that do that, but tonight particularly, they were here to recognize the telecommunications at the police department. It was very special. He commented how much he and the City Council appreciated the job the ladies do. And there were some men that do this as well. It was not all ladies, but it was predominantly ladies he would say. He thanked all of them. He knew there were some working right now and there were some that were off. He asked them to let them all know how much they appreciated the job they all do each and every day. He read and presented the Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week to the Telecommunicators in attendance.

- B. Presentation of a Proclamation for Fair Housing Month to Members of the Catawba Valley Association of Realtors.

Mayor Guess asked 2023 President Elect Karleta Smith, of the Catawba Valley Association of Realtors to the podium. He commented they appreciate all of the realtors and asked Ms. Smith to share the Proclamation with them also. He read and presented the Proclamation for Fair Housing Month to Ms. Smith.

Ms. Karleta Smith thanked Council for the Proclamation.

- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

- VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting of March 21, 2023

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2023 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 Alderwoman Williams that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Budget Revision Number 18. (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.

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

A. Called for a Public Hearing to Consider the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of Property Owned by Redwood Hickory 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast NCP1, LLC, Located at 3060 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, PIN 3722-16-60-0176, Containing Approximately 33.29-Acres. (Authorized Public Hearing for April 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

RESOLUTION NO. 23-14  
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 Redwood Hickory 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast NCP1, LLC requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on March 17, 2023, 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 Redwood Hickory 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast, NCP1, LLC, containing 33.29-acres more or less, located at 3060 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and identified as PIN 3722-16-60-0176.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION 23-15  
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 18, 2023, 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 Redwood Hickory 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast, NCP1, LLC, containing 33.29-acres more or less, located at 3060 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and identified as PIN 3722-16-60-0176.

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. 23-16  
A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE INTENT TO ANNEX INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY REDWOOD HICKORY 12<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE SOUTHEAST NCP1, LLC AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SAME

WHEREAS, Redwood Hickory 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast NCP1, LLC is the owner of certain real property as described herein, which property is located at 3060 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, and identified as PIN 3722-16-60-0176, containing 33.29-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 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023, 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 18, 2023, 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 Redwood 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast NCP1, LLC, Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 1 Current City Boundary, subject property outlined in red; Redwood 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast NCP1, LLC, Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 2, Current Zoning, subject property outlined in red; Redwood 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast NCP1, LLC, 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.

B. Called for a Public Hearing to Consider the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of Property Owned by Brandon Serrano, Located at 3204 16<sup>th</sup> Street NE, PIN 3714-16-84-7097, Containing Approximately .569-Acres. (Authorized Public Hearing for April 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

RESOLUTION NO. 23-17  
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 Brandon Serrano requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on March 17, 2023, 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 Brandon Serrano containing .569-acres more or less, located at 3204 16<sup>th</sup> Street NE and identified as PIN 3714-16-84-7097.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION 23-18

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 18, 2023, 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 Brandon Serrano containing .569-acres more or less, located at 3204 16<sup>th</sup> Street NE and identified as PIN 3714-16-84-7097.

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. 23-19

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

WHEREAS, Brandon Serrano is the owner of certain real property as described herein, which property is located at 3204 16<sup>th</sup> Street NE, and identified as PIN 3714-16-84-7097, containing .569-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 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023, 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 18, 2023, 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 Brandon Serrano, Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 1 Current City Boundary, subject property outlined in red; Brandon Serrano, Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 2, Current Zoning, subject property outlined in red; Brandon Serrano, Map 3, Aerial Photo, 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. Rejected the Upset Bid for the Sale of City-Owned Property at 1100 Highway 70 SE.

