A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., with the following members present:

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

A quorum was present.

Also present were City Manager Warren Wood, Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Steve 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.

II. Invocation by Alderwoman Dula

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Special Presentations

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of October 20, 2026.

Alderman Freeman moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams that the Minutes of October 20, 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 7. (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.

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

A. Approved a Resolution Expressing Appreciation to the Members of the North Carolina General Assembly for the Enactment of House Bill 850 (S.L. 2025-74) Regarding the Interbasin Transfers.

The resolution acknowledges the importance of the Catawba River Basin to Hickory and expresses concern about Charlotte's proposed increase in interbasin water transfers. It highlights that House Bill 850 (Session Law 2025-74) places a temporary moratorium on new or expanded transfers and directs the UNC Collaboratory to study and improve the IBT process. The Hickory City Council thanks members of the North Carolina General Assembly—especially local representatives and senators—for supporting the legislation and for considering the long-term water supply, economic development, and growth needs of Western Piedmont communities.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-55
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HICKORY CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE ENACTMENT OF HOUSE BILL 850 (S.L. 2025 74) REGARDING INTERBASIN TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Catawba River Basin is a vital natural resource supporting the residents, businesses, and long term economic health of the City of Hickory and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte's recent request to increase its currently approved 33 million gallons per day (MGD) interbasin transfer (IBT) by an additional 30 MGD—resulting in a total proposed IBT of 63 MGD—raised substantial concerns about future capacity for economic growth, agricultural activities, and financial stability within the Catawba River Basin; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's IBT statute, G.S. 143 215.22L, governs the certification of significant transfers of water between river basins, and local governments within the

Catawba River Basin have a strong interest in ensuring that such transfers are evaluated thoroughly, transparently, and with consideration for long term regional impacts; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 850 was enacted as Session Law 2025 74 with overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Session Law 2025 74 establishes a temporary moratorium on the issuance of certificates authorizing significant new or increased IBT water transfers; and

WHEREAS, Session Law 2025 74 further directs the North Carolina Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study the statutory IBT process, including the adequacy of environmental review, potential incentives for resilience measures that reduce the magnitude of transfers needed, and any other matters necessary to promote fairness, effectiveness, and long term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, this measured and research based approach enables the State to examine and improve North Carolina's IBT framework prior to approving further significant transfers, while also ensuring that the interests of communities within the Catawba River Basin, such as the City of Hickory, are protected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Hickory expresses its sincere appreciation to the members of the North Carolina General Assembly who supported House Bill 850, and extends special thanks to Representative Destin Hall, Representative Jay Adams, Representative Mitchell Setzer, Representative Hugh Blackwell, Senator Mark Hollo, and Senator Warren Daniel, for their consideration of the needs of Western Piedmont communities, including issues related to future growth, economic development, water treatment, and the long term reliability of water supply within the Catawba River Basin.

B. Approved Updates to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments' Charter and Bylaws.

Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) request approval of the updates to their Charter and Bylaws. The summary of changes adds explicit language regarding the COG's authorization to act as the regional public housing authority (Article VI, Section 1). This was recommended to clarify authority to assist in bonds (no obligation to WPCOG or local governments) for tax advantages for developers of affordable housing projects. Original authorization for the WPCOG to act as a regional public housing authority was given in 1977. Changes the vote threshold for action to a simple majority instead of a two-thirds majority. (Article VII, Section 4; Article XI, Section 4). This is consistent with local government voting procedures. Eliminates the Treasurer position, while adding another at-large position on the Executive Committee (Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2). This is consistent with common local government structure. Eliminates the Secretary position while adding another at-large position on the Executive Committee and add reference to a staff Clerk to the Board (Article VIII, Section 2). This is consistent with common local government structure. A reference to the WPCOG finance officer was added. (Article X, Section 3). WPCOG is subject to the NC Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act like its municipalities and counties. Minor language clarifications that don't impact the intent or structure of a section. As outlined in the Charter and Bylaws, any modification must be sent to each member of government for ratification, with approval by three-fourths of the members of the WPCOG required (21 of the 28 members). Following approval by member governments, a second reading of the changes must be held at the next regular Policy Board meeting, at which time actions of the members will be reported and accepted.

