



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

October 20, 2026
6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation by Reverend Dr. Nick Perrin, Senior Pastor, Corinth Reformed Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard
 - A. Mr. Jeffrey Katz, 735 4th Street NE, Hickory, thanked City staff for resolving water quality issues at his home.
 - B. Mr. Sean Little, 615 4th Avenue SW, Hickory, recognized Planning Director Brian Frazier on his upcoming retirement and commended him for his year of professional service to the citizens of Hickory.
- VI. Approval of Minutes
 - A** A. Regular Meeting of October 6, 2026. **(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. Budget Revision Number 6. **(First Reading Vote: Unanimous)**
 - A2** B. Rezoning Petition Number 26-08 for City-Owned Property Located in Burke County at 964 and 970 Airport Rhodhiss Road and an unaddressed parcel to the East, total 24.39 Acres, from Burke County R-3 Residential to City of Hickory Planned Development. **(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 to Designate an Agent for Grant Management and Agreements for HUD Community Project Funding (CPF) Grant B-26-CP-NC-1309 for Fire Station Upgrades. **(Exhibit VIII.A.)**

Staff requests Council approval to designate an agent to manage grant documents and agreements for HUD Community Project Funding (CPF) Grant B-26-CP-NC-1309 for Fire Station Upgrades. In 2024, the Hickory Fire Department applied through Senator Thom Tillis for \$1,383,000 in CPF appropriations to support fire station upgrades, including a new alerting system. In spring 2026, the City was notified that Congress approved the request.

HUD administers CPF grants through the Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting (DRGR) system, which requires the submission and signature of certain federal documents prior to issuing the final grant agreement. Designating an authorized agent will streamline this process. Once HUD prepares the \$1,383,000 grant agreement in the DRGR portal, staff will present it to Council for formal acceptance and approval. Staff recommends Council approval of the designation of an agent for HUD CPF Grant B-26-CP-NC-1309 for Fire Station Upgrades.

- A** **B.** Acknowledgment of Publication of Notice of Conflict of Interest Stemming from a Nonprofit's Application for Funding from the City's Community Development Block Grant Program. **(Exhibit VIII.B.)**

Staff requests Council's acknowledgement of the published notice regarding a potential conflict of interest associated with an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The City of Hickory participates in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's CDBG program, which allows funding to eligible nonprofit organizations. The City has received an application from a nonprofit that has a City Council member serving on its Board of Directors. Under federal regulations (24 C.F.R. § 570.611), the City must publicly disclose potential conflicts of interest in connection with CDBG Public Service Activities funding. In compliance, the City has issued a public notice describing the potential conflict. The notice has been posted on the City's website, City Hall, Patrick Beaver Memorial Library, and Ridgeview Library. Staff requests Council's acknowledgement of the publication of this required conflict-of-interest notice.

- D** **C.** Removed and Deferred until a future Council meeting. Approval of a Priority Use Agreement with Catawba Valley Youth Soccer Association for Priority Use of the Henry Fork River Park Soccer Complex. **(Exhibit VIII.C.)**

Staff requests City Council's approval of the Priority Use Agreement with Catawba Valley Youth Soccer Association (CVYSA) for priority use of the Henry Fork River Park Soccer Complex (HFRP). CVYSA and the City have partnered since 2000. The organization provides youth travel soccer for approximately 600 players each season and has contributed financially to the park's development. The proposed ten-year agreement grants CVYSA priority use of five of the ten soccer fields at HFRP. As part of the agreement, CVYSA will contribute \$100,000 toward construction of Field #11, with payments of \$25,000 annually from 2026–2030 and \$30,000 annually from 2031–2035. The total contribution over the term of the agreement is \$375,000. Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism recommends City Council's approval of the Priority Use Agreement with CVYSA.

Notice of the priority use agreement was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on September 10, 2026.

- A** **D.** Request to Award Service Weapon(s) and Badge(s) to MPO Kongpheng Lo and MPO Scott Cote upon their Retirement from the Hickory Police Department. **(Exhibit VIII.D.)**

The Hickory Police Department requests that City Council award Master Police Officer Kongpheng Lo his service weapon (Glock Model 45, Serial No. CDAM854) and badge upon his retirement on October 1, 2026, and award Master Police Officer Scott Cote his service weapon (Glock Model 45, Serial No. CDAM806) and badge upon his retirement on November 1, 2026. Master Police Officer Kongpheng Lo will retire from the Hickory Police Department after completing over 25 years of qualifying service to the citizens of Hickory. Master Police Officer Scott Cote will retire after completing over 14 years of qualifying service. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, City Council may award service weapons and badges to officers upon their retirement from the Hickory Police Department. Upon Council approval, the service weapons and badges will be declared surplus and removed from the City's fixed asset inventory. Staff recommends approval to award the service weapons and police badges to Master Police Officers Kongpheng Lo and Scott Cote in recognition of their dedicated service to the City of Hickory.

- A** E. Approval of a Community Appearance Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by Crystal Rogers Located at 310 4th Street SW, Hickory. **(Exhibit VIII.E.)**

The Community Appearance Commission recommends that City Council approve a Community Appearance Grant in the amount of \$5,790 for property owned by Crystal Rogers located at 310 4th Street SW. The project includes repainting, siding replacement, landscaping improvements, and updates to the sidewalk and ADA-compliant ramp. The lowest project estimate totals \$15,080, qualifying the request for up to \$7,500. Based on the project's overall impact, the Community Appearance Commission recommends funding in the amount of \$5,790. The property is within the Urban Revitalization Area and has an assessed tax value of \$177,900. The Community Appearance Commission unanimously recommended funding the grant application in the amount of \$5,790 and recommend Council's approval of the grant.

- A** F. Approval of Amendment Number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with KCI Technologies, Inc. in the Amount of \$366,900 for Water Infrastructure Improvements. **(Exhibit VIII.F.)**

Staff requests Council's approval of amendment number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with KCI Technologies, Inc. for the Directed Appropriations Project – Hickory-Longview Elevated Storage Tank Engineering and Design, West Hickory Elevated Storage Tank improvements, and Water Treatment Facility upgrades in the amount of \$366,900. Amendment number 2 consist of two separate resiliency projects: 1) upgrades to the Water Treatment Facility finished water pump station - \$264,900; 2) improvements to the West Hickory Elevated Storage Tank - \$102,000. Staff recommends Council's approval of amendment number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with KCI Technologies Inc. in the amount of \$366,900.

- A** G. Approval of Amendment Number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Freese and Nichols, Inc. for the NW Sewer Extension Design, in an Amount not to Exceed \$261,400. **(Exhibit VIII.G.)**

Staff requests Council's approval of amendment number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Freese and Nichols, Inc., for the Northwest Sewer Extension Design, in an amount not to exceed \$261,400. Amendment number 2 provides for construction phase services, including project management, DWI coordination, construction administration, site inspections, and project closeout activities. These services are required to support the construction of a new gravity sewer line and lift station intended to serve the Airport area and facilitate future economic development. Staff recommends Council's approval of amendment 2 with Freese and Nichols, Inc. in the amount of \$261,400.

- A** H. Approval of a Resolution for Acceptance of a Milwaukee “Cut-Off Machine” Saw for use by the Hickory Police Department Special Operations Team. **(Exhibit VIII.H.)**

The Hickory Police Department requests City Council's approval of a Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a donated Milwaukee “Cut Off Machine” saw valued at \$899 from Hickory Home and Garden. This specialized tool will enhance the Special Operations Team's ability to conduct tactical operations, perform rescues, and gain rapid access to structures during emergencies. The Police Department recommends Council's approval of the Resolution accepting the donation.

- A** I. Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with McGill Associates, P.A. for Water Treatment Facility Clearwell Rehabilitation Evaluation and Design in the Amount of \$104,200. **(Exhibit VIII.I.)**

Staff requests Council's approval of a Professional Services Agreement with McGill Associates, P.A., in the amount of \$104,200 for evaluation and design services related to the clearwell rehabilitation at the Water Treatment Facility. The project will address structural and coating deterioration by developing engineered plans for concrete repairs, surface preparation, and protective coating application. McGill Associates was selected

through a formal RFQ process based on qualifications and project understanding. This project is included in the FY26-27 Water Treatment Facility Capital Improvement Plan.

- A J. Acceptance of the Bid and Award the Contract to T.P. Howard's Plumbing Co., Inc. in the Amount of \$464,570 for Improvements to Miracle of Hickory Park. **(Exhibit VIII.J.)**

Staff requests Council's acceptance of the bid and approval of the contract with T.P. Howard's Plumbing Co., Inc. for improvements to Miracle of Hickory Park project. Plans began in 2022 for accessibility and amenity upgrades. The NC Division of Park & Recreation awarded a 5:1 matching grant fund to include parking improvements, accessible routes and restrooms, a shaded pavilion, an accessible stage, and related furnishings and landscaping. Benesch was selected in June 2025 to complete design and permitting. Following receipt of seven bids, T.P. Howard's Plumbing Co., Inc. was identified as the lowest responsive bidder with a total project cost of \$464,570. Staff recommends Council approval of the contract to move forward with construction of these park enhancements.

- A1 K. Budget Revision Number 7. **(Exhibit VIII.K.)**

1. To appropriate \$1,628 in equipment sales towards the purchase of supplies for Parks and Public Properties.
2. To appropriate \$150,000 in donation revenues towards construction expenses at the Catawba River Environmental Education Center.
3. To transfer \$366,900 in construction funds originally received from the State of North Carolina for Hickory-Longview Elevated Storage Tank Project to be used for additional design and engineering services with KCI Technologies.
4. To transfer \$261,400 in construction funds from the NW Sewer Extension Project for additional design services with Freese and Nichols Inc.
5. To appropriate a total of \$169,200 in General Fund Balance to be used for additional construction services for the Miracle of Hickory Park Project and Sandy Pines Park Project.

IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – Item C, deferred until a future Council meeting.

X. Informational Items

XI. New Business

A. Public Hearings

B. Departmental Reports

- A 1. 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

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 3 (Seaver Appoints) VACANT

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

Alderman Seaver Nominated Jeff Davidson as Ward 3 Representative on the Public Art Commission.

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

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