Staff requests the rejection of the current highest bid for the sale of City-owned property at 1100 Highway 70 SE and authorize staff and the City's real estate broker to seek additional offers. The City owns approximately 1.66-acres of property located at 1100 Highway 70 SE and is currently vacant. CPM Enterprise LLC originally offered \$250,000 for the purchase of the property subject to the upset bid process. RIMS USA, LLC made an upset bid on the property for \$300,000 and the process repeated. In the second upset bid period, Staff received an upset bid that was \$100 less than the required amount for a valid upset bid. Staff feels this calculation error was in good faith, and the bidder meant to raise the bid by the proper amount. However, based on the upset bid statute, the \$300,000 offer remains the high bid on the property. The presence of multiple bidders indicates that the value of the property is likely to remain higher than the current high bid. The spirit of the upset bid process is to obtain the greatest possible value for surplus City-owned property. City Council retains the right to reject all upset bids at the conclusion of the process. The property remains listed with a real estate broker. If City Council rejects the bid, the broker would be free to solicit new bids for the property and start the upset bid process again. Staff recommends City Council reject the current high bid on the property at 1100 Highway 70 SE and authorize the City's real estate broker to solicit offers for the property.

D. Approved the Sale of City-Owned Property at 1100 Highway 70 SE to CPM Enterprise, LLC, and Authorized Staff to Advertise for Upset Bids.

Staff requests approval of the sale of City-owned property at 1100 Highway 70 SE to CPM Enterprise, LLC. The City owns approximately 1.66-acres of property located at 1100 Highway 70 SE and the site is currently vacant. CPM Enterprise, LLC has offered \$314,950 for the purchase of the property. The property has remained vacant for the entire time it has been owned by the City of Hickory. Sale to the private sector will place the property back on the property tax roll and allow for future development. North Carolina General Statutes require that surplus property be sold competitively. The property would be sold subject to the upset bid statute and allow other interested parties to bid on the property after the City Clerk places a public notice in the newspaper. The contract does not include an examination period and calls for closing 30-days after contract execution. The offer includes the required five percent deposit. Staff recommends that City Council adopt a resolution accepting the offer from CPM Enterprise, LLC and authorize Staff to advertise for upset bids.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-20  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF AN OFFER TO PURCHASE  
CERTAIN PROPERTY

WHEREAS, City Council of the City of Hickory desires to dispose of certain surplus properties of the City of Hickory.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The following described property is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the City of Hickory:  
  
Vacant lot located at 1100 Highway 70 SE, Hickory, North Carolina, containing approximately 1.66 acres, identified as PIN 3712-17-11-8376, described in the document recorded in Book 3394 at Page 1825, Catawba County Registry.
  2. City Council has received an offer to purchase for the sum of \$314,950 for the property located at 1100 Highway 70 SE, Hickory, North Carolina. The person making the offer has deposited into John Crone's Trust Account a sum equal to five percent (5%) of his or her offer in the form of cash, cashier's check, or wire funds.
  3. City Council proposes to accept the offer unless a qualifying upset bid shall be made.
  4. The City Clerk shall cause a notice of such offer to be published in accordance with G.S. 160A-269.
  5. Persons wishing to upset the offer must submit a sealed bid to the City Clerk within ten (10) days after publication of the notice. In addition, the bid must raise the original offer by an amount of at least 10% of the first \$1000 of that offer and 5% of the remainder. The person making the bid must deposit with the City Clerk a sum equal to five percent (5%) of his or her offer in the form of cash, cashier's check, or wire funds to John Crone's Trust Account. At the conclusion of the ten (10) days, the City Clerk shall open the bids, and the highest such qualifying bid will become the new offer. If there is more than one bid in the highest amount, the first such bid received will become the new offer.
  6. If a qualifying upset bid is received, the City Clerk is directed to re-advertise the offer at the increased upset bid amount, and to continue with this process until a ten (10) day period has passed without receipt of a qualifying upset bid.
  7. Upon approval of the final upset bid, total payment for the property must be received by the City of Hickory within 30 days of the bid award.
  8. City Council authorizes the City Manager to execute all documents related to the sale if no upset bids are received after due advertisement.
- E. Approved an Agreement with Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. for Henry Fork Solids Handling Facility Upgrade in the Amount of \$810,524.

Staff requests Council's approval of an agreement for construction of facilities to provide natural gas service with Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. for the contribution in aid of construction for service to the Henry Fork Solids Handling Facility upgrade in the amount of \$810,524. In May 2022, Council approved a contract with PC Construction Co. for the construction of the new solids handling facility to be placed at the Henry Fork Wastewater Treatment Facility. As the biosolids dryer will require natural gas service at the facility, City staff began discussions with Piedmont Natural Gas in June 2020 to provide such natural gas service. On March 17, 2023, Piedmont Natural Gas requested a contribution in aid of construction to install the necessary service to the facility in the amount of \$810,524. This will enable Piedmont Natural Gas to ensure construction of the necessary natural gas service along River Road to the Henry Fork Wastewater Treatment Facility. Staff recommends Council's approval of an agreement for construction of facilities to provide natural gas service with Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. for the contribution in aid of construction for service to the Henry Fork Solids Handling Facility upgrade in the amount of \$810,524. This is a sole source contract award (General Statute 143-129 (e)(6)) due to Piedmont Natural Gas being the only natural gas provider.

- F. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 19.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-08  
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 19

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	4,108	-
Public Safety	47,674	-
Other Financing Uses	1,056	-
Culture & Recreation	3,000	-
TOTAL	55,838	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	48,730	-
Miscellaneous	7,108	-
TOTAL	55,838	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	1,056	-
Other Financing Uses	810,524	-
TOTAL	811,580	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	811,580	-
TOTAL	811,580	-

SECTION 3. To amend the Justice Assistance 2021(#G51104) Capital Project Ordinance the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	-	7,970
TOTAL	-	7,970

To provide funding for the above, the Justice Assistance 2021 (#G51104) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental	-	7,970
TOTAL	-	7,970

SECTION 4. To amend the Bulletproof Vest Partnership 2021(G51105) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	8	-
TOTAL	8	-

To provide funding for the above, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership 2021 (#G51105) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Investment Earnings	8	-
TOTAL	8	-

SECTION 5. To amend the Ridgeview Library Expansion (#630001) Capital Project Ordinance the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	-	119,629
TOTAL	-	119,629

To provide funding for the above, the Ridgeview Library Expansion (#630001) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	-	120,507

Investment Earnings	878	-
TOTAL	878	120,507

SECTION 6. To amend the Bio Solids (#803306) Grant Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Water and Sewer Capital Projects	810,524	-
TOTAL	810,524	-

To provide funding for the above, the Bio Solids (803306) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	810,524	-
TOTAL	810,524	-

SECTION 7. 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. North Carolina Department of Transportation Updates – Presentation by Transportation Planning Manager John Marshall.

City Manager Warren Wood advised last year, the State Department of Transportation (DOT) put out their transportation improvement plan and he thought the City did well in the projects that they have funded. He advised Transportation Planning Manager John Marshall would discuss some of those projects that would be impacting them locally.

Transportation Planning Manager John Marshall presented a PowerPoint presentation. He advised he would discuss the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He noted that Transportation had more acronyms than any other profession in the world. He advised the STIP they were working under right now was 2020 to 2029. It was usually a 10-year plan. They were getting ready to adopt a new STIP in June and that would be 2024 through 2033. He advised the projects he would discuss tonight, they would talk about schedule, estimated costs, and the kind of funding source. He noted they have projects in the STIP that were funded by many different ways. One currently that was funded with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) money. There were several that were locally administered project programs. He commented those that serve on the MPO that was the direct attributable money that they get from the MPO. They also have CMAQ money, which was congestion, mitigation, air quality and SPOT which was the prioritization project ranking. He explained it was where the Statewide DOT ranks. It goes to the division for points and it goes locally to the MPO for points. That was how the majority of the projects in the STIP go in there.

Mr. Marshall discussed the first project 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive NW. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out the point where Aviation Walk stopped. There were three lanes with multiuse path that would come just past the entrance to the airport. They got money from the ARC to continue that three lane road up to Goat Farm Street, and that also included a multiuse path. Whatever development happens here in the future they would be ahead of the game with the three-lane road and 10-foot multiuse path. He advised they had already obtained right of way. The City actually did that. Construction was scheduled for 2023 and it was supposed to be let in June of this year. The cost of that was approximately \$3.2 million dollars.

Mr. Marshall discussed the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Extension. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out ASU's campus. They were extending 17<sup>th</sup> Street through to Clement Boulevard. They were currently purchasing right of way right now. They



hope to start building on that in 2024. The cost was approximately \$6 million dollars.

Alderwoman Patton asked how long it would take to finish that construction.

Mr. Marshall advised once they start it would take approximately nine-months to a year. He noted this one came from LAPP Funding, an 80/20 split with the MPO that direct attributable (DA) money. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a plan sheet. He explained most plan sheets were turned the opposite of what you would think. Instead of going north south, they lay them to the side. He pointed out the ASU campus and noted the road going through from 9<sup>th</sup> to Clement and the multiuse trail that would connect here to the campus.

Mr. Marshall discussed 16<sup>th</sup> Street at 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, called Sandy Ridge Road roundabout. There was a roundabout proposed here with bike and ped amenities going from 21<sup>st</sup> all the way up to 29<sup>th</sup>. That one was funded by (CMAQ) congestion mitigation, air quality funding. Right of way was programmed for 2024, and construction in 2025. Costs were about \$8.4 million dollars.

Mr. Marshall discussed one that they received from the MPO last year through the LAPP funding. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out the Springs Road sidewalk and Sandy Ridge Road. They were going to start at Sandy Ridge Road and carry the sidewalk all the way up to McDonald Parkway. Right of way was 2024 and construction hoped to start in late 2024 and was about a \$3 million dollar project. He had more maps for that one. He referred to the PowerPoint map and noted the location of the sidewalk, pointing out Sandy Ridge Road. He advised it was on the north side of Springs Road for a distance. He pointed out the CVS at 22<sup>nd</sup> and they switch sides and have a crossing here. The reason they switched sides was because of the proximity of the cemetery. It was so tight trying to get sidewalk in there. They had a couple additional feet here they did not have on that side so they had to flip sides. Once they get up to Saint Stephen's Lutheran they have a sidewalk on both sides of the road all the way up to McDonald Parkway. He pointed out the location of an existing sidewalk. That would be a good project that they would be able to do in the next couple of years.

Mr. Marshall discussed a project they received last year, the Aviation Walk connector. He advised the location of 17<sup>th</sup> Street Extension which he previously discussed. They were going to take the multiuse trail west on Clement and up 19<sup>th</sup> Street Lane. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out Aviation Walk where it would be connected.

City Manager Warren Wood interjected that ASU would be tied into the Aviation Walk via those two projects.

Mayor Guess asked if the new airport Museum would be part of that or not.

Mr. Marshall advised that would be a separate project which they had not gotten funded yet. Maybe that would be discussed next year. He referred to the PowerPoint map and pointed out 17<sup>th</sup> Street where they were punching through to Clement. He pointed out the multiuse trail and then they were flipping sides. He advised it then went west on Clement up to 19<sup>th</sup>. He pointed out the location where it terminated at Aviation Walk, which this part of Aviation Walk was now constructed.

Mr. Marshall discussed turn lanes between the one-way pair between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out NC 127. He advised the location where they would add a turn-lane. They had not been able to make a left going downtown in a long time at that intersection. They would add an additional left turn so they would have two going out to Tate Boulevard. Right of way was started in 2020. He thought they were still tweaking that right now with additional right of way. Construction was 2025 and it was about a \$6.7 million dollar project. He displayed the plan sheet for the project. He pointed out the two left turns going back toward Tate and one left turn going back downtown. He reiterated they had not been able to make a left there in years. A lot of people still do it.

Mr. Marshall discussed Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard, the interchange 125 with I-40. They were going to add a ramp in this area. He noted he had the annual average daily traffic counts in this area. He advised 18,000 vehicle trips a day in between those intersections. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out the location of the I-40 ramp, exit 125. He noted over 30,000 north of I-40 and over 25,000 vehicles a day south of I-40. Right of way was purchased in 2020, construction in 2026 and it was about a \$9.3 million dollar project. He had the

plan sheet for that one as well. He displayed the plan sheet and noted where the ramp was going to go. He explained what that does, when you were coming north on LR Boulevard, traffic backs up at the bridge trying to take a left going west, people would be coming north here and be able to do this instead of taking that left against opposing traffic. That would help clear out traffic on LR Boulevard.

Mr. Marshall discussed 321 which they had been waiting on for a while. U-4700A started just north of 70 and stopped just past MDI. Right of way started in 2021 and was still ongoing. Construction starts in early 2026 and was approximately \$257 million dollars. The traffic count near the bridge fluctuates, but right now the last count was around 44,500. That was a lot of cars, a lot of vehicle trips.

Mayor Guess asked if that included the bridges as well.

Mr. Marshall advised they take the count right before the bridges that counts both sides north and south.

Alderman Wood asked Mr. Marshall for his best guess on how long he thought that project would last.

Mr. Marshall advised 5-7 years.

Mayor Guess asked if they were starting on the Hickory side.

Mr. Marshall commented until they get a contractor they do not really know. They do not know if the bridges would be first or if they would start down at 70 and come up. They just do not know because there was a lot of bridges to replace. He advised they had the railroad bridge to replace, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW, all those bridges would have to be replaced as well.

Alderman Zagaroli inquired if the City was going to keep the east bridge.

Mr. Marshall responded the northbound bridge over the lake. He explained they would come in and build a bridge upstream, tear one bridge down, build another bridge and then they would leave the existing northbound bridge and the City would take that over.

Mr. Marshall discussed widening of 127 from Cloninger Mill Road up to Richey Road in Alexander County. Right of way 2024. They just conducted a public meeting on this a couple of weeks ago. Construction in 2026, and around \$43.6 million dollars. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a plan sheet. He pointed out the City's Bruce Meisner Park. They were going to keep the existing northbound bridge and build a bridge upstream. That would be the southbound bridge when it was four laned. They were going to have a bike/pedestrian crossing here and they were going to have multiuse trail along this widening, also as part of the project they were going up to Chigger Ridge and Shiloh Church. He noted it would be up to Alexander County to work with DOT to continue that multiuse trail. He advised they were talking about trying to connect here with their new park. It would be nice if they had a trail connecting the park here in Alexander County to Bruce Meisner.

Mr. Marshall discussed McDonald Parkway. It went from Springs Road, everybody knew it as 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, over to 127. Right of way 2025, construction 2028, and \$89 million dollar cost right now. About 14,000 vehicle trips a day.

Mr. Marshall discussed 127 in Mountain View from Zion Church Road down to Huffman Farm Road. About the highest point near Zion Church Road, the AADT count was 23,500. This also included a multiuse trail from Zion Church Road, all the way down to Huffman Park. That would be nice to connect through there and eventually, hopefully, the City could connect somehow through this to get out to the Mountain View area.

Mr. Marshall discussed Startown Road from just below 70 down to Highway 10. Right of way was scheduled for 2028, construction 2031, and costs of about \$57 million dollars. Right now around Catawba Valley Boulevard that count was about 14,000 vehicle trips a day.

Alderman Wood questioned what they were doing there.

Mr. Marshall advised widening Startown Road all the way, multi lanes.

City Manager Warren Wood advised it would be four lanes.

Mr. Marshall commented it would be four lanes with a grass median all the way through.

City Manager Warren Wood commented it runs right in front of Trivium as well. That would be good for the park.

Mr. Marshall discussed I-40 widening proposed from exit 123. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out exit 123, and Highway 321. It went all the way over to Highway 16, exit 132. This was probably the highest count in the region. It fluctuated quite a bit too from count to count. They do the urbanized count every two years. They did some counts in 2020. They would have to throw those out because it dipped quite a bit. It was kind of an outlier, but about 68,000 cars a day between exit 123 and 125 currently. Right of way was after the life of the STIP. He explained when they put post year that meant past the life of the 10-year STIP, construction was post year. This one was at a cost of \$229.5 million dollars.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Mr. Marshall to explain the difference between the ones he had discussed having a date and what that means versus post year.

Mr. Marshall explained the ones that had a date had the right of way date and when construction would begin. If it said post year it was not funded.

City Manager Warren Wood commented it was not funded was the trick, these other ones were in the hopper to be done.

Alderwoman Williams commented for those that were not funded yet, was there a possibility that it would not happen.

Mr. Marshall advised this one was a little different, I-40, because it was considered a Statewide project and it ranked differently than division and local projects. It would depend on the funding amount. This one could get funded sooner than other ones just because it was a Statewide interstate project.

Mr. Marshall discussed Springs Road access management and median. This one was post-year. This was to construct the center turn lane improvements the entire length all the way up to McDonald Parkway. Both of these were post-year right of way and construction, cost of \$31.4 million dollars. This one was probably pretty far out. It was not funded as well, but it was in the STIP.

Mr. Marshall discussed 127, the installation of a median from 8<sup>th</sup> all the way past Belle Hollow Shopping Center. He did not think this would happen any time soon. They probably would not want to deal with this one. The traffic count here was about 37,500. There was a lot of traffic on 127 going through Viewmont.

City Manager Warren Wood advised the purpose of that would be to control the center turn lane.

Mr. Marshall explained it would make it much safer through there to make the control turns.

City Manager Warren Wood commented it could have a negative impact potentially on businesses. That was going to be down the road.

Mr. Marshall advised they would have to go to certain intersections to make a left. It was not funded. They would not see this one for many years, but it was in the STIP. That was currently most of the projects outside of the City's bond projects. All those were in the STIP as well and Council was familiar with those. He asked for any questions on any one of these projects.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Mr. Marshall if he had a total value cost. He thought he did at the retreat but could not remember that number.

Mr. Marshall did not have the total number.

City Manager Warren Wood commented the City did really well. Some of those projects were in the original projects list that came out. He was really pleased with the number of projects that the City got even though once they were in that 10-year window, they were going to happen. He advised it was \$600 million worth of projects.

Alderwoman Patton commented the City gets a lot of this stuff because they could do the match.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Mr. Marshall to explain the MPO.

Mr. Marshall explained the direct attributable money that the City gets from the MPO was an 80/20 match. If they build a \$10 million dollar project, eight million of that comes from the Federal government and two million was local match that the City would pay for. Since the local match was hard to come by that stopped a lot of local governments for applying for the money.

City Manager Warren Wood commented the City had done really well.

Mr. Marshall advised they supplemented all the bond projects with that type of money.

Mayor Guess commented there was going to be a lot of road construction in the next 10-15 years.

City Manager Warren Wood commented that was a good point because with the growth the City was getting, this was lagging in terms of transportation improvements, but at least they were coming. That would help alleviate over time some of that.

Mayor Guess asked about the timeline or if it would be in conjunction with the Historic Ridgeview Walk that they redo the intersection at 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW and 70.

Mr. Marshall advised that was part of Historic Ridgeview. They took a SPOT safety project that DOT had and included it with Historic Ridgeview Walk. They had that in two sections, the EB-5937 section and the EB-5938 section. They took a section, a SPOT safety project and added it to that. When they put it out to bid recently it included all three projects.

Mayor Guess commented the improvements to the intersection itself and the crosswalk is part of that.

Mr. Marshall confirmed that was correct.

Mayor Guess asked if it was the same time as the walk.

Mr. Marshall advised it would be up to the contractor on which end they start, but that was part of the Historic Ridgeview Walk.

City Manager Warren Wood advised that bids were out for that whole project.

Mr. Marshall advised they open bids on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Guess advised Council did not vote on anything on this, it was an informational item, but they would need to vote and deny John's retirement. Everybody wants to deny his retirement they would take a vote on that.

