

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 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., with the following members present:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Tony Wood | Hank Guess | Anthony Freeman |
| Charlotte C. Williams | Aldermen | David P. Zagaroli |
| Danny Seaver | | Jill Patton |

A quorum was present.

Also present were City Manager Warren Wood, Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley, 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 Reverend Christy Lohr Sapp, St. Andrews Lutheran Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
 - A. Presentation of a Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week to Hickory Police Department Telecommunicators.

Mayor Guess asked all of the City's Police Telecommunicators present to the front for a special presentation, along with the City's Police officers that were present as well. He commented that this is a very special group of individuals. It was National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. They were so special, they do not get a day, they get an entire week. He certainly wanted to thank them and recognize them for their service, 24/7 just like the Police officers, and Firefighters, and some of the other departments that work tirelessly. The communications personnel, a lot of times work behind the scenes, and perhaps they do not get all of the recognition that they should, but he could promise them that the work they do was extremely important, and none of the rest of it would work if it was not for them answering the phones and dispatching the officers on the radio. He mentioned that he actually started as a Telecommunicator 45 years ago, right behind the City Hall building, at the old Police Department. The Telecommunicators had a very special place in his heart. He read and presented the Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week to those in attendance.

Hickory Police Department Chief Reid Baer commented that this is a special group of people. These folks answer over 100,000 phone calls a year. They dispatch over 70,000 calls for service, and a lot of times with the people they were talking to on the phone were in crisis, and they were able to do this calmly. They were able to give them a lifeline for their officers that were on the street and needed help. They could not do their job to any degree without them. He expressed his appreciation. Photos were taken.

Councilmembers thanked the Telecommunicators. It was noted there was a male Telecommunicator now as well.

- B. Recognition of Hickory Fire Department Awarded International Accredited Agency Status

Mayor Guess asked City Manager Warren Wood to introduce the presentation.

City Manager Warren Wood commented this was something special happening tonight. He asked Chief Matthew Hutchinson to the podium to introduce who he would like to join him at the podium.

Hickory Fire Department Chief Matthew Hutchinson referred to the Telecommunicators, although they just left, they were not Fire's primary dispatchers, the County was, but they interact with them just as much. They would call that number just as much. Everything they do, please let them know they appreciate them as well. With VIPER up, they would be talking a lot more. He introduced Jim White, who was the CFO for the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), Captain Marcus Scott, and their mentor, Chief Lambert retired Dallas, North Carolina Fire Chief. The Commission on Fire Accreditation International created the accreditation process and there are currently over 319 accredited agencies worldwide. The process required a department to go through a self-assessment focused on industry strengths and weaknesses, using data and analytics to continuously improve. For reference, in North America alone, 13% of fire departments in the US were accredited. 19% of Canada were accredited. In North Carolina, there were 25 accredited fire departments, of which 13 were Class One. That was a dual notoriety, and Hickory Fire Department was one of those. Some examples of other ones that hold that dual accreditation and ISO were Asheville, Charlotte, Cary, Greensboro, Garner, Statesville, and Wilmington. Just to name some of the 13. Their department embraced the process of accreditation as an all hazards, quality improvement model, that was based on risk analysis and self-assessment, that promotes the establishment of community adopted performance targets for fire and emergency services. Understanding the model's intent, their department began the process over five years ago. They all worked together, and a lot

with Captain Marcus Scott, for it to culminate to their first team visit of this past September 2023. They completed the site visit with plenty of stress, and hair pulling, but they got through it, and the recommendation from the team was for accreditation. This year, on February 29, 2024, Chief Hutchinson, Captain Scott, and Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller went down to Orlando to sit before the hearings and were accredited. This honor reinforced that the City's fire department was data driven, outcome focused, strategic minded, well organized, adequately trained and properly equipped. He introduced Mr. Jim White, CFO, CFAI Program Manager for the accreditation program. He flew in from Florida today for this. Chief Hutchinson appreciated him being present.

CFO, CFAI Program Manager Jim White thanked the Council for having him. He thanked and recognized the community, Chief Hutchinson, and his staff of firefighters for what they had done to get to this point in adopting the self-assessment model of accreditation for the community. Chief Hutchinson was culminating all those things that have happened to them in the last several months. This did not just happen overnight, as they all well know. They gave them the guidance and direction to make this process the way that they do business. And that was why they were successful. They just could not make it happen. They have to go about acting and going through motions through their processes to be able to develop and respond to over 250 individual performance indicators that all have to be deemed credible by the peer assessment team that came for the site visit. Again, they could not have had that happen without the team, not only from the Fire Department, but from everywhere throughout the community, elected officials, City management and leadership, Human Resources, Finance Department, physical resources, communications that they talked about, and water supply. It examines everything that there was to do with providing fire protection to the City of Hickory. He came as a representative of the Commission, a 13-member commission that represented the fire service worldwide. He thanked them for using the process and applying it to the community, and he recognized them with a plaque. He recognized the Chief and all of the firefighters, and the entire community for this recognition of being accredited with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. He thanked the Mayor and Chief Hutchinson.

Mayor Guess thanked Mr. White. He commented that he read somewhere that less than 1% of Fire Departments achieved this accreditation. He asked if that was that correct.

Mr. White replied yes, sir. As the Chief mentioned, not only had they adopted the accreditation model to use with the City's organization, but to achieve that and ISO Class One, he knew with his role, he was a 40-year firefighter and Fire Chief in Florida, and they had both of those recognitions. And it was not easy, but it recognized the community's commitment. When you say we support public safety, this really was the recognition of that. Because they absolutely do, or they would not be here. He thanked Council again.

Mayor Guess commented that they had certainly earned it.

City Manager Warren Wood wished to memorialize this. He asked the City Council up front with these folks, and they held the plaque up. Photos were taken. He mentioned they came all the way from Florida to Texas.

Mayor Guess thanked all of the Fire Department personnel, not just those that are in uniform, but those civilian personnel as well. He asked Chief Hutchinson if he would please pass along from the entire Council how much they appreciated all of the effort. He knew it took everybody to put effort into this. Please pass that along to the rest of the team, how much they appreciated this and how much they thanked them for their service.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

VI. Approval of Minute

A. Regular Meeting of April 2, 2024.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of April 2, 2024, be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Reaffirmation and Ratification of Second Readings. Votes recorded on first reading will be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading unless Council Members change their votes and so indicate on second reading.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Approval of an Ordinance Amending Section 1-2 and Adopting Sections 3-30, 3-31, and 3-32 of the City of Hickory Code of Ordinance. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

B. Budget Revision Number 18. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

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

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

A. Called for a Public Hearing to Consider the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of 31.388-Acres Located at 2063 Startown Road, PIN 3721-13-04-3211, Owned by Bowman Rentals, LLC. (Authorized Public Hearing for May 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

RESOLUTION NO. 24-17
RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED
UNDER G.S. 160A-31 AND/OR 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition from Bowman Rentals, LLC requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on March 28, 2024, 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 Bowman Rentals, LLC, containing 31.388-acres more or less, located at 2063 Startown Road, Newton, NC, and identified as PIN 3721-13-04-3211.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 28th day of March, 2024.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION 24-18
RESOLUTION FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION OF ANNEXATION,
PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31 OR G.S. 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of the area described herein has been received; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory has, by Resolution, directed the clerk to investigate the sufficiency thereof; and

WHEREAS, certification by the Clerk as to the sufficiency of said petition has been made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY:

Section 1: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at 6:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024, 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 Bowman Rentals, LLC, containing 31.388-acres more or less, located at 2063 Startown Road, Newton, and identified as PIN 3721-13-04-3211.

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. 24-19

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

WHEREAS, Bowman Rentals, LLC is the owner of certain real property as described herein, which property is located at 2063 Startown Road, Newton, NC and identified as PIN 3721-13-04-3211, containing 31.388-acres more or less; and

WHEREAS, such property is currently located in the City's extra-territorial jurisdictional (ETJ); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of the City of Hickory to annex such property into the corporate limits of the City of Hickory as authorized by N.C.G.S. Section 160A-31; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Hickory City Council, sitting in open session this 16th day of April, 2024, 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 7, 2024, 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 Bowman Rentals, LLC, Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 1 Current City Boundary, subject property outlined in red; Bowman Rentals, LLC Voluntary Contiguous Annexation Map 2, Current Zoning, subject property outlined in red; Bowman Rentals, LLC Voluntary Contiguous Annexation, Map 3, Aerial Map subject property outlined in red.

Section 4: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in The Hickory Daily Record, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

B. Called for a Public Hearing to Consider the Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of 49.21-Acres Located at 3940 River Road, PIN 3710-09-17-5434, Owned by Boureanu and Creech Properties, LLC. (Authorized Public Hearing for May 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building).

RESOLUTION NO. 24-20

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 Boureanu and Creech Properties, LLC requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on April 2, 2024 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 Boureanu and Creech Properties, LLC, located at 3940 River Road, containing 49.21 acres more or less, and identified as PIN 3710-09-17-5434.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 2nd day of April 2024.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION 24-21

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 7, 2024 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 Boureanu and Creech Properties LLC, located at 3940 River Road, containing 49.21 acres more or less, and identified as PIN 3710-09-17-5434.

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. 24-22

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE INTENT TO ANNEX INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY CERTAIN PROPERTY OF BOUREANU AND CREECH PROPERTIES, LLC AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SAME

WHEREAS, Boureanu and Creech Properties, LLC is the owner of certain real property as described herein, which property is located at 3940 River Road, Hickory, containing 49.21 acres more or less, and identified as PIN 3710-09-17-5434.

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 16th day of April 2024, 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 7, 2024 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 maps entitled Boureau & Creech Properties LLC, Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 1, Current City Boundary, subject property outlined in red; Boureau & Creech Properties, LLC Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 2, Current Zoning, subject property outlined in red; Boureau & Creech LLC, Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 3, Aerial Photography subject property outlined in red.

Section 4: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in The Hickory Daily Record, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

- C. Approved the Issuance of Pyrotechnic Display Permits to PyroStar Entertainment for Fireworks Displays at the Hickory Motor Speedway.

Staff requests approval of the issuance of pyrotechnic display permits to PyroStar Entertainment for fireworks displays at Hickory Motor Speedway. Kevin Piercy, General Manager of Hickory Motor Speedway, has submitted requests to obtain permission to conduct public fireworks displays on the following dates: May 17, 2024 (rain date September 14, 2024) and May 18, 2024 (rain date October 14, 2024). 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 displays.

- D. Approved a Cemetery Deed Transfer from J. Patrick Pearce and wife, Lessie S. Pearce to William Brockman Long, and wife, Amanda Grimes Long, Oakwood Cemetery, Section 54, Lot 17, Spaces 001 and 002, and Lot 18, Spaces 001, and 002, Plot D. (Prepared by Attorney Julia J. Eurey.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-15
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 19**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 159.15 and 159.13.2, the following revision be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and for the duration of the Project Ordinance noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2023-24 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

| FUNCTIONAL AREA | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| General Government | 10,000 | - |
| Culture & Recreation | 52,789 | - |
| Public Safety | 3,898 | - |
| TOTAL | 66,687 | - |

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

| FUNCTIONAL AREA | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Miscellaneous | 14,464 | - |
| Sales and Services | 52,223 | - |
| TOTAL | 66,687 | - |

SECTION 2. To amend the Airport Fund within the FY 2023-24 Budget Ordinance the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

| FUNCTIONAL AREA | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
|-----------------|----------|----------|

| | | |
|----------------|-------|---|
| Transportation | 1,730 | - |
| TOTAL | 1,730 | - |

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

| FUNCTIONAL AREA | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Miscellaneous | 1,730 | - |
| TOTAL | 1,730 | - |

SECTION 3. To amend the Water/Sewer Fund within the FY 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

| FUNCTIONAL AREA | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| Environmental Protection | 17,500 | - |
| Contingency | - | 127,000 |
| Other Financing Uses | 127,000 | - |
| TOTAL | 144,500 | 127,000 |

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

| FUNCTIONAL AREA | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Miscellaneous | 17,500 | - |
| TOTAL | 17,500 | - |

SECTION 4. To amend the Solid Waste Fund within the FY 2023-24 Budget Ordinance the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

| FUNCTIONAL AREA | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| Environmental Protection | 24,677 | - |
| TOTAL | 24,677 | - |

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

| FUNCTIONAL AREA | INCREASE | DECREASE |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Miscellaneous | 24,677 | - |
| TOTAL | 24,677 | - |

SECTION 5. 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 | 127,000 | - |
| TOTAL | 127,000 | - |

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 | 127,000 | - |
| TOTAL | 127,000 | - |

SECTION 6. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

- IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None
- X. Informational Item
- XI. New Business
 - A. Public Hearings
 - B. Departmental Reports
 - 1. Approved the request to apply for the North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation Accessible Parks Grant for an Inclusive Playground at Miracle of Hickory Park – Presented by Special Projects Manager for the City Manager Natalie Jackson.

The City of Hickory is eligible to apply for a reimbursable grant known as the Accessible Parks (AP) Grant in order to transform Miracle of Hickory Park into a

highly accessible park that meets the needs of individuals with disabilities. The AP Grant package is based upon public input, support, and the main site plan components of a previous submission for the NC Division of Parks & Recreation's Accessibility for Parks (AFP) Grant. The grant submission seeks funding for the creation of accessible routes, accessible restrooms, a shaded pavilion for photo-sensitivities, an accessible stage with ramp, accessible park furnishings and accessible parking improvements. Staff recommend approval of the request to apply for the Accessible Parks Grant.

Mayor Guess asked City Manager Warren Wood to introduce the departmental report.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Special Projects Manager Natalie Jackson to the podium to present Council with the North Carolian Division of Parks and Recreation Accessible Parks Grant for an inclusive playground at Miracle of Hickory Park.

Special Projects Manager Natalie Jackson gave a PowerPoint presentation. She shared an opportunity with Council for the City, the accessible parks grant. She explained what this grant does. It essentially allowed communities to construct or renovate facilities to make them more accessible. It had an impact focus. The City had an opportunity to pursue the grant and was looking at requesting \$496,000 for improvements to Miracle of Hickory Park. For the record, not to improve an inclusive play area, but to build upon the improvement that was happening right now, thanks to the Hickory Rotary Grant. What was great was the RRS representative had confirmed that their local match could actually consist of the grant that was received from Rotary and the City dollars that went into installing the inclusive playground that they were celebrating right now. The grant package was due May 1, and they hope to hear in August if they are selected, if Council decides to move forward.

Ms. Jackson discussed key points of this particular project. The Miracle of Hickory Park Improvement project was based on a previous accessibility for parks grant that the City submitted in the last round. They now have a completed Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism Comprehensive Master Plan. That increases their chances of this grant exponentially. The project had tremendous community enthusiasm and support and previous approval by Council. They had seen this project before, just with some small enhancements. It was supported by a study called the CEPID when they took a look at the City in the four-county region, as far as individuals with disabilities go and what they have access to, particularly recreation, and also the new parks and rec comprehensive master plan supports this project. They have an enhanced site plan, to make sure that they accurately reflected accessibility improvements. That was the focus of this year's grant. It was focused on access impact, going from low access to high access was their goal. What was nice it also enhanced opportunities for veterans with disabilities to be served in a special way by proximity of the Armory next door. A perfect convergence of the Miracle of Hickory story, as well as military and the music that we hear on that property.

Ms. Jackson referred to the PowerPoint and displayed the park improvement site plan. They have the opportunity to increase accessibility by a series of accessible routes. They have accessible routes programmed in so that individuals can make their way from the parking lot to the amenities in the park. Also included in this grant were an accessible stage, accessible restroom, an inclusive shaded pavilion, as well as additional parking in partnership with the next-door Armory. They were really excited because basically they were making this park accessible, usable, and fun for individuals with disabilities through this project. She asked for the Council's support in submitting this grant package, and she asked for questions.

Mayor Guess asked the Council for any questions.

Alderman Wood asked Ms. Jackson when they were evaluating what disabilities will be accommodated by the equipment or whatever, were there specific ones? How did she get her guidance for that?

Ms. Jackson advised they used the CEPID study and looked at census population centers. Miracle of Hickory Park was located next to most of the population centers that included disabilities. They looked at that and said they could serve almost all disabilities through this project.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Ms. Jackson to explain what CEPID stood for.

Ms. Jackson advised the community enhancement project for individuals with disabilities.

Mayor Guess asked for any other questions. He thanked Ms. Jackson.

Alderman Seaver moved seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the submission of an application for the accessible parks grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Guess asked when they get the grant.

Ms. Jackson advised they would tell them at the end of August. She commented it was very exciting because the playground that was going in now was beautiful. It was really a win.

Mayor Guess thanked Ms. Jackson.

2. Approved the Sandy Pines Master Plan Update and the 2023-2024 PARTF Grant Submission – Presented by Special Projects Manager for the City Manager Natalie Jackson.

The City of Hickory is eligible to apply for a reimbursable grant, known as the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant, to launch an initial phase of Sandy Pines Park in the northeast quadrant of the City. A master plan for Sandy Pines Park was accepted by City Council in 2018 and included ample citizen engagement. The Sandy Pines Park Project is supported via an existing park master plan informed by citizen input. Through extensive analysis performed via the City's recent Parks Recreation and Sports Tourism Comprehensive Plan, development of the park is seen as a strategic goal backed by a statistically valid survey that calls for key amenities that it provides. There is citizen excitement, support, and constructive feedback to guide development. Staff have identified efficiencies for the site that necessitate a small master plan update to reflect them along with current project costs, citizen input and minor adjustments to street names. Staff recommend approval of the Sandy Pines Master Plan Update, grant submission and associated Resolution.

Mayor Guess asked City Manager Warren Wood to introduce the departmental report.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Special Projects Manager Natalie Jackson to the podium to present Council with the Sandy Pines Master Plan Update and the 2023-2024 PARTF grant submission.

Special Projects Manager Natalie Jackson gave a PowerPoint presentation. She advised with this grant, the PARTF Grant, they have an opportunity to actually jumpstart Sandy Pines Park if they receive this grant. The North Carolina Trust Fund was affording them an opportunity to apply for a grant of \$500,000. That was the max ask. Through the Resolution that was presented to Council, they would like to also ask for their approval of \$625,000 to complete the project. They would see that they were going to offer quite a bit out of the starting gate. The PARTF package is also due May 1, and the decision estimate was late summer, early fall 2024. Once they received the grant and signed the contract, there was a three-year period to complete, and that would have been the same for the other grant as well. What was really great was that they have a new master plan. The Sandy Pines Park property was purchased approximately 1985, In 2018, the master plan for Sandy Pines Park was approved. Now in 2023, they have a brand-new Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism Comprehensive Master Plan. The timing was very good. They were able to use the grant for building, renovation, or acquisition of land. They were proposing the building of the first phase of Sandy Pines Park. The Parks Recreation and Sports Tourism Comprehensive Plan had a number of strategic initiatives. Three of those were touched by the Sandy Pines Park Project. Improving and maximizing existing assets, planning for growth, and equitable and inclusive access. In improving and maximizing their existing assets, Sandy Pines Park spoke for itself. They have the land, and that land was already master planned. With regard to planning for growth, the northeast quadrant, found in the master planning process, needed neighborhood parks. It was also the quadrant that had the largest population now and largest projected population in the master plan, it was a 10-year period. As far as equitable inclusive access to parks, they may have parks in the eastern quadrants, however, the neighborhood parks they have in the eastern quadrants were well below those in the west. The master plan itself called for the development of Sandy Pines Park and its recommendations. Another great point to make was NCDOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) had projected 29th Avenue Drive NE as a widening project as possibly starting in 2028. They know that was subject to change, but the timing would be great with Sandy Pines Park. It was also a great time to start thinking about tweaking the 2018 master plan. In their analysis of putting together the grant package, they realized that they needed to create an efficiency. They amended

the location of the bathroom for sewer efficiencies. Also, they wanted to update the budget numbers. Things cost a lot different in 2018 than they do in 2024, so they looked at what would a phase one budget cost. There were some street name adjustments just for accuracy that they named in that update, which they were hoping the Council would also approve. She wanted to give a summary of feedback that they had received in this process. The updated feedback for 2024 on this park plan.

