

June 18, 2020

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 18th day of June, 2020, at 12:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Treney Tweedy, President of Council, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to declare June 19, 2020, otherwise known as Juneteenth, as an observed holiday. The following members were present:

Present: E.J. Turner Perrow, Treney Tweedy, MaryJane Dolan, Sterling Wilder,	
Beau Wright	5
Absent: Jeff S. Helgeson, J. Randy Nelson	2

// Councilmember Perrow explained action that had recently been taken at the state level, with other localities following suit, announcing Juneteenth as a holiday. According to Lynchburg City's Employee Policies and Procedures, City Council is charged with declaring city holidays. Since Council is not scheduled to meet until June 23, 2020, the special meeting has been called to order. Councilmember Perrow made the motion to suspend the rules and procedures that require a twelve-hour notice in order to conduct a special meeting to carryout City Council business. Vice Mayor Dolan seconded the motion. Councilmember Perrow asked City Attorney Walter Erwin to clarify whether City Council had a quorum to vote. Mr. Erwin stated that Council needed just four members to vote. With no other discussion, the motion was passed with the following vote:

Ayes: Wilder, Wright, Perrow, Dolan, Tweedy	5
Noes:	0
Absent: Helgeson, Nelson	2

// Mayor Tweedy read aloud the resolution declaring June 19, 2020 as a paid holiday. Councilmember Wilder made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilmember Wright. Councilmember Wilder stated he thought it was fitting that Lynchburg follow suit with the state and other localities in observing Juneteenth. Councilmember Wright wanted to clarify that Council taking any action now, would not diminish the hard work that other organizations such as, The Academy Center of the Arts, Red Cross, the NAACP, and the Virginia University of Lynchburg have been doing to celebrate and honor Juneteenth. He continued stating it is past time to recognize this holiday and doing so will help Lynchburg become a more equitable community. Councilmember Wright also acknowledged that Council is only

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voting to observe Juneteenth in the calendar year 2020; however, he feels it should be a holiday added to the regularly observed roster going forward. He further explained that Lynchburg's past as being a former slave holding town, which practiced its own severe form of Jim Crow, citing the filled in pool at Riverside Park, and the Rosenwald-funded Megginson School, has a very lasting, very real effect on the community.

Councilmember Perrow wanted to thank William "Buck" Sydnor, Interim Executive Director of the Lynchburg Regional Housing Authority, for bringing this item to Council's attention.

Mayor Tweedy called for the voice vote in order to relieve a Councilmember who originally needed to leave early, but wound up staying the entirety of the meeting, and asked to reserve her comments until after the vote. There was no objection from Council, and the motion passed with the following votes:

Ayes: Wilder, Wright, Perrow, Dolan, Tweedy	5
Noes:	0
Absent: Helgeson, Nelson	2

Mayor Tweedy wanted to recognize Phyllistine Mosley and many others who have been working for the past twenty years to honor Juneteenth in Lynchburg, Virginia. Mayor Tweedy thanked fellow Councilmembers, the city administration, and the community stating that moving forward, Lynchburg's vision of unity is truly clear.

// Before the meeting was adjourned, Mr. Erwin offered the following item for Council to consider. The Freedom of Information Act, which regulates public meetings, does not have a requirement for a twelve-hour notice to call a special meeting. Mr. Erwin cautioned Council to consider safeguarding its future proceedings in the event Council may need to get together on short notice to act. He suggested that at its organizational meeting on July 1, 2020, when Council readopts its rules and procedures to set forth its schedule for regularly held meetings, that Council consider amending the rules and procedure that requires a twelve-hour notice. He suggested the following the language of the Freedom of Information Act

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that states a governing body will attempt to give a twelve hour notice, but it is not mandatory and the only mandatory notice will be the one that is reasonable under the circumstances.

// The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Interim Clerk of Council