C. Approved a Resolution Accepting the Streets Within Lachlan Village Residential Community.

Staff requests Council's approval of a Resolution for acceptance of lands and improvements within Lachlan Village residential subdivision including 48th Avenue NE, described as a 50-foot right-of-way as recorded in Plat Book 90, at Page 109 of the Catawba County Registry. The streets have been completed, inspected and found to be compliant with City specifications and in good repair. Public use and maintenance of street right-of-way cannot occur unless City Council formally accepts the offer of public dedication by means of a duly executed resolution as outlined in the North Carolina General Statutes, as well as the City's Land Development Code. Staff recommends approval of the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-56
A RESOLUTION OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTING THE OFFER OF PUBLIC DEDICATION OF LANDS AND IMPROVEMENTS KNOWN AS LACHLAN VILLAGE WHICH INCLUDES 48TH AVE NE WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A" AS A 50 FOOT RIGHT-OF-WAY AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 90, PAGE 109 OF THE CATAWBA COUNTY REGISTRY.

WHEREAS, NCGS §160A-374 and Article 2, Section 2.3.6 of the Land Development Code provide that City Council may, by resolution, accept offers of public dedication made to the public of lands and facilities for streets, sidewalks, open spaces and public utilities after verification from the City Engineer such properties and improvements are in a manner acceptable for acceptance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory has been provided with an offer of public dedication of lands and improvements known as Lachlan Village which includes 48th Avenue NE which is described in EXHIBIT "A" as a 50 foot right-of-way as recorded in Plat Book 90, Page 109 of the Catawba County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory has reviewed the land and improvements placed upon them provided as part of the offer of public dedication, and such land and improvements have been found to be compliant with standards in place for such land and improvements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Hickory, North Carolina, the offer of public dedication for Lachlan Village which includes 48th Avenue NE described in EXHIBIT "A" as a 50 foot right-of-way as recorded in Plat Book 90, Page 109 of the Catawba County, is accepted, subject to the following terms and conditions:

SECTION 1. Terms and Conditions of Acceptance:

1. The property owners shall guarantee all materials and workmanship for a period of 18 months from the date of official acceptance by the City Council;

2. The acceptance by the City Council shall not be interpreted in any way to relieve any developer, contractor, subcontractor, insurance company, owner, or other person of his individual or several obligations under any ordinance, policy, or contract or to otherwise reduce or eliminate the rights of the city, its agents and employees against any other party connected with or in any way related to the development of the subdivision and facilities. The acceptance shall not be interpreted as a waiver of any defense or immunities that the city, its agencies or employees may assert or be entitled to;

3. All rights, privileges and warranties of whatsoever nature and kind, for equipment, supplies, materials, goods, and services shall be assigned to the city and any and all benefits derived there from shall inure to the city, its agents, and employees. The acceptance of the lands and facilities shall be conditioned upon the owners covenanting and warranting that they are lawfully seized and possessed of all the lands and facilities dedicated to the public; that they have good and lawful authority to dedicate the same to the public for the stated purpose; that the lands and facilities are free and clear of any deed of trust, mortgage, lien or assessments and that the dedicators for their heirs, successors, executors, administrators, and assigns, covenant that they will warrant and defend the dedication of such land and facilities against any and all claims and demands whatsoever; and

4. Acceptance of dedication of lands and facilities shall not obligate the city to construct, install, maintain, repair, replace, extend, improve, build, or operate any public facilities or utilities which are not in existence as of the date of the acceptance of the lands and facilities. Such acceptance shall not obligate the city to construct any main, line, pipe, lateral, or other extension or permit connection to the city's water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, drainage or other public utilities systems.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately 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.)

D. Approved Amendment Number One to the Professional Engineering Services Agreement with McGill Associates, P.A., in the Amount of $684,000 for the Henry Fork Stream Bank and Sewer Improvements.

Staff requests Council's approval of amendment number one to the Professional Engineering Services Agreement with McGill Associates, P.A., in the amount of $684,000 for the Henry Fork stream bank and sewer improvements. Amendment one consists of surveying, environmental review, sewer and stream restoration design, floodplain, and floodway modeling, geotechnical investigations, structural design, permitting, DWI coordination and preparation of full bidding documents. The Department of Environmental Quality has received over $253 million in appropriations earmarked specifically for wastewater projects in areas affected by Hurricane Helene. The City of Hickory has qualified for a $5 million dollar loan with 100% principal forgiveness. Staff recommends Council's approval of amendment one with McGill Associates, P.A.

E. Approved a Cemetery Deed from the City of Hickory to Irene Suddreth and spouse, Benjamin Suddreth located in Southside Cemetery, Containing 80 square feet, and Designated as Lot No. E, Section 6, Spaces 22, and 23. (Prepared by the City of Hickory)

F. Approved a Resolution Accepting an Offer to Sell Two City-Owned Parcels to Legacy Home Builders, North Carolina, LLC in the Amount of $25,000.

Staff requests Council's approval of a Resolution accepting an offer from Legacy Home Builders North Carolina LLC in the amount of $25,000 for two City-owned parcels located in the 400 block of 3rd Street SW. The parcels are identified as GIS PINs 3702-06-47-8534 and 3702-06-47-8520, containing a total of .15 acres in size and are currently undeveloped. The combined tax value of the parcels is $3,600. Legacy Home Builders North Carolina LLS has offered $25,000 for the parcels. The property would be sold subject to the upset bid statute to allow other interested parties to bid on the property. Staff recommends that Council adopt a Resolution accepting the offer from Legacy Home Builders North Carolina LLC and authorize staff to advertise for upset bids.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-57
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF
AN OFFER TO PURCHASE CERTAIN PROPERTY

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

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

1. The following properties described are hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the City of Hickory:

   Properties located in the 400 Block of 3rd Street SW, (435 3rd Street SW, Hickory, and an unaddressed parcel), containing a total of approximately .15 acres, identified as Catawba County GIS PINs 3702-06-47-8534 and 3702-06-47-8520.

2. City Council has received an offer to purchase for the sum of $25,000, the properties located in the 400 Block of 3rd Street SW, (435 3rd Street SW, Hickory, and an unaddressed parcel), containing a total of approximately .15 acres, identified as Catawba County GIS PINs 3702-06-47-8534 and 3702-06-47-8520. The person making the offer must deposit the sum equal to five percent (5%) of his or her offer, to Young, Morphis, Bach & Taylor Trust Account in accordance with the Real Estate Purchase Agreement.

3. City Council proposes to accept the offer unless a qualifying upset bid shall be made.

4. The City Clerk shall cause a notice of such offer to be published in accordance with G.S. 160A-269.

5. Persons wishing to upset the offer must submit a sealed bid to the City Clerk within ten (10) days after publication of the notice. A five per cent (5%) bid deposit in the form of cash, cashier's check, or wired funds is required for each upset bid. In addition, the bid must raise the original offer by amount of at least 10% of the first $1000 of that offer and 5% of the remainder. At the conclusion of the ten (10) days, the City Clerk shall open the bids, and the highest such bid will become the new offer. If there is more than one bid in the highest amount, the first such bid received will become the new offer.

6. If a qualifying upset bid is received, the City Clerk is directed to re-advertise the offer at the increased upset bid amount, and to continue with this process until a ten (10) day period has passed without receipt of a qualifying upset bid.

7. Upon approval of the final upset bid, total payment for the properties must be received by the City of Hickory within 30 days of the bid award.

8. City Council authorizes the City Manager to execute all documents related to the sale if no upset bids are received after due advertisement.

G. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 8.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-35
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 8

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 2026-27 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Culture & Recreation	249	-
Public Safety	506,691	-
Other Financing Uses	855,905	-
TOTAL	1,362,845	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous	7,249	-
Sales and Services	199,691	-
Other Financing Sources	1,155,905	-
TOTAL	1,362,845	-

SECTION 2. To amend the Airport Fund within the FY 2026-27 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Transportation	79,121	-
TOTAL	79,121	-

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

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous	79,121	-
TOTAL	79,121	-

SECTION 3. To amend the Springs Road Sidewalk (#54620) Capital Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	2,781,462	-
TOTAL	2,781,462	-

To provide funding for the above, the Springs Road Sidewalk (#54620) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	855,905	-
Restricted Intergovernmental	1,925,557	-
TOTAL	2,781,462	-

SECTION 4. To amend the Henry Fork Streambank and Sewer Improvements (#83321) Grant Project Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Water & Sewer Capital Projects	684,000	-
TOTAL	684,000	-

To provide funding for the above, the Henry Fork Streambank and Sewer Improvements (#83321) revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	684,000	-
TOTAL	684,000	-

SECTION 5. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Items

XI. New Business

A. Public Hearings

B. Departmental Reports

1. Sandy Pines Park Update – Presented by Assistant City Manager Steve Miller

City Manager Warren Wood advised there were two departmental reports tonight. The second would require action, if Council so chose, but the first one was an update on Sandy Pines Park. He asked Assistant City Manager Steve Miller to the podium for the presentation.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller gave a PowerPoint presentation. He advised the first item on the agenda tonight that they were going to discuss was Sandy Pines Park. It had been a while coming. He discussed some of the fundings and expenses for the park. They had a PARTF grant that they received $500,000 for and then City funds in the amount of $958,789. Breaking that down in the expense category, design cost were $111,075, construction for $1,227,714, and miscellaneous of $120,000 for a grand total of $1,458,789.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller discussed the timeline for the park. The preconstruction meeting was in October. To kick things off, construction begins this month, November of 2026. Substantial completion date would be June of 2027. And the final completion date would be a little bit later that summer. That was the closeout phase, closing everything out, paying all the bills, and getting everything done.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller referred to the PowerPoint slide and displayed two photos of the existing Sandy Pines lot that the City had owned for years, containing approximately 11 acres, give or take. He noted a flat area next to the creek and the area which would be a parking area along the creek bank. They would have a modular restroom, some play equipment, and a little bit of a trail. That future trail would be at a later date. He showed photos of examples of the amenities that they would have to get started. There would be a bathroom, a two-stall bathroom and then the play area. The photo of the play area was an example of one that they have in an existing park that would look similar. He asked for questions.

Alderman Wood commented that there was going to be a pretty wide sidewalk on 29th when that work gets done, correct?

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller advised when the widening of 29th happens, there would be a 10-foot-wide multi-use path on one side, 5-foot sidewalk on the other. They were going to marry these two up. They would get that park connected, he thought the street name was 21st or something along those lines, and they would connect those up. Folks that were walking along 29th, once they got to that point, they would have access to this park from some other neighborhoods. They would still have access, but it would be easier to get to.

Alderman Wood commented that was fantastic, and he thought it was great that they were doing this park now. He was sure there were kids in that neighborhood that would use it and things like that. He was really excited and appreciated them doing this in that area of town. Thank you.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller asked for any other questions.

Mayor Guess thanked Mr. Miller.

2. Accepted the Bid and Awarded the Contract to Cardinal Civil Contracting, LLC in the Amount of $2,781,461.33, for the Construction of the Springs Road Sidewalk, Contingent upon North Carolina Department of Transportation Concurrence – Presented by Assistant City Manager Steve Miller.