Ms. Jackson referred to the PowerPoint and displayed the site plan for Sandy Pines Park. They were definitely excited for this launch opportunity because it packed a lot of the amenities that were in the Master Plan, at least in part in this first phase. She pointed out some of the amenities, vehicular parking as well as the opportunity to give a pedestrian access. They knew this park serves Sandy Pines, Havenwood and Park View neighborhoods, which was pretty cool that they could do that right out of the starting gate. They were able to give an exercise loop, a paved walking trail, approximately just a little over a quarter mile worth of trail. They knew that trails were the number one unmet need that households said they needed when they did their recreation needs survey last year. The trails were just big, so they were able to offer a substantial trail out of the starting gate as well. Also, what was really great they could see that they would be able to install cornhole boards and a nature playground. A lot in a phase one.

Ms. Jackson advised the City had invested in this property already through its 2018 master plan, which was produced using public input and an existing site analysis. It was also supported again by the recent Parks Recreation and Sports Tourism Comprehensive Plan, and the recreation needs survey that was used for it. Many of the amenities were high priorities for citizens in that survey. They also engaged civic groups and were happy to say that the Kiwanis Club of Hickory, as well as Hickory Sunrise Rotary gave unanimous support for this project. Also, public input meetings were provided. They held two public input meetings, one at City Hall, and one at Highland, and received input from citizens. They received input that citizens were excited to be able to have a neighborhood park in their area. Some were excited to have some of the amenities that she mentioned, especially the trails. Citizens also brought understandable concerns for the site, wanting them to make sure that they had proper buffering between the park and homes, as well as accounting for safety and the floodway that was on the property. All things that could be addressed through the plan or through City staff currently. They received information also through phone calls, social media, and emails. Overall, it was a great time to develop the park on the heels of their master plan and a great multitude of input from their citizens. She asked for Council's support of this as well as the master plan update.

Alderman Zagaroli asked what the percentage or probability was on the City getting the grant.

Ms. Jackson did not know. This was the City's first time submitting for it, and she understood that sometimes it takes two submittals, but they were going to say it was really high.

Alderman Zagaroli commented that it was a very nice grant if they could get it.

Ms. Jackson agreed and commented that it would be a real blessing to the citizens.

Alderwoman Williams commented coming off the heels of the first presentation, as a City was there a policy now, when they develop a new park, they would follow the accessibility standards. How they were updating the Miracle Park. In this one, were they just incorporating some of those?

Ms. Jackson advised that the master plan that was adopted last year recommended pushing towards universal design. Anything they do, they wanted to make sure that everybody could come on day one and enjoy the park. That would be considered in this park development.

Alderman Wood asked if the \$625,000 that they have on hand to invest, was that contingent upon getting the grant or if the grant does not go through, the \$625,000 would still be invested.

Ms. Jackson advised it was her understanding from Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller that it was only if the grant was received.

Alderman Wood asked about the pedestrian paved trail entrance off of 21st Avenue NE, there were houses down there. Would accommodation be made to make sure that people do not park there to access the pedestrian trail? How would that be controlled?

Ms. Jackson commented that was something they could definitely do. There were bollards down there and currently that was the only part of the plan for that. But that was something they could look at with law enforcement.

Alderman Wood commented that he could envision people parking on the side to access it by foot. He thanked Ms. Jackson.

Mayor Guess asked for any other questions.

City Manager Warren Wood commented he thought Doug Auer was in the audience and he was on the board that would vote on the approval of these. So that might be somebody they could lobby. He asked Council for a vote to confirm.

Mayor Guess moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the Sandy Pines Master Plan Update, the 2023-2024 PARTF grant submission and associated Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-23
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HICKORY TO SUBMIT
APPLICATION TO THE NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PARKS &
RECREATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 500,000 AND PROVIDE A MATCH OF
\$625,000 FOR PARTF GRANT – DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR
Sandy Pines Park Project

WHEREAS, On November 1, 2023 the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) announced the availability of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grants for local park and recreation projects planned by NC counties, incorporated municipalities or public authorities as defined by N.C. General Statute 159-7. Funds are available to award for building or renovating facilities for a public park or land acquisition. Each agency may submit for such projects, requesting up to a maximum of \$500,000 with a dollar-for-dollar match required.

The City of Hickory is applying for funding to launch an initial phase of Sandy Pines Park, known as the "Sandy Pines Park Project," putting City-owned land into service in the northeast quadrant. The following features are being pursued.

- Initial Phase of Sandy Pines Park – Funding will create access to the property and would include a paved walking loop and pedestrian entrance, open space, bathrooms, a parking lot, playground, cornhole boards, site furnishings and shelter located at City owned Parcel IDs 371308986633, 371308987632, and 371308977949. The City will pursue additional master planned amenities in future phases.

Estimated Total Project Cost \$1,125,000
○ PARTF Grant Funding Request - \$500,000
○ Local Match - \$625,000

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Hickory is hereby authorized to submit a grant application in the amount of \$500,000 and will commit \$625,000 as a match for the project.

