

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, June 6, 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, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, 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 Reverend Bill Garrard, Retired Clergy
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
  - A. Presentation of a Proclamation for National Homeownership Month, to Ms. Jenna Ross, Habitat for Humanity, and Members of the NAACP Equity and Inclusion Taskforce Housing Committee.

Mayor Guess asked Ms. Jenna Ross, and any members of Habitat for Humanity; Hickory NAACP President Ida Clough, and members of the NAACP Equity and Inclusion Taskforce Housing Committee to the podium. Mayor Guess mentioned the entire month of June was also recognized as Juneteenth. He recognized fair housing and national home ownership and each person that was present at the podium, and perhaps some that were in the audience that did not come up who had contributed, for some longer than others, and some for a very long time, into helping the City and being part of and participating in some programs and some meetings that they had for the past several years to try to improve on their housing and equity for everyone. He read and presented the Proclamation for National Homeownership Month to NAACP President Ida Clough. He clarified this was a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, the City of Hickory, and the NAACP. Photos were taken.

NAACP President Ida Clough advised the NAACP initiated the spark that got this going. Jenna Ross, Assistant Director of Habitat worked hard with many realtors and other members in her committee. They were a hard-working group, and they appreciated all that they had done.

Mayor Guess thanked everyone for being present. Everyone was special guest, but he could not help but recognize two of the youngest Council attendees that had come back at least for their second time, he knew that they had attended before. He recognized Mr. Sean Little, and his sons, Trevor, and Dylan. He understood that they have been visiting City Hall lately and had taken some tours around City Hall. He knew that their father attended Neighborhood College at one time. He recognized particularly Trevor and Dylan and thanked them for being present at the meeting as the youngest. He also recognized Taylor who was in attendance. It was always a joy to see everyone here, but it was really a joy when you see these younger folks here participating and interested in what was going on in the City that they live in. He knew that it was summer vacation, but now they would have something when they go back to school to share. They always say, "What did you do on summer vacation?" They could say they went to a City Council meeting. They appreciated them being present and they were welcome any time.

- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard
- VI. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Regular Meeting of May 16, 2023

Alderman Zagaroli moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 16, 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. Approval to Amend the Traffic Ordinance by Reducing the Speed Limit along 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive SE from Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard SE to end, 17<sup>th</sup> Street Drive SE from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive SE to US Highway 70 SE, and 19<sup>th</sup> Street Drive SE from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive SE to US Highway 70 SE from 35mph to 25mph. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

- B. Budget Revision Number 22. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- C. Consideration of Rezoning Petition Number 23-01 for Property Owned by Discovery Christian Fellowship Church, Inc., Located at 2201 Startown Road. (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. Approved the Issuance of a Pyrotechnic Display Permit to PyroStar Entertainment for Fireworks Display at the Hickory Motor Speedway on June 23, 2023 (Rain Date September 16, 2023).

Staff requests approval to issue a pyrotechnic display permit to PyroStar Entertainment for fireworks display at the Hickory Motor Speedway for June 23, 2023, rain date September 16, 2023. Kevin Piercy, General Manager of Hickory Motor Speedway, submitted a request to obtain permission to conduct a public fireworks display on the aforementioned dates. 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 above pyrotechnics display.

- B. Approved the Issuance of a Pyrotechnic Display Permit to Pyro Shows Inc. for Fireworks Display at the Hickory Crawdads Stadium for June 23, 2023 (Rain Date July 21, 2023).

Staff requests approval to issue a pyrotechnic display permit to Pyro Shows Inc. for fireworks display at the Hickory Crawdads stadium for June 23, 2023 (rain date July 21, 2023). Douglas Locascio, General Manager of the Hickory Crawdads, has submitted a request to obtain permission to conduct a public fireworks display. 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 above pyrotechnics display.

- C. Approved a Resolution Approving the City of Hickory (PWS:01-18-010) Water Shortage Response Plan.

Staff requests Council's approval of a Resolution approving the City of Hickory (PWS: 01-18-010) Water Shortage Response Plan. North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 143-355 (1) requires all public water systems have a Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP). This plan establishes authority for declaration of a water shortage, defines different phases of water shortage severity, and outlines appropriate responses for each phase. A system's WSRP needs to be reviewed and updated every five years. After approval by NC DWR, the system must have the WSRP approved by their governing board. The Public Utilities Department reviewed the Water Shortage Response Plan to ensure it reflects the most up to date needs, priorities, and plans for the City of Hickory in the event of a water shortage. This plan is required by NC General Statute and is intended to establish responses in the event of a water shortage, whether it be drought or other cause of water shortage. The City of Hickory Water Shortage Response Plan has been reviewed by NCDENR and has been found to be in compliance with NCGS 143-355 (1). Staff recommends Council's approval of a Resolution approving the City of Hickory (PWS: 01-18-010) Water Shortage Response Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-28

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVING WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN  
City of Hickory PWS 01-18-010

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service and each large community water system shall develop and implement water conservation measures to respond to drought or other water shortage conditions as set out in a Water Shortage Response Plan and submitted to the Department for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Water Shortage Response Plan for the City of Hickory, has been developed and submitted to the City Council for approval; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the Water Shortage Response Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (1) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for the City of Hickory, as well as useful information to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hickory that the Water Shortage Response Plan entitled, Water Shortage Management Implementation Plan, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

- D. Approved a Resolution Approving the Town of Catawba (PWS:01-18-040) Water Shortage Response Plan.

Staff requests Council's approval of a Resolution approving the Town of Catawba (PWS: 01-18-040) Water Shortage Response Plan. North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 143-355 (1) requires all public water systems have a Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP). This plan establishes authority for declaration of a water shortage, defines different phases of water shortage severity, and outlines appropriate responses for each phase. A system's WSRP needs to be reviewed and updated every five years. After approval by NC DWR, the system must have the WSRP approved by their governing board. The Public Utilities Department has reviewed the Water Shortage Response Plan to ensure it reflects the most up to date needs, priorities, and plans for the Town of Catawba in the event of a water shortage. This plan is required by NC General Statute and is intended to establish responses in the event of a water shortage, whether it be drought or other cause of water shortage. The Town of Catawba Water Shortage Response Plan has been reviewed by NCDENR and has been found to be in compliance with NC GS 143-355 (l). Staff recommends Council's approval of the Resolution approving the Town of Catawba (PWS: 01-18-040) Water Shortage Response Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-29

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVING WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN  
Hickory Catawba PWS 01-18-040

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service and each large community water system shall develop and implement water conservation measures to respond to drought or other water shortage conditions as set out in a Water Shortage Response Plan and submitted to the Department for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Water Shortage Response Plan for the City of Hickory, has been developed and submitted to the City Council for approval; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the Water Shortage Response Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (1) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for the City of Hickory, as well as useful information to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hickory that the Water Shortage Response Plan entitled, Water Shortage Management Implementation Plan, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

- E. Approved a Resolution Supporting the Grant Applications to the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Committing to the 20% Match in the Amount of \$2,125,000.

