

Hickory

CITY SNIPPETS Information. Well Crafted.

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET

The City of Hickory’s fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30. Approved by the Hickory City Council, the new budget for fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026 totals \$159,075,833 for all City operations, capital improvements, and debt service requirements for the upcoming year.

Approximately 80% of the City’s financial activity in the annual budget occurs in three funds: General, Water and Sewer, and Solid Waste.



General Fund (Main Operating Fund): A budget of \$78,877,527 represents a 6.6% increase over the previous budget. The property tax rate for FY2025-2026 will increase from 45.5 to 46 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This half-cent increase will produce \$425,000 in additional revenue, and will be accounted for in a separate fund designated specifically for the City’s water and sewer resiliency project needs.



Water and Sewer Fund: A 1% increase in customer and availability charges and a 5% increase in volume charges are needed for the coming year to improve infrastructure and maintain enterprise operations. The average impact on a residential bill should be \$1.51 per month.



Solid Waste Fund: An increase of \$1 brings the monthly sanitation fee up to \$29 per month for the upcoming fiscal year. This increase will help to offset rising operational costs.

In his budget message, City Manager Warren Wood outlined the City of Hickory’s next set of strategic initiatives related to the City’s water and sewer system. Wood described how Hurricane Helene reinforced the importance of making the needed investments by saying, “As Hickory nears the end of implementing its 2014 Bond Program, we look towards meeting our medium and long-term utility infrastructure needs by creating a more redundant and resilient system.”

The City of Hickory budget is balanced and prepared in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

The entire budget and the adopted fee schedule for FY2025-2026 are now available for review on the City of Hickory’s website at www.hickorync.gov/budget.





HICKORY CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 15
Tuesday, August 5 & 19
6 p.m.
Hickory City Hall
HickoryNC.gov

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Friday, July 4
City Offices, Libraries, and
Recreation Centers Closed

OUTLAWS, PIRATES, AND OTHER ADVENTURES: SONGS & STORIES WITH ROB MCHALE

Tuesday, August 5
6-7:30 p.m.
Patrick Beaver Memorial Library

CAMP HOORAH

August 11-15
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Registration Required
Highland Recreation Center
Hickory.RecDesk.com

LIGHTNING BUG BOOGIE 5K NIGHT TRAIL RUN

Friday, August 15
9 p.m.
Registration Required
Lake Hickory Trails
RunSignUp.com

For more local events, visit:
HickoryEventsCalendar.com

 City of Hickory, NC
- Government

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 City of Hickory

NEIGHBORHOOD COLLEGE

Want to learn more about the inner workings of your local government? The City of Hickory will offer its popular Neighborhood College program this fall. Neighborhood College is a free series of professionally led sessions designed to teach citizens about the City of Hickory departments and their functions. This immersive, 10-week program is an educational experience that shows how the City operates on a day-to-day basis and plans for the future.

The 2025 program will begin on Sept. 15, with weekly sessions held on Monday evenings from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Each session will feature a different City department or function and will include behind-the-scenes tours of City facilities and demonstrations. The program will conclude with a graduation ceremony held on Tuesday, Nov. 18, in conjunction with the Hickory City Council meeting.

Neighborhood College is open to individuals who live or work in the City of Hickory and is limited to 30 participants. Interested individuals must complete an online application by Friday, Aug. 15, to be considered for the program. Additional information and the application link can be found at www.hickorync.gov/neighborhood-college. Please contact Senior Communications Specialist Sarah Killian at 828-261-2290 or skillian@hickorync.gov with any questions about the program.

SATURDAY SCREENINGS

Sit back, relax, and enjoy free movies this summer! Saturday Screenings will take place at 8:45 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of July and August. All movies are family-friendly with a PG rating.

July 12: Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark

July 26: Honey, I Shrunk the Kids

Aug. 9: Sing

Aug. 23: National Treasure

Weather permitting, the outdoor screenings in July will take place at the Lowes Foods City Park Parking Lot and the outdoor screenings in August will be held at Union Square in downtown Hickory.

Concessions and games will be available before each movie begins. Audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday Screenings are presented by Jay Brown, Realtors® and hosted by the City of Hickory Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Department in partnership with the Footcandle Film Society.