



Life. Well Crafted.

A = Approved, A1 = Approved First Reading, A2 = Approved Second Reading, D = Deferred, NA = No Action, PH = Authorized Public Hearing, AD = Approval Denied

ACTION AGENDA

Hickory City Council
76 North Center Street

February 20, 2024
6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation by Administrative Director, Kyle Cerrito, Hickory Bible Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations

Mayor Guess recognized the Scout Leader and Scouts in attendance from Troop 726, Church of the Ascension.
- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard
- NA** A. Ms. Daria Jackson, 133 17th Street SE, Apt. B, addressed traffic concerns along Springs Road near Shurtape.
- VI. Approval of Minutes
- A** A. Regular Meeting of February 6, 2024. **(Exhibit VI.A.)**
- 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.
- A2** A. Approval to Implement an All-Way Stop at the Intersection of 3rd Avenue SE and 1st Street SE. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
- A2** B. Consideration of Rezoning Petition 24-02 requested by Gregory Williams for 29.59 acres owned by GTC Investment Properties, LLC, Located on Highway 127 South between Moss Farm Road, and Nello Drive. **(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.
- A** A. Approval of the Citizens' Advisory Committee's Recommendation for Assistance through the City of Hickory's Housing Programs. **(Exhibit VIII.A.)**

The mission of the City of Hickory's Community Development Division is to preserve the existing housing base, enhance ownership opportunities for all of its citizens to obtain decent housing, and provide a quality environment conducive to the safe and healthy growth of its citizenry. The seven-member Citizens' Advisory Committee was formed to provide for citizen input in the facilitation of the City's CDBG program, as well as any other similar community enhancement funding the City may receive. The following requests were considered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on February 1, 2024:

February 20, 2024

- *Rebecca Abernathy located at 823 2nd Street SE, Hickory was recommended for approval of up to \$12,000 under the City of Hickory's 2023 Urgent Repair Program.*
- *Gloria Gatrall located at 324 17th Avenue NE, Hickory was recommended for approval of up to \$12,000 under the City of Hickory's 2023 Urgent Repair Program.*
- *Coleen Derr located at 840 2nd Street SE, Hickory was recommended for approval of up to \$12,000 under the City of Hickory's 2023 Urgent Repair Program.*

The Citizens' Advisory Committee recommends approval of the aforementioned requests for assistance through the City of Hickory's housing assistance programs.

- A1** **B.** Approval of the Implementation of a Speed Limit Reduction to 25 mph along 5th Avenue NE between Main Avenue NE and 5th Avenue Place NE, and along 4th Street NE between 5th Avenue NE and 5th Avenue Place NE, and along 7th Street NE between 5th Avenue NE and 3rd Avenue NE. **(Exhibit VIII.B.)**

Staff request Council's approval to implement a speed limit reduction to 25mph along 5th Avenue NE between Main Avenue NE and 5th Avenue Place NE, and along 4th Street NE between 5th Avenue NE and 5th Avenue Place NE, and along 7th Street NE between 5th Avenue NE and 3rd Avenue NE. City Council implemented a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program that enables citizens to request measures to improve traffic safety in the area where they own property. Citizens are required to submit an application to request measures and provide a reason for the request. Then, the City performs analysis to determine what, if any, measures are warranted. Citizens requesting traffic calming measures are required to complete and submit a petition with 75% of properties in favor of implementation for the request to move forward. Traffic Division staff received the completed petition from property owners along 5th Avenue NE with regards to the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program and have found the property owners to be in compliance with the guidelines. The petition does qualify for a speed limit reduction to 25mph. Thirty-one properties were included in the petition and twenty-four properties signed in favor of implementation. This represents at least 75% approval, which meets the requirement. The necessary sign modifications along the roadway can be performed as a normal part of the Traffic Division's signs/markings shop operations. Staff recommends Council's approval to implement a speed limit reduction to 25mph along 5th Avenue NE between Main Avenue NE and 5th Avenue Place NE, and along 4th Street NE between 5th Avenue NE and 5th Avenue Place NE, and along 7th Street NE between 5th Avenue NE and 3rd Avenue NE.

- A** **C.** Approval of the Mutual Termination and Release Agreement with SOMA. **(Exhibit VIII.C.)**

Staff requests approval of the Mutual Termination and Release Agreement between The City of Hickory and SOMA. In October of 2021, the Hickory Police Department entered into an agreement with SOMA to provide a new records management system and computer aided dispatch system to replace the system used currently. After discussions with SOMA, all parties mutually agreed to terminate the contract. The Mutual Termination and Release Agreement is the result of that decision. Staff recommends approval of the Mutual Termination and Release Agreement with SOMA.

- A** **D.** Approval of the Annual Contract Renewal for Auditing Services with Martin Starnes & Associates for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024. **(Exhibit VIII.D.)**

Staff requests approval of the annual contract renewal for auditing services with Martin Starnes & Associates for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The City of Hickory has utilized the services of Martin Starnes & Associates for the past thirteen years with excellent results. Since fiscal year 2012, Martin Starnes & Associates has also been contracted to produce the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The North Carolina Local Government Commission (LGC) does not enforce formal bid requirements for auditing services due to the professional relationship formed between auditors and clients over an extended work history. The Secretary of the Local Government Commission approves all local government contracts and invoices for audit or audit-related work. The LGC requires

approval of the auditing contract on an annual basis. In 2022, the City of Hickory approved a three-year renewal contract with Martin Starnes & Associates. The annual renewal ending June 30, 2024 will be the final year of this contract with audit fees of \$81,280. Fees include annual financial audit fee, financial statement preparation, Annual Financial Information Report (AFIR), and major program reviews. Staff recommends approval to renew the annual auditing contract with Martin Starnes & Associates for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

A1 E. Revised Budget Revision Number 14. (Exhibit VIII.E.)

1. To transfer \$385,000 from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Fund to cover the cost of a replacing a commercial recycling truck.
2. To appropriate a \$300 payment received by the Fire Department from Catawba County for HazMat services.
3. To appropriate a \$30 contribution received from the Hickory Youth Council to assist with programming costs.
4. To appropriate \$2,340 in NCDOT reimbursement funds for material costs within the Traffic Division.
5. To appropriate a payment of \$6,750 from CVCC for field maintenance for material costs within the Landscaping Division.
6. To appropriate \$500 in sponsorship funds from Catawba County Council on Aging for Senior Games materials costs.
7. To appropriate \$5,500 in recreation revenues to go towards youth sports programming and material costs within the Parks, Recreation, & Sports Tourism Department.
8. To appropriate \$6,000 in recreation revenues to cover programming costs within the Parks, Recreation, & Sports Tourism Department.
9. To appropriate a total of \$20,000 towards the Trivium Center East Road Widening project for materials testing and special inspection observations in a professional services agreement with Catawba Valley Engineering and Testing. \$10,000 will come from General Fund Balance. The other \$10,000 will come from Catawba County.
10. To appropriate \$11,817,116 towards the OLLE Art Walk Project to award a construction bid to Neill Grading & Construction in the amount of \$22,714,091. \$7,000,000 will come in the form of a grant from NCDOT with a City match of \$1,750,000. The remaining funds will come from the sale of land and unspent Hickory Trail project funds.
11. To appropriate \$1,339,148 in additional funds to award the construction bid for the 9th Ave Dr NW Road Project.

A1 F. Budget Revision Number 15. (Exhibit VIII.F.)

1. To appropriate \$600,000 from the City Walk Project and appropriate \$1,600,000 from Federal Grant funds towards the Historic Ridgeview Walk Project for a construction contract with Kemp Sigmon Construction Company, Inc.
2. To appropriate \$950 in Airport insurance claim revenues to repair damage to facilities.
3. To appropriate \$2,024 in General Fund revenues towards the Police Department for BLET tuition reimbursement from former police officers.
4. To appropriate \$7,875 in recreation revenues for seasonal events programming and youth sports programming within the Parks, Recreation, & Sports Tourism department.
5. To appropriate \$54,835 in State Aid grant revenues to go towards the construction of an outdoor learning facility at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.
6. To appropriate \$11,225 in revenues from the sale of vehicles and equipment from the Fire Department towards building maintenance costs.

7. To appropriate \$14,179 to cover registration, meals, lodging, and K9 training expenses within the Police Department. General Fund Balance will be reimbursed by Department of Treasury police funds.
8. To appropriate \$830,490 to establish the AMI water meter upgrade Capital Project Ordinance (#803313). The project is being initiated using money budgeted for the project within the Water & Sewer Fund.
9. To appropriate a total of \$300 in donation revenues for programing costs at Hickory Public Library.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

X. Informational Item

XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

B. Departmental Reports

NA 1. Update on the Expansion and Renovations at Hickory Metro Convention Center Expansion and Visit Hickory – Presentation by CEO Mandy Hildebrand.

Hickory Metro Convention Center CEO Mandy Hildebrand will give a construction update on the Hickory Metro Convention Center which includes news on the first booked event in the sports venue/exhibit hall space. She will also give an update on some recent marketing successes which includes a story about Hickory in the 2024 Visit North Carolina Destination Guide.

NA 2. 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
Other Minority (Council Appoints)
Other Minority (Council Appoints)
Other Minority (Council Appoints)

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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)
Building Trades Profession (Council Appoints)

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RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 6 (Patton Appoints)
At-Large (Council Appoints)

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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

XIV. Adjournment

***Hickory City Code Section 2-56. Public Address to Council:**

“When conducting public hearings, considering ordinances, and otherwise considering matters wherein the public has a right to be heard, when it appears that there are persons present desiring to be heard, the Mayor shall require those opposing and favoring the proposed action to identify themselves. Each side of the matter shall be given equal time. Those opposing the proposed action shall be allowed 15 minutes for presentation, followed by 15 minutes for those favoring the action, with the opponents then to have five minutes for rebuttal and the proponents to then have five minutes for surrebuttal. Those persons on either side shall have the right to divide their allotted time among them as they may choose. The Council, by majority vote, may extend the time for each side equally. On matters in which the person desiring to address the Council does not have a legal right to speak, the Council shall determine whether it will hear the person. The refusal to hear a person desiring to speak may be based upon grounds that the subject matter is confidential, that its public discussion would be illegal, that it is a matter not within the jurisdiction of the Council or for any other cause deemed sufficient by the Council. Any person allowed to speak who shall depart from the subject under discussion or who shall make personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who shall become boisterous while addressing the Council shall be declared out of order by the Mayor, or by vote of the Council, and barred from speaking further before the Council unless permission to continue shall be granted by a majority vote of the Council, under such restrictions as the Council may provide.”

**The City of Hickory holds all public meetings in accessible rooms.
Special requests for accommodation should be submitted by individuals
with disabilities at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.
Phone Services (hearing impaired) – Call 711 or 1-800-735-2962**