3. Quarterly Financial Report – Presented by Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller

Mayor Guess asked City Manager Warren Wood to introduce the departmental report.

City Manager Warren Wood asked Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller to the podium to present the Council with the quarterly financial report.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller gave a PowerPoint presentation. He mentioned that it was budget time. They were all anxiously waiting to see what they got in the budget for next year. He discussed the quarterly financial report through the third quarter of their fiscal year, which ended March 31. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed the general fund, the main operating fund of the City. The annual budget for the general fund was a little over \$84 million. He pointed out that most of the revenues in the general fund had come in through the first three quarters. Primarily, that was December and January, which was typical for all local governments in North Carolina. That was why they saw a significant revenue over expenditure number of almost \$5.8 million. The last three months of the fiscal year, of course, expenditures would exceed revenues because they were not getting those property tax revenues in for the final quarter, but they still have monthly, 1/12 of the operating expenses to be paid. He noted they could see that compared to last year, they were almost a million dollars ahead of the pace from

last year through March 31. About a million dollars under on the expenditures through March 31.

Alderwoman Patton asked if he knew how much of the tax revenue that they had received as a percentage.

Mr. Miller advised they had collected \$38.2 million. The budget for this year was \$37.1 million. For property tax and sales tax, just because they had been down that road before, they certainly were not guaranteed of these revenues that come in. As they may recall, last year when they were adopting the budget, there were a number of appeals still outstanding for property tax. There were still a couple of those still outstanding, he was told, with Catawba County. They had collected almost \$1.1 million over their budgeted revenues for this fiscal year. Again, keep in mind the only property tax revenues of any significance really were the monthly vehicle property tax revenues because the primary real estate property tax revenues had already come in. They were due January 6. He advised they wanted to see this chart increasing. They want their tax base to grow. As City Manager Warren Wood said that with each budget cycle they were trying to add job growth, population growth, and tax-based growth. This was certainly indicative of their tax base growing.

Mr. Miller discussed sales tax, which was typically market driven. If the economy was doing well, their sales tax revenues were growing. Similarly, in a recession, those revenues were declining. Certainly, they had avoided the recession so far this year that they thought might be coming sometime last year. At this point, they do not see any indications of a recession. However, he noted compared to last year at this time, they were only \$70,000 higher in their sales tax revenues this year compared to last year. If they looked at the prior two years, they would see a significant increase. In 2021 and 2022, there was a sizable jump of about \$1,000,500. Those were the internet sales that came in North Carolina. The General Assembly finally passed the rules to make the Streamlined Sales Tax Act, which made us consistent with other States across the country, so they could tax those internet sales. The bulk of those revenues in 2021 and 2022, and the final amount between 2022 and 2023 were now embedded in the sales tax revenues that they received. This was truly market driven sales tax. It was folks coming to Hickory, additional restaurants, additional shopping, things of that nature to increase their sales tax going forward. They had received eight months to date. They were 45 days behind in collection. They go to Raleigh, and then they come to us 45 days later. They had a budget of \$16.7 million. They budget very conservatively. They only budget this year what they received last year. As long as they were increasing their revenues, they would not get caught flat footed, not having the revenues that they had budgeted.

Mr. Miller discussed the water and sewer fund. It was the City's second largest fund. They have an annual budget of \$46.7 million. Their revenues through March, if they recalled, through December, their expenditures were higher through revenues. He told them historically; they would catch that up in the third quarter and then in the fourth quarter as more water usage occurs in the spring. They were \$1.8 million revenues over expenditures. Last year they had a little anomaly in that they were about a half a million dollars behind. This year was not the case. That was driven by a couple things, one, obviously the revenue growth that they had but they also had some expenditures that they budgeted this year, radio read meters being one of those that had not fully been spent in this fiscal year.

Mr. Miller discussed permit activity. He thanked Brian Frazier and his group for the work they did processing all this, as well as all the department and City staff that reviewed all these permit applications. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out the residential permits, 447 permits this year. That was the largest they had since he had been here. Probably the largest since the late nineties.

City Manager Warren Wood commented that was going to be new construction and renovation. It was not just new construction.

Mr. Miller advised he had that number for residential. Single family dwellings were right at 150 new homes through March. It was very impressive that they had not seen that in many, many years. Almost a 38% increase in the number of permits. Commercial number of permits was down about 15%, but they still had 205 commercial permits, which was still strong. He looked at the value, which of course leads to that property tax base. On the residential side, they more than doubled their residential permit value. And on the commercial side, they were about even on the commercial. That number, \$204 million through March, again, they had not had that happen since probably the mid to late nineties. He discussed building activity. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out the ones which were residential in nature, which certainly reflected the number of permits he mentioned

before. There were a number of new commercial projects, R.H. Barringer being one of those. He mentioned the one across the street at Bella Age, that apartment complex, two new hotels, the TownePlace Suites and Homes To Suites. They had a couple car washes coming for their enjoyment. He noted that Fairgrove Church Road, the City owned, a number of parcels out there for over 30 years. And they have a large 60,000 square foot company building, it features there at Fairgrove to give that area some life. Obviously, they knew about the Aviation Museum. They had been out there for the groundbreaking. 111 Main to the east was going to happen later this year, as well as 23 Storage, they were off of 127, a higher end storage facility off of 127.

City Manager Warren Wood commented that the numbers that they see, you know, 176 units, a lot of those had not built the first house yet. Those would build out over a period of years. When they saw all those, it was not like it was going to happen in one year. Like the Hamptons had not built and sold the first house yet as an example, but they were putting infrastructure in. Just a word of caution, that was incremental over time that that would happen.

Mr. Miller commented they could just look under the building activity. Those were the planned units, as City Manager Warren Wood said. They could see those exceed 2,000 units, yet they could see on the number of permits, certainly, they were only at 447. Even if they get the 600 permits this year, that was $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ of the projects that were planned.

Alderman Seaver asked how many people that they usually counted for a resident.

Mr. Miller advised 2.2 residents per home.

Alderman Seaver commented that was about 5,000 more people.

City Manager Warren Wood advised that it would be incremental over a period of years.

Mr. Miller advised that single family dwellings, 140 single family dwellings, that was 280 people, almost 300 people. Once they build them and then sell them and get someone occupied. It would take some time.

Mr. Miller discussed economic conditions. On the Federal reserve side, the last interest rate hike they had was July of 23. He thought they had eleven interest rates over the last year and a half. They do a range of five and a quarter to five and a half percent. That was what money they could borrow from banks or banks could loan to each other. They were expecting two to three rate cuts this year. What was holding them up, it was kind of a strange economy was inflation. They had not been immune to inflation here at the City of Hickory. Once that gets close to that 2% inflation rate, that was when they would start seeing those rate cuts. And now they were expecting probably in August and September to start cutting to really try to cool off this economy. He pointed out non-farm employment, they still had over 300,000 jobs in March, across the country. The unemployment rate was under 4%, another good benchmark. First quarter GDP remained strong. It was 2.9%, but it was 3.3% in the fourth quarter, so it had cooled off some as far as the gross domestic product, however, CPI in March, it actually went up. Annual increase of 3.3%. Some of these affect them, or some of these affects just their residents. Electricity was higher, 5% over the past year; shelter, 5.7%, shelter was remaining high, really across the country; food away from home was still high, 4.2% from last year, and gasoline, 1.3%. However, they had seen some decreases, natural gas, for example, 3.2%, which was a welcome sign. New vehicles, 0.1%, but at least it was not growing. Speaking of new vehicles, he thought he told them in December they were having trouble primarily getting police cars. The Chief told him they just picked up four cars. They were trying to find lots where they have cars available. They may not have the color they need. If they were trying to get ten new vehicles this year, they would have only gotten four, but it was a step in the right direction. Catawba County's unemployment rate did rise to 3.6% in February from 3.1%. There was an inverse relationship. When that unemployment rate goes up, actually they get more people. The City had 80 vacancies back in December 31, they have 64 vacancies today in the City workforce.

Alderman Patton asked if those vacancies were concentrated in any particular department.

Mr. Miller advised that they were spread across, primarily public services, and police. They were still looking for some employees there. He referred to the PowerPoint and the bond issues. He reminded them, they had now embarked on all of their bond projects. He mentioned that he and Alderman Wood had a

conversation about this. He advised these were the amounts and the interest rates that they borrowed money for in 2018, 2019, and 2021 to make the \$40 million of GO bonds. They issued those, or they were paying debt currently of an average of 2.21% over 20 years for those bonds. In last year's GO bonds, the average rate on a GO bond issued in 2023 was 3.5%, still lower than the 5.5% that the Feds said because GO Bonds were very inexpensive. However, that was still 130 basis points higher than what they issued for all of theirs on average. If they had issued theirs last year, it would have been an extra \$5.3 million in earned interest costs. They saved that being very fortunate for the timing that they did and made those decisions each year to borrow that money. Now that money had been put to work with \$50 million more in grants, and they see the Hickory Trail system taking off and some getting completed and the rest under construction.

Mr. Miller discussed their investment report. He referred to the PowerPoint slide and pointed out the interest rate. All of their investments were now over 3%. Last year at this time, they were well under 1%. Their investments were earning income now. They had earned \$2.5 million citywide in their investments for the first nine months. He thanked Melissa Miller and her staff for investing in these securities. He pointed out the US Treasuries, those were FH or FF, those were US Government Treasuries, very, very safe. But keep in mind, if they had a three-year security, the interest rate on that was from three years ago. Some of those lower interest rate securities would start falling off, and as long as interest rates remained high, that number would go up. He discussed the Money market. They added NC Class and NCIP. Those were two new money markets that had come to market in North Carolina to compete with the North Carolina Capital Management Trust that they had had since inception here in the City of Hickory. The yield on those were 5.4% to 5.5% overnight rate that they were getting. The cash and money market funds were earning well over 5% of those funds, but a blended rate, again, was 3%. He asked for questions.

Alderman Wood commented the building activity, especially on the residential side, he knew it was in the pipeline and would come, but that was really the tool, that was how they get housing affordability was to get more stock on the market. Right? He did not know that was apparent to everybody. It was not like they could wave a magic wand and get, you know, housing costs down, but, you know, by doing strategic annexation and rezoning and things like that, it allows that kind of growth to happen. And hopefully, you know, as this stuff comes online, it would start putting some downward pressure on prices for housing, whether it was apartments or homes.

