// A special called meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 1st day of December, 2023, at 9:30 A.M. at the Information Technology Conference Center for the purpose of conducting a retreat. Stephanie T. Reed, President, presiding. The following Members were present at the retreat:

Present: Stephanie Reed, Martin Misjuns, Jeff Helgeson, Larry Taylor, MaryJane Dolan, Sterling A. Wilder, Chris Faraldi 7

Absent: 0

// Assistant City Manager Kent White and Acting City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided Council with an overview of the Comprehensive Plan, a community-guided vision for the future, process and procedure. Catherine Redfearn and Darren Coffey with the Berkley Group, LLC, the consulting firm hired to aid the City with this long-range plan, reviewed the community engagement strategy and efforts in developing the plan. They reviewed the top four goals, to-date: 1) Increase quantity, affordability, and types of housing; 2) Improve schools; 3) Grow and develop the economy, and; 4) Increase options for recreation and alternative transportation.

// Deputy City Manager Greg Patrick and Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt provided Council with an overview of Budget and Public Engagement efforts. Together, they discussed the FY 2025 Operating Budget. Early staff revenue projections for FY 2025 included conservative growth over the adopted FY 2024 budget. Current economic trends reflect slowed consumer spending going forward. Staff reviews revenue projections multiple times before the proposed budget is finalized.

Mr. Patrick reviewed the preliminary funding priorities: Maintain current operations with required inflationary impact; fund scheduled debt service on current debt; anticipated Virginia Retirement System (VRS) increase; modest General Wage Increase based on Market; planned progression pay for public safety, and; add funding for maintenance projects in the Operating Budget.

Ms. Witt reviewed how a budget is formed, provided insight to overall concepts and definitions, and discussed what is included in a Capital Improvement Program budget. She provided Council and the public, a look at the preliminary budget calendar for the upcoming year. She then discussed ways the community can have their voices heard during the budget process.

// Deputy City Manager Greg Patrick and Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt provided Council with an overview of Budget and Opportunity Investment. They gave a first look at the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). As of June 30, 2023, the outstanding debt of City Capital and Schools is $182,849,218. The FY 2024 Adopted General Fund Debt Service for City Capital and Schools is $18,472,661. Based on estimates from the FY 2024 – FY 2028 CIP the City can borrow approximately $77M over the next 10 years and maintain the current level of debt service at $18M.

Mr. Patrick and Ms. Witt discussed strategic investment opportunities with the goal of identifying funding options that are supported by a majority of Council. These investment opportunities were as follows: Convert White Rock Elementary School into a neighborhood center, $3.5M; Renovate the Main Library, $3.0M; Waive $10/month Refuse Collection Fee in FY 2025, $2.7M; Purchase ladder truck for the Fire Department, $2.4M; Fund property Toolkit, $1.5M; Waive Vehicle License Fee in FY 2025, $1.5M; Design Bass Elementary, $1.5M; Replace City Stadium artificial turf, $1.0M; Implement public safety recruiting & retention strategy, $1.0M; Design and construct MLK Bridge Improvements, $1.0M; Plan and construct Perrymont Park, $728,000; Plan and construct College Park, $650,000; Improve Randolph College Business Corridor, $500,000; Plan and construct Heritage Park, $450,000, and; Improve parking at Awareness Garden, $250,000. After discussing in work groups, City Council decided they collectively would like to fund the following projects: Implement public safety recruitment and retention strategy; Ladder truck for the Fire Department; Convert White Rock Elementary School to a neighborhood center; Plan and construct Heritage Park; Improve parking at the Awareness Garden; Replace City Stadium artificial turf; Waive $10/month Refuse Collection Fee in FY 2025, and; Waive Vehicle License Fee in FY 2025. Staff will prepare a budget amendment and bring back to a later meeting to allocate the funds for these projects.

// Director of Communications and Public Engagement Anna Bentson provided Council with an update on the City's new branding efforts. Ms. Bentson revealed the new City logo and City Council's logo.

// The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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Clerk of Council