August 11, 2020

AGENDA ITEM#: 6

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 11th day of August, 2020, at 4:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, MaryJane Dolan, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

Present: MaryJane Dolan, Beau Wright, Jeff S. Helgeson, J. Randy Nelson,

Treney Tweedy, Sterling A. Wilder, Chris Faraldi 7

Absent: 0

// In the matter of the Police Department, Agenda Item #1, Police Chief Ryan Zuidema gave a presentation outlining a department-wide workload assessment study first initiated in the summer of 2019 and completed in the summer of 2020. This study, which was conducted in-house by the Intelligence Unit, serves to inform Council of the department’s staffing requirements needed in order to meet organizational goals and has no monetary request at this time. Chief Zuidema detailed the staffing needs for each division within the department: Field Operations Bureau; Field Support Division; Criminal Investigations Division; Special Investigations Division; Professional Standards Division; Staff Support Division; Administrative Support Division; Finance/Information Technology Divisions; and Office of the Chief of Police. Overall, twenty-six sworn positions and sixteen and a half professional staff are needed to fulfill the staffing requirements. Chief Zuidema explained that he and staff are looking at ways to creatively address these needs, as well as, progress incrementally over multiple years introducing about 5 officers and 3 professionals each year until staffing needs are met.

Councilmember Wilder inquired whether the report addressed the pay gap. Chief Zuidema explained that this assessment did not cover any pay information, however, they did look at the surrounding counties and the City of Lynchburg is comparable. Councilmember Wilder also wanted to know if the police department has plans to hire a consulting firm to address the challenges that were brought up during the community Listening Session, and the current national issues that we are facing. Chief Zuidema said that the immediate goal is to compile all of the information gathered from the sessions and present that to the community. He advised that hiring a consulting firm would cost money.

Councilmember Faraldi commented that one of the big takeaways during the Listening Sessions was that the same officers patrol the same neighborhoods to help build relationships between the department and the community members. He asked for clarification on how additionally staffing help the police department deliver on this imperative request? Chief Zuidema explained that the additional staffing will help with retention and help provide consistent coverage. Councilmember Faraldi continued that a second recurring theme that emerged from the Listening Sessions was a desire to be treated human first. He noted that our officers are going to call to call and the mental drain associated with this workload is immense. How does additional staffing help our officers provide professional service? Chief Zuidema replied that having more officers will help spread the workload evenly so officers aren't running from call to call every single shift. Councilmember Faraldi continued stating that to properly address these staffing needs will take financial commitment from Council, and he looks forward to working with Councilmembers to get the money that the police department may need.

Councilmember Helgeson referenced the densely populated areas on the outskirts of Lynchburg that were recently erected, and the police department, with the same amount of officers, is expected to cover the area. He is glad that the police department put together a plan and suggested that there be an influx of positions filled first so that officers can begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Councilmember Helgeson further explained that he wants to look in the budget because by his calculations, there is five million dollars freed up because schools aren't meeting in-person. Money is tight because of lost revenues, but budgeting is about priorities. The sooner we can get as many sworn officers in the pipeline, the sooner the department will begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel and might help with the retention issues.

Councilmember Tweedy wanted to know of the potential dollar amount of the five sworn officers. Chief Zuidema explained that salary and benefits for one officer is about $60,000, but also the purchase of needed equipment should be considered. His goal would be to come back during budget time with a hard number. Councilmember Tweedy wanted to know what the background of the professional staff would be. Was police experience necessary? Chief Zuidema explained that some are administrative/clerical roles that would need no police background. Some are for intelligence roles where experience would be great. Some would need I.T. or finance background but typically the majority would not need any law enforcement background.

Councilmember Nelson noted that we are losing officers due to wage and stress. As the City heads into a new budget season, he asked Chief Zuidema where his emphasis will lie; continuing with increasing the compensation or increasing the staffing numbers? He cautioned that in this COVID-19 era, there might not be the means to do both. Chief Zuidema explained that he would like to see the police departments numbers increase because that would address the burnout and workload. He reiterated that the City of Lynchburg will have to continue to stay competitive with compensation. Initially, he would like to increase staffing then work to make our pay competitive.

Councilmember Tweedy asked when the education, economic development, and social services decrease what does that do for the crime rate. Chief Zuidema responded that traditionally, when services drop, the crime rate goes up.

Vice Mayor Wright asked how we define quality of public engagement. He asked if Chief Zuidema could describe the standard profile of the officers who are currently on patrol and are likely going to be responding to calls. He would like to understand the pressures the officers are under and what citizens can expect. Chief Zuidema explained that the average officer has 3.2 or 3.3 years of service in the police department. He stated that we're inexperienced; we are a very young police department. Additionally, Vice Mayor Wright wanted to know what the figure was for the turn over cost. Chief Zuidema said that the total cost to train an officer is $113,000 over an 18-month period. Vice Mayor Wright wanted to know if a strategic plan will be created from the information collected from the Listening Sessions. Chief Zuidema confirmed that a plan will be forthcoming.

// In the matter of Communication and Public Engagement, Agenda Item #2, Ms. JoAnn Martin, Director of Communications and Public Engagement, gave Council an update on the refuse communications plan. Earlier this year, the decision was made to change the trash collection system which includes brush and bulk pick-up. Council had previously asked for staff to come back and brief them on the communications plan for citizens. A brief video created by Broadcast Services featuring the public works department was shown. The communication objective is to inform customers of changes to the trash, brush, and bulk system, to educate staff so that they have the correct information for citizens, to gain compliance from our customers, and to measure success of our communications. Our target audience is of course our residents, business owners, property owners, and also city staff. Communications will be heavy this month and will include an insert with the water bills for the month of August. Communications will be ongoing in order to obtain compliance and continuity. Ms. Martin indicated the importance of continuing and ongoing communication and using an array of strategies to reach all audiences. Budget is between $32,000 and $34,000. The money was already in the public works budget, it was left from the decal system, so we are not asking for any additional funding. The communication timeline will begin this month and continue throughout the year. In evaluating success, we will look at increased revenues from trash services fees, increased customer compliance with trash, brush and bulk setouts and reduction in code violations, and increased citizen satisfaction (comparison in the National Citizen Survey results). Ms. Martin continued the presentation by reviewing a number of potential social media posts aimed to educate the public. Council also received a door hanger that every citizen will receive in the month of September, outlining the trash guidelines and the guidelines for bulk and brush schedule. Also, citizens will receive a decal of their schedule that will be placed on the trash can for reference. Communications and Public Engagement also puts out a newspaper advertisement during any holiday to announce the holiday schedule, and an advert with this schedule will be placed in the paper.

Councilmember Wilder thanked staff for their intense communications plan and for listening to the community on the things that they wanted.

Councilmember Helgeson asked to pause the new refuse plan, citing the public health crisis and the subsequent financial strain on the citizenry. He recommended that the plan be put off until the first of the year. He cited the thousand citizens who would have had their water shutoff had it not been for the state moratorium, and adding the $10 fee right now isn't appropriate. Councilmember Helgeson continued that he knows it was voted on and passed, but wanted to throw it out there to see if his fellow councilmembers would agree. Mayor Dolan clarified that citizens would no longer have to buy the annual $110 decal fee, which equates to about $9.17 a month. Ms. Hart, Director of Public Works, explained that citizens have expressed a desire to have the cost budgeted monthly instead of paying the upfront cost. Councilmember Helgeson explained that the people who are not paying for the trash and were not using even the smaller can are the ones hurting. Mayor Dolan pointed out that those citizens are still using the City's recycling facilities. Councilmember Nelson stated that as a corollary to Councilmember Helgeson's response, are any of the materials that are to be distributed time sensitive? Could they not be delayed until the first of the year? Ms. Martin stated that everything has the October 1, 2020 date, as the start date previously directed by Council. Also, the revenue projections are based on the October 1, 2020 start date. Councilmember Nelson inquired about incremental savings and wanted to know whether the city has paid for advertising, or were they able to utilize public service, no-cost advertisements? Ms. Martin explained that a lot of things have been at no-cost, but they also paid for advertisement because staff wanted to make sure as many people as possible were reached. Councilmember Nelson also wanted to explore different means of written advertisement and not utilize door hangers because it might cost too much for a person to walk up to the door. Ms. Martin indicated that the $34,000 was not manpower hours but more for developing and cost of materials and paying for advertising, not for paying salaries.

Councilmember Tweedy thanked staff for putting together what she hoped would be a successful communications plan and said that she is looking forward to having a clean, beautiful city.

// In the matter of Budget, Agenda Item #3, Ms. Donna Witt updated Council on the revenue collections received in several key City revenue sources, as well as, a report on utility disconnects. These numbers reflect revenue numbers through June 30, 2020. Net Real Property Tax, Net Personal Property Tax, Net Business License Tax, and Motor Vehicle Licenses Tax came in well above the revenue projections. Ms. Witt noted that this is really encouraging because this indicates that citizens were able to pay their annual taxes. Local Sales Tax was surprisingly good for June; we are up 16.3% since June 2019 and we are about $480,973 above our revised revenue numbers. This is very positive news; however, this could be partially due to revenues coming in strong headed into the pandemic. Ms. Witt also noted that these numbers could be influenced by the Wayfair Act. Meals Tax is down 20% from FY 2019; however, we are $70,213 above our revised revenue projections. We anticipated June being a strong month, due to restaurants opening back up and offering curbside pickup. Lodging Tax is down 40% compared to 2019 and down about 16.5% for the year although the collections for June are better than anticipated by $58,096. Amusement Tax is down 22% for the year. We did collect $5,772 and the projection was $0, so that is showing that some things are starting to reopen. Between Sales Tax, Meals Tax, Lodging Tax, and Amusement Tax, revenues are up about $1.6 million from the revised projections, and helps us end the FY 2020 stronger then where we thought we'd be.

Vice Mayor Wright wanted to know what we are ultimately down according to the original adopted budget. Staff will come back with that number.

In the matter of utility accounts, Ms. Witt explained that there are about 1,036 past due accounts which comes to about $183,097 across Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Funds. The majority of these accounts are residential. The total number of past due balances $100 or greater is 534 accounts. Ms. Witt went on to discuss the CDBG-COVID Funds that were made available to Miriam's House, Lynchburg Community Action Group, and Interfaith Outreach totaling $285,000. Staff are communicating with these groups to discuss a second distribution of COVID funding to determine if they would be able to use additional funds before the end of the year. Regarding the future of utility disconnects, at this time there is no plan to start disconnecting service. Initially, staff thought these would begin in September, but due to the rising number of local COVID-19 the disconnects have been halted. There also might be action taken by the Virginia Department of Health to prevent cut-offs.

Councilmember Wilder wanted to know, as far as delinquent customers go, how are we communicating the relief? Ms. Witt explained that a letter went out with the water bill that listed the organizations that could provide them with help. Working with communications and may send out another notice reminding citizens of those organizations.

Councilmember Helgeson asked for clarification on why we weren't doing shutoffs in September. Ms. Witt said we are waiting for clarification from the state. Councilmember Helgeson cautioned about there not being an incentive to pay. Councilmember Faraldi wanted to know what gave her insight about the proposed legislation for the August Emergency General Assembly Session. Tim Mitchell, Director of Water Resources, that the Virginia Poverty Law Center is formulating the legislation. Councilmember

Faraldi posed the question that if that legislation doesn't happen, and there are no penalties for disconnects, then what will happen? Ms. Witt confirmed that if this was the case, we would then start the disconnects in October. The months of August and September will then be used for communicating the process and then start the disconnects in October. Vice Mayor Wright wanted to clarify that they would start the disconnects unless Council takes some other action.

// Agenda Item #4, City Council considered the appointment of Douglas P. Stanley to the position of City Manager. Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Councilmember Tweedy, made the motion to approve the resolution, as presented. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

Mr. Stanley was present at the meeting and thanked the City Council for the opportunity to serve the city of Lynchburg as the next City Manager.

// In the matter of Roll Call, Agenda Item #5, Councilmember Faraldi thanked staff for the successful Lynchburg Police Listening Sessions. Councilmember Wilder thanked the Police Department for listening to the community's voices and making an effort to strengthen the bond between the police department and the community. He also thanked staff for a job well done with the renovations at the Riverside Park Overlook. Councilmember Tweedy thanked Continuum of Care staff for helping the City of Lynchburg achieve Functional Zero for homeless veterans. Councilmember Nelson welcomed the new City Manager, and also thanked City Manager Bonnie Svrcek for her service to the City of Lynchburg. He also wanted to talk about how facemasks will help us get back to normal quicker. Councilmember Helgeson stated that out of 82,000 Lynchburg citizens, only about 600 had COVID-19. He is happy that the vast majority of citizens don't get the virus and that the vast majority that do, recover. Vice Mayor Wright urged citizens to mask up and wash their hands. He also thanked Downtown Lynchburg Association for the work they're doing to help downtown businesses recover from the pandemic and from the downtown construction. He welcomed President Morrison-Shetlar who is the first female president of University of Lynchburg who started her tenure a few weeks ago. Mayor Dolan also wanted to caution citizens to not take the pandemic lightly and to please wear masks and listen to the health professionals. Mayor Dolan also welcomed Mr. Stanley.

// City Council recessed the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

// City Council reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The following Members were present:

Present: MaryJane Dolan, Beau Wright, Jeff S. Helgeson, J. Randy Nelson, Sterling A. Wilder, Treney Tweedy, Chris Faraldi 7

Absent: 0

Vice Mayor Wright gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// In the matter of recognitions, Mr. Dwayne Tuggle, Chair of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, presented City Manager Bonnie Svrcek with a Resolution of Appreciation of her time served from years 2016 - 2020 with the commission.

// In the matter of recognitions, City Council recognized City Manager Bonnie Svrcek for her over 21 Years of Service to the City of Lynchburg. Mayor Dolan stated that Ms. Svrcek was appointed as City Manager in 2016 and she is grateful for her service and presented her with a key to the City of Lynchburg.

// In the matter of Consent Agenda, Councilmember Faraldi asked that Agenda Items #6 – 8 be voted on separately as he was not a sworn official during those meetings. On motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wright, the following vote to approve Agenda Items # 9 - 15 was recorded:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

Consent Agenda Items #6 – 8 were considered for approval. On motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder 6

Noes: 0

Abstention: Faraldi 1

// In the matter of Community Development, Agenda Item #16, a public hearing was held outlining the petition of Across the Bridge, LLC. The petition is to rezone approximately four hundred thirteen thousandths (.413) acres located at 421 Rivermont Avenue, 412 Blackford Street and 610 Rodes Street from R-4, High Density Residential District to B-4, Urban Commercial District to allow the redevelopment of the property into fifteen (15) apartment units. Mr. Tom Martin provided Council with a summary of the agenda item.

Mr. Casey Servis, a representative of Architecture Design Office who are the architects for the project, spoke in favor citing the density of 15 units versus the 9 units that would be allowed by the current zoning is critical to the financial feasibility of the project. He also wanted to clarify that the partial approval of the Historic Preservation Committee has no bearing on the feasibility of this project.

Ms. Katie Webb Cyphert who resides in the 1000 block of Rivermont Avenue spoke in opposition to the petition citing the parking variance which only covers six off-street parking spaces. Ms. Cyphert cautioned that having residents park on-street would be incredibly dangerous.

Mr. Servis rebutted citing traffic studies that are being done by city staff in this particular area and the applicant is working toward acquiring more off-street parking spaces.

The public hearing was closed and Councilmembers were given the opportunity to comment.

Councilmember Nelson noted that he will be abstaining from voting because he represents the applicant.

Councilmember Helgeson maintained that he did not see the point in changing the zoning from the highest residential to a business zone in order to obtain fifty percent more residential. He does not think he has heard a compelling reason to rezone.

Councilmember Wilder noted that he would not be voting in favor of this ordinance because he has met with several Daniel’s Hill residents and they have raised concerns about the dangerous traffic flow.

Vice Mayor Wright wanted clarification that the police and fire departments did not have any concerns with the proposal. Mr. Martin confirmed that they did not. Vice Mayor Wright wanted clarification on the traffic study being done and wanted to confirm that staff recommended approval of this rezoning even though the traffic study is ongoing. Mr. Martin confirmed that the traffic engineer did not think that the 15 units would create an additional impact on Rivermont Avenue.

Councilmember Faraldi wanted to know of the other instances that we’ve used B4 in this manner to get the extra living space. Typically B4 is used to breathe new life into old buildings. The b4 district was designed to do that. We need more flexibility for these old historic buildings.

Councilmember Tweedy noted that she will be supporting this ordinance because the developer is already working to acquire new parking spaces, staff is looking into traffic concerns, and the flexibility is needed in this area. Councilmember made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Wright, to approve this ordinance. Vice Mayor Wright seconded the motion but said that he would like for the City to follow through on recommendations that may come from the traffic study, but thinks it’s important to revitalize this area.

Councilmember Helgeson clarified that this ordinance is only to make 15 units, and that it’s already zoned to include 9 apartments, so the ordinance does not have and bearing on revitalizing. Councilmember Helgeson also stated that this is in Councilmember Wilder’s Ward II and in deference with him he will be voting against this rezoning.

Mayor Dolan will not support this ordinance out of concern for the safety of the people who would have to park on the street.

Councilmember Faraldi asked Mr. Erwin, City Attorney, for clarification on voting, specifically wanting to know that if vote results in a tie, does the motion fail. The motion does not pass and it takes an affirmative vote to grant rezoning. He will be supporting this ordinance given there are no concerns with the police, fire, Planning Commission. He did say that he agrees with Councilmember Helgeson that the rezoning's do need to be revisited. Council took the following recorded vote:

Ayes:	Wright, Tweedy, Faraldi	3
Noes:	Dolan, Helgeson, Wilder	3
Abstention:	Nelson	1

There needs to be an affirmative vote in order to pass a rezoning ordinance, and as such, the motion failed.

// In the matter of Community Development, Agenda Item #17 a public hearing was held regarding the approval of the Conditional Use Permit petition to allow the construction of a one hundred fifty-four (154) foot monopole to be used for telecommunications at 1501 Fenwick Drive. Mr. Tom Martin provided a brief summary of the request. Milestone Tower Limited Partnership IV, d/b/a Milestone Communications is petitioning for a CUP at 1501 Fenwick Drive to allow the construction of a one hundred fifty-four foot (154) monopole tower in an R-1, Low Density Residential District. Verizon Wireless needs a new location to serve the residential areas to the north, the nearby educational institutions, and the commercial area to the east. The existing towers are overloaded and need more data capacity. Adding another tower will add that necessary data capacity and help to offload the existing towers. The primary impact from the proposed telecommunications tower will be visual. The petitioner has submitted photo simulations of the tower from various locations within the area. Although the proposed tower will be visible from some residential areas, the tower will have trees on all sides of it and would potentially blend in with the existing infrastructure including telephone poles and electric poles. The City's Telecommunications Ordinance has not been revised since the late 1990's and is no longer compliant with Federal or State Law. The City is in the process of updating the Telecommunications Ordinance and the new Ordinance will actually relax regulations on telecommunication providers as required by Federal and State regulatory agencies.

Ms. J. Lori H. Schweller of Williams Mullen, the firm representing the applicant, was in attendance and made a presentation.

There were was no one who spoke in favor or in opposition, either in person or via phone or email messages, so the public hearing was closed and the matter rested with Council.

Vice Mayor Wright commented that a constituent who owns property on Fenwick Drive wrote in saying he has a concern about the set-back of the pole from the nearest house. Vice Mayor Wright asked if staff could remind Council of the set-back rules. Mr. Martin explained that the telecommunication zoning ordinance right now requires twice the height of the tower. In this instance, that would be 358 feet. State and federal law dictates that we cannot require set-backs in excess of what we require for other similar structures i.e. light poles, church steeples, etc. This exceeds what is required now and far exceeds what state and federal law requires. Vice Mayor Wright made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Tweedy, stating that this appears to be an obvious tradeoff citing the increased bandwidth for this part of the City as a huge gain.

Councilmember Helgeson echoed Vice Mayor Wright's sentiments that the aesthetics are unpleasing. He asked Ms. Schweller to confirm that this painted monopole will be designed to blend into the surroundings as best as possible. Ms. Schweller was able to confirm that the pole will be shielded as best as it can.

Councilmember Nelson asked if Milestone had any data on the negative impact these towers have on the real estate that's immediately located around them, in terms of whether they affect market value. Ms. Schweller confirmed that her research indicates that not only do telecommunication towers not have a negative impact, they have a positive impact on property values. Councilmember Nelson was grateful to hear this news citing his support of this project was contingent upon the impact it would have on citizens.

Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the Resolution #R-20-061, as presented, granting the Conditional Use Permit:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

// In the matter of Public Works, Agenda Item #18, a public hearing was held in order to grant a lease to Milestone Communication to operate a telecommunications monopole at 1501 Fenwick Drive. Ms. Gaynelle Hart, Director of Public Works, provided a brief summary of the request. Milestone communications has requested to lease a portion City owned property at 1501 Fenwick Drive for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a telecommunications monopole under the terms of the franchise agreement between the City and Milestone. Ms. Hart explained that this lease is a standard lease and has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's Office.

There were was no one who spoke in favor or in opposition, either in person or via phone or email messages, so the public hearing was closed and the matter rested with Council.

Councilmember Helgeson asked for clarification from staff that the terms have been adjusted from previous contracts to account for inflation. Ms. Hart & Mr. Erwin explained that they have not but there is language in the lease that includes a percentage of the revenues collected by Milestone.

Councilmember Wilder made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi. Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the Resolution #R-20-062, as presented, granting the lease:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

// In the matter of Budget, Agenda Item #19, a public hearing was held in order to adopt a resolution amending the FY 2021 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriate $7,168,841 with resources from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 to fund public health and safety, continuity of operations, and business and community support initiatives related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Also, to adopt an ordinance to provide for the payment of a monetary bonus to the employees of the City of Lynchburg, Virginia for exemplary service during the pandemic and appropriate $2,141,327 from the General Fund for such payment. Ms. Donna Witt provided a brief summary of the request.

There were was no one who spoke in favor or in opposition, either in person or via phone or email messages, so the public hearing was closed and the matter rested with Council.

Councilmember Nelson asked for clarification on the parameters of prorating as it is stated in the Continuity of Operations, “Utilizing public safety payroll reimbursement as allowed by the CARES Act provide a one-time compensation award for all employees ($1,700) prorated based on scheduled hours.” Ms. Witt stated that all full-time employees, regardless of their salary, will receive the $1,700 payment while part-time employees will receive a prorated sum based on their hours.

Vice Mayor Wright asked for more explanation on the provisions of how CARES Act funds are spent. The CARES Act allows you to replace funds for public safety pay that would otherwise be spent from the operating budget. This in turn frees up funding from the operating budget to be able to pay employees a bonus. Ms. Witt reiterated that this use of funds have been cleared by our auditors. Vice Mayor Wright posed the question, “Why is this the best way to spend the money?” Ms. Witt explained that with the second round of funding, staff looked at things that weren’t able to be funded in the first round, such as Sunday service for the transit company, and reached out to non-profit organizations that can address community relief. Vice Mayor Wright voiced his main concern with this proposal is that Lynchburg City Schools employees, who are also municipal employees, are not receiving the same bonus. Ms. Witt explained that the Chief Financial Officer has stated they have reserved their CARES funding in the event they would have to furlough employees, but they did not have a bonus on the table. Vice Mayor Wright stressed that he would like to support this item, but feels he cannot due to the fact that all municipal employees are not represented.

Councilmember Faraldi asked if these funds, or a version of funds, could be used to fund a medic unit that the City of Lynchburg needs. Ms. Witt explained that she would like to hold off for a few months to see how revenues are coming in because the medic unit would need to be funded through ongoing revenues.

Councilmember Helgeson stated that the bonus should be given to those that have worked during the pandemic, and not to all employees for the appearance of equitability. He continued that he would like to use the funds to help public safety employees get the equipment and staffing needed, but recognizes that the funds can only be spent on COVID-19 related expenses.

Councilmember Helgeson made the motion to approve the resolution as is, with the understanding that staff can come back and make amendments as needed, if there needs to be any big changes. Councilmember Nelson seconded the motion.

Councilmember Wilder wanted to know how businesses were able to access these funds. Ms. Upshur stated that there are about 1,100 businesses that staff are doing a massive communication outreach asking them to apply for these funds.

Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the Resolution #R-20-063, as presented:

Ayes:	Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	6
Noes:	Wright	1

Councilmember Nelson made the motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi. Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the Ordinance, #O-20-019:

Ayes:	Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	6
Noes:	Wright	1

// In the matter of Economic Development, Agenda Item #20, Council considered a resolution authorizing the issuance of up to $200,000,000 in bonds through the Economic Development Authority of the City of Lynchburg for the benefit of Centra Health, Inc. was considered. Ms. Marjette Upshur, Director of Economic Development & Tourism provided a brief summary of the request. Centra requested the EDA to issue its revenue bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $200,000,000, in one or more series. These funds will be used to: (a) finance (i) the acquisition, construction, developing and equipping of a new, six-story Women's Center at Lynchburg General for use in obstetrics and pediatric services, which also includes connectivity and bridge improvements to link the new Women's Center with the existing facilities of Lynchburg General, (ii) the construction of surface parking with approximately 350 spaces and a parking deck with approximately 400 spaces for Lynchburg General and related connectivity improvements, (iii) the acquisition, construction, developing and equipping of expansion of and improvement to the emergency department at Lynchburg General, (iv) the renovation and improvement of existing facilities and shell space within the existing Lynchburg General footprint, (v) sitework and other improvements on the Campus related to the foregoing, and (vi) construction of routine capital improvements at Lynchburg General and (b) Pay certain expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of these bonds.

The Economic Development Authority of the City of Lynchburg has conducted the requisite public hearing and adopted a resolution recommending that City Council authorize the bonds. Although the bonds will be issued by the EDA, regulations require Lynchburg City Council to adopt a resolution supporting the transaction. The EDA in accordance with federal and state law serves as a conduit of these bonds and assumes no financial responsibility or cost. The issuance of these bonds also places no financial obligation on the city. Ms. Upshur stated that Centra Health is a valued anchor for the City of Lynchburg.

Councilmember Helgeson disclosed that his wife is employed by Centra Health which makes him a member of a group for spouses of Centra Health employees which has more than three members. He is able to participate in this matter fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Councilmember Nelson made the motion citing that high quality medical care is an extremely large component for attracting businesses and amenities to an urban area. Vice Mayor Wright seconded the motion. Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the Resolution, #R-20-064, as presented:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

// In the matter of Emergency Services, Agenda Item #21, Council considered adopting a resolution approving the First Amendment to the 2011 Emergency Communications Regional Cooperative Agreement, allowing Campbell County to join the Regional Radio System. Ms. Melissa Foster, Director of Emergency Services, provided a brief summary of the request. The Central Virginia Radio

Communications Board (Radio Board) was formed in May of 1996 by an agreement between Amherst County, Bedford County, the then named City of Bedford (now the Town of Bedford), the City of Lynchburg, and the Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council, now named the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, to jointly operate a regional communications system. Campbell County has requested to join the Regional Radio System and negotiations have been ongoing for approximately one year. On Tuesday, June 16, 2020, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors approved the attached amendment to the 2011 Emergency Communications Regional Cooperation Agreement and formally requested to join the Regional Radio System. The Radio Board gave unanimous support for this request on July 10, 2020 during their monthly meeting. The Amendment provides for incorporating Campbell County as an equal voting member of the Regional Radio Board and fully incorporating their new communications equipment into the Regional Radio System. The addition of Campbell County to the Radio Board will mean that there are 5 voting members in the future. Campbell County will pay a one-time buy-in fee of $1,620,883 to join the Radio Board. The County will be responsible for paying for all of the equipment necessary to integrate into the system, though Campbell also will realize some savings by integrating into the regional system sharing equipment and capacity. Campbell County's radios will also become interoperable with Lynchburg's, Amherst's and Bedford's, for improved communications between public safety agencies. Once the necessary work is completed at the tower cites and the additional equipment is installed, the Radio Board will begin maintaining all of Campbell County's radios and equipment just as it does for current Radio Board member agencies. Each of the current member jurisdictions and the Planning District Commission must give their approval for Campbell County to join the system.

Vice Mayor Wright asked if there was any reason the City of Lynchburg would not allow Campbell County to join. Ms. Foster commented that in her opinion, there would be no reason not to do this as it will provide regional connectivity.

Vice Mayor Wright made the motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Nelson seconded the motion stating that this makes sense in every practical and legal way. Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the Resolution, #R-20-065:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Fire Department, Agenda Item #22, consideration of introducing a resolution to amend the FY 2021 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriate $59,586 with resources of $29,793 from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services – Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) and $29,793 from the FY 2021 General Fund Fire Department budget to purchase (4) Lucas 3 chest compression devices for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Greg Wormser provided a brief summary of the request. The Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) awards grant funding to EMS agencies for the purpose of obtaining and maintaining emergency vehicles and equipment; providing EMS management, leadership, and advanced life support training; and achieving other goals that support the enhancement of community EMS services. The Fire Department has been awarded RSAF grant funds to purchase four (4) Lucas 3 chest compression devices. The Lucas 3 chest compression devices will replace current in-service devices which have exceeded the manufacturer's recommended useful life. The grant requires a local match. The Fire Department applied for these funds under a Hardship Request, which would have required the locality to pay 20 percent and RSAF would have paid 80 percent. However, the RSAF funds were awarded with a required 50 percent match. One Lucas 3 chest compression device cost $14,896.50. With a total cost of $59,586, the required local match is $29,793. The match will be funded from the FY 2021 General Fund Fire Department budget.

As chair of the Finance Committee, Councilmember Helgeson stated that he was in favor of this resolution, stating the importance of providing the needed equipment to our first responders, and made the motion to approve the resolution. The motion to approve Resolution #R-20-066 passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Police Department, Agenda Item #23, Council considered adopting a resolution amending the FY 2021 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriate $360,431 with resources of

$250,000 from the 2020 US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program, and the 30.6389% required local cash match of $110,431. Police Chief Ryan Zuidema provided a brief summary of the request. The Lynchburg Police Department (LPD) is eligible for $250,000 from the US Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program 36-month grant. This grant requires a 30.6386% local match totaling $110,431. The total grant cost over three years will be $360,431. The City must assume a progressively larger share of the cost of the award with local funds over the three-year period as part of the local cash match requirement. The breakdown of the $110,431 local match is as follows: year one: 25% ($27,608), year two: 33% ($36,442) and year three: 42% ($46,381). This grant covers a 36-month period and requires that the two officers hired using the grant funds continue employment for a minimum of 12 months after the grant period ends. This grant pays for the salaries and benefits of these officers. The LPD will use this funding to hire two officers, which will increase our allocated sworn staffing from 174 to 176. The focus of this grant is violent crime. We requested seven officers to create a full time Special Investigations Response Team (SIRT); however, we were awarded two officers, and are not able to create that team with the addition of only two positions. The stipulations of the grant still will require these new positions to focus on violent crime, so we will assign these two officers to the LPD's Investigations Bureau. The first detective will focus on investigating violent crimes. This detective will work closely with other units inside the department to develop leads, conduct interviews with victims and witnesses, and ultimately arrest violent offenders. The second detective will focus on intelligence monitoring and violent crime data review. We will also use this position to focus on unsolved cases involving violent crime. Both detectives will work closely with our state and federal partners when needed as well as during high profile and interstate cases to make arrests and keep our community safe.

As chair of the Finance Committee, Councilmember Helgeson stated that he was in favor of this resolution stating that he is glad that some of the staffing needs will be addressed with this grant. He made the motion to approve Resolution #R-20-067, which passed by the following vote:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

// In the matter of Committees, Agenda Item #24, Council reviewed and approved the guidelines for the operation of City Council's Physical Development Committee (PDC). Ms. Gaynelle Hart provided staff with a brief summary of the request. The PDC reviews the guidelines every two years to ensure the committee is organized for a high degree of effectiveness and efficiency. City staff recommends a few minor changes.

As chair of the Physical Development Committee, Councilmember Tweedy stated she was in favor of made the motion to approve the guidelines. Council, by the recorded vote approved the request:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

// On motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Council Member Wilder, Council, by the following recorded vote elected to hold a closed meeting to discuss the appointment of a Clerk of Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

// The meeting was re-opened to the public.

// Vice Mayor Wright made the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Lynchburg has convened a closed meeting on this date, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2 3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by City Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Lynchburg certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by Council.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilder, and Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the motion:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

// The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Interim Clerk of Council