



MINUTES

April 22, 2026

SECOND MONTHLY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OPERATIONS CENTER | 305 WILLIAMS ST. | 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Barbara G. Volk, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Jennifer Hensley and Council Members Lyndsey Simpson, Melinda Lowrance and Gina Baxter

Staff Present: City Manager John Connet, Deputy City Manager Brian Pahle, City Clerk Jill Murray, City Attorney Angela Becker, Budget & Evaluation Director Adam Murr, Communications Director Allison Justus, Communications Coordinator II Brandy Heatherly and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barbara Volk called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was established with all members in attendance.

2. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Council Member Lyndsey Simpson moved that City Council approve the agenda as presented. A unanimous vote of the Council followed. Motion carried.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Melinda Lowrance asked if item 3A Request for Approval to Accept the PARTF-Helene Recovery Fund grant for the Sullivan Park Restroom and Playground Improvements under the Consent Agenda be moved to New Business as item 5B. Council Member Melinda Lowrance moved that City Council approve the consent agenda as amended. A unanimous vote of the Council followed. Motion carried.

B. Request for Approval to Accept the FTA Section 5310 Grant Award for the Main Street & 7th Ave E Enhanced Pedestrian Crosswalk Signals – Blake Fulgham, Management Analyst II

Resolution R#26-26

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF ACCEPTING FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM, SECTION 5310 PROGRAM GRANT OPPORTUNITY

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration has developed a grant program that provides financial assistance to develop new transit systems as well as maintain, improve, and operate currently existing transit systems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville is committed to providing its citizens and visitors with safe and accessible travel within the community; and

WHEREAS, in accordance to the U.S. Access Board on PROWAG, section R308.2 states that “*Accessible pedestrian signals* shall have an audible and *vibrotactile* walk indication during the *walk interval* only. The audible walk indication shall be audible from the beginning of the associated *crosswalk*. Following the audible and *vibrotactile* walk indication and during the *pedestrian change interval*, *accessible pedestrian signals* shall revert to the *pedestrian push button locator tone*.”

WHEREAS, the City’s financial resources have limited the City’s ability to implement the new pedestrian signals with appropriate audible and vibrotactile capabilities; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, the City’s disabled population consists of 17.9% of the City’s population, which is 3.9% higher than the state of North Carolina and 4.2% higher than the United States statistic.

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville plans to install new audible and vibrotactile street crossing technology throughout the Historic Hendersonville Main St. during instances of roadway & crosswalk/curbing infrastructure repairs that occur within a designated pedestrian crosswalk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina that:

1. The City hereby endorses the application for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Section 5310 Program grant opportunity and, if the grant is awarded, agrees to provide matching funding up to 20%, and any staff assistance for the duration of the Project; and
2. The City Manager is authorized to execute said application.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina, on this 22nd day of April, 2026.

C. 2026 Street Resurfacing & Bearcat Blvd. Improvements Tentative Award – *Richard Shook, Civil Engineer*

Resolution #R-26-27

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 2026 STREET RESURFACING & BEARCAT BLVD IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina has received bids, pursuant to duly advertisement notice therefore, for construction of the 2026 Street Resurfacing & Bearcat Blvd Improvements and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer reviewed each bid for completeness and accuracy; and

WHEREAS, *Tarheel Paving & Asphalt Co.* was the lowest bidder for the 2026 Street Resurfacing & Bearcat Blvd Improvements Project, and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer recommends **TENATIVE AWARD** to the lowest bidder for the project cost.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina that

1. The City Manager is authorized to execute a contract for the construction of the 2026 Street Resurfacing & Bearcat Blvd Improvements Project to *Tarheel Paving & Asphalt Co.* in the total amount of \$1,364,151.83
2. The City Manager is authorized to approve change orders which, cumulatively, do not exceed 10% of the approved contract amount of \$1,364,151.83 provided that any necessary amendments must be brought to the City Council for approval.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina on this 22nd day of April, 2026.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Credit Card Processing Fee Update – *Krystal Powell, Finance Director*

Finance Director Krystal Powell gave a brief PowerPoint presentation below.



Credit
Card
Processing
Fees
Analysis

Agenda

- Summary of Work Completed
- Desired Outcomes
- Current Payment Channels & Fee Impact
- What's Driving the Costs
- Recommendations
- Questions

Summary of Work Completed

- Reviewed all credit card processing fees
- Evaluated vendor contracts and pricing models
- Identified average credit card fee rates
- Contacted vendors regarding pricing flexibility and other options
 - Invoice Cloud: will not lower rates but will allow us to pass fees on to Customer
 - AMS Payment Processor – (Parking & Misc Gov) was able to negotiate lower rates
*****WILL IMPLEMENT IMMEDIATELY*****
 - Two other vendors that were contacted said they were not able to help us due to configuration/software of the parking kiosks
- ParkMobile – we have the option to pass on fees

Desired Outcomes

1. Reduce credit card processing costs to the City
2. Asking to Pass Credit Card Fees on to the Customer for the following payments:
 - Payments made for bills generated through the Utility Billing Software – Utility Bills, Annual Fire Inspection/Permits
 - SDF Fees
3. Maintain lower overall utility rates by ensuring credit card processing fees are paid only by customers who choose to use that payment method

Current Payment Channels & Fee Impact

(ranked by greatest credit card fee expense)

-  **Utility Billing – Invoice Cloud/Chase 3.15%**
-  Parking Meters, Parking Garage, Misc Gov OTC / AMS – 8.68%
-  ParkMobile – 8.00%
-  SDF Fees / Cognito - 3%
-  Parking Citations & Permits / Iparg – 2.98%
-  Mini-Golf / Civic – 6.5%

Citywide Credit Card Fee Summary

Fees range from 3% - 9%

SOFTWARE/PAYMENT PROCESSOR	PAYMENT TYPE	AVG MONTHLY CC REVENUE COLLECTED	AVG # MONTHLY TXNS	AVG \$ TXNS	AVG MONTHLY CC FEES	AVG EFFECTIVE CC FEE %
Utility Billing-Invoice Cloud/Chase	Utility Billing Payments and Fire Inspections	\$642,169	8,200	\$78.31	\$20,069	3.15%
Parking Meters, Parking Garage & Misc Gov OTC/AMS	Parking Kiosks & <u>Misc Gov Payments OTC</u>	\$40,239	10,514	Range \$3.50-\$14.00	\$4,827	8.68%
ParkMobile	Mobile Parking Payments	\$41,581	13,200	\$3.15	\$3,239	8.00%
SDF Fees/Cognito	SDF Fees	\$50,742			\$1,522	3.00%
Parking Citations & Permits/Iparg	Parking Citations and Parking Permits	\$25,430	561	\$45.93	\$757	2.98%
Mini-Golf/Civic	Mini-Golf and Miscellaneous Public Works Payments				\$353	6.50%

What’s Driving the Costs?

- Small-dollar transactions (parking meters, ParkMobile)
- High Reward-Type credit cards (higher interchange fees)
- Platform/vendor pricing structures

RECOMMENDATIONS

Pass Credit Card Processing Fees on to the Customer for the following:

- Payments made for bills generated through the Utility Billing Software – Utility Bills, Annual Fire Inspection/Permits - **Pass 2.95% credit card "service fee" to customer or \$1.95 minimum per transaction**
- SDF Fees – Pass fee of 3% to customer

Percentage-based Transaction Fee Model

Proposed Pricing - Utility			
Card/PayPal Transaction Fee	2.95%	City of Hendersonville, NC Spend – Card & ACH	\$313,135
Minimum Fee	\$1.95	City of Hendersonville, NC Savings (\$) Estimate	\$219,827
Max Cap	\$125,000.00	City of Hendersonville, NC Savings (%) Estimate	70%
ACH Fee / AutoPay ACH Fee	\$0.30	One-Time Implementation Fee	\$2,500.00
ACH Fee / AutoPay ACH Fee	\$0.45	Must Notify AutoPay Card Payers	

Payer only pays transaction fee on cards; ACH will remain free to payer regardless of route.

Questions

B. NCDOT S Main Roundabout Design Presentation – Brent Detwiler, PE, Assistant City Manager – Public Services, Hunter Marks, Watermark Landscape Architecture

Hunter Marks gave the following PowerPoint presentation.

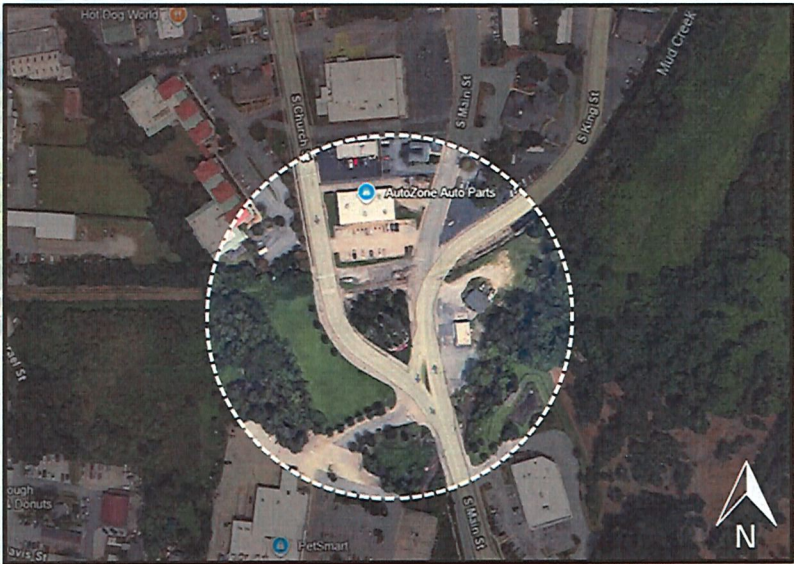


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. CONTEXT
- 2. MASTER PLAN
- 3. SOUTH MAIN ROUNDABOUT
- 4. HONORAIR PARK
- 5. PHASING
- 6. QUESTIONS



EXISTING CONDITIONS

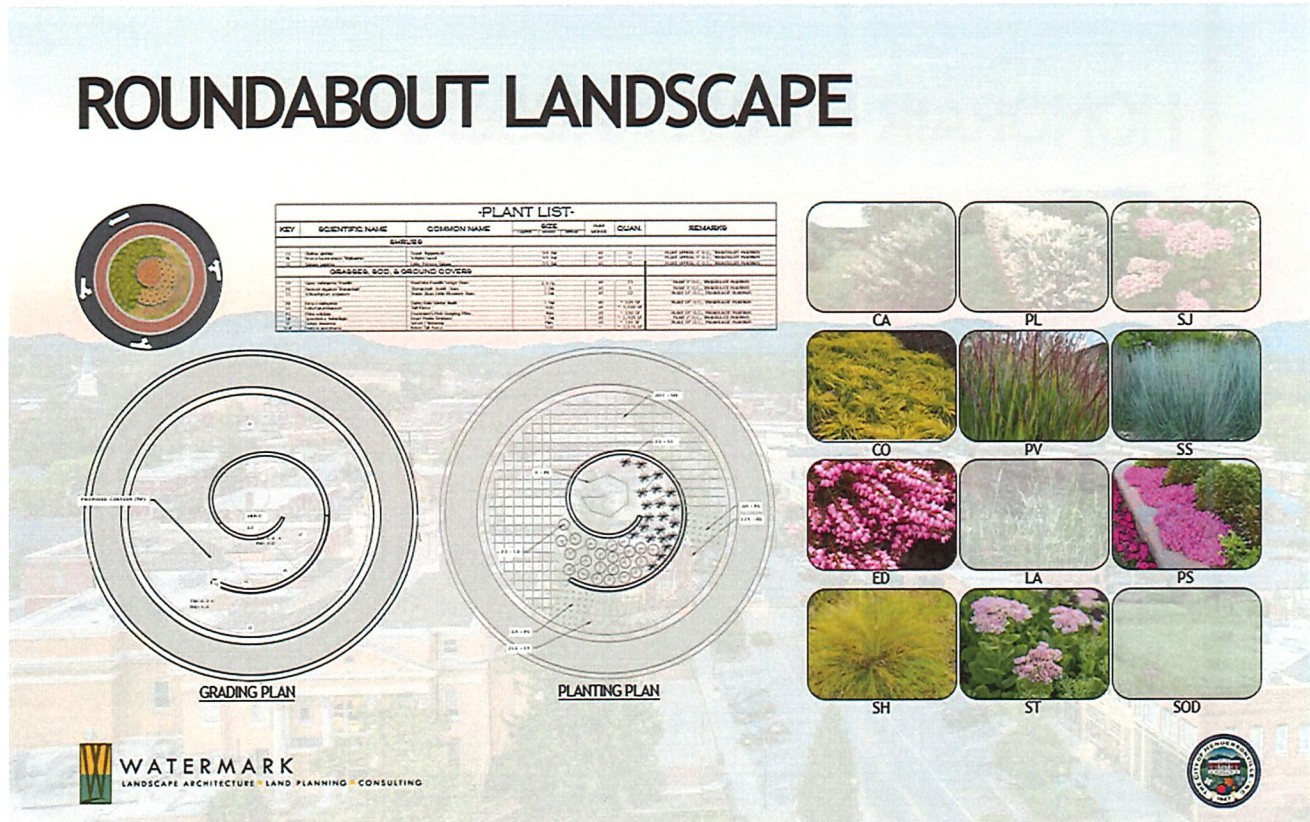
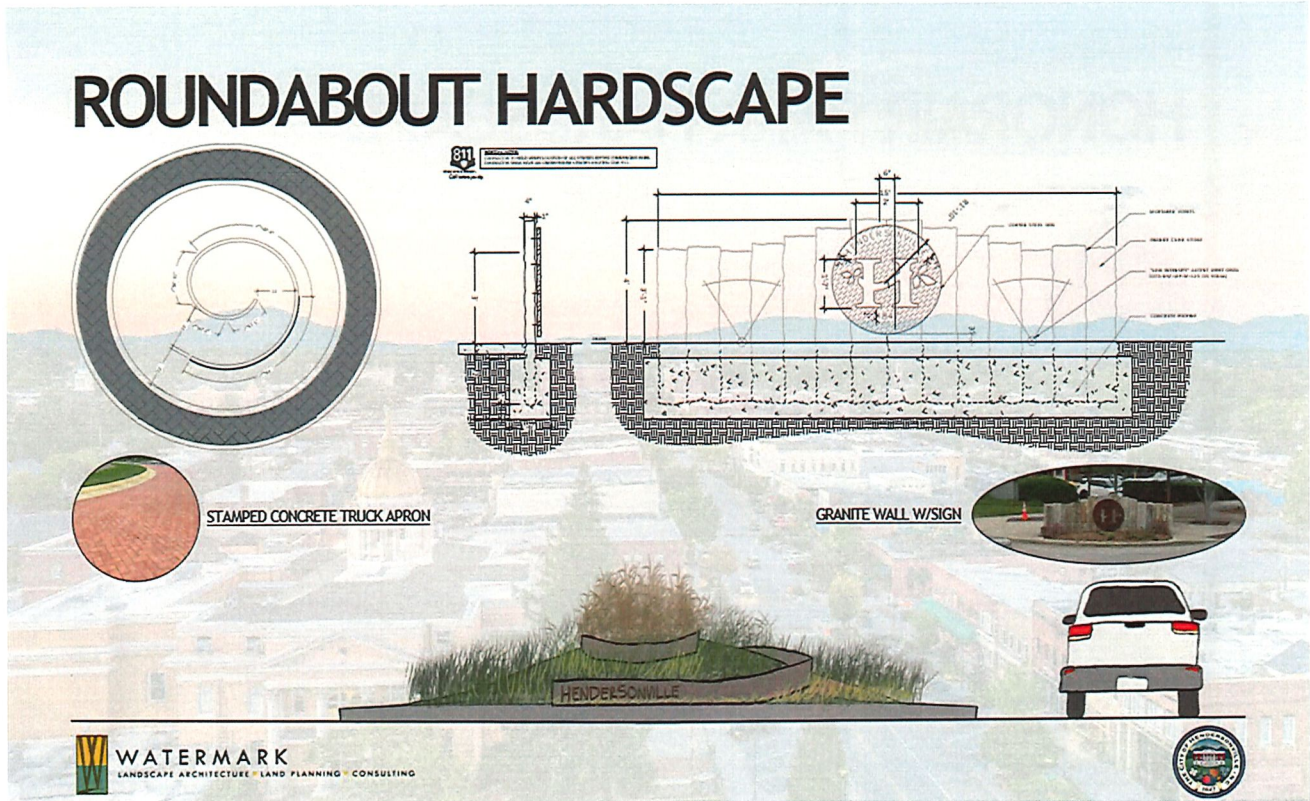


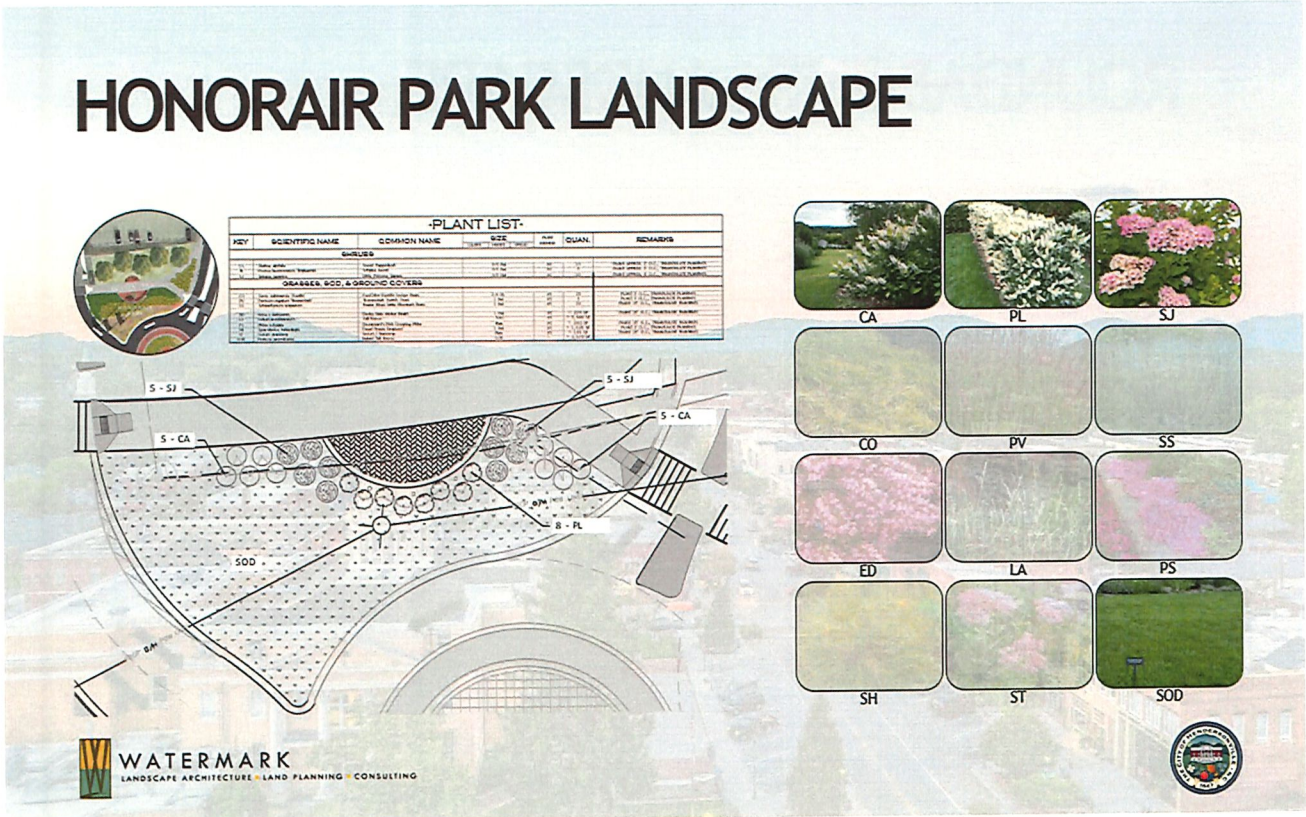
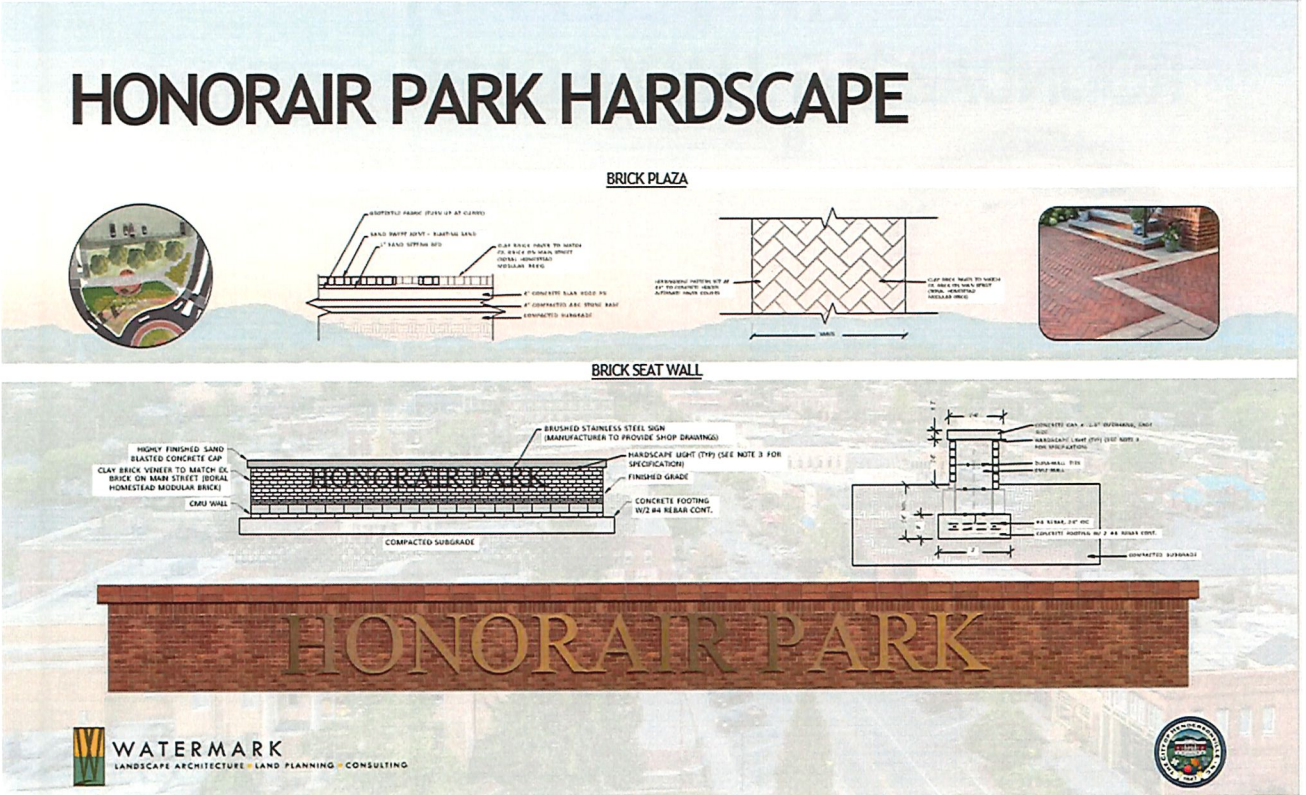
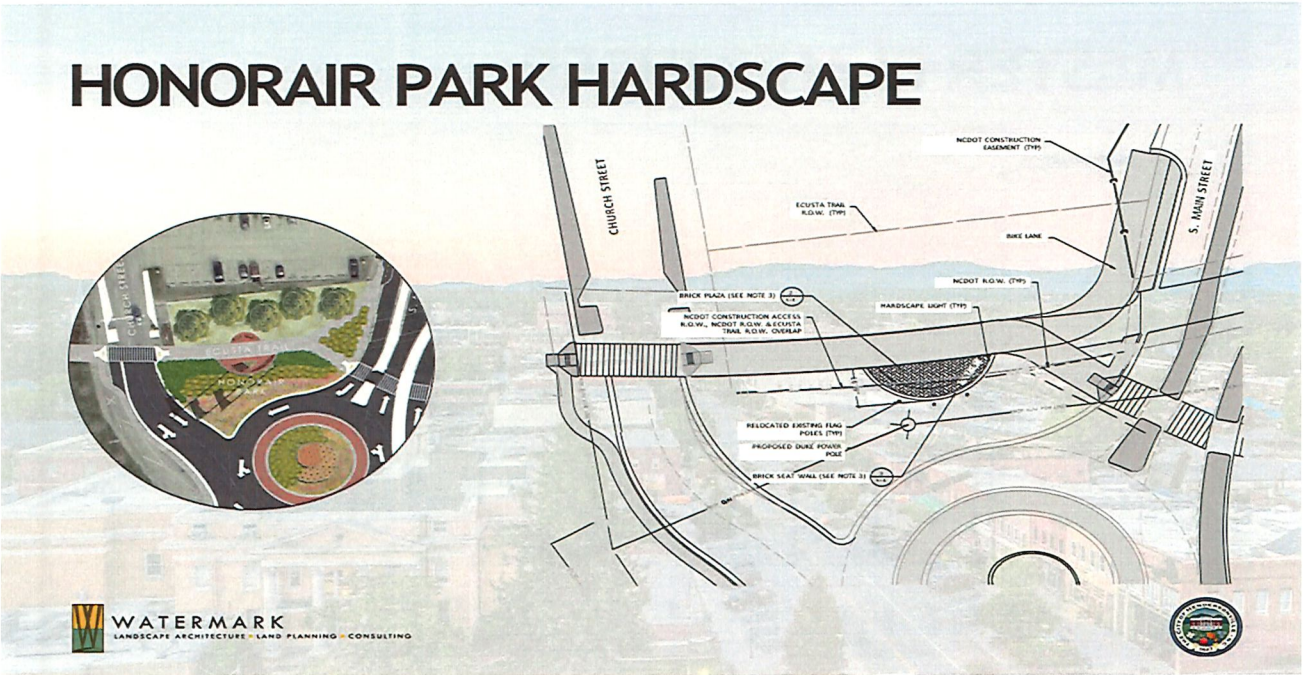
EXISTING CONDITIONS



- SALVAGABLE MATERIALS**
- Flag Poles & Flags
 - Honorair Park Sign
 - Hendersonville Sign
 - Boulders
 - Granite Curbs
 - Uplights
 - Shrubs







ROUNDBOUT PHASE



WATERMARK
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING



ECUSTA TRAIL PHASE



WATERMARK
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING



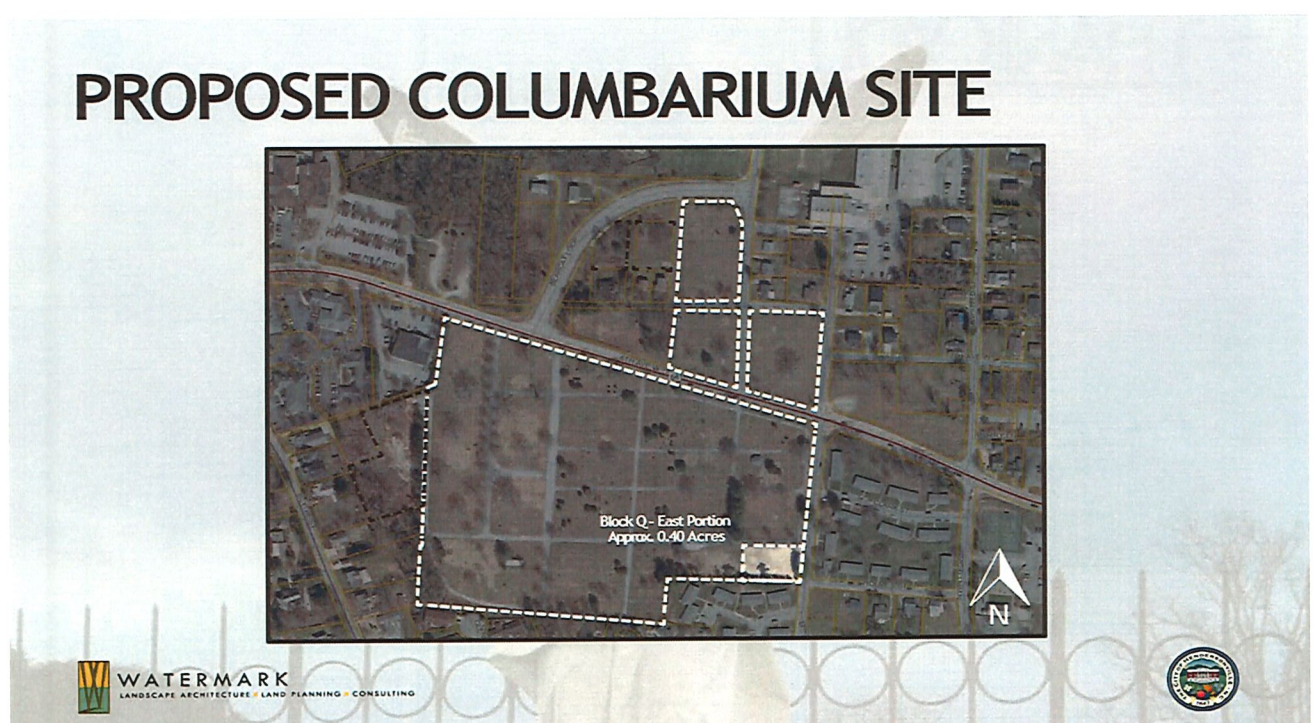
THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?



C. Oakdale Columbarium Concepts – Brent Detwiler, PE, Assistant City Manager – Public Services, Hunter Marks, Watermark Landscape Architecture

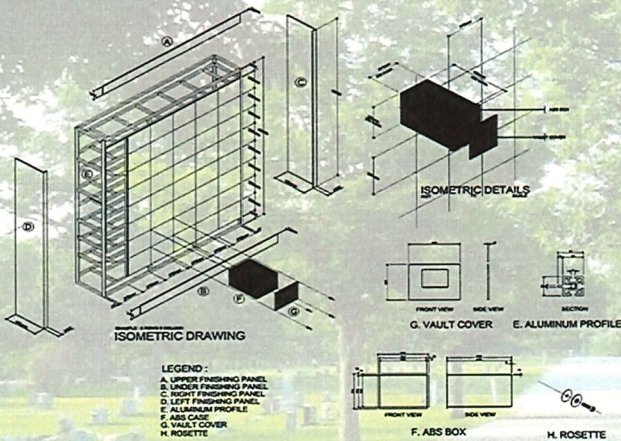
Hunter Marks gave the following PowerPoint presentation.



PROPOSED COLUMBARIUM SITE



WHAT IS A COLUMBARIUM



KEY TERMINOLOGY

- COLUMBARIUM
- URN
- NICHE
- NICHE CAPACITY
- INSCRIPTION PANEL
- COLUMN
- ROW
- FINISH PANEL
- VAULT COVER
- FOUNDATION



EXAMPLES OF COLUMBARIUM



Holy Infant Catholic Church Columbarium, Durham, NC



Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR



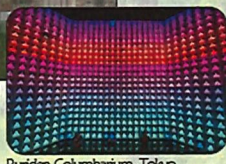
Fresh Pond Columbarium, Middle Village, NY



Po Fook Hill Columbarium, Hong Kong



Arlington Columbarium, Arlington, VA

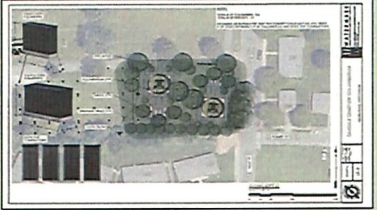
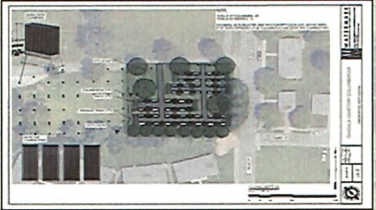


Rinsen Columbarium, Tokyo

Design & Render by Form4 Architecture



COLUMBARIUM CONCEPTS



CONCEPT A

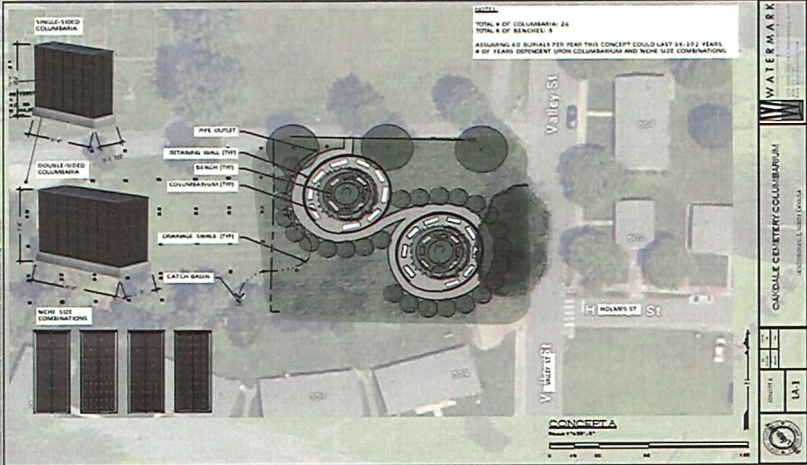
CONCEPT B

CONCEPT C

 **WATERMARK**
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING



CONCEPT A



LEGEND

- SINGLE-SIDED COLUMBARIUM
- DOUBLE-SIDED COLUMBARIUM
- WIDE SIZE COMBINATIONS
- PIPE OUTLET
- RETAINING WALL (75%)
- BENCH (75%)
- COLUMBARIUM (75%)
- GRASSY SWALE (75%)
- CATCH BASIN

NOTES

- TOTAL # OF COLUMBARIUM: 24
- TOTAL # OF BENCHES: 8
- ASSUMING 40 BURIALS PER YEAR THIS CONCEPT COULD LAST 14-20 YEARS.
- # OF YEARS DEPENDENT UPON COLUMBARIUM AND WIDE SIZE COMBINATIONS.

CONCEPT A

WATERMARK
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING

GAOULE CEMETERY COLUMBARIUM
4000 COUNTRY LANE, SAN JOSE, CA 95129

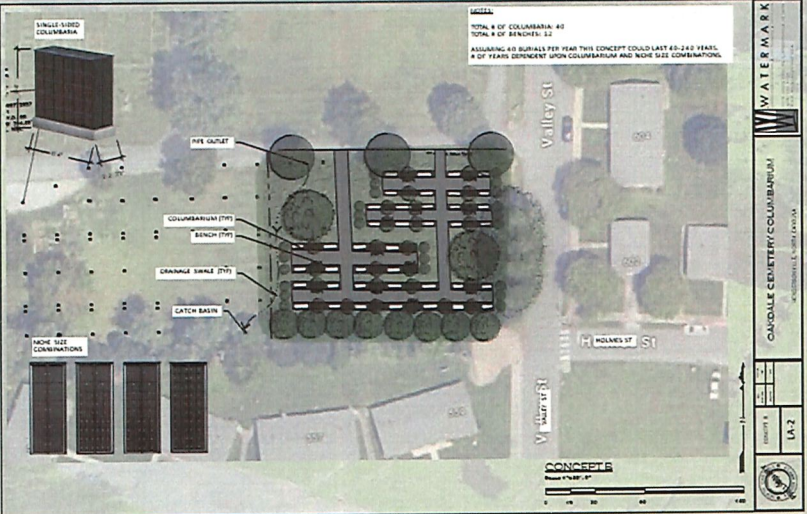
CONCEPT A
LA-1

Concept A uses a combination of single- and double-sided columbaria. The singles would be placed in rows of 9 around the outside of each memorial space with 4 double-sided columbaria in the center. A large canopy tree would shelter the space while a low seat wall provides a sense of enclosure for those visiting their loved ones.

 **WATERMARK**
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING



CONCEPT B



LEGEND

- SINGLE-SIDED COLUMBARIUM
- WIDE SIZE COMBINATIONS
- PIPE OUTLET
- COLUMBARIUM (75%)
- BENCH (75%)
- GRASSY SWALE (75%)
- CATCH BASIN

NOTES

- TOTAL # OF COLUMBARIUM: 40
- TOTAL # OF BENCHES: 12
- ASSUMING 40 BURIALS PER YEAR THIS CONCEPT COULD LAST 40-240 YEARS.
- # OF YEARS DEPENDENT UPON COLUMBARIUM AND WIDE SIZE COMBINATIONS.

CONCEPT B

WATERMARK
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING

GAOULE CEMETERY COLUMBARIUM
4000 COUNTRY LANE, SAN JOSE, CA 95129

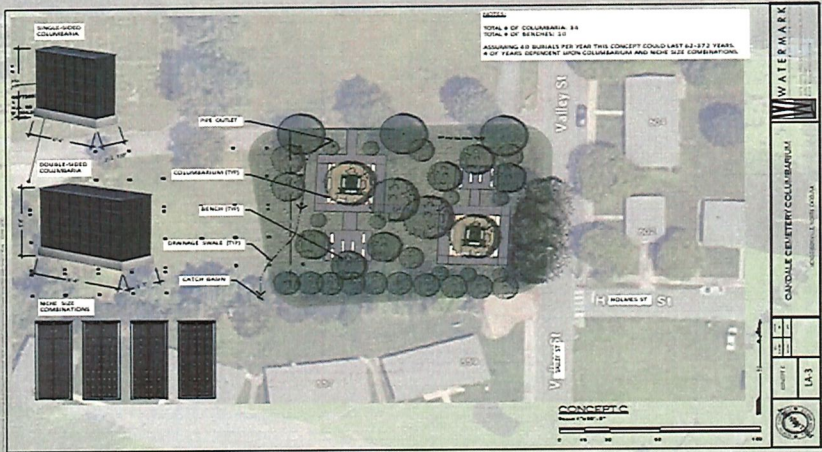
CONCEPT B
LA-2

Concept B strictly uses single-sided columbaria. This design has a very adaptable layout which lends itself to an array of phasing options. Each memorial space running east-west is open ended giving a sense of continuity while rows of trees create an outward movement for those pausing to contemplate.

 **WATERMARK**
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING



CONCEPT C



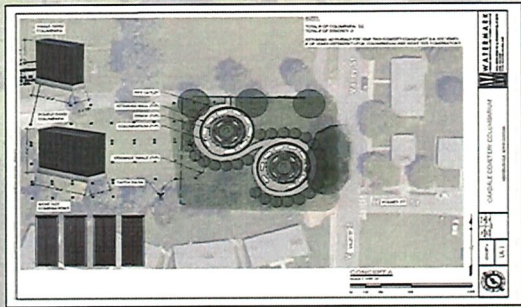
Concept C uses mostly double-sided columbaria but includes 6 single-sided within the center of the two main memorial spaces. This concept also lends itself to phasibility because of its modular structure. Similar to Concept A this design brings you to spaces of refuge and rest using a network of paths that encompass the spaces of memorial.

WATERMARK
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING



CONCEPT A

ESTIMATED COST = \$1,045,063



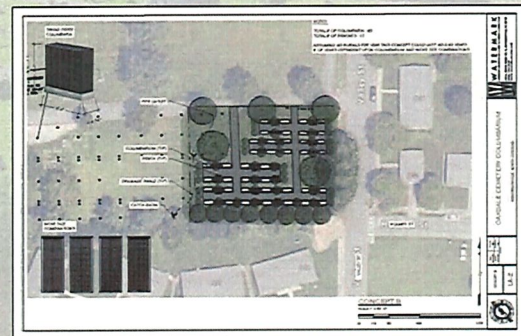
WATERMARK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - LAND PLANNING - CONSULTING				
OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST Ocala Cemetery Columbarium 4/22/2024				
Project Elements	Quantity	Unit	Cost/Unit	Sum
Concept A:				
Single-sided B-Colum Columbaria	8	Lump Sum	\$10,000	\$40,000
Double-sided B-Colum Columbaria	18	Lump Sum	\$14,000	\$252,000
Columbaria Installation	26	Lump Sum	\$8,000	\$208,000
Site Work	1	Lump Sum	\$55,000	\$55,000
Drainage Swale	1	Lump Sum	\$10,000	\$10,000
Concrete Paths	8400	SF	\$20	\$168,000
Steel Seats	1500	PF	\$45	\$67,500
Benches	8	Lump Sum	\$4,000	\$32,000
Place Stone - Decomposed Granite	1200	SF	\$15	\$18,000
Landscape	1	Lump Sum	\$40,000	\$40,000
PROJECT SUBTOTAL				\$908,700
Contingency (15%)				\$136,313
PROJECT TOTAL				\$1,045,063
Disclaimer: WMA is furnishing this cost estimate as requested by the client. Estimated costs are subject to change based on field conditions, local or regional differences, changes to the plans, and/or changes in unit costs. Cost estimates are provided for use in budgeting, but in no way should be construed as a final cost for the project. Final costs are contingent on actual bids from contractors.				

WATERMARK
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING



CONCEPT B

ESTIMATED COST = \$1,127,575



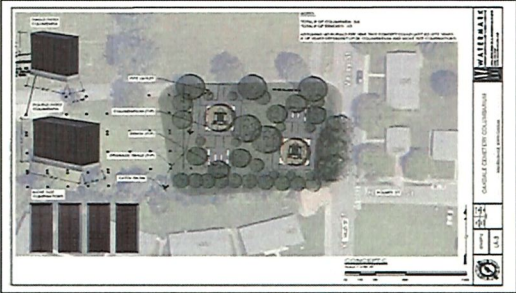
WATERMARK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - LAND PLANNING - CONSULTING				
OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST Ocala Cemetery Columbarium 4/22/2024				
Project Elements	Quantity	Unit	Cost/Unit	Sum
Concept B:				
Single-sided B-Colum Columbaria	40	Lump Sum	\$10,000	\$400,000
Columbaria Installation	40	Lump Sum	\$8,000	\$320,000
Site Work	1	Lump Sum	\$55,000	\$55,000
Drainage Swale	1	Lump Sum	\$10,000	\$10,000
Concrete Paths	3500	SF	\$20	\$70,000
Benches	12	Lump Sum	\$4,000	\$48,000
Place Stone - Decomposed Granite	2500	SF	\$15	\$37,500
Landscape	1	Lump Sum	\$40,000	\$40,000
PROJECT SUBTOTAL				\$940,500
Contingency (15%)				\$141,075
PROJECT TOTAL				\$1,127,575
Disclaimer: WMA is furnishing this cost estimate as requested by the client. Estimated costs are subject to change based on field conditions, local or regional differences, changes to the plans, and/or changes in unit costs. Cost estimates are provided for use in budgeting, but in no way should be construed as a final cost for the project. Final costs are contingent on actual bids from contractors.				

WATERMARK
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING



CONCEPT C

ESTIMATED COST = \$1,178,635



WATERMARK
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING CONSULTING

OFFICE OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST
Oxide Cemetery
4/22/2025

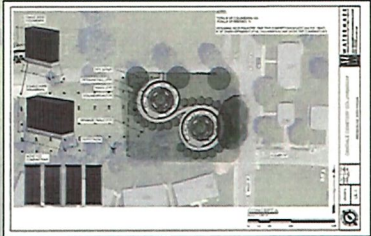
Project Elements	Quantity	Unit	Cost/Unit	Sum
Concept C				
Single-sided 8-Column Columbaria	6	Lump Sum	\$10,000	\$60,000
Double-sided 8-Column Columbaria	28	Lump Sum	\$16,000	\$448,000
Columbaria Installation	34	Lump Sum	\$8,000	\$272,000
Site Work	1	Lump Sum	\$55,000	\$55,000
Drainage Swale	1	Lump Sum	\$10,000	\$10,000
Concrete Paths	4500	SF	\$20	\$90,000
Niches	10	Lump Sum	\$4,000	\$40,000
Place Space - Decomposed Granite	640	SF	\$15	\$9,600
Landscaping	1	Lump Sum	\$40,000	\$40,000
PROJECT SUBTOTAL				\$1,024,600
Contingency (15%)				\$153,735
PROJECT TOTAL				\$1,178,335

Disclaimer: W&A is furnishing this cost estimate as requested by the client. Estimated costs are subject to change based on field conditions, local or regional differences, changes to the plan, and/or changes in unit costs. Cost estimates are provided for use in budgeting, but in no way should be construed as a final cost for the project. Final costs are contingent on actual bids from contractors.

GROSS PROFIT MODEL

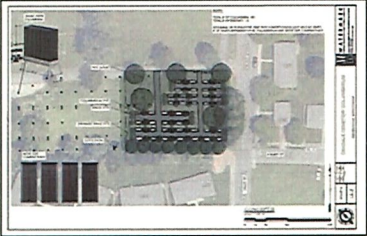
ASSUMED SALES: 40 NICHE/S/YEAR
ASSUMED PRICE PER NICHE: \$1,000 - \$2,000/NICHE
ASSUMED GROSS YEARLY PROFIT: \$40,000 - \$80,000/YEAR

ESTIMATED COST = \$1,045,063



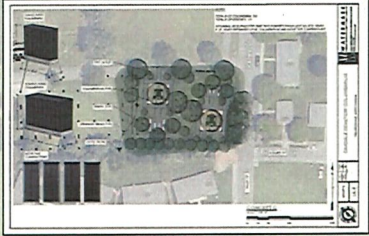
CONCEPT A
34 YEARS = 1,360 NICHE/S
1,360 NICHE/S = \$1,360,000 - \$2,720,000
102 YEARS = 4,080 NICHE/S
4,080 NICHE/S = \$4,080,000 - \$8,160,000

ESTIMATED COST = \$1,127,575



CONCEPT B
40 YEARS = 1,600 NICHE/S
1,600 NICHE/S = \$1,600,000 - \$3,200,000
240 YEARS = 9,600 NICHE/S
9,600 NICHE/S = \$9,600,000 - \$19,200,000

ESTIMATED COST = \$1,178,635



CONCEPT C
62 YEARS = 2,480 NICHE/S
2,480 NICHE/S = \$2,480,000 - \$4,960,000
372 YEARS = 14,880 NICHE/S
14,880 NICHE/S = \$14,880,000 - \$29,760,000



Anderson County Public Library
Community Foundation of Anderson County

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

D. Water and Sewer Quarterly Update – Adam Steurer, Utilities Director

Utilities Director Adam Steurer gave the following PowerPoint presentation.



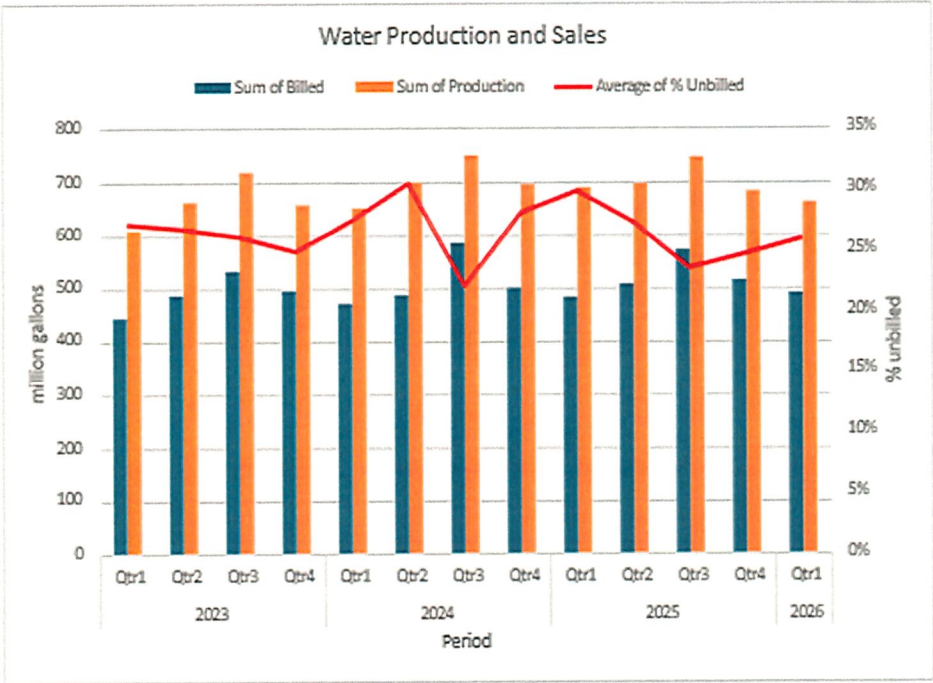
2026 – 1st Quarter Report

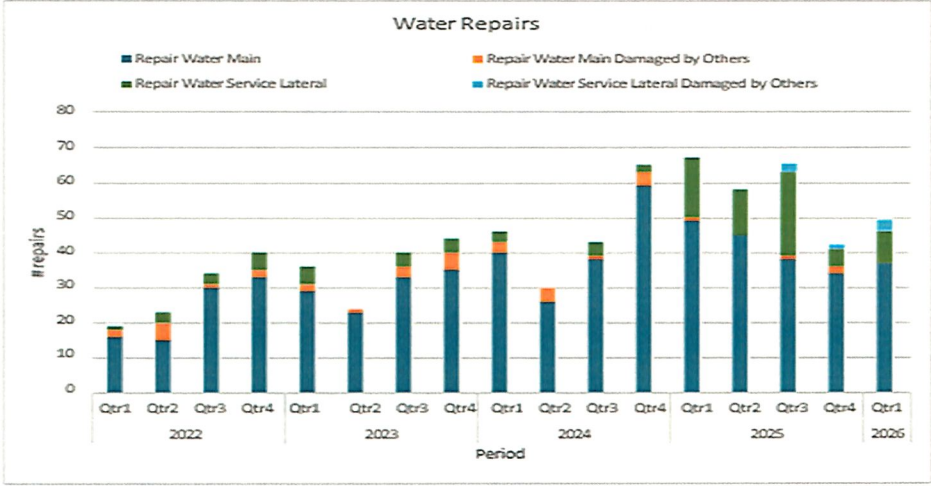
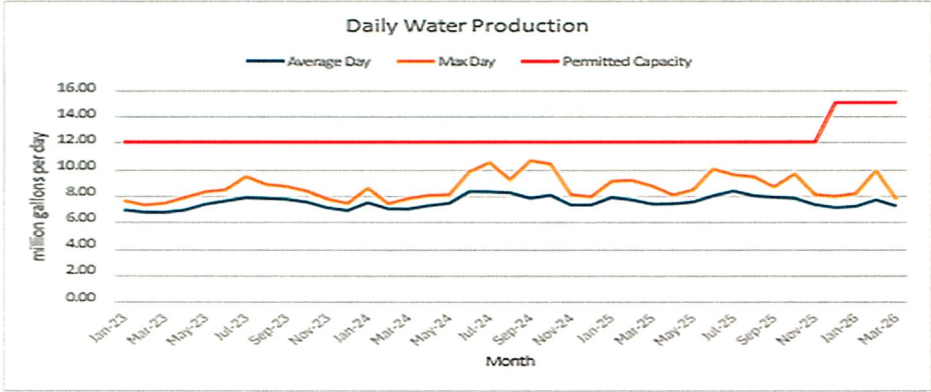
City of Hendersonville - Water and Sewer Department
2026 1st Quarter Report
Reporting Period: January - March 2026
Publish Date: April 21, 2026

Utility Misson and Vision

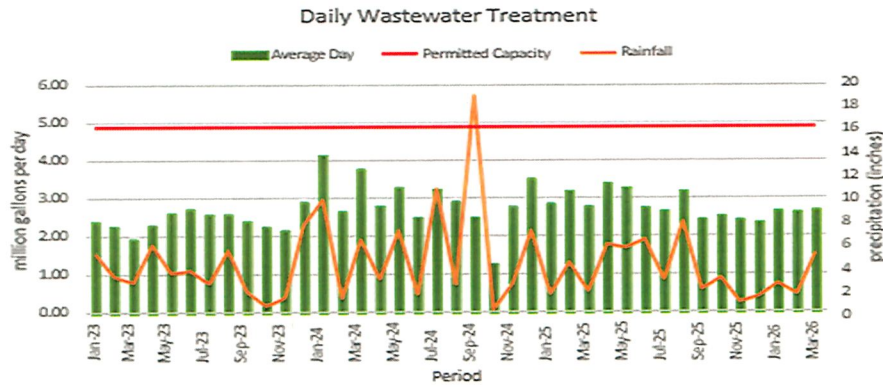
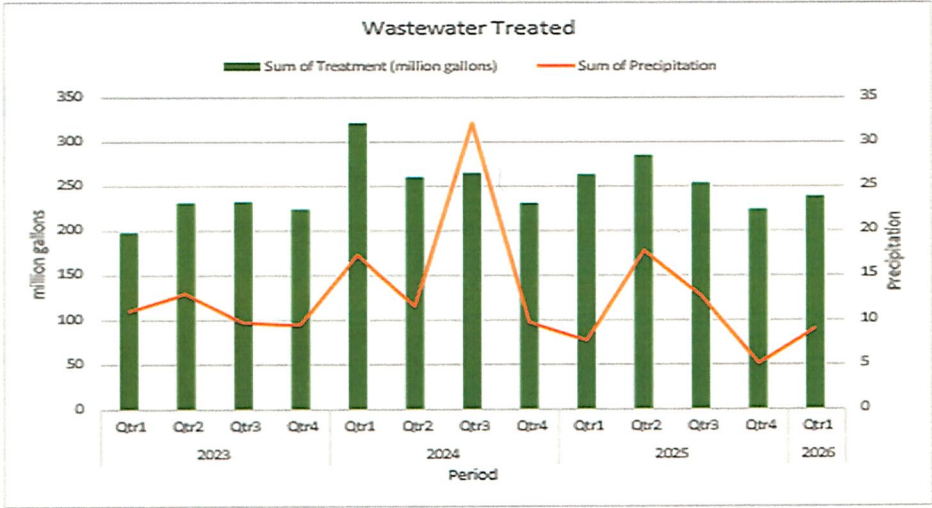
Our mission is to operate a great utility for our customers.
We envision a Hendersonville region with trusted, safe, high-quality, affordable water and wastewater service and a utility system that is responsive to the demands of its customers and regional growth.

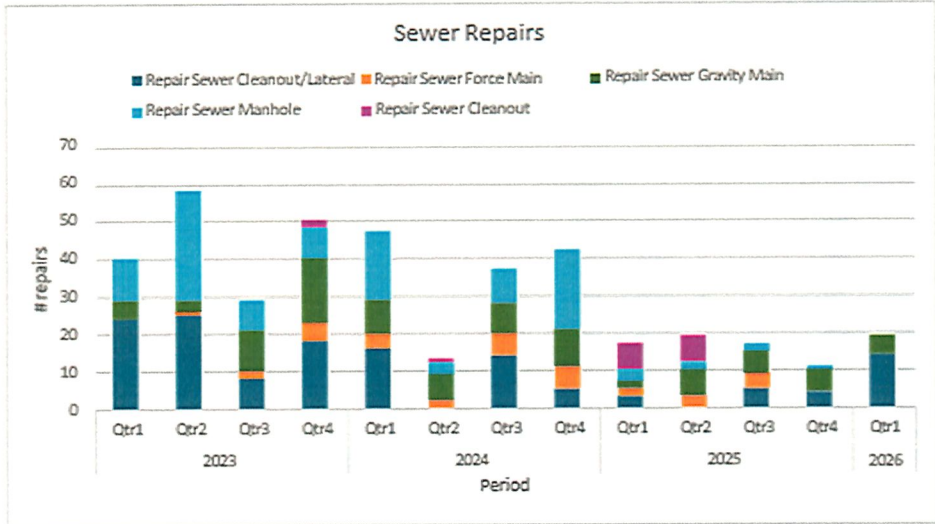
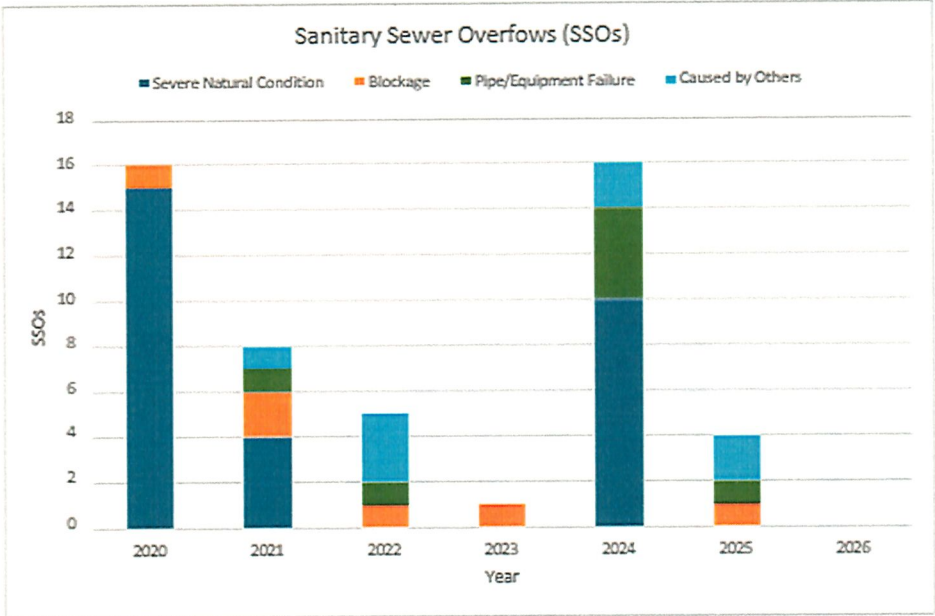
Water Operations





Wastewater Operations





Financial Management

Expenditures (Through Q3 FY2027)

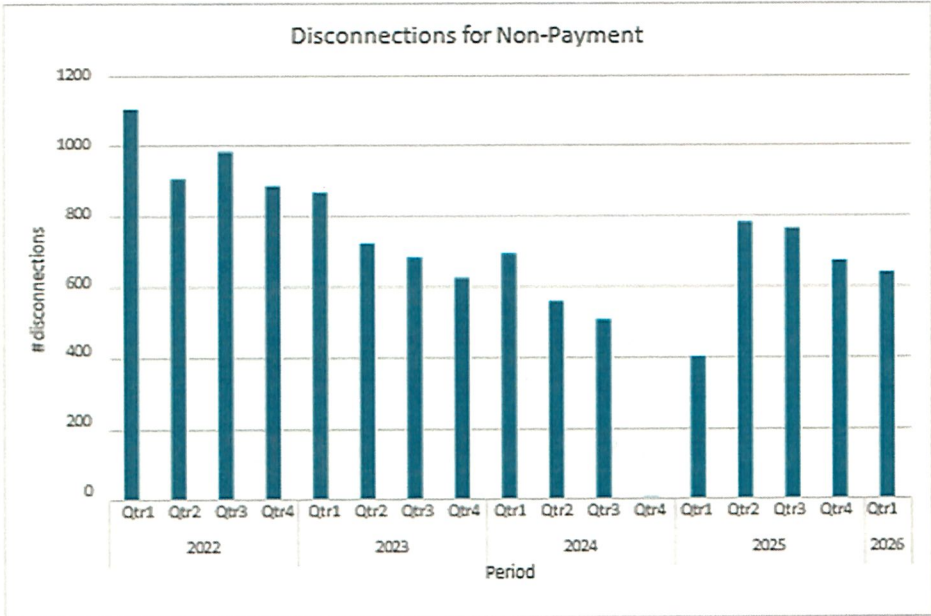
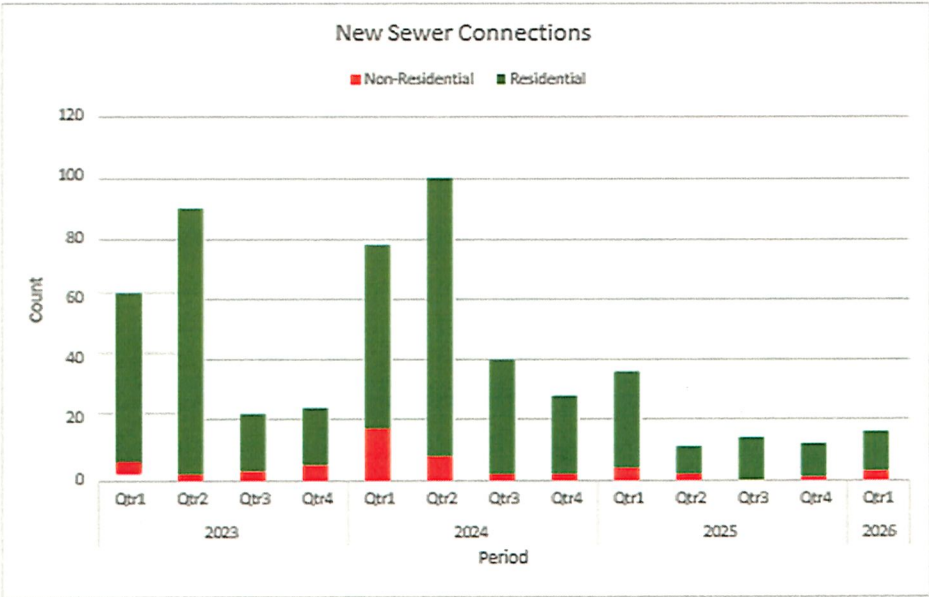
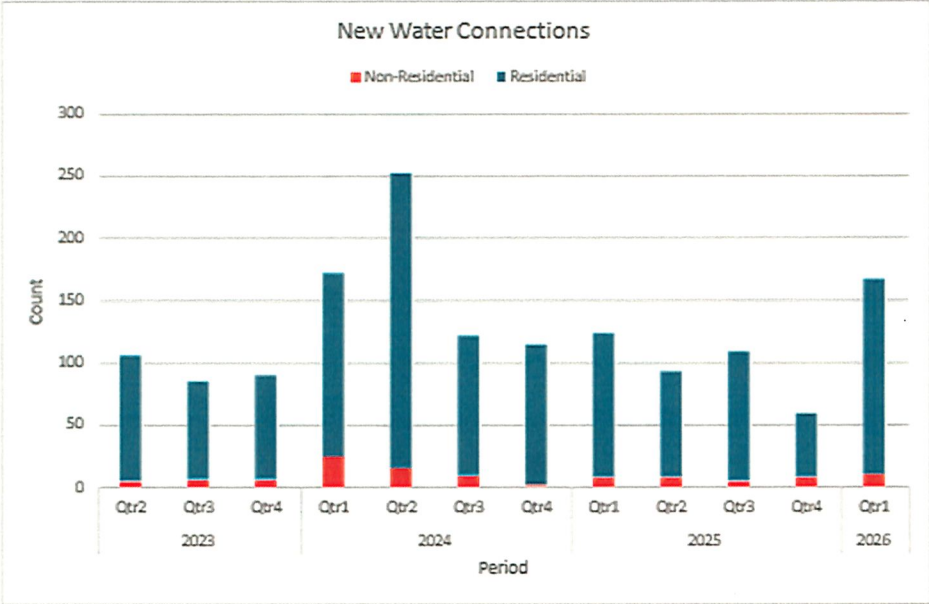
Expenditure Type	Actuals (Approximate)	Amended Budget	% Expended
Personnel & Benefits	\$9,544,041	\$14,356,658	66.5%
Operating	\$6,191,037	\$9,568,917	64.7%
Capital	\$330,819	\$1,114,821	29.7%
Debt Service	\$708,442	\$6,144,553	11.5%
TOTAL	\$16,774,340	\$31,184,949	53.8%

Revenues (Through Q3 FY2027)

Revenue Type	Actuals (Approximate)	Amended Budget	% of Forecasted
Water Sales	\$12,245,832*	\$17,788,215	(6.2%)
Sewer Sales	\$5,923,425*	\$8,441,865	(4.8%)
Misc. Revenue	\$2,579,410*	\$2,488,428	28.7%
Fund Balance Appropriation	\$0	\$2,466,441	--
TOTAL	\$20,748,668	\$31,184,949	(8.5%)

*Revenues are underreported. A few weeks of the reporting quarter revenue was not received at the publish date of this report due to billing cycle schedules.

Customer Service and Connections

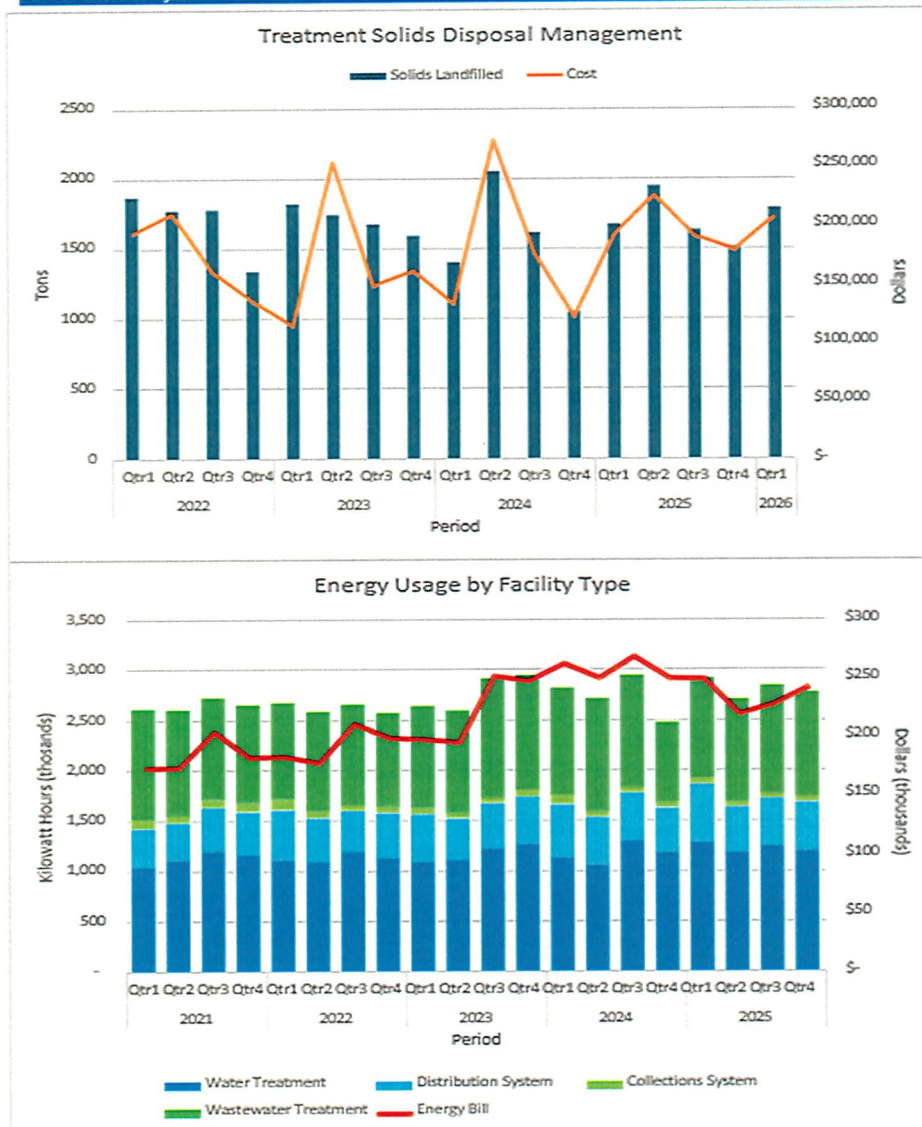


On Time Bill Collection Rate Q1- 2026 = 99.35%

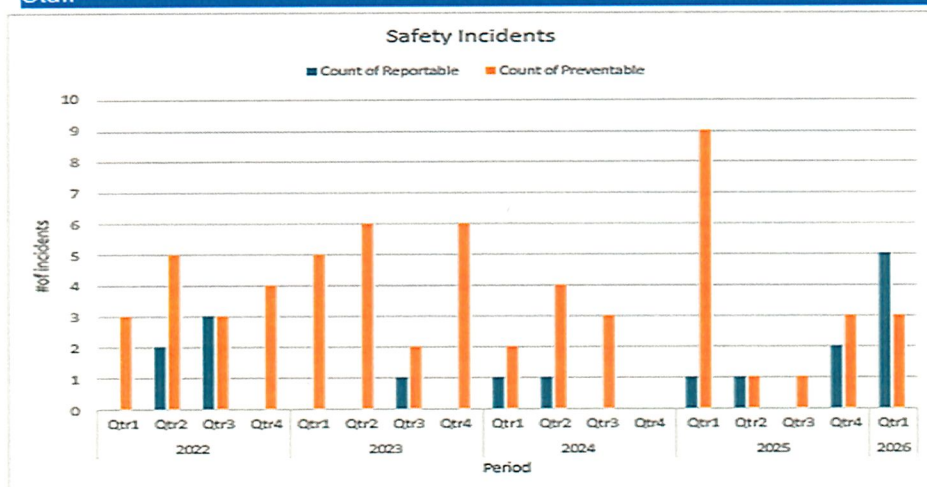
On Time Bill Collection Rate Goal = 99.50%

**Disconnections for non-payment suspended between 10/1/2024 and 2/28/2025 due to Hurricane Helene.*

Sustainability

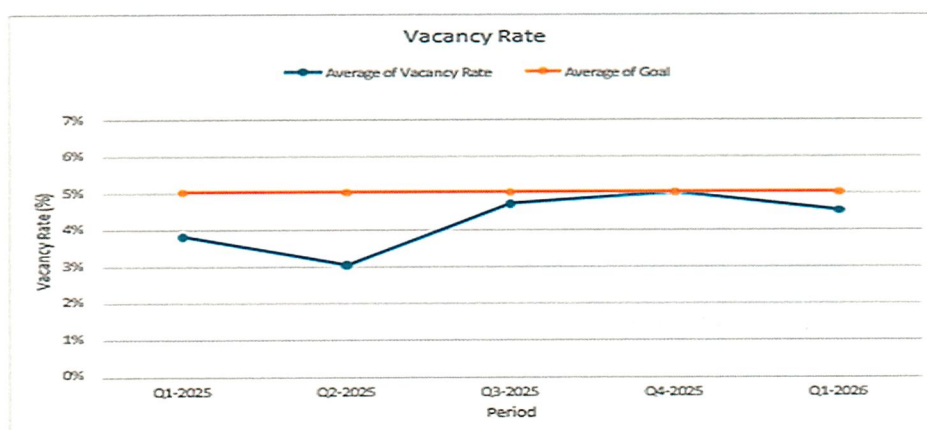


Staff



2025 Total Recordable Case (TRC) rate: 4.18 (2024 State Average 4.47)

Estimated 2026 Q1 TRC rate: 21.04



Current Vacancies

- Administration 0 of 7
- Field Operations 3 of 64
- Water Treatment 1 of 13
- Wastewater Treatment 0 of 10
- Technology and Metering 0 of 8

New Team Members

- Brandon Mundy: Facilities Maintenance Mechanic
- David Baldwin: Facilities Maintenance Mechanic
- Chris Davis: Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
- McIntyre Sudderberg: Wastewater Treatment Operator
- Michael Bradley: Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

Staff Accomplishments and Accolades

- **Chad Freeman – MVP** - Chad was recognized for assisting Public Works during the January winter storm by providing great wisdom and leadership throughout the event.
- **Austin Williams and Justin Shipman – MVP** – A water customer sent a note of appreciation for Austin and Justin when the water pipes in her residence froze during an extreme cold weather weekend. Austin and Justin showed up within 10 minutes of calling the City, and while they couldn't fix the issue, they were pleasant, helpful, and encouraging.

Operator Certifications Obtained

- Timothy Calderazzo – Grade C Distribution Operator
- Timothy Calderazzo – Backflow Prevention Assembler Tester
- Stephen Bell – Grade 2 Physical Chemical Treatment Certification
- Kasey Lyons Sudderberg – Cross Connection Control System Operator
- Chad Freeman – Grade 3 Collections Operator
- Bryson Metcalf – Grade C Distribution Operator
- Katie Bandurraga – Meter Technician Certification
- Richard Burchell – Meter Technician Certification
- Sammantha Cannon – Grade 2 Wastewater Laboratory Technician

Departmental Awards and Achievements

- The Utility was awarded an additional **\$3.5 million** (50% grant 50% 0%-interest loan), towards its **Water System Resiliency Looping** project through the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Helene SRF program. Total funding awarded for this project to date is now up to **\$13.5 million**. The project generally provides redundant water supply pipelines to Mountain Home/Fletcher and Dana/Upward Road areas that are currently served by single feeds. The grant application was prepared by **Devin Owen**, Utilities Engineer.
- The Utility was awarded an additional **\$4 million** (\$3 million grant, \$1 million 0% interest loan) through the NCDEQ Helene SRF program and **\$6 million**, (50% grant 50% low-interest loan) through the normal SRF program to partially fund its **Wastewater Treatment Facility Flood Mitigation and Expansion** projects through the NCDEQ Helene SRF program. Total funding awarded for this project is now up to **\$17 million**. Utility staff continue to aggressively pursue additional opportunities to completely fund the project.
- The Utility was awarded a **\$3 million** SRF low-interest loan towards its **Water Treatment Facility Sludge Transfer and Backwash Pump Improvements** project. The project generally replaces existing pumps that have reached the end of their useful lives and adds additional redundant pumps to improve water treatment operational resiliency.

Notable Project Updates

- After decades of thoughtful planning, the launch of the **French Broad River Water Intake and Pumping Station** was celebrated at a 'First Sip Ceremony' on February 13, 2026. The new water intake collects and pumps water from the French Broad River to the Water Treatment Facility where it is purified into high quality drinking water. The utility's water supply area is currently experiencing extreme drought, however with the addition of the new French Broad River Intake the utility does not foresee implementing water use restrictions in the near future.



Elected officials, external partners, and utility staff celebrate the launch of the new French Broad River Intake. February 13, 2026.

- The **WWTF Biosolids Thermal Dryer** project has seen significant construction progress in recent months. The thermal drying equipment is expected to arrive in May 2026 with completion of the project scheduled in Fall 2026. The project greatly reduces the amount of treatment solids landfilled by producing a biosolid material that can be beneficially reused as fertilizer/soil amendment while significantly reducing disposal costs.



Biosolids Thermal Dryer Facility Construction. April 2026.

5. NEW BUSINESS**A. Approval to Submit an Application for the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant Program – *Blake Fulgham, Management Analyst II***

Per City Manager John Connet, we will float around some ideas and wait on the application. No action was taken.

B. Request for Approval to Accept the PARTF-Helene Recovery Fund grant for the Sullivan Park Restroom and Playground Improvements – *Blake Fulgham, Management Analyst II*

Per City Manager John Connet, we have already received the grant, and council needs to approve it, so we will put it back on the agenda for May 13th.

6. CLOSED SESSION

Council Member Lyndsey Simpson moved that City Council enter closed session pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11 (a) (1) and (4) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries and businesses in the area served by the public body.

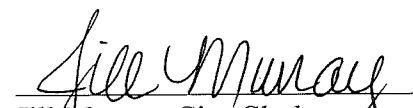
7. ADJOURN

City Council took a five-minute break at 5:13p.m. and then went into closed session at 5:18p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m. upon unanimous assent of the Council. No further action was taken.


Barbara Volk, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jill Murray, City Clerk