City Manager Warren Wood commented he would need to announce his retirement first.

Mr. Marshall commented it was too late, the paperwork was filed.

Mayor Guess commented he said he was filed. He thanked Mr. Marshall.

City Manager Warren Wood commented Mr. Marshall would retire at the end of the fiscal year, but he was going to come back on a part-time basis to help them.

Mayor Guess commented they would deny it. After he gets his hip replaced he would be like a new man.

City Manager Warren Wood commented particularly the DA projects from the MPO, it was bureaucratic, and it was complicated and Mr. Marshall was really good at relationships and understanding how all that works. He had done an excellent job with all that. That was why a lot of people do not pursue that money because it was not easy to administer it.

Alderman Seaver commented that was where all the sandbars were.

Alderman Wood commented part-time was half days he would pick his 12-hours. He asked if that was the way that was going to be.

Mayor Guess commented half a day was 12-hours, he could keep that in mind. He commented it was all great information and it goes in conjunction with all the other projects that the City had going on, both those that were private and those that were governmental. It was going to be busy. They were excited.

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
At-Large (Council Appoints) (Clise Plant Resigned 2-27-2023) VACANT

Alderman Wood nominated Steven Kiger as an At-Large Representative for the Citizens Advisory Committee.

**COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Ward 1 (Wood Appoints) (William Richter Resigned) VACANT  
At-Large (Outside City but within HRP) (Council Appoints) VACANT

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
African American (Council Appoints) (Nathaniel Holmes Resigned) VACANT  
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT  
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT  
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT  
Differently Abled (Council Appoints) VACANT

**HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

(Term Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments) (Appointed by City Council)  
Burke County Representative (Mayor Appoints with Recommendation from Burke County) VACANT

**RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD**

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

Mayor Guess moved seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the above nomination. 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 commented at the end of March they got some more great news from US News and World Report. They put out a report regarding the 2022-2023 rankings for the most affordable places to live in the US, and best places to live in the US, and Hickory ended up being number one in the US and that was unsolicited. The City did not initiate that; it was completely unsolicited. A lot of people were responsible for that and they were happy to hear that kind of news particularly when they did not do anything to solicit that information. He was sure most everybody had heard about that.

Alderwoman Patton commented a lot of people had heard. She and her husband were out walking Sunday afternoon and there was a car parked just to the side speaking to one of their neighbors and they stopped and said hello and they said they had heard about it through this article and were from Kentucky. They decided they did not want to live there. They saw the article and came to Hickory and were spending the entire weekend, just driving around. She gave them her little five-minute elevator speech.

Mayor Guess commented they had to get their realtors on board here.

Alderwoman Patton advised they were just very impressed driving around. They said that they had planned and wanted to move here after just reading the article. They packed up and came.

Alderwoman Williams advised last week, Mayor Guess could not make it and she filled in, she did a radio spot with a Charlotte station and they started off saying "What, how could Hickory be number one?" She went through her spiel of what they always say they were doing. It was impressive. She did not think people realized how much was here.

City Manager Warren Wood commented she did a really good job answering their questions.

April 4, 2023

Alderman Patton congratulated Alderman Williams, she had another granddaughter, Emma Charlotte was born yesterday.

Alderman Williams advised 7 pounds 15 ounces, they were at home now and she could not wait to go see her.

Mayor Guess announced while they were on baby announcements, he pointed out members of Council wearing pink, but he was wearing pink for a different reason. He found out that he was going to have his first grandchild and obviously, since he was wearing pink, they found out Friday that it was going to be a girl. He was going to join them as a grandparent. It was exciting news.

Alderman Patton commented it was a good society.

Alderman Seaver reminded everyone the Child Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County would be having their Pinwheels for Prevention. It was an annual program held at Kiwanis Park from noon to one tomorrow, if they could make it. It was a very beautiful scene with all the pinwheels placed and they would be a breeze going through and it really looked nice.

Mayor Guess reiterated it would be at Kiwanis Park tomorrow at noon.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk