

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 29th day of June, 2021, 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 Helgeson, J. Randy Nelson, Treney Tweedy,
Sterling A. Wilder, Chris Faraldi 7

Absent: 0

// A special called meeting was scheduled in order to make an appointment to the position of City Attorney before the current City Attorney vacates his position on July 1, 2021, and to make appointments to the Lynchburg City School Board at least 30 days before July 1, 2021 (Section §22.1-50 of the Code of Virginia). Councilmember Faraldi made the motion that the merits of the meeting warranted a special called meeting. Councilmember Nelson seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded, approving the special called meeting:

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

Noes: 0

// In the matter of City Attorney, Agenda Item #1, Council considered approving Resolution #R-21-057 appointing Matthew C. Freeman as the City Attorney for the City of Lynchburg effective July 1, 2021. Councilmember Nelson made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Tweedy. With no discussion from Council, the following vote was recorded:

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

Noes: 0

// In the matter of School Board Appointments, Agenda Item #2, Mayor Dolan asked for a Council decision on whether to notify the School Board applicants of Council's decision first and then the public, or to notify the public and then the applicants.

Councilmember Helgeson stated that he wants to conduct deliberation on school board appointments in open session. He would not be in favor of going into a closed session to discuss these appointments.

Councilmember Nelson expressed a desire to delay notifying the media and the public until courtesy calls could be placed to all of the applicants after Council's decision.

Councilmember Faraldi stated that he appreciates the desire to inform applicants, but does not support the delaying of informing the public.

With no other discussion from Council, the following vote to call applicants before the public is notified was recorded:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder	5
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Noes: Helgeson, Faraldi	2
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// On motion of Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council considered holding a closed meeting for discussion of appointments to the Lynchburg School Board pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A.)(1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Councilmember Faraldi stated that he will be voting in opposition to this motion because he feels this process should be completed in an open session.

Councilmember Helgeson stated the stakeholders of the school board have a desire to be invested in this process and in deference to them, he would like to conduct these appointments in an open session.

Vice Mayor Wright asked Councilmember Helgeson why in his tenure has he not called for this to be an open process and inquired what the impetus for changing the process now is. Councilmember Helgeson cited the decline in enrollment, absenteeism, and concerned parents for being his reasons.

Councilmember Tweedy stated that last minute tactics should not be played with the education system and will be voting in favor of the current system.

Councilmember Nelson stated that he is not in favor of changing the current process since candidates applied expecting this current process, but would be amicable to a conversation in the future on opening up the boards and commissions appointment process.

Councilmember Wilder offered he would be in favor of addressing this process at a future Council Work Session but stated that he would not be in favor of opening the process up currently.

With no other discussion from Council, the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder 5

Noes: Helgeson, Faraldi 2

// The meeting was reopened to the public.

// Councilmember Helgeson 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 Vice Mayor Wright, and Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the motion:

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

Noes: 0

// On motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wright, Council by the following recorded vote appointed Mr. Randall Trost to the Lynchburg City School Board, School District 1, for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

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

Noes: 0

// On motion of Councilmember Tweedy, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council by the following recorded vote appointed Dr. Sharon Carter to the Lynchburg City School Board, School District 2, for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder 5

Noes: Helgeson, Faraldi 2

// On motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council by the following recorded vote appointed Dr. Atul Gupta to the Lynchburg City School Board, School District 3, for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

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

Noes: 0

// The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Clerk of Council