Staff requests approval of the STBG-DA/CMAQ/CR Grant Submittals to the Greater Hickory MPO. The City plans to submit three grant applications to the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization: OLLE Art Walk Multi-Use Trail Supplemental – Additional construction funding to supplement EB-5911 to create a connection between City Walk, Aviation Walk and River Walk along Old Lenoir Road. Estimated Total Supplemental Cost \$6,250,000; 80% Federal Funding - \$5,000,000, 20% Local Match - \$1,250,000. Historic Ridgeview Walk Multi-Use Trail Supplemental – Additional construction funding to supplement EB-5938 to create a connection between City Walk and the Ridgeview Community and to US 70. Estimated Total Supplemental Cost \$2,000,000; 80% Federal Funding - \$1,600,000, 20% Local Match - \$400,000. Aviation Museum Connector Multi-Use Trail – Project funding to create a connection between the Aviation Walk Connector and Aviation Museum along Clement Boulevard 21<sup>st</sup> Street NW. Estimated Cost \$3,000,000; 80% Federal Funding - \$2,400,000, 20% Local Match - \$600,000. Staff requests Council’s approval of the Resolution supporting the grant applications and committing the 20% match in the amount of \$2,125,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-30

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HICKORY TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000,000 AND PROVIDE A MATCH OF \$2,250,000 FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT – DIRECT ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR  
*OLLE Art Walk (Old Lenoir Road) Supplemental - EB-5911*  
*Historic Ridgeview Walk (Book Walk South) Supplemental – EB-5938*  
*Aviation Museum Connector*

WHEREAS, On April 19, 2023 the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) issued a call for projects to agencies in its jurisdiction for Surface Transportation Block Grant-Direct Attributable Funding (STBG-DA), Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Funding (CMAQ), and Carbon Reduction Funding (CR). Funds are available to award among four different transportation modals: bicycle and pedestrian, intersections, roadway, and transit. Each agency may submit no more than three (3) projects of not less than \$200,000 each for possible reward. The funding requires a minimum 20 percent local match.

The City of Hickory is applying for funding for the following three projects:

- OLLE Art Walk Multi-Use Trail Supplemental – Additional construction funding to supplement EB-5911 to create a connection between City Walk, Aviation Walk and River Walk along Old Lenoir Road.

Estimated Total Supplemental Cost \$6,250,000

- 80% Federal Funding - \$5,000,000
- 20% Local Match - \$1,250,000

- Historic Ridgeview Walk Multi-Use Trail Supplemental – Additional construction funding to supplement EB-5938 to create a connection between City Walk and the Ridgeview Community and to US 70.

Estimated Total Supplemental Cost \$2,000,000

- 80% Federal Funding - \$1,600,000
- 20% Local Match - \$400,000

- Aviation Museum Connector Multi-Use Trail – Project funding to create a connection between the Aviation Walk Connector and Aviation Museum along Clement Blvd and 21<sup>st</sup> Street NW.

Estimated Cost \$3,000,000

- 80% Federal Funding - \$2,400,000
- 20% Local Match - \$600,000

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Hickory is hereby authorized to submit grant applications in the amount of \$9,000,000 and will commit \$2,250,000 as a match for the three projects.

- F. Called for a Public Hearing to Consider the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of Property Owned by LPA N. Hickory Land, LLC, Located at 4331 and 4405 North Center Street Hickory, PIN 3715-18-30-6570, Containing Approximately 19.413-Acres. (Authorized Public Hearing for June 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

RESOLUTION NO. 23-31

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 LPA N. Hickory Land, LLC requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on May 26, 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:

Located at 4331 and 4405 North Center Street, containing 19.413-acres more or less, PIN 3715-18-30-6570

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 26<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 23-32

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 June 20, 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:

Located at 4331 and 4405 North Center Street, containing 19.413-acres more or less, PIN 3715-18-30-6570.

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. 23-33

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

WHEREAS, LPA N. Hickory Land, LLC are the owners of certain real property as described herein, which property is located at 4331 and 4405 North Center Street, Hickory, containing 19.413-acres more or less, PIN 3715-18-30-6570; and

WHEREAS, such property is immediately adjacent to the existing corporate limits of the City of Hickory; 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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 June 20, 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 a maps entitled Map 1, City Limits, LPA N. Hickory Land, LLC Property – Voluntary Contiguous Annexation, subject property outlined in red, Map 2, Current Zoning, LPA N. Hickory Land, LLC Property - Voluntary Contiguous Annexation, subject property outlined in red and Map 3, 2022 Aerial Photography LPA N. Hickory Land, LLC Property - Voluntary Contiguous Annexation, 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. Accepted the Bid and Authorized the City Manager to Execute the Contract with Hickory Construction Company in the amount of \$1,453,000 for the Construction of 12 New T-Hangars at the Hickory Regional Airport.

Staff requests City Council's acceptance of the construction bid with Hickory Construction Company and authorize the City Manager to approve a construction contract in the amount of \$1,453,000 to construct 12 new T-Hangars on the North Ramp of Hickory Regional Airport. The City requested construction bids in February and received a total of three bids. The lowest responsive bidder was Hickory Construction Company with a low bid amount of \$1,453,000. The new T-Hangars will include LED lighting and will accommodate small to midsize Aircraft. They planned to be constructed on the north ramp adjacent to existing hangars N1 and N2. The new hangar development aligns with the recommendations of the Hickory Regional Airport Task Force Report to promote and expand the assets at the airport to increase revenues through expansion of the number of base aircraft. The project will be financed and repaid with funding from additional property tax revenues received from the City of Hickory and Burke County per a 2021 agreement to assist with the addition of airport hangars to meet increased demand from the aviation community. Additional hangar rental revenue and fuel sales will also assist in repayment of the debt. Staff recommends City Council's acceptance of a construction bid and authorize the City Manager to approve a construction contract with Hickory Construction Company in the amount of \$1,453,000 for the construction of 12 new T-hangars at the Hickory Regional Airport.

- H. Approved the Contract with RIMS USA, LLC, or Assigns, in the Amount of \$500,000 for the City-Owned Property Located at 1100 Highway 70 SE, Hickory. (Exhibit VIII.H.)

The City owns the parcel located at 1100 Highway 70 SE, PIN 3712-17-11-8376. An offer was accepted by City Council at the April 4, 2023, City Council meeting, in the amount of \$314,950. When staff advertised for upset bids, an interested party bid on the property. The parcel was advertised four times with the price increasing to \$500,000. The most recent upset bid period ended on May 30, 2023 with no additional bids received. RIMS USA, LLC, or assigns were the highest bidder. Staff recommends

approval of the offer from RIMS USA, LLC, or assigns, for the sale of the property located at 1100 Highway 70 SE, PIN 3712-17-11-8376.

- I. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 23.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-14  
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 23

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
Culture & Recreation	1,009	-
Economic & Community Development	550,000	238,288
Other Financing Uses	238,288	-
<sup>1</sup> General Government	585,940	554,081
<sup>0</sup> Public Safety	335,475	-
TOTAL	1,710,712	792,369

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Sales and Services	54,009	-
Restricted Intergovernmental	860,628	-
Miscellaneous	7,787	554,081
Other Taxes	550,000	-
TOTAL	1,472,424	554,081

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	42,888	-
TOTAL	48,888	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	32,388	-
Miscellaneous	10,500	-
TOTAL	42,888	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Transportation	415,910	-
TOTAL	415,910	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental	210,010	-
Other Financing Sources	205,900	-
TOTAL	415,910	-

SECTION 4. To amend the Insurance Fund within the FY 2022-2023 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Government	558	-
TOTAL	558	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous	558	-
TOTAL	558	-

SECTION 5. 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

1. Approved on First Reading Consideration of the City Manager’s FY2023-2024 Recommended Budget – Presented by City Manager Warren Wood.

The public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on May 19, 2023.

City Manager Warren Wood advised Council he would present, and a public hearing would be conducted on the FY 2023-2024 recommended budget. He gave a PowerPoint presentation. Every year, the City Manager of all cities with the Council/Manager form of government was responsible for presenting and recommending the annual budget. They would do that tonight. Council received this at their last meeting. They had meetings about this. Some of what he would discuss initially they talked about at their retreat, but it would be good information for the public to hear some of what was in there. He gave a broad look at the region and Hickory. Catawba County went through the real property revaluation, and it became effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a lot of attention paid to that. They had never seen across the County, or the City, increases in the values that they had seen. That pointed to a good real estate market, which was good news. The housing market had remained robust. Building permitting activity had remained steady. They had a good permitting year last year, even with where they were at this point last year, so they had another good year of building permitting. They continued to have economic development announcements and pursued new opportunities with Scott Millar and the Catawba County Economic Development Commission. Per the State of North Carolina, at least in March, of the 45,000 residents in Hickory, only 736 were unemployed. They were actively involved in looking, not if they were retired, or a student, or disabled, or other categories, but for folks that were actively looking there were 736 people that were unemployed in Hickory proper. There was over 10,000 vacant jobs in the County region. There was a lot of opportunity out there for folks in the employment arena. The City’s population continued to grow at a manageable rate. Unofficially, they say they would like to grow between 1.5% and 2% a year. They were seeing that. They need to grow the workforce, which was one of the main reasons for that. The good news also was they had seen a healthy mix in the residential project area. They had single-family, multi-family townhome, market rate, and subsidized housing. They had a variety of housing projects that have come forward and that was good for everybody.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed some of the challenges. Obviously, the inflationary pressures they continued to see for the past few years. He gave the example that just this year alone at the City’s water plant, the cost of chemicals had gone up \$500,000. That was just one example. They saw these inflationary pressures when they were bidding some of the projects out as well as in their operational costs. Workforce retention and recruitment was a major issue for the region. With 10,000 vacant jobs, they were trying to retain their good employees and find new employees. What they were seeing in local government oftentimes was there was a shuffle going on from one local government to another. Everybody was going after a lot of the same pool, but they do like to get new people on board and develop new leadership. The metro area’s population continued to age on average, and going into 2010, going into that census, they were older now than they were then, and the population was flat for the region. They really need to grow their population in migration. Catawba County, one of the four counties in the metro area, was the only county that grew during this last census. Growth in Sherrills Ford and Hickory was what kept the four-county region from actually losing population. He advised they were doing well economically in terms of unemployment rate the region had the fourth lowest unemployment rate in the State. There had been years where they had some of the highest unemployment. He noted he looked at a lot of things regionally because Hickory was the hub of the metro area. There was 365,000 people in



the four-county region and Hickory was in the center of that and they looked at a lot of activity and what was going on in the four-county region. The workforce had grown, not to the degree that it needed to, but they had seen some growth in the region's workforce. He advised migration was an important piece of growing. The natural birth rates were not at where they needed to be in terms of being able to grow that way. He explained in migration within the State, from one county to another, or from another State to North Carolina or internationally. He referred to the PowerPoint and noted the seven counties that had done the best in terms of net in migration. Hickory was one of those. He pointed out the counties which had done the worst, and some in between. Having a positive net in migration speaks to the quality of life and people wanting to live here. That was a good place to be.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed single-family permitting activity. The City was not where they were in the late 90s, real early 2000s, but continued to increase, this was for the MSA. Hickory and Catawba County lead the way with this. They continued to see growth in single-family permitting in the metro area. That was important because as the region ages, younger folks come in behind for the workforce. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a map of the four-county region. He pointed out the area around Hickory, and advised these were single-family permitted properties/homes. He pointed out southeastern Catawba County. The areas around Hickory and Lake Hickory and then southeast around Lake Norman and Sherrills Ford had seen the most with the spattering of others in the region. Also with the single-family permitting, a lot of cities had slowed down the last year with their single-family permitting. The City of Hickory had not. Only New Bern down in the eastern part of the State did better than Hickory on a percentage increase year over year. The City has in the pipeline a number of projects. They felt good about single-family permitting and again, they had seen multi-family townhomes, market rate, low to moderate income housing, a mix of housing in our area. That was a good sign that they had not tapered off. He noted that the City's MSA had the oldest housing stock in the State. With the numbers that they were seeing, they were hoping that would change and they would not be dead last with the age of our housing stock in the State of North Carolina as a metro area.

City Manager Warren Wood commented they do not talk a whole lot about the accolades about Hickory, but the investments that City Council had made were producing results. Those quality-of-life investments were producing results. He referred to the PowerPoint and noted one of the recognitions that the City had. Hickory was a desirable place for folks to be. It was one of the main concepts behind the bond program to create a quality of life where they could retain their population and grow their population, particularly the working age folks. They had good recognitions that they had not seen before, at least at this level. Council had seen a lot of that at their retreat.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the actual recommended budget for FY 2023-2024. It was almost \$137 million dollars. That was for all of the annual operations, capital, debt service for the coming year, it was an 8.5% increase over the current year's budget. The general fund, water and sewer fund and solid waste fund accounted for about 85% of all the City's financial activity in the budget. The City has a dozen different funds, but that was where most of the financial activity occurred, particularly in the general fund and the water and sewer fund. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a breakdown by fund, the bottom line was an 8.5% increase. It was about a \$11 million increase dollar wise over the previous year. The general fund, the City's largest fund, that was recommended at \$68.5 million dollars, an 8.6% increase over the current year's budget. The property tax rate was currently 62.75 cents, and they were recommending that be reduced to 45.5 cents, which was a 17.25 cent reduction. He reminded Council that they have six cents allocated towards the bond program, they were servicing that debt which was approved by the voters. If they were to take that out, the County was at 39.85, the City could have been lower than them, but they were servicing the debt and meeting their requirements there, 45.5 cents was recommended. That was defined as revenue neutral. The State has a formula that they use to determine that they do not have to be revenue neutral. They could increase the tax rate all the way up to a \$1.50. They were not recommending that, but 45.5 cents was the recommended rate at a revenue neutral rate for the coming year. With reevaluation here was a lot of attention to that and rightfully, the increases were pretty dramatic. The countywide increase in real property was 67%. Hickory was 66%. Hickory was right at pretty much the County average. On the residential side the average home in Hickory saw a 58% increase in value, the County was 65%. Hickory was lower. On the industrial commercial side, they saw a 76% increase in real property value and Hickory was higher than the County average of about 71%. Reducing the rate would offset much of that. Also keep in mind, vehicles will be

taxed at a lower rate. Real property, boats, whatever you may own would all be taxed at that rate.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the water and sewer fund. It was recommended at \$38 million. That was a 5.5% increase over the current year's budget. This fund was fully self-supporting. All the money people pay through their water and sewer bills every month goes back into operating that system. They were recommending an increase. It would have the effect of about \$2.35 a month on the average residential water and sewer bill. They were recommending an increase that would have that impact on a residential user. It would also impact all users, commercial and industrial. The water and sewer fund was extremely capital intensive. The City operates a regional water plant that served a dozen jurisdictions around Hickory. They have three wastewater treatment facilities, a 1,000 miles of waterline, and 600 miles of sewer line that they maintain. They have 80 pump stations and 12 water tanks. It was a robust regional system, and a lot went into maintaining and operating that. They were aware on the capital side of the new biosolids facility. The Microsoft project was going to be about a \$15 million water and sewer line extension for that, but that was a \$300 million investment by Microsoft just to start. The payback on that would be good. Then a variety of other plant improvements. They always have line rehab work. They were going to radio read meters. They may have seen the water meter readers out. They were moving towards a radio read. It was going to take a number of years, but a radio read to where they do not have to do that manually anymore. All told an \$81 million capital budget. That \$81 million was not in the annual budget. Those were in capital budgets that management brings to Council as they have signed contracts for these projects. He noted the capital expenditure in the water and sewer fund was more than double what the operational number was in their annual budget.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the solid waste fund. They had a very robust set of services that they provide. The green rollouts on the residential side every week, recycling the blue rollouts every other week. They had yard waste, leaf collection in the fall, junk goods, white goods. With a few exceptions, if you set it to the curb, they would get it. They have a very robust sanitation/solid waste service that they offer. That recommended budget was \$7.8 million which was about a 19% increase over the current year's budget. Much of this was being driven by a number of trucks that they had to replace. They had an equipment and vehicle replacement schedule. As these vehicles come to the end of their useful life, they have to replace them. They have a number of those coming due this year. And as a result, they would be recommending that they transfer \$800,000 from the general fund to the solid waste fund to help cover the cost of that capital equipment and also set that up on an annual basis moving forward and that equipment gets more and more expensive. They would set this up in a way where they were going to have a rolling funding mechanism every year. Unless the solid waste fund reached a point where it was fully self-supported, they could not cover the total cost of the capital equipment given the expense involved in that this coming year. They were recommending a dollar increase in the solid waste fee. That was a monthly charge that you get on your water and sewer bill, but it goes to the solid waste fund. They recommended that go from \$26 to \$27 per month to help keep this fund solvent, at least on the operational side. He reiterated they have a really robust service that they offer, and these men and women work every day except Sunday. Usually, the only holiday they get off was Christmas. They work hard and get it done on a daily basis.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the sludge composting fund. This was the byproduct that comes out of the wastewater treatment plants. Council toured one of those plants during their retreat. It was an 85% ownership by the City and 15% ownership by the County. They also pay an equivalent operational side of that. Most of the revenues that fund gets comes from those jurisdictions as well as paying customers that may need to utilize that facility. They were building a new \$37 million biosolids facility which would be state of the art that would be replacing a 35-year-old facility. That operation once complete would be much more efficient. Council saw that when they went out to the Henry Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant. That would be completed in the next year or year and a half. Their annual budget was \$2 million. That was the sludge composting facility.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the airport fund which contained all the activities of Hickory Regional Airport. This fund was self-supporting through the fees and sales, hangar rental revenue, fuel sales, as well as the property tax revenue generated off the planes that were located there. They were self-supporting and their annual recommended budget for the coming years was \$2.2 million. They have a really good partnership with Burke County. Most of the

airport was in Burke County. As they get more planes that locate at the Hickory Regional Airport, and Burke County realizes an increase in the revenue, they take half of the increase and give it back to the City to reinvest that into more hangar construction to get more airplanes. It was a self-funding mechanism. That had been a really good partnership with Burke County. They were getting ready to do the first set of T-hangars at the airport. They also have a number of major capital projects in the works extending the main runway eventually to 7,001 ft. That would be a number of years because they were in the Federal FAA budget funding cycle. They have plans being developed for that.

City Manager Warren Wood discussed the capital reserve fund. They try to set as much money as they can aside to pay cash and limit the debt service that they engage in. For the coming year, the capital reserve fund totaled \$4.5 million and there was also a sister fund to this for water and sewer. They had been setting money in the capital reserve fund for probably 25 years as a mechanism to paying cash for projects and capital equipment versus financing.

City Manager Warren Wood advised the bond projects continued to have the impact that was anticipated and projected when the bond referendum went to the voters in 2014. Council would recall that the Inspiring Spaces plan was a precursor to the bond program and the bond referendum. They started with \$40 million in public investment in transportation and economic development. They wanted to increase workforce, try to improve the quality of life to retain the workforce and our population, and grow our population. As we age, we need people to come in behind us. Since that time, the City leveraged \$40 million in bond funds and, leveraged that to get another \$60 million in grant funding. It more than doubled what they told the voters it would be in terms of the size. Originally, as an example, the trail system was going to be five miles and now it was going to be 10 miles. The bond program had spurred \$846 million in private investment, over 2,000 well-paying jobs, and to date almost 2,800 new residential units that were either in site work, or construction phase, or were complete. He noted this was not the whole City, this was just a certain distance on each side of the trail system as well as the Trivium Corporate Park. Those numbers do not reflect the Citywide numbers. Those were just specific to the trail system and the Trivium Corporate Center. They have a number of private sector projects that were in the development phase but have not yet come online. As an example, the old RPM building just southwest of City Hall on South Center Street, Every Age was doing a 55 and older facility there that Council was familiar with. They pulled the building permit for that this past month, and they were moving forward. They were seeing some good development, that was right off the trail system as an example.

City Manager Warren Wood advised what he had presented tonight was the annual budget, July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition to that he had talked about the bond program and some of the water/sewer capital investments they bring to Council through a capital budget, and those were more when they have contracts for these projects, they were set up in a capital project ordinance. They have over \$200 million in capital projects going on which would obviously exceed their annual budget. They have \$350 million of financial activity. During his 30 years with the City, this was good, it was taxing, (no pun), it was taxing in terms of the staff. They have a lot of good projects underway and much of which have been funded through the grants. Mayor Guess and Alderwoman Patton were on the MPO Board. They had a number of those. The bond program, that \$47.7 million was what they had really left to do. That did not represent what had already been completed. The Convention Center, the Aviation Museum, a variety of other projects. They had a lot of public improvement projects underway or were in the hopper. Again, \$350 million worth of total financial activity Citywide. They talked about the Bond Program, they talked about this at the retreat and how important that was, quality of life, and growing our population, and retaining our population, but their employees were the ones, from his perspective, he was responsible for them. They were their most important human resource internally. They want to do everything they can. During COVID and the labor shortage, people were having to work overtime even more so. It was kind of seamless. You would not know how much extra folks were working to get things done, but they were doing that. They were starting to see a little bit of improvement in their applications and bringing people on board. They want to continue to be an inclusive and diverse workplace. They always say that they want their workforce to look like the community it serves. They do not, but they know they have got work to do there. They provide a healthy workplace, with a lot of employee wellness programs that they emphasize and enhance, the mental health and physical health of their employees was important. Making sure people feel valued and recognized. They have a recognition program that had been really successful. Marketing, they could always do better selling themselves and trying to recruit. Police officers as an example, they were taking people oftentimes

from another jurisdiction. You have to make yourself a more attractive place to work too, to attract those folks. They were doing a variety of things. He mentioned the folks that get it done every day were the most important piece of this. A sampling of some of the services, fire, rescue, library, water, police, sanitation, recreation, parks, all of that was why they come to work every day to provide those services. A lot of them come to work to manage some of these other projects. He referred to Shawn Pennell, Steve Miller, John Marshall, and Rodney Miller, and eight to a half a dozen people that were managing a lot of projects and he appreciated their work. He appreciated Rodney Miller's work, his staff, and department heads for the work that they did. He gets to present this, and they worked together on it, but they do all the behind-the-scenes work in putting all this together and he appreciated what they had done with this. He concluded that was the City Manager's recommended budget for FY 2023-2024. He asked for any questions.

Mayor Guess asked for any questions for City Manager Warren Wood.

Alderman Zagaroli asked about the radio read program, do you need to change all of the meters throughout the City.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they were actually starting in the City, changing those first and then they would work their way out.

Alderman Zagaroli commented this would enable someone to read this without somebody going out and lifting the lid.

City Manager Warren Wood confirmed that was correct. They drive down the street and the radio signal that a vehicle reads, and you record it. One of the things it does, it was very dangerous getting out in traffic when they were reading those meters. It was probably about a three-to-five-year implementation period. This was the first or second year, but they were starting inside the City limits and would work their way out.

Alderman Seaver inquired if they were reading any meters already that way.

City Manager Warren Wood advised, yes, approximately 500.

Mayor Guess mentioned that was the way Duke Energy does it. They had been doing it that way for years.

Alderman Wood commented he looked at the budget and they get so much information piecemealed throughout the year. He thought it was important to add some of this back in. He asked City Manager Warren Wood to remind them of the how the population of Hickory changes on a daily basis Monday through Friday during work hours and the impact that had on the budget that they just saw.

City Manager Warren Wood advised the nighttime population was about 45,000. The daytime population was over 100,000 because Hickory was the hub of the metro. That was why he went over all the hub because they want Morganton to be successful, Lenoir, and Alexander County because those folks were going to come here to shop and dine. They want everybody. They have to ramp up services like a city of 100,000 people, not a city of 45,000 people. When you look comparatively around the State, you may think my gosh, we have got a lot of firefighters and police officers and but no, we are really a city that was functioning as a city of 100,000 people during the day, particularly during the week. Being the employment center, two major hospitals, CVCC, Lenoir-Rhyne. It was people traveling through, the employment center part was a real big piece of it as well.

Alderman Williams commented City Manager Warren Wood mentioned providing water and sewage for different municipalities. She asked could he clarify how many other ones they provide these services to and what was their revenue from that.

City Manager Warren Wood used Maiden as an example. Maiden owns and operates their own water and sewer system. Hickory sells them water and we have a master meter. They do not have to maintain their system or read their meters. They manage all that. They were just buying bulk. They have a bulk water agreement with them for water sales and Hickory makes some revenue off of that, so it was beneficial to the City. They sell water to Conover, Long View, the City of Hickory owns Brookford's system. Hickory sells water to Maiden, the Icard water co-op, Alexander County, Catawba County and Claremont's was passed through from Conover. They also own the Town of Catawba's water system. On the sewer side they treat Alexander County, Catawba County, Long

View, Burke County, and Valdese's sewer, and Hildebran owns their sewer system. There was obviously an expense in producing water, but the bulk sales where you don't have to maintain the system and all that was a good agreement. Maiden probably does not have the economy of scale where they felt like they did not need to really operate a water plant, so they could buy from Hickory. That was a great option for them and some of the smaller jurisdictions.

Alderman Seaver questioned the population of Hickory during the days on the weekend.

City Manager Warren Wood commented Business Services Manager Dave Leonetti would know that.

Business Services Manager Dave Leonetti commented that Friday seemed to be the busiest day.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they could get that data with the tool that they have. They could get that to Council. Then you have people passing through, staying in our hotels.

Mayor Guess commented that it was interesting that he would ask that because, Dave Leonetti was sharing with a group recently about the soccer tournament that was out at the Henry Fork Soccer Complex. They knew, based on an app, based on some IT stuff that they had, how many people from out of town had attended and how many people attended over that weekend. They had the capability of getting that kind of data.

City Manager Warren Wood advised it was called Geofencing. It was a tool they could use.

Alderwoman Williams commented that the Arts Council had done annual economic impact surveys and it was in the millions in terms of just their arts and theater community.

City Manager Warren Wood commented we are, but we are not a city of 45,000. The amenities they have with the SALT Block, and community theater, and all those types of amenities, the Crowdads, they really function more like a city of 100,000.

Alderwoman Patton questioned the recommendation of the State to keep in fund balance as a percentage.

City Manager Warren Wood advised 8% was the minimum. Council's policy was 25% and he thought they were at 25%. He advised it was two months, it used to be one month. Hickory was at about 25% which was about three months.

Alderman Freeman commented certainly the City has aspiration as it relates to the workforce. They want that to look like a reflection of the community and paraphrasing saying, "we're not quite there yet". He appreciated the aspiration. He asked what some of the steps they might be able to take as it relates to the workforce looking like our community.

City Manager Warren Wood commented Hickory looked like Catawba County and the region demographically, they do not look like Hickory. One of the things that they had seen, as some people like him age out, their community was changing, the demographics were changing just by default, they were going to start seeing more. They would like to make better inroads in the Hispanic community. That was probably the least represented percentage wise in terms of the percentage of Hispanic population in Hickory versus our workforce. One of the challenges on the gender side, it was a tough market to get females to work in heavy equipment and that sort of thing. If anybody knows somebody that knows how to work a backhoe they do not care where they come from, what their gender was, or race. One of the challenges was with the workforce, they do have a lot of employees between 45-55 years old that are getting closer to retirement that had been here a long time. There was going to be somewhat of a vacuum. They had really started focusing on getting people in these leadership tracks to fill these voids as people like him and others start to retire. He had a number of performance evaluations and one of the first things he asked was how much longer are you going to let me keep you around here. They try to make inroads with all the different communities. They have a good benefit program, good benefit plan. They tried to move the entry pay up and had seen some success with that. Public works and public utilities has 50 vacancies. If they have somebody that was willing to work and they could have a career here, bring them. It was open to everybody. They had made some inroads into the high

schools trying to let people know the opportunities that they have, whether it be police, fire, library, public works, public utilities. There was a little something for everybody.

Alderman Seaver mentioned a new program at Hickory High this summer, Jeanne Turner running the CTE program, where upcoming freshmen at Hickory High could earn a credit or a credit and a half, something like that this summer. They were going to attend like 16 days, visiting different businesses all around Hickory, see what was going on there and kind of stir some interest among those young people.

City Manager Warren Wood commented that challenge was not unique to us. He knew companies all around. Workforce was huge. That was why growing the population was so important as our region/community continued to age, having younger folks coming in behind us was going to be important.

Alderman Seaver commented having the Workforce Solutions Center was another plus.

City Manager Warren Wood commented that was a huge plus.

Alderman Wood commented City Manager Warren Wood and his team ran a lean organization. They had commented on before that they had not added staff to deal with the bond projects, those types of things and he thanked him for that. It gives them the flexibility to defray some of the impact of the increased values, those types of things by lowering the tax rate. They had discussed this, and he would like City Manager Wood to speak to it a little bit, the revaluations that were happening that were still in question and the values of those, the appeals, and the potential impact that could have on us as a municipality.

City Manager Warren Wood advised he and Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller looked at the most recent numbers the County had, in terms of the number of appeals that they had heard, the value that they had reduced it by, those that had not been reduced. He thought in the budget message, they said there was a couple hundred million dollars still outstanding that would probably be appealed at the State level. They anticipate a percentage of that being reduced as well.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller advised 210.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they put a buffer of a \$100 million or so. A \$100 million on an \$8 million tax base, it sounds like it was a lot, but percentage wise in terms of revenue it produces, it was not. They had a little bit of a cushion built in there.

Alderman Wood appreciated him sharpening his pencil on that and really looking at that and taking that into consideration, it would be easy to not be disciplined and just count the whole thing in it.

City Manager Warren Wood advised they did not do that.

Alderman Wood appreciated him sharpening his pencil and building that in there.

City Manager Warren Wood advised there were some deep reductions in values, but then some did not get anything and those were the ones that would go. He explained what happens was if you do not like the value that the County put on your property, they could appeal it to the County and if they do not agree with you, you could appeal it to the State. There was a State Board of Equalization and Review, and that process could take months. They may not know the final outcome until December or so. They felt comfortable enough.

Alderman Seaver asked if they go beyond that to court.

City Manager Warren Wood did not know if there was a step beyond that, there may be.

Alderman Seaver commented it could take longer.

Mayor Guess commented first of all, he needed the audience to understand that obviously, this was not the first time that they had discussed these issues and Council had many discussions and meetings and he knew that it had been publicized in different ways in different formats. When they voted on this tonight, it was certainly not the first time they heard it. He reiterated the fact and it had been said, but he wanted to take an opportunity for Council to say it and for himself to say it, our City staff, he knew he was biased, but they have got the

best staff any municipality could hope for. The evidence was not only what they heard tonight, but it goes beyond. He thought they had hit the highlights, but the City Manager certainly had not hit everything. They had not discussed everything that had contributed to the success and to the quality of life that each and every one of them gets to enjoy every day. They need to re-emphasize the fact that traditionally City coworkers, do service and maintenance and things like that. As of the last couple of years, they had been tasked with doing jobs far beyond what they were ever asked to do in the past. Most of those were attributed to the bond projects and different things that had come about because of the bond project. It was very true that staff was doing a lot more with a lot less. They certainly wanted to take advantage of every opportunity that they have to thank, not only those that were present, most of the folks that were present today and in their Council meetings were department heads and those folks and they certainly do contribute to everything that goes on each and every day, but the bulk of what gets done was from their employees and the folks that were out there, like he was saying that worked 365, a lot of them, and worked on call, and have to come out and fix things. He wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to say how much they appreciated that and none of what they had heard tonight would have been able to have been done if it was not for those folks that do that every single day. It goes on and it starts at the top. They have great management and great people throughout the City and in each and every department. None of this would have happened, none of the successes would have happened without those folks. They hear them talk a lot about partnerships and our city folks do a great job, but he had never seen the partnerships with other municipalities and other counties, and throughout the State, with our State Legislatures and others. They use the word partnership a lot, but they were not just throwing that word around. They truly have, in his opinion, some of the greatest partnerships that they had ever seen in the City of Hickory. To his knowledge, they had never been able to lower the tax rate by this amount, 17.25%. It was the lowest that he could recall, and he did not know that anyone ever recalled them being able to do that in the past. To be able to have all the amenities and to be able to enjoy the quality of life that they have and to be able to reduce the tax rate, the lowest that it had ever been done was just phenomenal. He wanted to say how much they appreciated it, not only our folks that work, but their citizens, because they have some great citizens. They have a lot of folks that contribute and offer their time, talents, treasures, and volunteer and serve on boards and commissions. It was truly a great partnership that the City of Hickory had with the community and with the folks that live here and visit. He could not be more proud and more honored to be serving as a representative with this group of Council. He mentioned he had been on the Council now and been associated with this Council for going on 15 years and they had always had great members on their Council, great staff. Attorney John Crone had been here probably as long or longer than everybody and he was getting ready to retire real soon. Without the help of this Council and the staff, and everybody, they would not have been able to get done what they do. It was a good time to be in the City of Hickory.

City Manager Warren Wood advised he would like to see more males apply for jobs in the collections division. They have zero. He would like to see more females apply in the equipment operator positions.

Mayor Guess interjected and firefighters.

City Manager Warren Wood advised he was just sticking with those two right now. He was not going any deeper than that right now.

Mayor Guess moved to approve 2023-2024 recommended budget that had been presented by the City Manager. Alderman Seaver seconded the motions. Mayor Guess asked for any further discussion. He asked for all those in favor.

Alderwoman Patton advised Mayor Guess he needed to conduct the public hearing.

Mayor Guess apologized. He got carried away. He declared the public hearing open and asked if anyone was present who wanted to speak in opposition of the recommended budget.

City Attorney John Crone asked Mayor Guess to withdraw his motion.

Mayor Guess withdrew his motion. He asked if anybody in the public wanted to speak in opposition of the recommended budget request. No one appeared. He asked if anybody wanted to speak in favor. No one appeared. Mayor Guess closed the public hearing.

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the FY2023-2024 Recommended Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-15

Budget Ordinance Fiscal Year 2023-2024

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory, North Carolina:

SECTION 1: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024:

Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 37,100,000
Other Taxes	23,280,000
Unrestricted Intergovernmental Revenues	690,000
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	2,752,463
Licenses and Permits	4,500
Sales and Services	1,855,080
Investment Earnings	250,000
Miscellaneous	381,000
Other Financing Sources	<u>2,251,232</u>
	\$ 68,564,275

SECTION 2: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation of the City government and its activities for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this City:

General Government	\$ 13,810,863
Public Safety	28,781,439
Transportation	7,494,219
Economic and Community Development	4,248,780
Culture and Recreation	4,696,388
Other Financing Uses	3,389,227
Debt Service	4,793,359
Contingency	<u>1,350,000</u>
	\$ 68,564,275

SECTION 3: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water and Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024:

Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 1,489,241
Sales and Services	28,246,690
Investment Earnings	60,000
Miscellaneous	1,298,526
Other Financing Sources	<u>6,946,825</u>
	\$ 38,041,282

SECTION 4: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water and Sewer Fund for the operation of the water and sewer utilities for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this City:

Environmental Protection	\$ 31,951,581
Other Financing Uses	2,625,044
Debt Service	3,064,657
Contingency	<u>400,000</u>
	\$ 38,041,282

SECTION 5: It is estimated that the following revenue will be available in the Sludge Compost Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024:

Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ <u>2,001,284</u>
	\$ 2,001,284

SECTION 6: The following amounts are appropriated in the Sludge Compost Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this City:

Environmental Protection	\$ <u>2,001,284</u>
	\$ 2,001,284



SECTION 7: It is estimated that the following revenue will be available in the Stormwater Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024:

Other Financing Sources	\$ 278,454
	\$ 278,454

SECTION 8: The following amounts are appropriated in the Stormwater Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this City:

Environmental Protection	\$ 278,454
	\$ 278,454

SECTION 9: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Airport Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024:

Sales and Services	\$ 1,857,352
Restricted Governmental Revenues	108,000
Investment Earnings	5,000
Other Financing Sources	<u>250,000</u>
	\$ 2,220,352

SECTION 10: The following amounts are appropriated in the Airport Fund for the operation of Transit and Airport activities for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this City:

Transportation	\$ 2,020,352
Contingency	<u>200,000</u>
	\$ 2,220,352

SECTION 11: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Solid Waste Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024:

Other Taxes	\$ 30,000
Sales and Services	6,833,200
Investment Earnings	20,000
Miscellaneous	2,000
Other Financing Sources	<u>957,068</u>
	\$ 7,842,268

SECTION 12: The following amounts are appropriated in the Solid Waste Fund for the operation of recycling, residential solid waste collection and commercial bulk services activities for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this City:

Environmental Protection	\$ 7,679,098
Debt Service	113,170
Contingency	<u>50,000</u>
	\$ 7,842,268

SECTION 13: It is estimated that the following revenue will be available in the Capital Reserve Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024:

Other Financing Sources	\$ 4,540,000
	\$ 4,540,000

SECTION 14: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Capital Reserve Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this City:

General Government	\$ 2,200,000
Environmental Protection	1,340,000
Other Financing Uses	<u>1,000,000</u>
	\$ 4,540,000

SECTION 15: It is estimated that the following revenue will be available in the Water and Sewer Capital Reserve Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024:

Other Financing Sources	\$ <u>2,291,634</u>
	\$ 2,291,634

SECTION 16: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water and Sewer Capital Reserve Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this City:

Other Financing Uses	\$ <u>2,291,634</u>
	\$ 2,291,634

SECTION 17: The following amounts form the revenue portion of the financial plan for the Fleet Maintenance Fund:

Sales & Services	\$ <u>3,569,998</u>
	\$ 3,569,998

SECTION 18: The following amounts form the expenditure portion of the financial plan for the Fleet Maintenance Fund:

General Government	\$ <u>3,569,998</u>
	\$ 3,569,998

SECTION 19: The following amounts form the revenue portion of the financial plan for the Insurance Fund:

Sales & Services	\$ 7,455,180
Investment Earnings	60,000
Other Financing Sources	<u>50,000</u>
	\$ 7,565,180

SECTION 20: The following amounts form the expenditure portion of the financial plan for the Insurance Fund:

General Government	\$ <u>7,565,180</u>
	\$ 7,565,180

SECTION 21: The operating funds encumbered on the financial records of June 30, 2023, are hereby reappropriated into this budget.

SECTION 22: There is hereby levied a property tax at the rate of forty-five and fifty ten thousandths' cents (\$0.4550) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2023, for the purpose of raising the revenue listed as "Ad Valorem Taxes" in the General Fund in Section 1 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a total estimated valuation of property for the purposes of taxation of \$8,077,966,060 and the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 estimated rate of collection of 99.15%.

SECTION 23: The corresponding "FY 2023-2024 Schedule of Fees" is approved with the adoption of this Annual Budget Ordinance.

SECTION 24: The City Manager (Budget Officer) is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations as contained herein under the following conditions:

- a. He may transfer amounts between line-item expenditures within the same functional area within a fund without limitation.
- b. He may transfer amounts up to \$250,000 between functional areas including contingency appropriations within the same fund.
- c. He may not transfer any amounts between funds, except as approved by the Governing Board in the Annual Budget Ordinance as amended.

SECTION 25: The City Manager (Budget Officer) is hereby authorized to execute agreements, within funds included in the Budget Ordinance or other actions by the Governing Body, for the following purposes:

- a. Form grant agreements to public and non-profit organizations;
- b. Leases;
- c. Consultant, professional, or maintenance service agreements;

- d. Purchase of supplies, materials, or equipment where formal bids are not required by law;
- e. Purchase of real property when funds are available or made available by the Governing Body in the budget;
- f. Applications for and agreements for acceptance of grant funds from federal, state, public, and non-profit organizations, and other funds from other governmental units, for services to be rendered;
- g. Construction or repair projects;
- h. Liability, health, life, disability, casualty, property, or other insurance or performance bonds;
- i. All other contracts and agreements adopted by the Governing Body or is authorized to sign by NC General Statutes;
- j. Easements

SECTION 26: Copies of the Annual Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the City Clerk, to the Governing Board and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

CITY OF HICKORY  
2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENTITLEMENT  
BLOCK GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted.

SECTION 1. The project authorized is the 2023 Community Development Entitlement Block Grant program.

SECTION 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the grant document(s), the rules, and regulations of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the budget contained herein.

SECTION 3. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the project:

Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 328,228
Miscellaneous	<u>160,000</u>
	\$ 488,228

SECTION 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

Economic and Community Development	\$ <u>488,228</u>
	\$ 488,228

SECTION 5. The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Grant Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to provide the accounting to the grantor agency required by the grant agreement(s) and Federal and State regulations.

SECTION 6. Funds may be advanced from the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the grantor agency in an orderly and timely manner.

SECTION 7. Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

- 2. Approved on First Reading Consideration of Rezoning Petition 23-02 for Property Owned by Kincade Properties, LLC, located on 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE between North Center Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE – Presented by Planning Director Brian Frazier.

Kincade Properties, LLC submitted a petition requesting the consideration of rezoning property located on 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE between North Center Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE from Office and Institutional (OI) to Commercial Corridor (CC-2). The subject property is currently zoned Office and Institutional (OI), and totals .27 acres in total size. The current OI zoning district is intended to provide for transitional land-uses between residential and commercial uses. OI districts providing transitional areas are generally characterized as smaller sites allowing for small-scale offices. The subject property is currently vacant. The owners' intention is to combine the property with property located at 2208 North Center Street for future development. The Hickory Regional Planning Commission

conducted a public hearing on May 24, 2023, to consider the petition. During the public hearing, one person spoke in favor of the rezoning petition. No one spoke in opposition. Upon closing the public hearing, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission acknowledged the petition's consistency with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Based upon its findings, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend approval of the petition. Staff concurs with the recommendation of the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

The public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on May 26, and June 2, 2023.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Planning Director Brian Frazier to the podium to present Council with rezoning petition number 23-02 for property owned by Kincade Properties, LLC, located on 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, between North Center Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE.

Planning Director Brian Frazier gave a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed rezoning petition 23-02, owned by Kincade Properties LLC. They were looking at rezoning .27 acres of property off of 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE from O and I to Commercial Corridor, CC 2. The property in its entirety was currently vacant but the applicant had expressed interest in combining the two parcels, one of which was the former Dante's Pizza and sub shop. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out North Center Street, the former Dante's, and an apartment building. He pointed out the vacant parcel where they were looking to rezone from O and I to CC-2 along Highway 127. The Hickory by Choice identified the area as commercial corridor. They believed it was consistent with Hickory by Choice. The corridor was characterized by automobile focused commercial development. The comp plan indicated that the commercial uses were appropriate along the thoroughfares and the transitional area. The CC-2 district does permit for a variety of commercial uses including retail sales, service, professional type uses, et cetera. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed the current zoning map. He pointed out the parcel in question, Highway 127 north, the area located in O and I, the parcel they were considering, the area located in high density residential, and the CC-2 area. He noted this would just be squaring it off a little bit. He advised this parcel would go with the Dante's parcel. There may eventually be a recombination plot. He was not sure yet. No end user had been discussed. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed the future land use map. He pointed out the area, including the subject parcel in question tonight, which was designated by the comp plan as commercial corridor. They believed it was consistent with Hickory by Choice 2030. The Planning Commission considered the petition in April. It was a unanimous vote in favor of the recommendation of the rezoning for the subject parcel. The Planning Commission announced the petition's consistency and voted to recommend approval. Staff concurred with the Planning Commission's recommendation and respectfully requested Council consider this zone change.

Mayor Guess asked for any questions for Mr. Frazier.

Alderman Wood asked if it was rezoned and they use the combined properties or the two properties as one, let's say they paved it. They use it for a parking lot. He asked if it had to be recombined or combined into one.

Planning Director Brian Frazier advised that it did not necessarily, because the lot in question was a buildable lot under the Land Development Code. His understanding from the owners at the Planning Commission meeting and before was that they were looking at doing a combination plat and putting a larger building on the site where Dante's was now.

Alderman Wood commented there was a property line there now.

Planning Director Brian Frazier agreed there was a distinct property line.

Alderman Wood commented they could build over that without combining them.

Planning Director Brian Frazier advised building over it, they would have to combine, they would have to erase that line.

Alderman Wood thanked Mr. Frazier.

Mayor Guess asked for any other questions.

Alderman Seaver asked if the property had been recently sold or if it was still the same owners.

Planning Director Brian Frazier was not sure if that property had been sold or not. He was not sure if it was closed or if it was in transition based on the recommendation of the Planning Commission and Council's final vote this evening.

Mayor Guess asked for any other questions. Mayor Guess declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess closed the public hearing.

Alderman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of Rezoning Petition Number 23-02. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-16

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE OFFICIAL HICKORY ZONING ATLAS TO REZONE +/- .27 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 22<sup>ND</sup> AVE NE BETWEEN N CENTER STREET AND 1<sup>ST</sup> ST NE FROM OFFICE AND INSTITUTIONAL (OI) TO COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (CC-2).

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 2.2 of the Hickory Land Development Code provides for amendments to the Official Zoning Atlas; and

WHEREAS, the property owner has been petitioned to rezone +/- .27 acres of property located on 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE between N Center Street and 1<sup>st</sup> St NE, more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto, to allow Commercial Corridor (CC-2) districts; and

WHEREAS, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission considered the proposed rezoning during a public hearing on May 24, 2023, and forwarded a recommendation of approval to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Article 2 of the Hickory Land Development Code requires findings the proposed rezoning is in response to changing conditions and is reasonably necessary to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has found Petition 23-02 to be in conformance with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, THAT THE REZONING OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A IS APPROVED.

SECTION 1. Findings of fact.

- The subject property is located on 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE between N Center St and 1<sup>st</sup> St NE and identified as PIN 3704-20-80-1111.
- The rezoning request is intended to further implement the findings and recommendations of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.
- The rezoning of the property is consistent and inconsistent with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or provisions of the Hickory City Code which are not in conformance with the provisions of the Amendment occurring herein are repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. Statement of Consistency and Reasonableness

Upon considering the matter, the Hickory City Council found:

1. The area in question is designated as Commercial Corridor by the Comprehensive Plan. Areas classified as Commercial Corridor are intended to be pedestrian focused, the commercial corridor should remain accommodating of vehicular traffic. Rezoning of the referenced properties to Commercial Corridor (CC-2) would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Given the current circumstances, rezoning the properties in the manner discussed is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, but is a

reasonable and justifiable approach to transition the properties from county to city zoning jurisdiction.

Section 1.7 of the Hickory Land Development Code contains its Stated Purpose and Intent. This section contains five (5) specific items which the Land Development Code is intended to uphold. These are as follows:

- Implement the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

The area in question is designated as Commercial Corridor. The strategies and recommendations associated with the Commercial Corridor classification demonstrates the rezoning of the properties to Commercial Corridor is in keeping with the intent of the Comprehensive Plan to facilitate orderly growth and development within the city's planning jurisdiction.

- Preserve and protect land, air, water and environmental resources and property values.

All improvements that are to take place on the properties will be required to follow all applicable development regulations.

- Promote land use patterns that ensure efficiency in service provision as well as wise use of fiscal resources and governmental expenditures.

The subject properties have ingress and egress access via N Center Street/Hwy 127 which is publicly maintained. The land-use pattern in the area, which includes the subject properties, represents an efficient use of public services, and the wise use of public funding.

- Regulate the type and intensity of development; and

The current land use pattern of the larger area consists mainly of commercial uses. The rezoning of the property as discussed maintains this current pattern.

Public resources to provide critical public services are or will be in place to service the properties, if developed. These include public utilities and transportation infrastructure.

- Ensure protection from fire, flood, and other dangers.

Any future development occurring on the subject property shall adhere to all state and local building, fire, and flood zone related development regulations. Such regulations will ensure proper protections are provided to ensure surrounding residents, and property are properly protected as prescribed by law.

- The suitability of the subject property for the uses permitted under the existing and proposed zoning classification:

The current land use pattern of the larger area consists mainly of commercial uses. The rezoning of the property as discussed maintains this current pattern.

- The extent to which zoning will detrimentally affect properties within the general vicinity of the subject property:

The requested Commercial Corridor district is similar to the current Commercial Corridor district in terms of permissible uses and intensities. The proposed development pattern will take place in a logical manner as anticipated by the City's comprehensive planning process. To the maximum extent practical, necessary precautions will be taken to mitigate detrimental impacts in the area.

- The extent to which the proposed amendment (zoning map) will cause public services including roadways, storm water management, water and sewer, fire, and police protection to fall below acceptable levels.

Public resources to provide critical public services are or will be in place to service the properties. These include public utilities, transportation infrastructure, as well as police and fire protection.

- The proposed amendment (zoning map) will protect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Any future development that occurs on the subject property as the result of the zoning map amendment, will be required to be adhere to regulations related to zoning, building and fire code, traffic, stormwater, etc., which will work in conjunction with one another to ensure the health and safety of residents and visitors are properly protected.

Based upon these findings, the Hickory City Council has found Rezoning Petition 23-02 to be reasonable, and consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

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

Ward 1 (Wood Appoints)

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)

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

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

(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

Mayor Guess mentioned it was that time of year when some folks start to rotate off and get reappointed. What was listed there tonight would grow, he would imagine substantially in the very near future. If they had always wanted to serve and volunteer to serve on any of the boards and commissions, this would be a good time to explore that and to ask any questions that they may have and make themselves available. All the Council members will be filling different boards and commissions in the very near future.

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 congratulated Alderwoman Williams, since the last time Council met, she had gotten married. She was a newlywed. He congratulated Alderwoman Williams and her husband. And the City Manager had a new son-in-law. He married off his daughter recently and he wanted to say congratulations. She was on her own now. Maybe? He gained a son-in-law, that was what happened.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk