



## CITY SNIPPETS

Information. Well Crafted.

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

The City of Hickory’s fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. The new budget for fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025 totals \$144,793,945 for all City operations, capital improvements, and debt service requirements for the upcoming year. The entire budget is available online at [www.hickorync.gov/budget](http://www.hickorync.gov/budget).

Key components of the budget include:

- **General Fund (Main Operating Fund):** A budget of \$73,976,524 represents a 7.9% increase over the previous budget. The property tax rate for FY2024-2025 will remain unchanged at 45.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value.
- **Water and Sewer Fund:** A 5% increase in water and sewer volume charges is needed for the coming year to improve infrastructure and maintain the enterprise fund’s self-sufficiency. This will equate to about a \$1.86 per month increase on the average residential water and sewer bill.
- **Solid Waste Fund:** An increase of \$1 brings the monthly sanitation rate up to \$28 per month for the upcoming fiscal year. This increase will help to offset increases in fuel and labor costs.

In his budget message, Wood outlined the City of Hickory’s next set of strategic initiatives related to protecting the Catawba River, water treatment contingency planning, expanding water storage capacity, water distribution system interconnectivity, and the future Catawba River Education Center.

“By investing in these initiatives and critical infrastructure projects, we will be able to safeguard our water system, accommodate new economic development opportunities, and ensure the well-being of residents in our region,” said Wood. “These projects will not only help in addressing current water system vulnerabilities, but will also lay the foundation for a sustainable future, demonstrating our proactive

approach to resource management and community resilience.”

He added, “The Hickory we see emerging today stands in stark contrast to what we were experiencing in the mid-2000s. Hickory is known throughout the state for being forward thinking. This was clearly demonstrated by the community voting overwhelmingly for the 2014 Bond Program put forward by City Council. By the time the Bond Program is completed, it will have taken 12 full years to implement. There are few communities where that level of patience and commitment can be found. Hickory’s voters have provided the political continuity necessary to fully implement the Bond Program and have never wavered in their desire to see it through. Our community is now beginning to reap the benefits of their patience and support.”

### Hickory 101

Ever wondered about the inner workings of local government? Join Hickory 101 to learn about City of Hickory departments and their functions. Hickory 101 is a condensed version of the City’s popular Neighborhood College program. Participants will tour facilities, see demonstrations, and hear presentations about a variety of areas, including the council-manager form of government, boards and commissions, fire and police, communications, airport, human resources, planning, community and business development, parks and recreation, library, public services, and more. Don’t miss this opportunity to receive a broad overview of how Hickory’s local government works for you! The class will run Thursdays this fall, 1:30-5 p.m., for five weeks beginning September 26. Enroll in Hickory 101 by completing the online registration form at [www.HickoryNC.gov/Hickory-101](http://www.HickoryNC.gov/Hickory-101) by August 30. The class is limited to 20 participants. Please contact Communications Specialist Sarah Killian at 828-261-2290 or [skillian@hickorync.gov](mailto:skillian@hickorync.gov) for more information.

ADDRESS

76 North Center Street

WEBSITE

HickoryNC.gov

PHONE

828-323-7400

ISSUE

July 2024

## HICKORY CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 6 & 20  
6 p.m.  
Julian G. Whitener  
Municipal Building (City Hall)  
[HickoryNC.gov](http://HickoryNC.gov)



### RIDGEVIEW WORKS

Free Career Services  
Every Wednesday  
1-4:30 p.m.  
Ridgeview Branch Library

### SATURDAY SCREENINGS

July 13: Little Giants  
July 27: Homeward Bound  
August 10: TMNT (1990)  
August 24: The Princess Bride  
8:30 p.m.  
Union Square  
Downtown Hickory

### MEET THE AUTHOR: RON RASH

Thursday, August 8  
6-8 p.m.  
Drendel Auditorium, SALT Block

### HICKORY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HICKORY LEADERCON

Friday, August 9  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Registration Required  
Hickory Metro Convention Center  
[HickoryHYP.com](http://HickoryHYP.com)

### LIGHTNING BUG BOOGIE 5K TRAIL RUN

Friday, August 16  
9 p.m.  
Registration Required  
[RunSignUp.com](http://RunSignUp.com)

### I CAN SEE ME A-Z

Saturday, August 17  
12:30-2 p.m.  
Ridgeview Branch Library

[HickoryEventsCalendar.com](http://HickoryEventsCalendar.com)



 City of Hickory, NC -  
Government

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## Beautification Recognition Program

The City of Hickory Community Appearance Commission (CAC) wants to recognize beautifully landscaped yards and properties that have made an effort to improve within the City of Hickory.

Hickory residents, property owners, and neighbors may nominate yards and/or properties for recognition through the new Beautification Recognition Program from April through September each year.

Each month, the CAC will showcase the selected properties on the City of Hickory's website and official Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/cityofhickory](http://www.facebook.com/cityofhickory). Nomination forms and additional details are available online at [www.hickorync.gov/beautification-recognition-program](http://www.hickorync.gov/beautification-recognition-program).

"The new monthly recognition program is a complement to the CAC's annual Beautification Awards program," said CAC liaison and City planner Wilson Elliott. "This new initiative allows the CAC to highlight beautiful properties in our community throughout the year."

The mission of the Community Appearance Commission is to enhance the appearance of the City of Hickory by advising on and implementing programs of general community beautification. Members help coordinate the activities of individuals, agencies, and organizations (public and private) whose plans, activities, and programs bear upon the appearance of the city.

For more information about the Community Appearance Commission and related programs, visit [www.hickorync.gov/community-appearance-commission](http://www.hickorync.gov/community-appearance-commission) or call 828-323-7422.



## Join #TeamHickory

Ready for a rewarding career in public service? Make a difference by serving your local community as part of the City of Hickory's dynamic and talented team! We're currently hiring for a number of positions across different departments. Interested? For a complete listing of current opportunities, scan the QR code on the right or visit [www.governmentjobs.com/careers/hickory](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/hickory).

