



Life. Well Crafted.

# Bond Commission Meeting

## Minutes

Tuesday, January 14 at 5:30 pm  
SALT Block  
Keiser Community Room  
243 3rd Ave NE  
Hickory NC, 28601

A quarterly meeting of the Bond Implementation Commission was held in the Keiser Community Room at the SALT Block, on Tuesday, January 14 at 5:30 p.m., with the following members present:

**Bond Commission members present:** Alan Barnhardt, Doug Auer, Jennifer Beane, Michael Bell, Ellie Bradshaw, Eric Brandon, Paige Brigham, Mackenzie Fairchild, Robe Dickerson, Sandi Fotheringham, Kimberly George, Allison Holtzman, Clise Johnson Plant, Meg Nealon, Jim Rogers, Katherine Rogers, Dan Shabeldeen, Ernie Sills, Mike Thomas, Kames Tilton, Nick Walden, Virginia Wright, Jason Yates.

**Bond Commission members absent:** Lori Alala, Allison Holtzman, Anthony Laxton, David Roberts II, Susan Walker, Bob Warmuth, Virginia Wright

**Staff Present:** Communications and Marketing Manager Dana Kaminske, Communications Specialist Sarah Killian, Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley, Assistant to the City Manager Yaidee Fox, Public Services Director Kevin Greer, Planning Director Brian Frazier, Morgan McIlwain Freese and Nichols Consultant, Charles Archer Freese and Nichols Consultant, Dave Leonetti, Rodney Miller, Steve Miller, Cal Overby, Rick Patton, Shawn Pennell, Sarah Prencipe, and Executive Assistant to the City Manager Deisy Zavala Vazquez

### I. Welcome – Chair Burk Wyatt

Bond Commission Chair, Burk Wyatt, called the meeting to order at 5:44 pm. Mr. Wyatt thanked the Bond Commission members for attending and introduced Mayor Hank Guess. Mr. Guess welcomed the group and wished them a Happy New Year and welcomed Councilmembers Tony Wood and Jill Patton. He added that he wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to the group for all of their work to make these projects happen and that all of the bond projects were officially under

design or under construction. He reminded the group that they originally had \$40 million for the projects and were now working with \$90 million dollars thanks to the hard work of the staff involved. He added that these projects were important and would be the catalyst that drives the City of Hickory toward the future. Mr. Guess asked the Councilmembers in attendance if they wanted to say a few words. Councilwoman Jill Patton thanked the group and told them how appreciative they were for the work the Bond Commission had done. Councilman Tony Wood said that their work was very impressive.

## **II. Approval of Minutes from July 17, 2019**

Mr. Cliff Moone moved, seconded by Mr. Ernie Sills, approval of the minutes from the July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Bond Implementation Committee Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. Bond Commission Roles and Responsibilities – Chair Burk Wyatt**

Chair Burk Wyatt reminded the group of the roles and responsibilities of the group. The Bond commission's role was to help develop the projects and learn from the process. Their responsibilities are to obtain updates, provide feedback, and inform the community. They are the ambassadors on behalf of the projects. and that is their most important job.

## **IV. Introduction of Engineering and Design Firms – Morgan McIlwain**

Freese and Nichols consultant, Morgan McIlwain shared that representatives from Kimly- Horn (Book Walk), Vaughn and Melton (Old Lenoir Road), TGS (Build Grant) and McGill and Associates (Lenoir- Rhyne Boulevard) were present at the meeting.

Ms. McIlwain shared the agenda with the group. She mentioned that staff had held a new Bond Commission member orientation earlier that day and it had reminded her of how far they had come and how much coordination they had done with different regulatory agencies, designers, and consultants such as the ones that were there today.

**V. Bond Project Updates – Yaidee Fox, Morgan McIlwain, & Kevin Greer**

Public Services Director, Kevin Greer welcomed the group.

He shared that there had been a few thousand people that came to the Christmas parade and Tree Lighting and they all loved the updates on the Square. He added that they would still be working on the City Walk for at least 20 more months. They have been adding updates to the City website.

Ms. Morgan McIlwain shared some updated on the Riverwalk. As you recall it had been broken into two packages, the City package and the NCDOT package that included the Iconic Bride. The City package is all of the on-land portion. This part connects with the existing trail system that is already in place. Both packages went out to bid and they went to City Council last week and City Council approved the lowest price which was 5.89 million dollars with David E. Looper and Co. Looper included modifications to the design, elimination of several of the retention walls and an elevated structure. Ms. McIlwain showed the group a rendering of the potential walkway. It will be 10 feet wide. She added that the NCDOT package had 2 million dollars in DOT funding because it came with requirements. They think that one of the reasons the bids came in so high is because the curved steel was expensive. Assistant City Manager, Rick Beasley added that Rosales designed this bridge and it is well with their budget. Rosales

is very excited about the design. Ms. McIlwain shared a rendering of the overlook at night. The overlook is now becoming a focal point.

Assistant to the City Manager, Yaidee Fox added that the on-land portion is already under construction.

Ms. Yaidee Fox shared an update on the Bookwalk. There is a portion that extends past City Hall over to what is called the Arrowhead Park. It goes down on South Center street at the historic Ridgeview library all the way down to HWY 70. They have been working with the design team on engaging the stakeholders to try to find out areas of impact and concern and what they want to see. They will be meeting with more stakeholders moving forward.

Ms. Yaidee Fox shared an update on Old Lenoir Road. This was another partially NCDOT funded project THAT INCLUDED 9<sup>th</sup> street at main and old Lenoir RD. They are looking at going into construction by winter 2021.

Mr. Kevin Greer shared an update on Lenoir-Rhyne Blvd. They will be focusing on landscaping and adding sidewalks. They will also try to carry a consistent theme with the street lighting. They will be switching the lamps to black. Mr. Greer showed the group some renderings. This will be in the works for 2023.

They do not have the art in mind for this area yet. Ms. Beth Schauble added that the Public Arts Commission might be interested in this.

Ms. Yaidee Fox shared an update on the Build Grant. The Build Grant is a multipurpose pathway that extends the City Walk from 9<sup>th</sup> street to 11<sup>th</sup> street and includes a bridge that extends to the Crawdads Stadium. The ARC grant will extend further into Burke County. This will open up more opportunities for

economic development and would help people get over a super street while opening up an opportunity for redevelopment.

**a. Assignment of Projects – Chair Burk Wyatt**

Chair Burk Wyatt shared the new assignment of projects. Since the City Walk is essentially complete, they would be assigning the Build Grant extension to the City Walk Subcommittee since it helps extend the City Walk. The Bookwalk, Old Lenoir Road/ 9<sup>th</sup> St., and Lenoir- Rhyne Boulevard would go to the Streetscapes and Gateways Subcommittee. The Riverwalk subcommittee would continue to focus on their assigned project.

City Manager Warren Wood added that Trivium had just gotten a 48-Million-dollar project from Cataler North America and the company was very excited about the Bond Projects. He added that this was the reason for the bonds, to attract investors and create jobs for Hickory. He added that if you go across the railroad tracks, you will see the start of construction at Center Street Crossing apartments, a 70-million-dollar investment. They were excited about the Bookwalk being in front of their building. Down the street you will also find the One North Center apartment complex across from City Hall. This was a 20-million-dollar investment and they hope to be leasing by the end of this calendar year. They are thrilled to have the City Walk so close to them.

## **VI. Call to Action – Morgan McIlwain**

Ms. Morgan McIlwain emphasized that they need their help with advertising these projects to their friends and neighbors. Mr. Kevin Greer added that all of the projects would more than likely be complete by early 2022

Ms. Yaidee Fox added that they have done many presentations about the projects at various organization meetings the past year.

Mr. Rick Beasley added that everything was coming to fruition and it was going to be happening fast. Mr. Alan Barnhardt added that they would continue to see much more investments in the City.

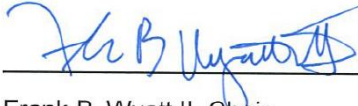
Ms. Paige Brigham added that they were making designs that would last for years to come. They are making long term investments that your children and grandchildren would get to enjoy.

Ms. Clise Plant asked what the response from the Ridgeview Community had been to the projects. Ms. Fox replied that the response had been positive. They voiced their appreciation for the time and the effort that had been put into this.

Mr. Warren Wood thanked the City Staff for their work. Ms. Yaidee Fox, Mr. Rick Beasley, Mr. Kevin Greer, Mr. John Marshall, and Mr. Rodney Miller have done an outstanding job keeping everything going and on track.

**VII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.



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Frank B. Wyatt II, Chair  
Hickory Bond Commission



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Deisy Zavala Vazquez  
Executive Assistant to the City Manager