



City of Conover Budget 2015-2016

The City of Conover strives to always improve on its level of service to all our citizens. This past year has been no exception. Our unemployment rate for the region fell below 5.4% and mirrors national trends. All but three Conover's closed factories are now occupied as our manufacturing workforce is rebounding. Currently there are 4,000 job openings in the Catawba Valley. The downtown Conover Station project is in its fourth phase of construction with a 42,000 sq. ft. commercial property housing retail, restaurant, and workout facilities. This is the largest commercial building built in downtown in more than 50 years.

Additionally, the city continues to apply and win grant funding. We began construction of more than 1 mile of sidewalk was just awarded grant funds for 8,000 feet of a natural greenway trail along Lyle Creek. Furthermore as promised to you last year we have doubled our street paving budget. We continue to improve the opportunities for regional economic development completing the last phase of construction for the North Carolina Data Campus located in Conover. This project is a partnership with Catawba County, the City of Hickory, and the towns of Catawba and Maiden. The city was able to accomplish all this progress while city staff led the recovery from a July 2013 flash flood event creating \$2 million of FEMA disaster reimbursed damages to our city roads, bridges water and sewer systems.

The city has benefited from new retail space along major corridors. This additional retail is certainly welcome yet these new businesses have not offset declines in our overall manufacturing tax base. Most of our residents saw a decrease in their property values during the latest Catawba County property revaluation. Your city relies on the valuations to meet financial obligations for essential services. City Council has made great strides improving the quality of life for all citizens of Conover while our North Carolina General Assembly continues to cut revenues from local governments while increasing the level of unfunded requirements placed upon us. As an example, revenue dollars the city has relied upon have been eliminated by the NC General Assembly and cost our city over \$400,000 annually.

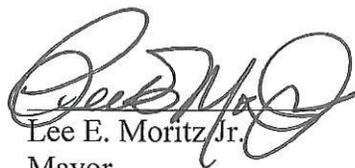
To continue providing the same level of service to our citizens and businesses, the city is adjusting to a revenue neutral tax rate or an additional .04¢. Computer models show the average Conover property owner will see little difference in their tax dollars spent after factoring in the offset decreases in values assigned by the county. The city will increase the rate on water and sewer usage by 3%. This represents an offset of 1% increase from the City of Hickory who we purchase our water and 2% for capital improvements. The average customer uses 5,000 gallons per month. This rate increase equates to an additional .80¢ per month. Conover's sanitation fees will increase to \$15.00. These essential sanitation services include your street sweeping, recycling, garbage removal, white goods curbside, leaf removal, and limb collection. These services are vital; noticed by our citizens and provide a great service for everyone.

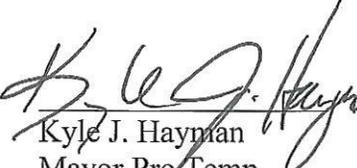


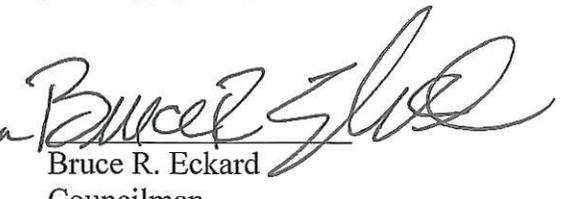
City of Conover

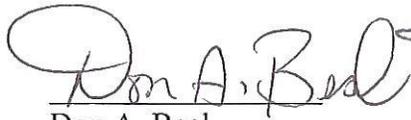
Earlier this year, a national publication ranked Conover #57 out of 123 cities across North Carolina as a Best City for Young Families. Recently Conover was ranked #6 out of 115 cities across North Carolina as the Best Place to Start a Business, and named one of the safest cities in the state. Conover is able to achieve these high rankings due to excellent service provided to the citizens and businesses in our city. Your Council is honored to serve you and hope this letter demonstrates our transparency in local government. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Council, Manager, or Staff.

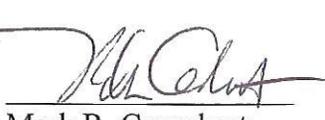
Copies of the budget are available online at www.conoverncc.gov or call 828 464 1191.

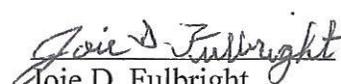

 Lee E. Moritz, Jr.
 Mayor


 Kyle J. Hayman
 Mayor Pro Temp


 Bruce R. Eckard
 Councilman


 Don A. Beal
 Councilman


 Mark R. Canrobert
 Councilman


 Joie D. Fulbright
 Councilman

2015-2016 CONOVER BUDGET

HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT

