

June 25, 2008, MB#51

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING WITH HICKORY CITY COUNCIL  
Wednesday, June 25, 2008

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners and Hickory City Council held a Joint Special Meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. in the Hickory Metro Higher Education Center Board Room. The purpose of the special joint meeting was to announce an economic development opportunity.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Commissioner Dan Hunsucker and Commissioner Barbara E. Beatty. Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Catawba County Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar, Julie Pruett, EDC and County Clerk Barbara Morris. Commissioners Lail and Barger were absent but a quorum was present.

Present from Hickory City Council were Mayor Pro Tem Jill Patton and Councilmen Bruce Meisner, Danny Seaver, Z. Ann Hoyle and Sally Fox, City Attorney John Crone, City Manager Mick Berry, Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt, City Clerk Pam Tallent and Deputy City Clerk JoAnne Kuhn.

At 11:04 a.m., Chair Katherine W. Barnes for the Board and Mayor Pro Tem Jill Patton for the Council called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.

Julie Pruett of the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation presented an overview of the proposed project and a background of Convergys. Scott Millar, President of the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation outlined the proposed incentives.

Following a brief discussion which clarified that a high school diploma would be the minimum skill level required for the 446 proposed jobs resulting from the locating of a Convergys Telecommunications Support Center in Hickory, the following motions were made:

Commissioner Dan Hunsucker made a motion that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners approve an economic grant to cause Convergys to locate a 446 person technical support and customer service center in the former Corporate Marketing Facility on 7<sup>th</sup> Street SE; and to cause them to renovate the facility and install equipment equaling a total new investment of \$4,000,000. This grant is expected to be a maximum of \$10,600 a year for three years to be used to reimburse Company expenditures as eligible under North Carolina General Statute 158.7.1. The Board of Commissioners also directs the County to execute a contract and any necessary resolutions or addenda between the Company and the County under these terms and conditions and authorizes the Chair to execute these documents. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Bruce Meisner made a motion that the Hickory City Council approve an economic grant to cause Convergys to locate a 446 person technical support and customer service center in the former Corporate Marketing Facility on 7<sup>th</sup> Street SE; and to cause them to renovate the facility and install equipment equaling a total new investment of \$4,000,000. This grant is expected to be a maximum of \$30,000 to be used to reimburse Company expenditures as eligible under North Carolina General Statute 158-7.1. This grant will be paid to the company in installments over three years. The City Council also directs the City to execute a contract and any necessary resolutions or addenda between the Company and the City under these terms and conditions. The motion carried unanimously.

Jill DiPuccio Giles, Senior Manager of Government Relations for Convergys, came forward and thanked both Catawba County and the City of Hickory for their cooperation and for the opportunities for these entities to work together. Chair Barnes then welcomed Ms. Giles and presented her with a key to the County. Mayor Pro Tem Patton then welcomed Ms. Giles and presented her with a piece of pottery from the region. Ron Leitch, Manager of the Charlotte Region of the NC Department of Commerce welcomed Ms. Giles and presented her with a plate with the State Seal. Gary Law, the Economic Development Corporation Vice-Chair then welcomed Ms. Giles.

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At the end of the presentations, for the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Barbara Beatty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Meisner made a motion to adjourn Hickory City Council. The motions carried unanimously.

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Katherine W. Barnes, Chair

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Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk