// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 28th day of March, 2017, at 4:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Joan Foster, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

Present: Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Wilder, Foster 7

Absent: 0

// Kevin Camm, Extension Agent and Unit Coordinator for Cooperative Extension introduced Liza Dodson, the Healthy Food Retail Coordinator for this area. Ms. Dodson provided a presentation to Council regarding the initiative on Healthy Food Retail in this area.

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Land Grant University
- Virginia Cooperative Extension (Virginia Tech and Virginia State University)
- SNAP
- Family Nutrition Program (SNAP-Ed & EFNEP)
- Household food environment
- Food Desert Taskforce (2014)
- Rural vs. urban food access

The FNP Healthy Food Retail Strategic Plan was discussed which includes:

- Short Term – Build Demand
    - Where are limited resource families buying food?
    - Build upon existing FNP programming (cooking demonstrations, recipes, nutrition education, etc.) to expand into retail settings
    - Partner with local and chain stores to highlight existing healthy options for consumers
    - Facilitate community organizing around food access (Stock Healthy, Shop Healthy)
- Long Term – Increase Supply
- Overview of Oasis history and current project
- James Wallace of Virginia Community Capital: Grocery store start-up processes and the Oasis vision
- A grocery store as economic development
- Next Steps: Forward strategies and framework for a Plan

// Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Brabrand provided a presentation regarding the FY 2018 Budget for Lynchburg City Schools (LCS). Dr. Brabrand gave an overview of the Schools Budget which included:

- Addressing Our Challenges
    - Attracting and Retaining High Quality Personnel
    - Enhancing Targeted Instructional Support Increasing Student
    - Opportunities By Name and By Need
    - Operational Cost Increases

- What's New This Year?
    - LCS requested City increase to School Budget is $3.7 million
    - State Budget increase is $1.1 million
    - City Manager proposal gives LCS an additional $1.2 million
    - $1.4 million of LCS requests remain unfunded
    - Additional State and Local dollars only cover mandatory requests
    - State provides money for 2% raise effective February 15, 2018 for State-supported positions

// Director of Water Resources Tim Mitchell provided the Water Resources FY 2018 Rate Study and Annual Report. Mr. Mitchell gave an overview of the following:

- Brief History (Over 200 Years of Excellence and Innovation)
- Continuing a Legacy (Water Resources consistently recognized for quality)
- Accomplishments (Drinking Water, Wastewater Treatment, Sewer and Storm Line Maintenance, Stormwater, Mapping the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System)
- Major Concerns (Water System Renewal) Sewer System Condition and Capacity, Storm System Condition)
- Budget and Rates (Water Fund Revenues, Water Fund Expenses, Sewer Fund Revenues, Sewer Fund Expenses, Stormwater Fund Revenues, Stormwater Fund Expenses and Rate Comparisons

Mr. Mitchell went on to address the following reasons for the Proposal Water Rate Increase:

- Proposed 5.1 Increase - $2.55/hcf to $2.68/hcf
- Impact to household using 7 hundred cubic feet (hcf)/month (about 5,200 gallons) = $0.91 per month
- Average household use in Lynchburg is actually even less at about 3,800 gallons per month

He explained why a rate increase is needed:

- Primary driver is loss of revenue from Bedford County ($469,998) and impact to debt coverage
- With Rate Increase Debt Coverage = 1.17 (Council policy = 1.20 minimum) – with rate increase – back above minimum the following year
- Without Rate Increase Debt Coverage = 1.07 stays below 1.20 for at least the next five years

In conclusion, Mr. Mitchell quoted an excerpt from the Saga of a City, published in 1936 by the Lynchburg Sesquicentennial Association:

> "Lynchburg's most important community achievement is the thoroughly modern system which distributes to every part of the City an abundance of pure, healthful water at low cost to the residents. Lynchburg does not enjoy this utility by any piece of good luck, but rather because of one hundred years of thought and work and determination."

// During roll call Council Member Wilder mentioned how well City staff and the Community Code Compliance Team worked together during a recent walk-through in the neighborhood of Daniel's Hill. He also stated that on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. There will be a meeting at the Daniel's Hill Center to pick-up trash in the neighborhood, and would love for people to come out and help.

// City Manager Bonnie Svrcek announced that on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 Council will continue the walk-through of the General Fund starting with Public Works and reviewing Other Funds. On April 11, 2017 Council will begin with the FY 2018 Budget – Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

// City Council recessed the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

// City Council reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The following Members were present:

Present: Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Wilder, Foster	7
Absent:	0

Council Member Perrow gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// Copies of the minutes of the March 14, 2017 meeting, having been previously furnished Council, reading was dispensed with. (Council Member Perrow abstained from voting because he was not present at the March 14, 2017 Council meeting.) On motion of Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Wilder, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as amended:

Ayes: Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Foster	6
Noes:	0
Abstain: Perrow	1

// In the matter of Lynchburg Community Action Group, a public hearing was held regarding City Council Report #6 regarding authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with the Lynchburg Community Action Group (LYNCAG) for the White Rock School property at 400 Buena Vista Street allowing LYNCAG to use the property as a Head Start Center. City Attorney Walter Erwin gave a summary of the request, stating that LYNCAG had leased the property for a number of years. LYNCAG would like to apply for a grant to replace the windows in the building, but in order to be eligible for the grant it needs an updated lease and LYNCAG has requested a new lease from the City. There was no one else present who wished to speak to this item, and the public hearing was closed. On motion of Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Perrow, Council by the following recorded vote adopted Resolution #R-17-023, as presented, to execute a lease agreement with the Lynchburg Community Action Group (LYNCAG) for the White Rock School property at 400 Buena Vista Street allowing LYNCAG to use the property as a Head Start Center:

Ayes: Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Wilder, Foster	7
Noes:	0

// In the matter of City Council, Mr. Rodney Taylor, representing a group of downtown merchants and stakeholders, spoke before Council regarding the implementation of two-way traffic on Main Street and Church Street.

// In the matter of Emergency Services, City Council Report #8 was considered. On motion of Council Member Helgeson, seconded by Council Member Nelson, Council by the following recorded vote introduced and laid over to a later meeting for final action Resolution #R-17-024, as presented, to amend the FY 2017 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriate $2,000 with resources from the Virginia

Wireless E-911 Services Board FY 2017 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Education Grant Program for reimbursement of training expenses:

Ayes: Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Wilder, Foster 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Public Works, City Council Report #9 was considered.

// City Manager Bonnie Svrcek stated that on February 28, 2017 she responded to a request from several Council Members on two-way traffic. The report explained how the City began consideration of the implementation of two-way traffic downtown and asks for a discussion and guidance from Council on the two-way traffic management initiative. Ms. Svrcek went on to say the concept of converting Main and Church Streets downtown to two-way traffic emerged from the adoption of the Downtown and Riverfront Master Plan in 2001, which recommended two-way traffic as a means to slow traffic and increase exposure to businesses. Ms. Svrcek stated since that time, there have been City Council briefings, public meetings, several studies and more than 30-one-on-one meetings with downtown stakeholders concerning the City's downtown utility and streetscape project as well as the implementation of two-way traffic. Downtown has changed since the adoption of the Master Plan. City Manager recommends that City Council adopt a resolution supporting the implementation of two-way traffic. During Council discussion Council Members made remarks and concern on the conversion of two-way traffic on Main and Church Streets. Council Member Nelson stated that he would like to postpone consideration of the resolution on the implementation of two-way traffic until a public hearing could be scheduled in April. Council Member Nelson went on to say that he wanted to hear from citizens who support the conversion of two-way traffic out of fairness. Council Member Nelson made a motion that Council postpone making any decision tonight on two-way traffic and promptly schedule a public hearing for April 11 and at the conclusion of that meeting City Council will definitely decide on this issue. Council Member Helgeson seconded that motion for further discussion. Council Member Helgeson stated he is a former resident of Church Street and also had his business on Church Street. In May of 2004 the City hired a consultant to study the possible conversion of Main and Church Streets to two-way traffic. He stated "let's not change the things we don't have to, fix the bridges, repair leaking roofs but don't change the things we don't have to". Council Member Helgeson went on to say that he objected to two-way traffic in 2004, and still objects to it today. Council Member Helgeson stated, I seconded Council Member Nelson motion to have a public hearing but if the will of Council is to say no, that would be my preference. I seconded the motion so that we could have the debate and discussion. Council Member Perrow stated he had concerns about loading and unloading zones and he did not like the idea of loading zones that would take up significant portions of store frontage during busy times of days. According to the two-way traffic conversion implementation plan, there would be one loading zone per block. Council Member Perrow went on to say what he was hearing from merchants is if two-way traffic does not work. Council Member Perrow wanted to move forward and vote tonight to reject this idea on the two-way traffic. But if Council were to have a public hearing and hear all sides and let the public understand why Council is going against 15 years of policy it would be very beneficial. Council Member Perrow stated he would be supporting Council Member Nelson's motion, about slowing traffic down and looking to find ways the two-way traffic would work on even streets. Council Member Dolan stated she was in favor of moving forward and that City Council

should be sensitive of the needs of businesses with all the construction and parking that is going on downtown and that will continue for some time. Council Member Dolan's suggestion was to move on. Council Member Wilder stated that he understood the concerns of downtown businesses and the challenges to businesses in the face of city construction projects. Council Member Wilder went on to say that he would be in favor of holding an open forum to listen to all citizens pros and cons. Vice Mayor Tweedy stated that as leaders we are to make decisions. She said she agrees with Council Member Dolan and was ready to move forward. We have heard from either side of businesses that want the two-way traffic and some don't. Vice Mayor Tweedy made a substitute motion to deny the resolution and hold no public hearing. Vice Mayor Tweedy went on to say she did not think a public hearing, after so many years of listening and meeting would be needed any further. Council Member Perrow asked what the circulation piece looks like, because we do have two-way traffic at the end of Main Street, it works for hotels and businesses. Vice Mayor Tweedy stated she would like to know what the circulation piece would do for the development of the Academy and the Virginian Hotel in that area. Vice Mayor Tweedy made a substitute motion that Council would vote tonight not to have a public hearing and deny the resolution. Council Member Helgeson seconded the substitute motion to deny the resolution. Vice Mayor Tweedy went on to say, she would like information to come back to Council to see what the circulation looks like on the numbered streets and the opposite end of downtown. Council Member Helgeson stated it is good to take action and action that he said has well served it's course. Council Member Helgeson stated he would not like businesses to go back to work and then come back for another public hearing. Council Member Nelson stated he would vote against having a substitute motion and stay with the proposal to have a public hearing. Mayor Foster stated she would be voting in favor of Vice Mayor Tweedy's substitute motion. Mayor Foster called for a vote on Vice Mayor Tweedy's substitute motion to replace Council Member Nelson's motion. Council by the following recorded vote approved the substitute motion:

Ayes: Dolan, Helgeson, Tweedy, Foster 4

Noes: Nelson, Perrow, Wilder 3

Vice Mayor Tweedy made a motion to deny the two-way traffic and the motion was seconded by Council Member Helgeson. Council Member Perrow asked staff to schedule this at a work session in the future on the impact of the two-way traffic and the plans for slowing down traffic on Main and Church Streets. Council Member Nelson made several suggestions regarding traffic and on having the numbered streets reviewed in getting around downtown. With the decision made tonight, Council will be able to save some Capital Improvement funds and focus on other priorities that need to be funded. Council by the following recorded vote agreed to deny the implementation of two-way traffic:

Ayes: Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Wilder, Foster 7

Noes: 0

// The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

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Clerk of Council