Staff requests Council's acceptance of the bid and award the contract to Cardinal Civil Contracting, LLC, for the construction of BL-0066 - Springs Road Sidewalk, in the amount of $2,781,461.33, contingent upon North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) concurrence. The City applied for and received State Transportation Block Grant – Directly Attributable (STBG-DA) funding approval from the Greater Hickory MPO and NCDOT for sidewalk improvements on Springs Road from Sandy Ridge Road to McDonald Parkway. Adding sidewalk in an area that is already used by pedestrians provides a safer connection and would enhance access. Bids were advertised for the project and three bids were received: Cardinal Civil Contracting, LLC - $2,781,461.33; M&M Construction of Banner Elk - $4,797,178.80; and TP Howards Plumbing Co. Inc. - $3.249,000. Staff recommends Council's acceptance of the bid and award the contract to Cardinal Civil Contracting, LLC.

City Manager Warren Wood advised that the second departmental report was acceptance of the bid and award the contract to Cardinal Civil Contracting LLC in the amount of $2,781,461 for the construction of the Springs Road sidewalk, contingent upon NCDOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) concurrence, which was in process. He mentioned that Staff would ask Council for their consideration for acceptance of the bid and award of the contract at the end of the presentation. He asked Assistant City Manager Steve Miller back to the podium to present.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller gave a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed the Springs Road sidewalk which had been needed for a long time. Anyone that drives down that road at all knows that a lot of folks walk, and Mr. Wood has said many times that it is always a joy when they build a sidewalk where people walk, shop, go for food, and do other activities besides recreation. This was a greatly needed sidewalk.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller discussed the expenses again. They had an STBG-DA grant received in the amount of $2.4 million. And the local match on the City's part was $974,515. They were applying for $760,000 in a Federal funding grant to offset the local match. That would help out with that greatly. The expenses were the right-of-way they needed to acquire to build the sidewalks, $247,268. The engineering part of this project was $345,785 and construction was $2,781,462 for a grand total of $3,374,515.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller discussed the timeline. Construction begins if they approve the contract, and DOT gets everything approved, December of 2026, which was next month, for a begin date. Substantial completion date was May of 2028. The final completion date would be November of 2028. He explained the substantial completion date was basically when it was effectively finished. There was six months after that for some landscaping to get healed in and to also finish up the contracts and get all the documents in and close out with DOT. The project was about 18 months. Those projects along a four-lane highway like that take a lot longer than would be normal. You might think just building some sidewalk, would not take that long, but with live traffic and things, it does take a while. The project begins at the "V" intersection of Sandy Ridge Road and Springs Road. They would go all the way down to McDonald Parkway, (he pointed out the area on the PowerPoint slide), which was where 29th Avenue and McDonald Parkway meet Springs Road. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a map which was located at Sandy Ridge Road. There was a shopping center there and Wendy's. The sidewalk would begin on the north side, right down through this area along those businesses and they would keep going along there. He pointed out the former Lutheran Home, now Trinity Village, a nursing home, and it would be on that north side. There was existing sidewalk on both sides here, so married up with some existing sidewalk. He pointed out the area of the three churches. Sidewalk was on the south side here. He pointed out the cemetery and noted that it was really close to the road there, and they just could not fit the sidewalk in on both sides. They had to cheat over here and be on the other side. They would have a very substantial pedestrian crossing here for folks who were coming east to west. And then they would be on both sides of the road, especially in the high-impact area where they have a lot of businesses. Of course, the Walmart Supercenter and some of the eating establishments and shopping. Those folks that live in that neighborhood would be able to use that to walk, recreation also, but to walk to work, to walk to get food, to be able to navigate. To Alderman Wood's point 29th Avenue, once it is widened on this side, they will have a 10-foot multi-use trail with that widening and a 5-foot sidewalk. If they think that will be a married-up project eventually where they would have sidewalk all the way to 127, walkability from Viewmont to Springs Road, which was a pretty substantial thing when you think about it, recreation, and just the need for people to move about. He asked for any questions.

Alderwoman Patton thought this was something that had been needed for a long time for the community to walk to work, and walk, as he said, to get groceries. She was really excited about this one.

Alderman Freeman thanked Assistant City Manager Steve Miller for all that he does and certainly it was needed. He asked about the decision of the selection of Cardinal Civil Contracting. He noticed out of the three bids that they were the cheapest of the bids. Banner Elk being the largest, and that was almost another- he was estimating another $2 million. Then in between. Certainly, they want to spend less, but as it relates to quality and things of that nature, how were they arriving to Cardinal Civil Contracting?

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller explained when those bids come in NCDOT manages those because it was funds coming out of the NCDOT and the Federal

Highway Administration. They have to take the low bidder, but they have to be qualified. Once the bids come in, DOT and City staff open the bids, and go through them with a fine-tooth comb. They were all pre-qualified DOT contractors. They had not worked with Cardinal in Hickory, they were a very reputable firm, and he was sure they would do a good job. He was sure any of those 3 or 4 firms would have done a good job, but as he saw, there was quite a discrepancy from top to bottom, which was good because typically they do not always get a lot of bidders when the economy was kind of hot, but this time they had a competitive bid process, and certainly they were happy that the bid's price was within expectation of the engineered estimate. That was the important thing to keep in mind. The engineered estimate was pretty close to that. The $4 million bid was probably out of line.

Alderman Freeman was trying to figure out the $4 million range. He compared that to a Mercedes and the $2 million to a Honda. But certainly, those were two different cars. He was trying to figure out how they got to a $4 million range. Was it whatever they were going to be using, the workers, the staffing? Because that was a big jump.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller advised sometimes it was hard to answer that because he was not the one running that company. But some companies just want the business, but maybe they do not want it that bad, so they send in a really high bid. What they were doing there was they were going to get somebody else probably to do the work, so they were building in a profit factor to try to make sure that happens. He reiterated that the Cardinal Group was a very reputable firm. He was really confident that they would do a good job. Keep in mind, because this is an NCDOT/City/Federal Highway Administration project, there was a ton of checks and balances that they have learned through this process of all the Bond projects and other road projects that they had done. They would be held accountable to make sure they get the product they want.

Alderman Wood questioned if he is walking east on the north side of Springs Road and got to the three churches, the sidewalk stops because of the cemetery, and It picks up on the south side.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller noted there was an intersection at CVS Pharmacy, it switches over to what would be the south side and continues to the next intersection, which was a long block. Then they have sidewalk on both sides that continues the rest of the way to McDonald Parkway.

Alderman Wood commented that it was prior to the enhanced intersection, correct? Where was the logical place to cross was what he was getting at?

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller advised when it does cross over, there would be some enhancement there at CVS too.

City Manager Warren Wood asked if he was talking about Trinity Village?

Alderman Wood replied yes.

City Manager Warren Wood advised it was on one of the slides, but you could barely see it. It was where it crosses over at Trinity Village. He advised there was another crosswalk on the second slide. There was a second crosswalk at Trinity Village that comes down to the other side.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller advised at the CVS Pharmacy that there was existing sidewalk on both sides, and in the project, they would not completely make a new sidewalk, but they would make the intersection safer.

Alderman Wood commented that it was going to really be two enhanced intersections?

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller replied yes. He commented that he should have said that at every intersection that they touch, it would be enhanced.

City Manager Warren Wood commented that was five lanes of traffic.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller advised they would have ped heads and all the stuff that makes it where it was a safe sidewalk.

Alderman Wood commented that this was as much of a safety issue as anything, as much as convenience, if not more, because even when there was not sidewalk, people were going to walk, and they were doing it now. And that was just

hazardous to walk on the side of the road, on the shoulder without a sidewalk on Springs Road.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller mentioned that they would see that a lot if they traveled that road at all. They would see people carrying six bags of groceries and trying to navigate with crutches or whatever they have. It was the busiest road in Hickory that they do not have a solid connection to sidewalk.

Alderman Wood was excited about this. He thanked Mr. Miller.

City Manager Warren Wood referred to Alderman Freeman's question, they thought when they saw a big difference like that between high and low bid; did they miss something? The DOT, staff, and the engineers went through to make sure that was not the case. And the fact that they were a qualified bidder by the NCDOT carried a lot of weight because they had done other projects around the State. They thought the exact same thing when they saw that big difference.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller advised all bidders, when they bid on an NCDOT or City job like that, they have to be prequalified. They have a history already with DOT.

City Manager Warren Wood referred to Assistant City Manager Steve Miller's slide and advised they had about $900,000+ in City money in the project. They were going to be applying for additional supplemental funding of $760,000 to bring their number down. Now, John Marshall was going to have to work his magic on that, but they were going to be applying for a considerable amount of money to bring their commitment level, local funds, down. They had to do it the way they did it with the $855,000 budget amendment just to get the funds in place so they could cover the cost of the contract, but hopefully they would come back and make themselves more whole.

Mayor Guess alluded to what City Manager Warren Wood was just saying, the emphasis and how significant grants were, not just for this particular project, but the ability that their staff and others have had to get grants. He did not know how many it had been now. He had lost count, but their staff and other personnel had done a terrific job of getting grants, and the history and the success of what they had seen with those grants had been substantial. He wanted to highlight that and give credit to all of the folks that had something to do with obtaining these grants that have meant so much to them in the last few years. That was really significant.

Assistant City Manager Steve Miller advised that staff worked really hard.

Mayor Guess asked if anybody else had any questions or concerns?

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderman Wood acceptance of the bid and award the contract to Cardinal Civil Contracting, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-58
RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR TIP PROJECT BL-0066 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory, North Carolina, solicited formal bids for the construction of TIP Project No. BL-0066 – Springs Road Sidewalk Project (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the City received three (3) sealed bids for the Project; and

WHEREAS, sealed bids for the Project were publicly opened on October 15, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Cardinal Civil Contracting, LLC submitted the lowest responsive, responsible bid in the amount of $2,781,461.33; and

WHEREAS, City staff has reviewed the bid submitted by Cardinal Civil Contracting, LLC and determined that the bid complies with the applicable bidding requirements and contract documents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that awarding the contract to Cardinal Civil Contracting, LLC is in the best interest of the City.

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

1. The City Council hereby awards the construction contract for TIP Project No. BL-0066 – Springs Road Sidewalk Project to Cardinal Civil Contracting, LLC in the amount of $2,781,461.33, subject to the conditions set forth in this Resolution.

2. The award is contingent upon receipt of written concurrence in the award from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. No construction contract shall be executed before that concurrence is received.

3. Following satisfaction of the foregoing condition, the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the construction contract and all related documents consistent with the bid and this award, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney, receipt of the required performance and payment bonds and evidence of insurance, and completion of the preaudit certification required by G.S. 159-28.

4. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

3. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

Alderman Seaver Nominated Jeff Davidson as the Small Cities Project Area Representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

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

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
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 4 (Freeman Appoints) (Wes Christopher resigned 10-13-26) VACANT

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

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

Alderman Seaver moved seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the above nomination. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

XII. Matters Not on Agenda (requires majority vote of Council to consider)

XIII. General Comments by Members of Council, City Manager or City Attorney of a Non-Business Nature

Mayor Guess mentioned it was time for their Christmas parade again on November 20th, which was just a few weeks away. He advised it was to start at 5:45 p.m. Every year they get asked, “it's not even Thanksgiving yet”, but that was okay because they liked to kick it off, and that was intentional. Every year there were thousands of people that came out, and they got the privilege of kicking off the season, and it was always a good time, and there was always a huge crowd, and they always look forward to that. Write that down on their calendars if they have not already and plan to be there. The only other thing that he had in the way of announcements was it was announced, he believed today, that the drought has been lifted.

City Manager Warren Wood advised Stage 1.

Mayor Guess noted that it was a voluntary conservation. That certainly was good news as well. He mentioned that it was election day. If they had not voted yet, he thought the polls were open till 7:30 p.m. They still have time. They would get them out of there in time. If they had not voted yet, he would certainly encourage them to go exercise their right to vote.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

_____
Mayor

_____
City Clerk