Mr. Miller commented that was a great point. He added the housing mix was very diversified, too, which was great. There were a number of communities across the State that were just getting single family homes or just getting apartments. They were getting a complete mix of those here in Hickory. And that was a good thing for buyers.

Alderman Wood agreed. He thanked Brian Frazier, his staff, his team, because he thought they played a critical role in being customer service friendly with these construction companies and getting this stuff approved. And that made a huge difference because he did not think every municipality had a Planning Department that was as customer friendly as theirs was. He thanked him for that.

Mr. Miller also gave a shout out to thank their water and sewer providers, too. They were really trying to keep up with all the growth as well and putting those taps and reading the meters. He threw in that plug, too. That was all part of the equation. They had a great team.

City Manager Warren Wood commented along the lines of what Alderman Wood said, he mentioned the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) put out a report today that there were still 7,600 vacant jobs in the four-county region. Obviously, they do not have a sufficient workforce to fill those jobs. That was another reason that the housing was so important, because that number would get worse if they did not catch up to some degree.

Mayor Guess mentioned he saw somewhere where an affordable house was considered \$160,000. Was that the range?

City Manager Warren Wood advised the ones they were building in Hickory on vacant lots was about \$165,000 which was about as cheap as they could build and sell a house and make anything on it.

Alderman Wood commented it would be interesting when they give up the honor of having the oldest housing stock in North Carolina. When they give that up that would be a big day for them.

Mr. Miller mentioned, to that point, in the Regional Managers Group of the four-county area, all four counties were seeing growth, which was also positive. They had said that at prior retreats. They need the surrounding communities to grow as well. And they were having residential and commercial projects as well. Not to the same degree, but certainly they were growing.

Alderman Wood asked Mr. Miller if he had any sense of what percentage of the growth in property tax was organic versus tax rate increase.

Mr. Miller did not have a percentage, but he thought it balanced certainly more towards the organic. He thought that all the publications that they had received, World's Greatest City, do not forget that, but he thought that the notoriety that they were getting, the fact that they had plentiful power, plentiful water, so folks want to be able to build here, and quality life and affordability were really making us attractive to the rest of the country. He thought that organic growth was really what they were getting. He saw people every week from a different State, and it was great to hear their stories that, "yeah, I've read about Hickory and heard about Hickory, or I've got a relative and they said, try it out. So, we've tried it out."

Mayor Guess asked for any other questions. He thanked Mr. Miller.

4. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large (Outside City but within HRP) (Council Appoints) VACANT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Caucasian (Council Appoints) Cliff Moone Resigned 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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Historic Properties Owner (Council Appoints) VACANT
Building Trades Profession (Council Appoints) VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 1 (Wood Appoints) 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

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

Alderman Patton mentioned that Dana Kaminske has been named Communicator of the Year. She recognized her for what a great job she does for all of them.

Mayor Guess congratulated Ms. Kaminske.

Alderman Williams mentioned that she heard yesterday they had a birthday. She wished Alderman Zagaroli a Happy Birthday.

Mayor Guess wished Alderman Zagaroli a Happy Birthday.

Alderman Zagaroli mentioned he went to the opening for Atriax. He was sure others went also, across from the City Walk. A wonderful building, enthusiastic people. That old motorcycle building had turned into an extremely nice building.

Alderwoman Patton commented they were the first ones, she believed, that moved to the other side of the tracks in anticipation of all this growth. They saw the vision, too. And they had a fabulous, fabulous place.

Alderman Zagaroli mentioned 30 people work there and they got many more offices.

Alderwoman Patton advised room for 50, she thought. Very nice.

Mayor Guess thought all of them had visited the Riverwalk since the opening. He was out there last Sunday and had never seen that much activity out there. There were 300 plus people and a lot of people were enjoying it. They were looking forward to the Aviation Walk and Historic Ridgeview Walk and they were not far behind.

Alderwoman Patton mentioned the article in today's paper about the market that was going to be coming.

Mayor Guess commented that they were seeing growth on Old Lenoir Road because of that. It was an exciting time. At Aviation Museum, he had not been by there recently, but he understood they had poured concrete, and they were getting ready to go up with the building there. That was going to be another great destination once it was done as well.

City Manager Warren Wood mentioned they would have the Council/Staff retreat on Thursday, have a little breakfast, then they would get started. It would be a full day, a good day. A lot on water resources, which was timely.

Mayor Guess commented that once again, they do not say it enough, and he knew they were not all here, mainly they had department heads present today, but please pass along to all of the coworkers in the City of Hickory, none of the accolades and none of the things they had been able to accomplish would be without their coworkers. They had some of the best coworkers that any City Council could ever ask for or hope to have. Please let them know how much they appreciate the jobs that they do each and every day, because they were certainly blessed to have the group that they have.

City Manager Warren Wood commented they just need them to keep working. Not retire. He mentioned that Shawn Pennell was ignoring him.

Mayor Guess commented that they need to hire their families because they have good DNA.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk