A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., with the following members present:

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

A quorum was present.

Also present were City Manager Warren Wood, Assistant City Manager Steve Miller, Assistant City Manager Yaidee Fox, City Attorney Timothy Swanson, and Deputy City Clerk Crystal B. Mundy

I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present except for Alderman Freeman and Alderwoman Williams

II. Invocation by Reverend Sandi Hood, Peace United Church of Christ Carolina Caring.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Special Presentations

A. Proclamation Recognizing Hickory High School Girls State Championship Soccer Team.

Mayor Guess asked Hickory High School Soccer Team head coach Brian Gillings and anyone else present with that group to the podium. He read and presented a Proclamation Recognizing Hickory High School Girls State Championship Soccer Team. Photos were taken.

Coach Brian Gillings recognized his coaching staff, Bruno, Epey, Edgar, and other teammates that couldn't come this evening due to being out of town or already at college. He was grateful for their performance in the soccer program. Coach Gillings thanked the parents for their support and the community that rallied around the girls by coming to the game. They had a great send-off where everybody showed up, and they had a parade as well.

Coach Gillings stated Hickory is an amazing place to teach and to raise a family.

B. Recognition of Assistant Public Services Director Caroline Kone, as Professional Engineers of North Carolina (PENC) Government Engineer of the Year.

Mayor Guess asked Assistant City Manager, Steve Miller to the podium. Mr. Miller thanked City Council and the management staff for always promoting staff to be able to attend conferences. He stated staff always brought back ideas to better serve the community in their daily job duties. Staff make friends with peer groups in other cities, and that creates a good dynamic for all cities to share how things are done. He mentioned that staff not only were members of the organization but also held leadership roles in the group.

Mr. Miller asked Caroline Kone to the podium. He recognized her as Professional Engineers of North Carolina (PENC) Government Engineer of the year for 2026.

Ms. Kone thanked Council and managers for the continued support to be a part of organizations and attending conferences to learn and incorporate those ideas into the community.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

A. Loren Barrett, 1910 Waterbury Ct, Hickory advised she came to address a stark warning about an existential financial, legal, and constitutional trap the city is walking into by approving Flock cameras. She stated the automated license plate reader industry has evolved into a mass dragnet. Competitors like Leonardo, a global military defense contractor, were already deploying hardware upgrades like SignalTrace. She stated the technology bolts into existing street cameras and passes from V2 tracking into a V3 data integration of wireless signature sniffing. Devices such as smartphones and smartwatches constantly broadcast unencrypted Bluetooth Low Energy and Wi-Fi signatures. It can't be seen, but V3 integration hardware captures the unique mid-air identifiers and fuses with license plates, creating a permanent, searchable electronic fingerprint of who is inside of cars. Technology does not care that they are elected officials. When you drive city-issued or personal vehicles past the upgraded nodes, the system logs their plate and sniffs the Bluetooth IDs. It tracks your spouse, children, private meetings, what time you arrive at City Hall, and who you travel with. This is handing defense-grade tracking infrastructure the keys to map the personal lives of police officers and all families. By establishing local data pipelines and funding camera networks, the city is assuming staggering liability. LAPD recently suspended its Flock camera use entirely over critical data sharing and oversight concerns and other cities have canceled contracts after uncovering hidden tracking capabilities, like localized heat-mapping. This is not a conspiracy; it is a documented threat to free speech. She urged City Council to protect the budget, their citizens, and their own families. She asked to freeze all surveillance camera funding, contract renewals, and data center expansions. She thanked them for their time.

B. James Darden, 1655 20th Ave Dr NE, Hickory addressed ALPR cameras, the notable example being Flock Safety, a network of AI-powered cameras mass surveilling citizens, an egregious violation of the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable search and seizure. Most of them had no clue this was going on until they saw the cameras. The Declaration of Independence clearly states that governments derive their powers from the consent of the government. No one in Hickory consented to being spied on, profiled, and tracked by a private company. Yet, every move was now permanently logged and easily searchable. In 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that the government needs a warrant for prolonged location tracking. Flock's network of continuous data collection across an entire city clearly violates that ruling. Flock has documented lying to elected officials, ignoring cancellations, and sharing data without authorization. The cameras themselves were also not secure. Researchers have documented numerous vulnerabilities, including backdoors allowing full control of the device. Dozens of live feeds have been found sitting open on the internet, completely no password required, streaming footage of children at parks to anyone interested. Since Hickory has signed up, Flock has updated their terms and conditions. Flock has removed the promise to not sell data, added a perpetual license, meaning even if they were fired, they continue to keep information forever. They also gave themselves exclusive control over how the city accesses data. They also shifted the cost of the quote, willful misconduct and gross negligence fully onto the taxpayer. Over 50 municipalities across 20 states have cited unauthorized federal access, surveillance exceeding agreements, and repeated misrepresentation of the product. He said that if authorities need to track a suspect, that tool already exists. It's called a phone. Accessing it requires a warrant, probable cause, and judicial oversight. Flock needs none of that and it always records everyone in advance of suspicion. People chose to carry their phones. Nobody chose to drive past a flock camera. Our founders feared a system where tools built for order became instruments of control. He said it's never about who holds power today, it's about what the system enables when the wrong person holds it tomorrow. A tool built to catch car thieves can also track a pastor whose sermons make politicians uncomfortable. He was not saying this was happening in Hickory today, he said that the infrastructure in place now makes it possible. He asked that this Council do three things. First, prevent new cameras immediately. Second, take serious time to research what they do and not what they sell. Third, cancel these contracts that infringe upon their rights as Americans. The question was not whether they want safe streets. The question was whether they were willing to trade the architecture of freedom for the appearance of security, and whether they trust a private company with the power to surveil their wives and children. He was happy to provide a detailed source report of everything that he had referenced here tonight. He thanked them for their time.

C. Eric Bywaters, 360 1st Ave SW, Hickory stated he was the owner of Solid Skate Co. in downtown. He was coming to express a need for a quality skate park in Hickory. Hickory is the only town in Catawba County to have a skate park that offers this sport for surrounding neighbors. He was around when the original skate park area was built with wood. The ramps were hard to maintain and were now falling apart. In the early 2000s, the skate park was booming. The city held contests for skateboarding. The park has become less used, but it's still being used. Three weeks ago, he held a solid session at the skate park. He had over 50 skateboarders show up with the support and concerns of the skate park. He would like to talk to staff about repairs, or possibly a new skate park, because skateboarding teaches so much to young children and even adults. Skateboarding teaches you not to give up and no matter how many times you fall you can always get back up and keep going. He has used that throughout his whole life. He has failed and failed but keeps getting back up and keeps on trying. That is a very, very important lesson for anybody growing up. He was working together to bring awareness to skateboarding, rollerblading, bikes, anything that's kind of out of your typical sport to their great city here. He asked for a little support and attention to the skate park because it's vital to this city and their surrounding neighbors. He thanked them for their time.

D. William Sturm, pastor of Sandy Ridge Baptist Church at 3702 16th Street NE, Hickory thanked Council for the great work and development in the St. Stephens area. He expressed appreciation for the expansion that was taking place with the utilities and expansion on Cloninger Mill Road, Kool Park Road, and 16th Street. He requested help with the improvement of the driveway at the parking lot once the work was completed. He understood there would be some expansion at the intersection of Kool Park Road, Cloninger Mill, and 16th Street with taking part of the parking lot which belongs to the city. He stated there was a right-of-way area that when claimed, and when the turning lanes were placed, they would lose some parking. With some traffic that was taking place already with parking of service vehicles and utility vehicles it was doing somewhat of a number on their parking lot, which was just fine. He was thankful for the development. He asked when the project was completed that maybe there was a little pocket of money to help with their parking lot when it was all done. He thanked them for their time.

E. Cam Shope, 221 15th St SE, Hickory reiterated what Eric Bywaters said about the skate park. He was doing everything he could to bring awareness to skateboarding and asked for help fixing the skatepark. He thanked them for their time.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of June 16, 2026.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2026 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Special Joint Meeting of June 30, 2026

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Dula that the Special Joint Meeting Minutes of June 30, 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 Alderman Seaver that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Budget Revision Number 22 (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

B. Consideration of Rezoning Petition 26-04 for Property Located at 3440 Eller Drive, Newton, Containing Approximately 5.56-Acres. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

C. Consideration of Text Amendment 26-03 Amending the City of Hickory's Flood Damage Ordinance (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

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

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

A. Accepted the 2025 Bulletproof Vest Program Grant.

Staff requests City Council's acceptance of the 2025 Bulletproof Vest Program Grant to help fund the purchase of bulletproof vests for police officers. The City of Hickory will receive up to 50% reimbursement for each vest purchased.

B. Accepted the installation of speed cushions along 5th St SE from 2nd Ave SE to 8th Ave SE and along 3rd Ave Dr SE from 5th St SE to 8th Ave SE.

Staff request Council's acceptance and approval to install speed cushions along 5th St SE from 2nd Ave SE to 8th Ave SE and along 3rd Ave Dr SE from 5th St SE to 8th Ave SE after receiving a completed petition from property owners along 5th St SE with regards to the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. Speed cushions are a type of traffic calming measure like traffic tables but allow emergency vehicles to travel more efficiently.

C. Accepted Change Order #1 with Elite Infrastructure Group.

Staff requests City Council's acceptance of Change Order #1 with Elite Infrastructure Group for a contract deduction in the amount of $194,077.50 for the Hickory SW Water Extension Project.

D. Accepted the amendment to the Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Freese & Nichols, Inc for the Springs Road Transmission Main.

Staff requests City Council's acceptance of an amendment to the Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Freese & Nichols, Inc., for the Springs Road Transmission Main to include a water model calibration task, in the not to exceed amount of $100,000.00.

E. Approved the Resolution Authorizing the City to apply for North Carolina Department of Transportation Funds for intersection improvements at 4th Street and Main Avenue.

Staff requests City Council's acceptance to apply for North Carolina Department of Transportation Funds for intersection improvements at 4th Street and Main Avenue in the amount of $248,950 with a city match of $43,150.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-38

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HICKORY TO APPLY FOR NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTINGENCY FUNDS OF $248,950 AND PROVIDE CITY FUNDS OF $43,150 FOR 4TH STREET AND MAIN AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) provides funding to support road improvements and pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory desires to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety at the intersection of 4th Street and Main Avenue through roadway improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory is seeking funding for the proposed intersection improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory estimates the total project will cost $292,100; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory is applying for $248,950 of NCDOT contingency funds; and

WHEREAS, the NCDOT requires city funds to cover the remaining project costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory is committed to providing the necessary funds to ensure the completion of the project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Hickory that the City of Hickory apply for the NCDOT contingency funds of $248,950 and commits to providing $43,150 to cover the remaining project costs.

F. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 1.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-25
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 1

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, 2027, and for the duration of the Project Ordinance noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Culture & Recreation	157,851	
Public Safety	13,428	17,150
General Government	15,000	
Other Financing Uses	17,150	
TOTAL	203,429	17,150

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	163,224	
Sales and Services	18,055	
Miscellaneous	5,000	
TOTAL	186,279	

SECTION 2. To amend the Water/Sewer Fund within the FY 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	770,000	
TOTAL	770,000	

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	770,000	
TOTAL	770,000	

SECTION 3. To amend the Airport Fund within the FY 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Transportation	402,006	
TOTAL	402,006	

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous	402,006	
TOTAL	402,006	

SECTION 4. To amend the Capital Reserve Fund within the FY 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection		1,500,000
Other Financing Uses	1,500,000	
TOTAL	1,500,000	1,500,000

SECTION 5. To amend the Waterline to Springs Rd Water Tank (#83322) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	153,094	
TOTAL	153,094	

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	153,094	
TOTAL	153,094	

SECTION 6. To amend the Aviation Walk (#B1N001) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	143,300	143,300
TOTAL	143,300	143,300

SECTION 7. To amend the Airport EMAS Project (#650033) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	143,300	
TOTAL	143,300	

To provide funding for the above, the Airport EMAS Project (#650033) Fund revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	143,300	
TOTAL	143,300	

SECTION 8. To amend the Hickory Metro Convention Center (#700012) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects		275,000
TOTAL		275,000

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous		275,000
TOTAL		275,000

SECTION 9. To amend the Bulletproof Vest Partnership 2025 (#G5124) Grant Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	34,300	
TOTAL	34,300	

To provide funding for the above, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership 2025 (#G5124) Grant Project revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	17,150	
Restricted Intergovernmental	17,150	
TOTAL	34,300	

SECTION 10. To amend the McLin and Lyle Creek Wastewater Outfall (#803305) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Water & Sewer Capital Projects	1,500,000	
TOTAL	1,500,000	

To provide funding for the above, the McLin and Lyle Creek Wastewater Outfall (#803305) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	1,500,000	
TOTAL	1,500,000	

SECTION 11. 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 on First Reading Rezoning Petition 26-05 for Property Located at 929 9th Street Dr NE from Industrial (IND) to High Density Residential (R-4) – Presentation by Planning Director, Brian Frazier.

Staff requests for Council's consideration of Rezoning Petition 26-05. Legacy Home Builders NC, LLC owns the property at 929 9th Street Dr NE, Hickory NC. Vitality Gladish has submitted a petition to rezone the property from Industrial (IND) to High Density Residential (R-4). The intention is to gain approval to construct a duplex. The Hickory Regional Planning Commission held a hearing on June 24, 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 July 11th, 2026, and July 18th, 2026.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Planning Director Brian Frazier to the podium to present Council with rezoning petition 26-05 for property located at 929 9th Street Dr NE from Industrial (IND) to High Density Residential (R-4).

Planning Director Brian Frazier gave a PowerPoint presentation. He advised as City Manager Warren Wood indicated, this was currently zoned industrial. It was a vacant piece of land and 0.15 of an acre. The request was to be rezoned to R-4 high density residential. The plans were to demolish a couple of older houses on an adjacent parcel and to square up the parcel and put a duplex on the site. He referred to PowerPoint and displayed a map. He pointed out the property was located at Highland Avenue and 9th Street Drive Northeast. He noted there was additional housing going up in the area. He referred to the map and advised that the future land use was all high-density residential in the general location. He pointed out the property was located around Ron's Auto Shop, Cutting Technologies, the former Highland School apartments, and several Habitat homes. He referred to PowerPoint and displayed an aerial photograph. He stated the property was in a high-density residential area. The high-density areas were located at the margins of commercial nodes such as Highland Avenue Northeast and Main Avenue Northeast. This was somewhat in the interior. This was a great example of infill property, which they try to promulgate at the Planning Department and Hickory by Choice. This provides opportunities to reside in proximity to some retail and larger non-residential establishments. The Planning Commission reviewed the comprehensive plan and the current conditions on the ground for

petition 26-05 at a public hearing on June 24th. The owner spoke in favor; no one spoke in opposition. The Planning Commission acknowledged the petition's consistency with Hickory By Choice 2030. After consideration of its findings, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the rezoning petition to City Council. Staff concurred with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and respectfully requested their consideration. He asked if there were any questions.

Alderman Seaver asked to verify the lot size was 0.15 of an acre and not 15 acres?

Mr. Frazier verified the lot size was 0.15 of an acre.

Alderman Wood asked if on street parking would be allowed?

Mr. Frazier responded there would be no parking signs placed on the street.

Mayor Guess asked for any other questions or comments. He thanked Mr. Frazier. He explained the rules for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess asked if anyone in favor of the proposal wished to speak. No one appeared. Mayor Guess declared the public hearing closed. He asked for a motion or any other discussion.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Dula approval of Rezoning Petition 26-05 for Property Located at 929 9th Street Dr NE The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-26

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE OFFICIAL HICKORY ZONING ATLAS TO REZONE +/- .15 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 929 9th STREET DR NE FROM IND INDUSTRIAL TO R-4 RESIDENTIAL.

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 +/- .15 acres of property located at 3440 Eller Drive, more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto, to R-4 Residential; and

WHEREAS, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission considered the proposed rezoning during a hearing on June 24, 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 26-05 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 twelve units per acre in established detached single-family areas, and twenty dwelling units per acre in historically mixed-use areas. These areas are characterized as being located on the periphery of high-density residential areas north of I-40 and in the southeastern portion of the city.

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 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. Provided, such office uses, and their corresponding zoning districts, are located immediately adjacent to existing office uses and office zoning districts. This should be done to avoid sawtooth land patterns along thoroughfares.

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

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 residential in nature. 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 26-05 to be consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan. The petition has also been found to be a reasonable request as changing conditions in the area, including small lots and larger development are transitioning the area into a more urban denser area.

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.

(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

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) Appointed by City Council
Small Cities Project Area (Council Appoints) VACANT

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) Appointed by City Council
Ward 2 (Williams Appoints) VACANT
At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Caucasian (Council Appoints) VACANT
Caucasian (Council Appoints) VACANT
Caucasian (Council Appoints) VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT

Alderwoman Patton Nominated Danielle Walters as an Other Minority Representative on the Community Relations Council.

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

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 4 (Freeman Appoints) VACANT
Ward 5 (Dula Appoints) VACANT
At-Large (1) (Mayor Appoints) VACANT
At-Large (2) (Mayor Appoints) VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) VACANT
At-Large (Mayor Appoints) VACANT

Mayor Guess Nominated Bonita Ferretti as an At-Large Representative on the Public Art Commission.

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) VACANT
Ward 4 (Freeman Appoints) VACANT
Ward 6 (Patton Appoints) VACANT
At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT
At-Large (Council Appoints) VACANT

UNIVERSITY CITY COMMISSION
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 2-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large Not Including ETJ (Council Appoints) VACANT

YOUTH COUNCIL
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Homeschool VACANT
St. Stephens High School VACANT

XIV. 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

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1)(6) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

Mayor Guess moved that Council go into closed session to consult with the attorneys to discuss the items below, seconded by Alderwoman Patton. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of May 19, 2026, and June 30, 2026 – NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)
2. Discussion of a Personnel Matter – NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6)

Council convened to closed session at approximately 6:41 p.m.

Council reconvened to open session at approximately 6:54 p.m.

No action was taken upon return to open session.

XV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

_____
Mayor

_____
Deputy City Clerk