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 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., with the following members present:

	Hank Guess	
Tony Wood		
Charlotte C. Williams	Aldermen	Arnita M. Dula
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were City Manager Warren Wood, Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Yaidee Fox, City Attorney Timothy Swanson, 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 except for Alderman Freeman

II. Invocation by Reverend Bill Garrard, Retired United Methodist Clergy

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Special Presentations

A. Presentation of a Proclamation Honoring the Catawba Valley Community College Esports Team – Presented to Sports Information Director and Esports Head Coach, Catawba Valley Community College, Cody S. Dalton and the Esports Team.

Mayor Guess asked Esports head coach and Catawba Valley Community College Representative Cody Dalton, the Esports team, and anyone else present with that group to the podium. They had their trophy with them. This group was no stranger to them, and it was not the first time they had been at the Council meeting because of their winning championship progress. Once again, they wanted to honor the Catawba Valley Community College Esports team. They were 3-time National Junior College Athletic Association Esports National Champions. He wanted to take the opportunity to read the proclamation, which was going to declare April 21st, 2026, as CVCC Red Hawks Esports Day in the City of Hickory. He read and presented the proclamation honoring the Catawba Valley Community College Esports Team. Photos were taken.

Coach Dalton commented that this program had been a blessing for him personally, and obviously for these kids. You think it was just video games, but to have 69 kids have a 3.5 GPA or higher. Video games were a tool that could be used. If they have a young person in their life, whether it was a grandkid, kids, whatever, encourage them to use it because it could lead to some amazing things. He never in a million years would have thought that when they said, hey, start a video game team and you are going to be a coach, that it would lead to 3 national titles. This group was outstanding. He was super proud of every single one of them. They all do everything they need to do, not just competitively but in the classroom, and he was super thankful to be their coach. He appreciated City Council for honoring them and they were blessed to be present.

B. Presentation of a Proclamation Honoring Fallen Fire and Emergency Services Personnel – Presented to the Family of Fallen Firefighter Jake Bridges.

Mayor Guess advised that May 3rd, 2026 was recognized as National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service Day. He asked Fire Chief Hutchinson, and the family of one of their fallen firefighters to the podium. He introduced Jake Bridges' mother Laura and stepfather Ed King. He wanted to certainly thank them for being present and allowing them the opportunity to honor their son. Jake Bridges served as a firefighter in the City of Hickory for almost 2 years. In the early morning hours of June 5th, 2025, after returning from a structure fire, Jake experienced a medical emergency. Despite the best efforts of his fellow firefighters, the first responders, and the medical professionals, sadly, Jake passed away. Jake would always be remembered in the City of Hickory. Everyone who knew him remembered his lively personality and unforgettable smile. He was passionate about the fire service, and second only to his love of the Atlanta Braves. Jake made a lasting impact on the Hickory Fire Department and its members, and at just 20 years old, he gave his life protecting the people and the businesses of Hickory, and they would certainly never forget that. Mayor Guess read the proclamation and presented it to Laura and Ed King. Photos were taken.

Chief Matthew Hutchinson advised in a couple weeks they were going to go up to Emmitsburg, Maryland, with a contingency of firefighters and City management. There were 97 total firefighters who died in 2025. Jake was one of those firefighters. On May 3rd they were going to go up there and honor him. Then the following week, they were going to honor him once more in Raleigh. They would continue to honor Jake every June 5th. They did not know exactly what they were going to do, but they honor him every day. His picture was in every one of their stations. It was a great loss. They do not ever want to ever go through that again in their fire department, or any fire department, to be honest. He wanted them to know they were part of their family and they loved them, if they ever needed anything. He thanked all of them for their support.

C. Presentation of a Proclamation for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month - Presented to Cathy Lawson.

Mayor Guess asked Cathy Lawson to the podium. He advised he actually had a personal family connection to this next proclamation. He had a close family member who passed with ALS. He referred to a lapel pin and advised he wore this lapel pin in honor of his stepfather, Norris Whisnant, who passed from ALS. He was very familiar with ALS and the effects that it had not only on the patient but on the family as well. He mentioned that most people think of ALS, and they think of Lou Gehrig's disease, and that was what it was known as, but it was amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He wanted to bring to everyone's attention and have awareness of the proclamation for ALS Awareness Month. Mayor Guess read the proclamation. Photos were taken.

Ms. Cathy Lawson commented be aware of ALS, contribute, do anything they could for research. Contact all their congress people. They were the ones that had to get this money for research. Her husband passed away 4 years ago. He lived 5 years with it. She had been a caregiver. She had been in their shoes. It was hard on families, and there was no hope. They had to find some hope; some answer to it. She thanked Council.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

A. Mr. Jeffrey Katz advised he was present with his wife Melanie. They lived at 735 4th Street NE, across from the Lenoir-Rhyne Alumni House. They built their dream home there 16 years ago. Over the past few years, they have been having increasing problems with their water, which they purchased from the City of Hickory. They had a water main break twice on their block. The street was still crumbling in spots where this occurred. They had significant problems with sediment in their water. They had to replace their small water heater, which was used to recirculate hot water, because of the sediment that just laid on the bottom of it with impurities. They also had to replace the pipes going to the tank and then coming from the tank because of buildup of material within it. They put a whole house water filter in their garage to filter the water before it comes into their house, but yet sediment was still able to get through. They were contemplating installing a better, albeit more expensive system in the beginning of the next month or two. The water filters that they put in were designed to last 3 to 6 months. However, they have not done so. He had to replace the filters every month because of impurities. It was nasty. The final straw and why he came here this evening was that he replaced the filter 3 weeks ago, and over the 10 days after he replaced it, he noted significant decrease in the pressure of their water. If they flushed the toilet, they had no water pressure in the sink to wash their hands. This led him to change the filter, but yet again, he was sickened to see the sludge and impurities that were in it. They had pictures of what he took out from the filter casing. His wife actually tagged Mayor Guess in those pictures. He was happy to send it to the Council if they would like. He also had the filter with him. It looked like hazardous waste. It was not. It was from the water system. It was slugged up. He was a healthcare professional. He was a physician assistant. He and Mayor Guess crossed paths many years ago in the 1980s in the emergency room. He frequently talked to his patients about the effects of what they put in their bodies. It did not, however, take a professional to know that drinking this kind of water could not be healthy. He knew that the City flushed some of the water hydrants recently, and they were told to run water until the water clears. But he would like some explanation. How does this sludge get in there in the first place? Does it sit there and then just get stirred up in the pipes? Well, what was it doing when it was just sitting there? What were the long and short-term effects of having that just sit? How much water needs to be wasted when hydrants are flushed to clear out their lines? When could they feel comfortable enough knowing that they have ran enough water so that it was fit to drink? Why do they continue to have sediment in their water? What plans were there in place to repair or replace the aging water infrastructure? That was going to be the end of his remarks. Like he said, he replaced the filter on Saturday, this morning before he got ready to go to work, the water was running in the bathroom and the water pressure at their sink, once again, almost nothing.

Deputy City Clerk Crystal Mundy called 3 minutes.

Mr. Katz continued when they looked again on the sludge in there, there was sludge in the tank.

Mayor Guess advised he could speak with Public Utilities Director Will Hamblin. He asked if anyone else wished to address Council. No one else appeared.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of April 7, 2026.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams that the Minutes of April 7, 2026 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 Dula that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Budget Revision Number 16. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below will be enacted by vote of City Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Item IX.

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

A. Approved a Proclamation for Arbor Day, April 24, 2026.

B. Called for a Public Hearing to Consider the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of Property Located at 350 and 356 14th Avenue SW, Containing Approximately 1.24 Aces, Identified at PINs 3702-14-33-0149 and 3702-14-33-0299, Owned by Blue Collar Properties, LLC. (Authorized the Public Hearing for May 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-23
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 Blue Collar Properties, LLC requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on April 7, 2026, 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 Blue Collar Properties, LLC, containing 1.24-acres of property located at 350 and 356 14th Avenue SW, Hickory, identified as PINs 3702-14-33-0149 and 3702-14-33-0299.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 7th day of April, 2026.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

(Petition is on file in the City Clerk's Office and is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes)

RESOLUTION 26-24
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 6:00 p.m. on May 5, 2026, 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 Blue Collar Properties, LLC, containing 1.24-acres of property located at 350 and 356 14th Avenue SW, Hickory, identified as PINs 3702-14-33-0149 and 3702-14-33-0299.

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. 26-25
A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE INTENT TO ANNEX INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY BLUE COLLAR PROPERTIES, LLC AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SAME

WHEREAS, Blue Collar Properties, LLC is the owner of certain real property as described herein, which property is located at 350 and 356 14th Avenue SW, Hickory, containing 1.24-acres; identified as PINs 3702-14-33-0149 and 3702-14-33-0299.

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 21st day of April, 2026, 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 6:00 p.m. on May 5, 2026, 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, Blue Collar Properties LLC, Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 1, City Limits, subject property outlined in red; and Blue Collar Properties LLC, Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 2, Land Use, 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.

(Maps are on file in the City Clerk's Office and are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes)

C. Approved Advertising All Real and Personal Current Fiscal Year Tax Amounts for Burke and Caldwell Counties in an Attempt to Collect the Outstanding Taxes.

North Carolina General Statute §105-369(a) mandates that the tax collector must first inform the governing body of and then advertise the "total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property". The unpaid tax amounts for 2025: Burke County - Public Services - $33.52; Personal Property Tax - $7,299.05; Business Property Tax - $215.05; Total $7,547.62. Caldwell County – Public Services - $168.56; Real

Property $4,944.52; Total $5,113.08. A taxing unit has the option of advertising personal property taxes that are not a lien on real property, but the cost of that advertisement may not be passed along to taxpayers as is the cost of the real property tax lien advertisement. The amount advertised should be only the principal amount of taxes owed, not including any interest, costs, or fees. G.S. §105-369(c) requires that real property tax liens for the current year be advertised at any time from March 1 through June 30. Three actions must occur before the advertisement may be published and posted. (1) The governing body is informed of the "total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property". (2) The governing body must issue an order to the tax collector to advertise the tax liens; the order will be issued, presumably, immediately upon receipt of the tax collector's report. (3) At least thirty days before the advertisement is published and posted, the tax collector must provide written notice to the affected taxpayers of the intent to publish outstanding current tax liens. When a taxpayer files a bankruptcy petition, an "automatic stay" immediately becomes effective. Essentially this stay bars any effort by a creditor to collect a debt from the debtor in bankruptcy. The advertisement of a tax lien arguably qualifies as an act to enforce a tax lien and is therefore barred by the automatic stay. The Tax Collector has informed City Council of the unpaid tax amounts for the current fiscal year. It is recommended that City Council issue an order to advertise all real and personal current fiscal year tax amounts in the Hickory Daily Record in an attempt to collect the outstanding taxes.

D. Approved Accepting the 2025 Justice Assistance Grant in Collaboration with the Catawba County Sheriff's Office.

Hickory Police Department requests approval to accept the 2025 Justice Assistance Grant in collaboration with Catawba County Sheriff's Office. The City of Hickory has applied to receive the total JAG award of $30,698. The JAG Program is a formula-based grant through the Office of Justice Programs/Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) that utilizes Uniform Crime Reporting statistics of all law enforcement agencies to determine eligibility for direct federal grant awards. There is no match required. Hickory Police Department will use the grant funds for annual licensing fee for two Grayshift forensic devices in collaboration with Catawba County Sheriff's Office. The JAG legislation requires counties to remain a partner with the local jurisdictions receiving funds and must be a signatory on a required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Hickory Police Department submitted the initial JAG 2025 application to request purchasing Grayshift software for a total cost of $61,395. Hickory Police and Catawba County Sheriff's Office will be responsible for paying the remaining cost of the software. Hickory Police Department recommends acceptance of the grant and partnership with Catawba County Sheriff's Office for the 2025 Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of $30,698 (Catawba County Sheriff's Office $12,279.20, Hickory Police Department $18,418.80). The Hickory Police Department and Catawba County Sheriff's Office will share the remaining expense of the annual licensing fee to use two GrayKey forensic devices from Magnet Forensics for the FY2026-2027 fiscal year.

E. Approved a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of Applications to the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization in the Amount of $5,840,000 and Provide a Match of $1,460,000 for Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds.

Staff requests for approval of two LAPP Applications Submittals that include Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funding from the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The City plans to submit two grant applications to the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization for 13th Avenue Drive SE - funding for the design, utility relocation, right of way acquisition, and construction of a new roadway segment connecting two existing sections of 13th Avenue Drive SE. The project will also include sidewalk along the new roadway. The estimated total cost $5,000,000, 80% Federal Funding - $4,000,000, and 20% Local Match - $1,000,000. And 5th Street NE and 10th Avenue Drive NE intersection improvements with sidewalk along 10th Avenue Drive NE – funding for the design, utility relocation, right of way acquisition, and construction for pedestrian signal heads at 5th Street NE and 10th Avenue Drive NE and sidewalk along 10th Avenue Drive SE. The estimated total cost $2,300,000, 80% Federal Funding - $1,840,000, and 20% Local Match - $460,000. Staff requests Council's approval of the Resolution supporting the two grant applications and committing the combined 20% match of $1,460,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HICKORY TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,840,000 AND PROVIDE A MATCH OF $1,460,000 FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT FUNDS FOR

- 13th Avenue Drive SE Connector
- 5th Street NE/10th Avenue Drive NE Intersection Improvements and 10th Avenue Drive NE Sidewalk Connector

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2026, the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) issued a call for projects to agencies in its jurisdiction for Surface Transportation Block Grant Funding. 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 submitting applications for the following projects:

- 13th Avenue Drive SE Connector – Design, Utility Relocation, Right of Way and Construction funding to create a connection between two existing sections of 13th Avenue Drive SE, creating a continuous corridor between Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard (Exit 125) and McDonald Parkway (Exit 126).

Estimated Cost $5,000,000

- 80% Federal Funding - $4,000,000
- 20% Local Match - $1,000,000
- 5th Street NE/10th Avenue Drive NE Intersection Improvements and 10th Avenue Drive NE Sidewalk Connector – Design, Utility Relocation, Right of Way and Construction to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility at the intersection of 5th Street NE and 10th Avenue Drive NE through the installation of pedestrian signal infrastructure, enhanced crosswalk visibility, and new sidewalk construction along 10th Avenue Drive NE.

Estimated Cost $2,300,000

- 80% Federal Funding - $1,840,000
- 20% Local Match - $460,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to apply for Surface Transportation Block Grant Funding for the above projects in an amount not to exceed $5,840,000 and commit to a City match not to exceed $1,460,000.

F. Approved the Issuance of a Pyrotechnic Display Permit to Contracted Pyrotechnics for a Fireworks Display at Moretz Stadium.

Staff request approval to issue a pyrotechnic display permit to Contracted Pyrotechnics for a fireworks display at Moretz Stadium for May 8, 2026. William Cunningham, Director of Athletic Facilities and Operations of Lenoir-Rhyne University submitted a request to obtain permission to conduct a public fireworks display for the commencement ceremony. 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 recommend approval of the above pyrotechnics display, subject to the burning ban, drought conditions and the Fire Marshal's final approval.

G. Approved a Resolution Declaring Surplus Fire Department Equipment and the Sale of the Equipment to Bandys Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department.

The City of Hickory Fire Department staff requests approval to declare as surplus a twenty (20) piece Vetter Rescue Air Bag Kit. In 2025, following a replacement schedule, the fire department completed a comprehensive replacement of its rescue air bags. This transition was necessary to eliminate the operational risks and training complexities associated with maintaining a mixed fleet of equipment. The intent of the Fire Department is to sell the rescue air bag kit to the Bandys Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Catawba County. The agreement was negotiated by staff for $2,000. The air bag kit will be sold as is. The revenue from the sale of this rescue air bag kit will be used towards the associated costs for new technical rescue equipment for the fire department. The sale of this equipment will be in accordance with General Statute 160A-267. Hickory Fire Department staff recommend declaring the equipment as surplus and selling the equipment to Bandys Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-27

A Resolution of the Hickory City Council Declaring Surplus a 20 Piece Vetter Rescue Air Bag Kit And Authorizing the Sell to Bandys Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department

WHEREAS, the Hickory Fire Department declares surplus a twenty (20) piece Vetter Rescue Air Bag Kit.

WHEREAS, the Hickory Fire Department wishes to sell said property to Bandys Crossroads Fire Department at a negotiated price.

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-267 allows the City to dispose of property by private sale at a negotiated price after Council's approval and advertisement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hickory, North Carolina:

SECTION 1. That authorization is given to the Hickory Fire Department to dispose of the declared surplus in a manner serving the best interest of the City.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

H. Approved a Resolution Declaring Surplus Fire Department Equipment and the Sale of the Equipment to Alleghany County Rescue Squad.

The City of Hickory Fire Department staff requests approval to declare as surplus ten (10) EF Johnson VP900, Model III, Phase I Portable Radios, ten (10) batteries, seven (7) remote speaker mics, and ten (10) chargers. The department previously operated on a VHF radio system that is owned by the City and located at the "F" Avenue SE Water Tower. In 2014, these dual-band radios were purchased to facilitate the department's transition to the NC Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (NC VIPER) 800 Mhz Radio System. These dual-band portable radios are no longer serviceable by EF Johnson and do not have the Phase II requirement needed to operate on the NC VIPER System. The intent of the Fire Department is to sell these portable radios and accessories to the Alleghany County Rescue Squad, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Alleghany County. The agreement was negotiated by staff for $400 per radio set, which includes one (1) EF Johnson VP900, Model III, Phase I Portable Radio, one (1) battery, and one (1) charger. There are also seven (7) remote speaker mics that will be sold. In total there are ten (10) Radio Sets that will be sold as is. The revenue from the sale of these portable radios will be used towards the associated costs for new technical rescue equipment for the fire department. This purchase will be in accordance with General Statute 160A-267. Hickory Fire Department staff recommend declaring the equipment as surplus and selling the equipment to the Alleghany County Rescue Squad.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-28

A Resolution of the Hickory City Council Declaring Surplus ten (10) EF Johnson VP900, Model III, Phase I Portable Radios, ten (10) batteries, seven (7) remote speaker mics, and ten (10) chargers. And Authorizing the Sell to Alleghany County Rescue Squad

WHEREAS, the Hickory Fire Department declares surplus ten (10) EF Johnson VP900, Model III, Phase I Portable Radios, ten (10) batteries, seven (7) remote speaker mics, and ten (10) chargers.

WHEREAS, the Hickory Fire Department wishes to sell said property to Alleghany County Rescue Squad at a negotiated price.

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-267 allows the City to dispose of property by private sale at a negotiated price after Council's approval and advertisement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hickory, North Carolina:

SECTION 1. That authorization is given to the Hickory Fire Department to dispose of the declared surplus in a manner serving the best interest of the City.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

I. Approved a Resolution and a Joint Certification Memorandum Transferring Ownership of a Wastewater Flow Meter from the City of Claremont to the City of Hickory Pursuant to the 2019 Contract for Sale of Wastewater Treatment Services.

Staff requests Council's approval of a Resolution and a Joint Certification Memorandum transferring ownership of a wastewater flow meter to the City of Hickory pursuant to the 2019 Contract for Sale of Wastewater Treatment Services. Section 3.5 of the contract provides that wastewater flows conveyed from Claremont to Hickory shall be measured at a mutually agreed-upon metering location. Section 3.9 provides that Hickory shall own and maintain the meter after acceptance of the project. Staff recommend Council's approval of the Resolution and the Joint Certification Memorandum transferring ownership of the wastewater meter to the City of Hickory pursuant to the 2019 Contract for Sale of Wastewater Treatment Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-29
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAREMONT-HICKORY WASTEWATER FLOW METER PURSUANT TO THE 2019 CONTRACT FOR SALE OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory ("Hickory") and the City of Claremont ("Claremont") entered into a Contract for Sale of Wastewater Treatment Services dated January 14, 2019 (the "Agreement"), pursuant to which Claremont was authorized to connect to the Hickory utility system and convey wastewater to Hickory for treatment at the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, Section 3.5 of the Agreement provides for metering of wastewater flows at mutually agreed locations, with the joint point of metering identified as Point A (the "Meter"), generally located on McLin Creek near the corporate limits of the Town of Catawba, just south of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, and more particularly shown on Appendix 1 attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.8 of the Agreement requires Claremont to construct and install the Meter and any associated facilities necessary to connect Claremont's wastewater system to the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.9 of the Agreement provides that, upon completion and acceptance of the Project by both parties, Hickory shall own, operate, and maintain the Meter; and

WHEREAS, the Meter was constructed and placed into service on March 28, 2025, and all required testing and calibration have been successfully completed; and

WHEREAS, Claremont has provided Hickory with weekly monitoring reports and semiannual calibration records for the Meter; and

WHEREAS, Claremont has adopted a resolution approving the transfer of ownership of the Meter to Hickory pursuant to the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Hickory has inspected the Meter and finds it to be in acceptable operating condition and in compliance with the requirements of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Hickory desires to formally accept ownership of the Meter and assume responsibility for its operation and maintenance in accordance with the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hickory:

Section 1: The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as findings of fact and are adopted as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2: Effective upon adoption of this Resolution and pursuant to Section 3.9 of the Agreement, the City of Hickory hereby accepts and shall thereafter own, operate, and maintain the Meter in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. Such acceptance is based upon Claremont's representation that the Meter has been constructed, tested, and calibrated, and is operating in material compliance with the requirements of the Agreement.

Section 3: Hickory shall provide to Claremont semiannual calibration reports, weekly monitoring reports, and such other records as are reasonably necessary to track and monitor Claremont's wastewater flows to the Hickory-Catawba Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Section 4: The City Manager, Public Utilities Director, and City Attorney are authorized to execute such certifications, confirmations, and other documents as may be reasonably necessary to effectuate this transfer and to coordinate with Claremont for administrative implementation.

Section 5: Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to amend, modify, waive, or supersede any provision of the Agreement, all of which remain in full force and effect.

Section 6: This Resolution constitutes an administrative confirmation of acceptance under the Agreement and does not create any new contractual obligations. Acceptance of the Meter does not constitute: (a) a waiver of any rights, remedies, warranties, or claims available to Hickory under the Agreement, at law, or in equity; (b) acceptance of any defective, nonconforming, or incomplete work not in compliance with the Agreement; (c) or a release of any party from responsibility for latent defects, construction deficiencies,

equipment failure, or noncompliance discovered after the date of this Resolution. Hickory expressly reserves all such rights and remedies.

Section 7: This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

(Appendix 1 is on file in the City Clerk's Office and hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes)

J. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 17.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-14
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 17

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 159.15 and 159.13.2, the following revision be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and for the duration of the Project Ordinance noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2025-26 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	344,000	18,418
General Government	180,000	44,900
Other Financing Uses	163,318	-
Culture & Recreation	500	-
Contingency	-	100,000
TOTAL	687,818	163,318

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Taxes	250,000	-
Investment Earnings	250,000	-
Miscellaneous	24,500	-
TOTAL	524,500	-

SECTION 2. To amend the Fleet Fund within the FY 2025-26 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Government	44,900	-
TOTAL	44,900	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	44,900	-
TOTAL	44,900	-

SECTION 3. To amend the Water/Sewer Fund within the FY 2025-26 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	100,000	-
TOTAL	100,000	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	100,000	-
TOTAL	100,000	-

SECTION 4. to amend the Airport Fund within the FY 2025-26 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Transportation	998,133	998,133
Other Financing Uses	-	998,133
TOTAL	998,133	1,996,266

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental	-	998,133
TOTAL	-	998,133

SECTION 5. To amend the Control Tower Renovations (#650035) Capital Project Ordinance, the funding revenues shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental	998,133	-
Other Financing Sources	-	998,133
TOTAL	998,133	998,133

SECTION 6. To amend the Waterline to Springs Rd Water Tank (#83322) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental	53,094	-
TOTAL	53,094	-

To provide funding for the above, the Waterline to Springs Rd Water Tank (#83322) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	53,094	-
TOTAL	53,094	-

SECTION 7. To amend the Justice Assistance (G5123) Grant Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safely	61,396	-
TOTAL	61,396	-

To provide funding for the above, the Justice Assistance (G5123) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	18,418	-
Restricted Intergovernmental	42,978	-
TOTAL	61,396	-

SECTION 8. To amend the Justice Assistance 2025 (#G5122) Grant Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safely	4,000	-
TOTAL	4,000	-

To provide funding for the above, the Justice Assistance 2025 (#G5122) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Restricted Intergovernmental	4,000	-
TOTAL	4,000	-

SECTION 9. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Items

XI. New Business

A. Public Hearings

1. Approved the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of Property Located at 2633 Springs Road NE, Containing Approximately 1.135 Aces, Identified at PIN 3723-10-37-5117, Owned by RO Hickory Property, LLC – Presented by Planner Wilson Elliott.

Staff requests consideration of the voluntary contiguous annexation of 1.135 acres of property located at 2633 Springs Road NE, identified as PIN 3723-10-37-5117. The property is currently located within the planning jurisdiction of the City of Hickory's extraterritorial jurisdiction and zoned CC-2 Commercial Corridor. If annexed, the property owners will continue with the CC-2 zoning classification, with the main annexation desire being tied into City's utility services. Upon reviewing the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan, staff would recommend CC-2 Commercial Corridor, as it would be consistent with the comprehensive plan. Surrounding properties are zoned CC-2 Commercial Corridor and R-2 Medium Density Residential and are occupied by Dollar General and a vacant lot respectively. The current tax value of the property is $248,300. The potential tax revenue generated by this annexation would be $1,104.93, being that the land is currently vacant. It should be noted that this does not consider the tax revenue once property is developed. Upon analysis, Staff has determined the petition meets the statutory requirements for voluntary contiguous annexation, and adequate public services are available. Staff find the petition to be in conformity with applicable statutes and recommend approval of the petition.

Notice of the public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on April 11, 2026.

City Manager Warren Wood advised the first public hearing was for the consideration of the voluntary contiguous annexation of property located at 2633 Springs Road NE containing approximately 1.135 acres and owned by RO Hickory Property LLC, to be presented by Planner Wilson Elliott.

Planner Wilson Elliott gave a PowerPoint presentation. He advised he would be presenting on the voluntary contiguous annexation of the RO Hickory Property LLC located at 2633 Springs Road NE, Hickory. It sat on approximately 1.135 acres within Alderman Wood's ward. Currently, it is located within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The property was zoned as CC-2 within the City's commercial corridor. Currently it is vacant, and its intended use for future development would be as a Carolina Quick Care, also known as a health clinic. Currently the property's tax value is $248,300. The potential tax revenue to be generated would be based on their estimations at $1,104.93, being that the land was vacant. He noted that this was not considered the tax revenue once the clinic was built. Based off their reports, population would not increase because it was not a residentially zoned district, nor would it have any adverse effects on the current school district. He referred to the PowerPoint slide and displayed a map pointing out the current city boundary. It was contiguous and located directly across and beside current City of Hickory property. Access to this property was along Springs Road, which was annotated right in front of it and maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He displayed the currently zoning map. As mentioned before, it sat within the CC2 commercial corridor. Properties to the north were zoned as R2 residential within the City of Hickory's ETJ and were vacant. To the south, it was also zoned CC2 commercial corridor and was occupied by the White Tire Center. To the west, it was CC2 commercial corridor and was occupied by Dollar General. He displayed an aerial of the area. He pointed out White Tire Center, to the direct south, Dollar General to the direct west, with vacant R2 property above it. Based on the information they were provided water was available and would serve the property along Springs Road, but there was not currently any sewer utility service in this area. Based on this information, there was an agreement in place that once utility service was extended by the City, the owner and developer of the property would be connected as soon as it became available. Until that time, they will have adequate services provided. With all this information, they reached out for any staff comments within their departments. Fire said there would be no adverse effect on the fire department's operations and would sit within Hickory Fire Station's 2 response area. The Police Department noted that the annexation would not adversely affect anything within their operations and would sit within the Baker Pact. Engineering, Planning, Public Services, as well as the City Manager's Office and the Legal Department presented no objections to the annexation, with the only comment being made by Public Utilities, which was previously addressed, that there was an agreement in place regarding the sewer utility service. Based on all of that information the voluntary contiguous annexation petition complied with all applicable statutes of the voluntary annexation of contiguous properties. Adequate public services were available in sufficient quantities to properly serve the property, subject to the comments provided. The annexation of the property would not cause available public services to fall below acceptable levels. Based on all these findings of the staff, as well as the other departments, they recommended that City Council approve the voluntary continuous contiguous annexation petition. He asked for any questions that Council may have.

Mayor Guess asked if Council had any questions for Mr. Elliott? He explained the rules for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess closed the public hearing.

Alderman Seaver moved, approval of the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of property located at 2633 Springs Road NE.

Alderman Wood commented that Mr. Elliott had mentioned that sewer has to be extended to this property for connection, but that they would have adequate services prior to that being completed. What does that mean in terms of sewer service?

Planner Wilson Elliott believed that they would be using a septic system.

Alderman Wood asked if that was appropriate for a healthcare facility. He was assuming this was an urgent care.

Planner Wilson Elliott advised yes, to the best of his knowledge, it had been used in the past on other properties, and it was appropriate based on all of their findings and their research.

City Manager Warren Wood commented that they had septic at commercial facilities. It was not common, but it was done.

Planner Wilson Elliott agreed that it was not common, but once again, they agreed that as soon as appropriate utility service was extended up that far, they would at their cost, connect immediately.

The motion had been made by Alderman Seaver to approve the voluntary contiguous annexation, seconded by Alderwoman Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NO. 521
VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION ORDINANCE (CONTIGUOUS)
RO Hickory Property, LLC

AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, PURSUANT TO GENERAL STATUTES 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED (CONTIGUOUS)

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory desires to annex the area described herein, under G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has by resolution directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of said annexation; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk has certified to the sufficiency of said request, and a public hearing on the question of this annexation was held in the Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina, at 6:00 p.m. on the 21st day of April, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory further finds that the area described therein meets the standards of G.S. 160A-58.1(b), to wit:

a. The nearest point on the proposed satellite corporate limits is not more than three miles from the corporate limits of the City of Hickory.

b. No point on the proposed satellite corporate limits is closer to another city than to the City of Hickory.

c. The areas described are so situated that the City will be able to provide services on the same basis within the proposed satellite corporate limits that it provides within the primary corporate limits.

d. No subdivision, as defined in G.S. 160A-376, will be fragmented by this proposed annexation.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory does hereby find as a fact that said petition has been signed by all the owners of real property in the area who are required by law to sign and all other requirements of G.S. 160A-58.1 as amended, have been complied with; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that the annexation is otherwise valid, and that the public health, safety, and welfare of the City of Hickory and of the areas proposed for annexation will be best served by annexing the area herein described.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA:

Section 1. By virtue of the authority granted by G.S. 160A-58.2, as amended, the following-described contiguous territory is hereby annexed and made a part of the City of Hickory as of the 30th day of April, 2026:

Contiguous Annexation by the City of Hickory of the property of
RO Hickory Property, LLC
located at 2633 Springs Rd. NE Hickory, N.C. 28601

That certain parcel or tract of land lying and being about 3.73 miles east northeast from the center of the City of Hickory. Bounded on the north and east by the lands of Maura Lee Beard Living Trust Et Al. as described in Deed Book 3963 at Page 1746; on the south by the 80' right-of-way of Springs Rd. NE and on the west by the lands of Four K Brothers, LLC as described in Deed Book 3277 at Page 249; the existing City of Hickory city limits as shown in Plat Book 72 at Page 151 and more particularly described as follows, to wit.

Beginning at a 1" iron pipe, said pipe having N.C. grid coordinates of N 737,041.98, E 1,323,414.83 NAD 83(2011), the southeast corner of the Four K Brothers, LLC lands as described in Deed Book 3277 at Page 249, also the southeast corner of the existing City of Hickory city limits as shown in Plat Book 72 at Page 151 and running thence, with the east line of the Four K Brothers, LLC lands and the east line of the existing city limits, North 13 degrees 55 minutes 20 seconds East 184.73 feet to a 5/8" iron rod in the east line of the Four K Brothers, LLC lands and the east line of the existing city limits and a corner of the Maura Lee Beard Living Trust Et Al. lands as described in Deed Book 3963 at Page 1746 ; thence, as south and west lines of the Beard lands and as new city limit lines the following calls: North 69 degrees 09 minutes 45 seconds East 255.53 feet to a 5/8" iron rod; thence South 20 degrees 16 minutes 18 seconds East 188.65 feet to a 5/8" iron rod in the northern right-of-way line of Springs Rd. NE; thence, with the northern right-of-way of Springs Rd. NE, South 70 degrees 15 minutes 16 seconds West 275.96 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 1.135 acres more or less.

This description drawn from a plat by Rex V. Bohn P.L.S. L-4343 titled "Contiguous Annexation by the City of Hickory Property of: RO Hickory Property, LLC" dated February 4, 2026.

Section 2. Upon and after the 30th day of April 2026, the above-described territory and its citizens and property shall be subject to all debts, laws, ordinances, and regulations in force in the City of Hickory and shall be entitled to the same privileges and benefits as other parts of the City of Hickory. Said territory shall be subject to municipal taxes according to G.S. 160A-58.10, as amended.

Section 3. The newly annexed territory described herein shall become part of Ward No. 1 of the City of Hickory.

Section 4. The Mayor of the City of Hickory shall cause to be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Catawba County, and in the Office of the Secretary of State at Raleigh, North Carolina, an accurate map of the annexed territory, described in Section 1 hereof, together with duly certified copy of this Ordinance. Such a map shall also be delivered to the County Board of Elections, as required by G.S. 163-288.1.

2. Approved on First Reading Rezoning Petition 26-02 for Property Located at 112 2nd Street SE from Office-Institutional (OI) to Planned Development (PD) – Presentation by Planning Manager Cal Overby.

Staff requests Council’s consideration of Rezoning Petition 26-02. Safe Harbor Rescue Mission currently operates a facility at 112 2nd Street SE. The organization has submitted a petition to rezone the property from Office – Institutional (OI) to Planned Development. The intention is to gain approval to construct eleven detached residences on the campus. The residences would be utilized as part of Safe Harbor’s support to women, by providing housing for its clients. The current Office and Institutional (OI) district permit specific non-residential residential uses at a floor area ratio of 2:1, and residential at a density of 30 dwelling units per acre. Under the current zoning the property could yield in excess of 300,000 square feet of office and professional space or up to ninety residences, or a combination

thereof. Planned Development (PD) districts are conditional zoning districts where approval is granted upon a property being developed in a specific manner, with regards to uses, building and site design. The Hickory Regional Planning Commission held a hearing on March 25, 2026 to consider the petition and acknowledged the petition's consistency with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Based upon its findings, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission voted 7-0 to recommend approval of the petition.

Notice of the public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on April 11, and April 18, 2026.

City Manager Warren Wood advised the second public hearing was consideration of rezoning petition 26-02 for property located at 112 2nd Street SE from Office Institutional to Planned Development. He asked Planning Manager Cal Overby to the podium to present.

Planning Manager Cal Overby gave a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed rezoning petition 26-02. The request was made by Safe Harbor Rescue Mission for the rezoning of approximately 3.69 acres of property located at 112 2nd Avenue SE. The request was to rezone the property from office institutional to planned development. The request was to rezone the property to planned development for the purpose of construction of 11 temporary housing units for the clients of Safe Harbor. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed the future land use map of the City's comprehensive plan. He pointed out the area of the subject parcel. It was actually high-density residential, which was appropriate for office and institutional zoning, which was currently zoned. He pointed out the area which was part of Hickory's central business district. He pointed out office institutional zoning along 2nd Avenue, Central Business District, and the area which was R-4 residential, which was part of Kenworth and part of Ridgeview. It was basically two neighborhoods. He displayed an orthophotograph on the PowerPoint. He pointed out the campus of Safe Harbor. This was their main facility. He noted the auxiliary facility that they have. He thought Safe Harbor actually started in a smaller house, which he noted on the photo. The facility expanded into a larger area. He pointed out the area in question where the development would occur. He advised the general idea for this area again, which was pretty much vacant, would be to build a parking area and 11 small individual detached dwellings. It was supposed to be temporary housing for the clients of Safe Harbor. He felt sure most of the Council members understood that Safe Harbor provided services for women, and that would be the tenants of these units. He reiterated that it was supposed to be temporary housing because the program was intended to provide services to women to get them back on their feet and back into permanent housing where they need to be. He advised they were looking at high-density residential. The comp plan recommended up to 20 dwelling units an acre. What they were considering here as far as density, was much lower than what they were seeing on the plan than what could happen here by a large extent. In the commercial area, there was mixed use. There were opportunities for office district on thoroughfares. This was a thoroughfare. It was an office district. They were looking at a wide district. Actually, Safe Harbor could go further to the south. They could put larger buildings there. They could do an apartment complex on the remainder of this property. That was not what they were asking to do.

Planning Manager Cal Overby advised they were looking at doing something much less intense on this piece of property. With office institutional zoning they could actually do a lot more than was requested. They could actually do mixed-use development here. Safe Harbor was going to keep their existing building here, and they were going to do mixed-use development. When you do mixed-use development, you use floor area ratios. That was different than dwelling units per acre. Their floor area ratio was basically 2:1, meaning you could have 2 square feet of building area for 1 square foot of land area. It calculated out that they have about 3.6 acres. They could have about 7 acres of development space. Could they get that there? It would take a lot of money and a lot of height, but yes, theoretically maybe they could. He discussed height limits. They could go up that tall, but the cost was going to prohibit that. Vehicle access. Most of the staff went over vehicular access. They went over that at a prior pre-design meeting with Safe Harbor. They did that to make sure that they did not get here wasting their time, Council's time, or Safe Harbor’s time. They worked out most of these items with them ahead of time. The general specifics and techniques of this have been worked out to make sure this plan was going to work and that they were not presenting Council with something that would not ever be built because it physically could not be built. They would have a vegetative buffer against the properties to the south, so that will be installed also. They were going to have building space, and there were no overhead lines here, obviously. He advised these were general plan requirements that he is going over. About a third of the

property was actually still open space. They were not looking at this thing getting really dense as far as coverage.

Planning Manager Cal Overby advised the Planning Commission considered this at their March meeting. At their meeting, representatives of Safe Harbor spoke, there was no one speaking in opposition. At the end of the hearing, Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval to City Council. From a staff perspective, he received one phone call prior to the Planning Commission meeting. The gentleman saw a sign posted and just asked what it was. They did not say whether they were for it, against it, or whatever. They just asked a question. With that, he concluded his presentation and asked if Council had any questions.

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

PROPONENT

Ms. Gigi Williams, Executive Director of Safe Harbor, 5225 Harris Farm Road, Hickory, commented that Mr. Overby just took a whole lot of what she was saying with some of the things. He did such a great job with the presentation. The reason they wanted to do this was because they have this plot of land right behind their building. It was sitting there. They need transitional housing. It was really that simple. Transitional housing was different because it removed having to worry about where they were going to sleep tonight. They do not have to think about what they are going to eat, what they are going to do. They could focus on getting a job, saving money, going towards housing. They want to be contributors to Catawba County and help people to be able to become independent and self-sufficient, and that was what the whole project was about. She asked for any questions.

Mayor Guess asked if anybody had any questions for Gigi Williams.

Alderman Wood asked if this was provided at no cost to the person who would be living in the house?

Ms. Gigi Williams advised they already have existing transitional homes with their apartments, and the rent, which was a program fee, was $250. It would be comparable to that.

Alderman Wood thanked her for what she was doing.

Ms. Gigi Williams added that they had not done any fundraising because they did not have all the approvals, but without even having that, they had pledges in place for all 11 cottages.

Mayor Guess thanked Gigi Williams.

Ms. Amanda Sowards, 4940 20th Street Court NE, Hickory advised she was the CEO of (CCM), Cooperative Christian Ministry, right across the street from Safe Harbor, and to support the efforts that they were doing. Their nonprofit sees people come in every single day in crisis that were looking for housing, they were looking for just solutions, answers, they were in crisis. They see the great need that there was for what Safe Harbor was trying to propose and do. She just wanted to come and support them in those efforts because it was something that the community desperately needs from her point of view. From getting to see those coming through their doors that were battling and dealing with either homelessness or close to being homeless. Whatever they could do to provide that hand up, not just a handout, and she thought that was exactly what Safe Harbor was doing. It would be a benefit and asset to their community. Thank you.

Mayor Guess thanked Ms. Sowards. He asked if anyone else wished to speak. No one else appeared. He closed the public hearing.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of Rezoning Petition 26-02. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE OFFICIAL HICKORY ZONING ATLAS TO REZONE +/- 3.69 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 112 2ND AVENUE SE (PIN 370207688410) FROM OFFICE – INSTITUTIONAL (OI) TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD).

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 petitioned to rezone +/- 3.69 acres of property located at 112 2nd Avenue SE, more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto, to Planned Development (PD); and

WHEREAS, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission considered the proposed rezoning during a hearing on March 25, 2026, 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 public health, safety and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has found Petition 26-02 to be consistent 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

The property is in an area identified as High Density Residential. Such areas are intended to accommodate varying types of residential uses with densities of up to twenty (20) dwelling units per acre. These areas are characterized as being located in or near higher intensity commercial or mixed use areas. The major arterial roadway providing access to the property is 2nd Avenue SE, which is considered a thoroughfare.

Another characteristic of High Density Residential areas are opportunities for office districts along thoroughfares. The inclusion of office districts along thoroughfares is strategized to act as transition between higher intensity commercial areas and surrounding residential neighborhoods.

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 comprehensive plan identifies the area as High Density Residential. Such areas are intended to accommodate residential uses, single and multi-family, at a density of up to twenty (20) units per acre. The plan continues to explain office uses are recommended along throughfares to act as transitions between higher intensity commercial uses and residential neighborhoods. The plan presented for consideration depicts a Planned Development, where offices are located directly on a thoroughfare, while residences are located to the rear, acting as the referenced transition.

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

The proposal requests approval of a Planned Development. Such approval would require conformance with a site specific master plan, which would limit development to an approved master plan. Any subsequent development to occur on the property will be required to be designed in a manner to follow an approved master plan as well as following proper design to mitigate identified negative impacts.

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

Currently, the subject property utilizes 1st Street SE for vehicular access. This includes the main facility and a parking lot directly to the south. The original Safe Harbor building, still utilized and located on a separate parcel, utilizes 2nd Street SE for vehicular access.

The submitted master plan shows vehicular access to the proposed residences from 2nd Street SE as well as an additional internal driveway connecting the buildings on the campus.

Public utilities are in the vicinity of the subject property, as well emergency services, sanitation and normally thought of public services. The land-use pattern of the area, with the inclusion of the subject property, 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 is mixed use in nature, with residential, office and commercial being present. Public resources to provide critical services are in place or will be provided by the property owner / developer to serve any future development. These include public utilities and transportation infrastructure.

- Ensure protection from fire, flood and other dangers.

The subject property will be required to adhere to all state and local building, fire, and flood zone related development regulations. Such regulations will ensure proper protection is provided to ensure surrounding residents, and property is adequately protected as prescribed by law.

Given these factors, Hickory City Council has found the Rezoning Petition 26-02 to be consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan. The petition has also been found to be a reasonable request as the uses permitted would otherwise be permitted by-right except for all structures being located on a single parcel of property.

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. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

(Exhibits “A” and “B” are on file in the City Clerk’s Office and is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes)

3. Approved on First Reading Rezoning Petition 26-03 for Property Located on 10th Street NE Containing Approximately 1.07-Acres from Industrial (IND) to High-Density Residential (R-4) – Presented by Planner Wilson Elliott.

Staff requests Council’s consideration of rezoning petition 26-03, identified as PIN 3713-13-22-4809, located on 10th Street NE. The property is currently zoned industrial (IND) and is vacant. The property owners have petitioned to rezone the property to High-Density Residential (R-4) with the intention of building 20 townhomes. The current IND district allows no residential uses. The requested High-Density Residential (R-4) is the highest density residential zoning district. It is primarily composed of multi-family residential development, as well as small lot single-family development. It allows a maximum density of 20 dwelling units per acre. These areas are located directly adjacent or within commercial service areas but not further than a quarter mile from these areas. Public infrastructure is required to serve this type of development. The Hickory Regional Planning Commission held a hearing on March 25, 2026 to consider the petition and acknowledged the petition’s consistency with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Based upon its findings, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission voted 6-0 to recommend approval of the petition. Staff concur with the recommendation of the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

Notice of the public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on April 11, and April 18, 2026.

City Manager Warren Wood advised the third public hearing was consideration of rezoning petition 26-03 for property located at 10th Street NE containing approximately 1.07 acres from industrial to high-density residential. He asked Planner Wilson Elliott to the podium to present the item to Council.

Planner Wilson Elliott gave a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed petition 26-03, petitioned by owners VFP LLC. The applicant was Lucas Vasquez. The property in question was located along 10th Street NE, in Hickory. It did not have a current address, but it could be identified by PIN number 371313224809. Currently it sat on just over 1 acre and was zoned as industrial. The requested action was for the property to be rezoned, as it was vacant, to high-density residential or R-4 within the City of Hickory, with the intention of building 20 townhomes on it. Based on staff findings, R-4 high-density residential units in the district allowed for maximum density of 20 units per acre. These areas tend to be located along or directly adjacent to or within commercial service areas, but no more than ¼ of a

mile away from there. Public infrastructure was required to service them. Characteristics of R4 included larger-scale multifamily development and small lot single-family residential. The purpose of reviewing for the rezoning, staff looked at their comprehensive plan and their future land use plan. He referred to the future land use map on the PowerPoint. He pointed out the subject property. Based on the future land use, he noted that it was occupied within an area that would be considered for high-density residential development. Below it was within a revitalization zone. It was near Highland Avenue NE as well as Main Avenue NE, with the Highland United Methodist Church sitting 2 blocks over, Ron's Auto Center down near Highland Avenue, as well as the Old Hickory Yarns building to its direct north. He displayed current aerial photography. He pointed out to its north there were some factory uses above, but there was a plethora of residential uses. He pointed out an area, while zoned industrial, they were occupied by single-family homes. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a map which outlined the current zoning as it sat. He noted the industrial area with the adjacent properties across the street and to the north being occupied currently by R-4, and the properties to the south being occupied by C-2 district as well as some more industrial districts.

Planner Wilson Elliott advised with all this information, and according to their Hickory by Choice 2030 plan, the future land use was classified as high-density residential and commercial corridor. The plan stated the following about the areas he mentioned previously, high-density residential development in Hickory was located on or near mixed-use areas of higher-density commercial districts. This would create a higher-density living near neighborhood-scale shopping or office employment centers. The combination of smaller single-family lots, shorter building setbacks, shorter blocks, and multifamily development would create a gross average density for housing at approximately 12 to a max of 20 units per acre. This was taken from page 24 for the Hickory by Choice 2030 plan. High-density residential areas were more often than not located at the margins of commercial nodes such as Highland Avenue NE and Main Avenue NE, as he had identified on the maps. Given these factors, the rezoning of the property to a high-density residential should be considered consistent with the findings and recommendations of their comprehensive plan.

Planner Wilson Elliott advised on March 25th, they conducted a Regional Planning Commission meeting, and this petition was brought before them. During the public hearing, the property owner and also the project engineer spoke in favor of the rezoning. No one spoke in opposition. Some questions that were fielded that he could address based on some conversations with the developer: no parking signs, would be added along 9th and 10th Street NE along the property to help with traffic flow. Sidewalk plans would extend along 9th Street Drive, and no other on-street parking would be allowed. That should clear up ample space for their services for any vehicles or traffic. The development there still was not dead set on plans specifically that had gone into review. The 20 units were the max density that they would be allowed to have, and in accordance with the land development code, they would meet all parking requirements, and all structural requirements. Based on all this information, when it was laid out, the Regional Planning Commission acknowledged the petition's consistency with the Hickory By Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and based on the findings, they voted unanimously for approval of the petition. He asked for any questions or concerns that the Council may have.

Mayor Guess asked if there were any questions for Mr. Elliott.

Alderman Wood asked if the plan was for TM Caldwell Plumbing to stay where they were or had that been part of the conversation?

Planner Wilson Elliott advised that he had not been a part of that conversation. He could find that answer for him.

Alderman Wood advised it was okay he was just curious because he thought the property, the whole thing, that whole triangle was owned by the same person, even the property where TM Caldwell was located.

Planner Wilson Elliott believed that was accurate. He thought the owner owned the whole, triangle, as Alderman Wood said, but he would have to defer to Mr. Overby or Mr. Frazier.

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

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams approval of Rezoning Petition 26-03. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-16

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE OFFICIAL HICKORY ZONING ATLAS TO REZONE +/- 1.07 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 10th ST NE FROM INDUSTRIAL (IND) TO HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-4).

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 petitioned to rezone +/- 1.07 acres of property located at 10th St NE, more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto, to allow High-Density Residential (R-4); and

WHEREAS, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission considered the proposed rezoning during a hearing on March 25, 2026, 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 public health, safety and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has found Petition 26-03 to be consistent 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 properties are located at !0th St NE and identified as PIN 371313224809.

- 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 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. FINDINGS

The general area is classified as High-Density Residential by the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan states the following about High Density Residential areas: High density residential development in Hickory is located in or near mixed-use areas or higher- intensity commercial districts. The area covered by this land use extends approximately one half mile from the central point of each outlying business district, allowing for convenient walking or bicycling from home to shop. This will create higher density living in close proximity to neighborhood-scale shopping and office employment centers. The combination of smaller single-family lots, shorter building setbacks, shorter blocks, and multi-family development would create a gross average density for housing at approximately 12 to 20 units per acre. These areas may also contain office uses along thoroughfares and adjacent to commercial areas to act as a transition between commercial and residential land uses.

The property is located just off of a major thoroughfare in Highland Ave NE and Main Ave NE, adjacent to existing High-Density Residential districts.

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 comprehensive plan clearly identifies a high-density residential area surrounding the intersection at 10th St NE and 9th St Dr NE. Furthermore, the plan specifically identifies High-Density Residential zoning to be appropriate along thoroughfares and adjacent to commercial areas. The area possesses these characteristics and is also adjacent to other High-Density Residential (R-4) districts.

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

The development regulations contained within the Hickory Land Development code, coupled with regulations from the state and federal government, will work with one another to mitigate detrimental impacts to the extent allowed by law.

The size of the subject property is not of a scale to support development that would be expected to have noxious and/or detrimental characteristics on the surrounding area. Permissible uses in High-Density Residential (R-4) districts are mostly reserved for a multitude if residential uses, which are by nature less intense than commercial uses and Industrial uses.

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

The subject property has access to Highland Ave NE, which is a state-maintained roadway, as well as city-maintained roadways at 10th St NE and 9th St Dr NE. Public utilities are also available. The property owner will be responsible for any necessary extensions needed for services, as well as any required transportation improvements. The land-use pattern of the area, with the inclusion of the subject property, 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 is predominately residential in nature. The exception to this is the commercial buildings that follow 9th Ave NE to its south. Any future residential use of the property is best suited to further the existing development pattern of the area. Public resources to provide critical public services are in place or will be provided by the property owner / developer to service any future development. These include public utilities and transportation infrastructure.

- Ensure protection from fire, flood and other dangers.

The subject properties will be required to 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 adequately protected as prescribed by law..

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

(Exhibit “A” is on file in the City Clerk’s Office and is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes)

B. Departmental Reports

1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

Caucasian (Council Appoints)	VACANT
Caucasian (Council Appoints)	VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints)	VACANT
Other Minority (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)

At-Large (2) (Mayor Appoints) (Michael McLamb Resigned 4-6-2026)	VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) (Michael McLamb Resigned 4-6-2026) VACANT

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

YOUTH COUNCIL
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Homeschool Representative VACANT

Mayor Guess commented there were some vacancies. If anyone qualified for one of those vacancies and was interested, certainly reach out to a Council member and they would give them instructions or answer any questions that they may have concerning any vacancies that they may be interested in.

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

City Manager Warren Wood commented that Mayor Guess, at the last minute, asked him to report out on groundwater. He did not have a presentation, but he could report on it. He wanted to first offer congratulations to the fire department for maintaining the Class 1 ISO fire rating, which was an elite class of folks, departments, and communities that have that. Congratulations on that, as they got that word today, and he had sent that out. Related to that, one of the things they have to do to maintain that was test fire hydrant flow. They do that annually. They have a plus or minus $10 million automated meter infrastructure project underway, which was a smart meter, which would alleviate the need to do those flow tests in the future. One of the things that happens when they do the flow, that stirs up the system and the velocity of the water scours off the inside of the pipes, and so they get some of the discolored water from that. It would not alleviate the need to test the hydrants to make sure they work, but when they test the flows, it was like 30 seconds of flow versus just testing whether or not it works. It was a lot more abbreviated process, just testing the operationality versus the flow. That was one thing. The reports that they typically get about discolored water was in the northeast and there were some theories on that. They sell 2 million gallons a day to Conover, 1 million gallons a day to Alexander County. A lot of that goes through to the northeast. He used as an example, a garden hose. Typically, they run 2 finished water pumps at the water plant to push water out into the system. Every now and then you have to turn a 3rd water pump on to pump finished water out into the system to meet demand. They have had to do that more frequently. His guess was eventually they would reach the point where they were running 3 pumps all the time, and it would not disrupt the system. You have a garden hose with no nozzle on it. Turn the spigot on, water comes out. That was how most of their system operates. Well, put the nozzle on the garden hose, turn it up, and that is what happens in the northeast. The velocity of that water coming through, that amount of volume was going to scour pipes, and it was manganese and iron was what the discoloration was. It was unpleasant to look at, and he was sure if they had a filter, they would see it accumulate in the filter. They track and map the complaints that they get, and the overwhelming majority were in the northeast. They were somewhat sporadic, but when they have an outbreak, they get more complaints. One of the projects that Council had approved, and they had gotten some grant money for, they have a $20 million new water line in northeast Hickory planned to go to the Springs Road water tank. That would ideally help alleviate some of that garden hose pressure. They had a variety of things. Some of the pipes would eventually need to be replaced, they replace water lines all the time. Some of those pipes may need to be replaced in some of those areas. If the water was discolored, and he knew people say, “well, I'm going to bring some brown water for you to drink”, but the water was safe to drink, but it was unpleasant to look at when it was brown. They could not deny that. They were doing things to try to alleviate these outbreaks that they have.

Mayor Guess inquired when an individual such as Mr. Katz has what appears to be an individual problem, because he would imagine if everybody in his neighborhood was experiencing the same thing he was, then everybody would be here bringing that to their attention. He questioned in the case with an individual with a problem such as that, could they go out and do some kind of an inspection or something to help to determine if it was an isolated problem and determine whether or not it could be a problem on their property, just to help them to alleviate or help them to at least know what was causing their particular issue?

City Manager Warren Wood advised usually when these happen, they happen all at once. It was not that somebody's water pipes in their house were rusted. They map them and they know. They went out and tested some water, came back within the normal ranges. They know when there was an outbreak because they know where the complaints were and they map them; it was not going

to be inside somebody's pipe at their house. If that were the case then they would just get like a one-off complaint, and they could go out in that situation.

Mayor Guess wondered if that was what the situation was like with Mr. Katz.

City Manager Warren Wood had no doubt that he was getting what they were getting complaints about.

Alderman Wood asked City Manager Warren Wood if he could talk about how people might know when hydrant flushing was going to happen? What was the best way to get notified about that?

City Manager Warren Wood commented that they thought they were doing it during the low water utilization period this year, and it had been so hot and dry. They try to do it then. But they do push it out on social media. They use Code Red, which is a County system. The County had a glitch with that, so some people did not get their notifications. This last time WSOC wrote a story. All their social media, the website, and the snippets. They push out on a variety of different medias. It should not be a surprise unless you were just not paying attention to it. They do try to push that out. They also let them know if they have that happen, the low point water, like the spigot on the outside of your house was typically the best place to try to flush it. If they see hydrants flowing randomly, that meant there was a bigger brown water outbreak, and they were trying to flush the system. What they had started doing was Will Hamblin's utility guys were working in conjunction with the fire department to strategically open hydrants in certain places before fire does their testing. If anything comes through in terms of discolored water to flush it out before it gets out into the system. They had actually gotten fairly sophisticated with the way they do their testing. Again, once the AMI smart meters go in, that particular test would not be required.

Mayor Guess asked if there were any other questions.

Alderwoman Dula asked if they received complaints from citizens during times when the hydrant flushing was not occurring?

City Manager Warren Wood advised they do from time to time, and it could be something called a water hammer where some of the system had been jolted. They do receive, and map those, but they do receive those periodically. The overwhelming majority was when there was an outbreak in the northeast, you know it because they were getting phone calls. That was a fairly more recent phenomenon than in the past, but it had to do with that third raw water finished water pump getting turned on.

Alderwoman Dula asked if they had complaints from residents that the brown water was ongoing, like daily?

City Manager Warren Wood commented that would be a situation with somebody's pipes. He was not familiar with any.

Public Utilities Director Will Hamblin advised if it was recurring during the same time period, but it clears up and happens again if they were flushing in another area, they should let them know.

City Manager Warren Wood interjected not like day after day after day. If somebody had that scenario, probably it was on their side of the meter in their house pipes, more likely.

Alderman Wood asked if hydrant flushing at some of the surrounding municipalities caused this third pump to turn on. Does that have any impact on what they see here?

City Manager Warren Wood advised it was a dry day like they have experienced, he thought St. Stephen's was flushing. They were working to do more coordination with these surrounding fire departments because they do not want Alexander County, St. Stephen's, Hickory, and everybody flushing at the same time because then that was going to drain the water down. They got to do the testing, but coordinating when that happens was important.

Mayor Guess asked for any further question. He thanked him for that report. He wanted to take this opportunity, as always, when their department heads or individuals within departments receive awards and accolades, they certainly wanted to share those with everyone. If they had not seen it already, their Communications and Marketing team recently won 5 awards, The North Carolina City and County Communicator Excellence in Communications Award for 2026 was one of them. He asked Senior Communications Specialist to share what they had received.

Senior Communications Specialist Sarah Killian advised they won 2 first place awards for their Crafting Hickory magazine that came out last year. That was in the graphic design category and then in the brochure category. They won a 3rd place award for their James Pond stormwater educational video. That was for video PSA and in the category of most creative, least dollars spent. They also won a third place award for their Trash Talk Tuesday theme song in the audio category.

Mayor Guess knew that he kept a stack of those Crafting Hickory magazines in his vehicle because every once in a while somebody would want to know what was going on and everything and he

would hand them one of those. They were very, very thorough and people really do appreciate them. If they had not seen one on their way out, he believed there were some in the stand as you exit on the left. He hoped there were enough out there. He was sure that most of the staff had seen them, but there was no doubt in his mind why that won two first place awards. He asked how did it win two first places?

Senior Communications Specialist Sarah Killian advised in two different categories.

Mayor Guess understood why it won two first place awards and he wanted to congratulate and recognize their team and they appreciated all that they do to help share what was going on in the City of Hickory.

City Manager Warren Wood again, congratulated the fire department on their first place in the ISO fire rating category.

Mayor Guess asked how many years they had held that.

Fire Chief Matthew Hutchinson advised 6 years.

Mayor Guess commented that it helps on other things as well as insurance and stuff like that for folks, doesn't it?

Fire Chief Matthew Hutchinson confirmed it did with industrial mostly, commercial property.

Mayor Guess congratulated the fire department once again.

City Manager Warren Wood advised there was a citizen in the audience with two children, who wanted to talk with and take pictures of them with the Mayor and Council.

The citizen advised it was her grandchildren. They had private soccer training before the meeting.

Mayor Guess welcomed them and commented he would not make them introduce themselves.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

_____
Mayor

_____
City Clerk