November 12, 2024

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 12th day of November, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Stephanie Reed, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

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

Absent: 0

// In the matter of Work Session Agenda Overview, City Manager Wynter Benda reiterated to Council that the Legislative Agenda had failed to be approved at the October 22, 2024 meeting, but Councilmember Taylor and Councilmember Dolan requested for the matter to be brought back before Council, so it was included as a Business Item Briefing. He provided a pop-up presentation updating Council regarding the White Rock Community Hub Project and the upcoming schedule for community meetings.

// In the matter of the Fire Department, Agenda Item #1, Council held a work session regarding the Fire Department Pharmacy Update. Fire Chief Gregory Wormser provided a presentation on coming operational changes at the Fire Department related to the drug box exchange program.

Vice Mayor Faraldi asked if they had considered locating these services at the new police department since it was centrally located. Mr. Wormser said that they had considered numerous locations, and he could not disclose the locations due to security reasons.

Councilmember Misjuns stated that a lot of work went into this item. He asked Chief Wormser what the most expensive drug was that the department carried; Chief Wormser replied Glucagon at $207 per dose. Councilmember Misjuns stated that soft billing wasn’t possible before because it was coming from Centra. Chief Wormser replied that taking Centra out of the equation will actually reduce out of service time.

Councilmember Helgeson asked if it was possible to coordinate a regional partnership to reduce costs associated with the program. He said that smaller neighboring jurisdictions could benefit from the shared costs. Mr. Wormser explained that since the City was responsible for the drugs, it was challenging to exchange them with other entities according to the rules set by the Drug Enforcement Administration and pharmacies. He said that other localities may require different drugs, and the City would be responsible for them under a shared system.

Councilmember Taylor asked if there was federal or state funding to implement the program. Mr. Wormser said that there was not, currently. He said that it was part of the legislative agenda to seek state and federal support.

Mayor Reed asked if the pharmacy manager position was required once the program started. Mr. Wormser replied that it was not required, and they did not yet know the time and resource allocation required for the position. He said that the duties of the position were currently managed by five individuals in the department.

// In the matter of Water Resources, Agenda Item #2, Council held a work session regarding the Water Resources Annual report. Director of Water Resources Timothy Mitchell provided a brief overview of the FY 2024 Annual Report, highlighting some of the Water Resources Department's accomplishments, key projects, and exceptional staff.

Councilmember Helgeson requested additional information regarding the financial figures. Mr. Mitchell replied that he could follow-up with more detailed information.

// In the matter of Legislative Agenda, Agenda Item #3, Council was briefed on the 2025 Legislative Agenda. Mayor Reed stated that the item would appear before Council for action at the evening session. Assistant to the City Manager Mercedes Braun briefed Council on the legislative package with edits from feedback provided, post the October 22, 2024 Council meeting. This will include the package with the two items of contention removed (School Choice Funding and Elected School Board). Staff will request that Council vote on the package as a whole, then two separate votes to add the aforementioned items back into the package.

Councilmember Helgeson expressed concerns about the literacy program item. He said that it appeared the item was just adding another government program on top of the already available programs. Ms. Braun explained that the program would essentially serve as an elective, and they were seeking to provide students with every opportunity to succeed.

Councilmember Helgeson expressed concerns about the item related to the suspension of a business's ABC license if a patron committed an act of violence. He said that businesses should not be responsible if a patron committed a crime. Ms. Braun said that the item would enable the City to temporarily limit alcohol sales while the crime was investigated. City Manager Mr. Wynter Benda explained that this item developed as a response to business proprietors who were not responding to investigation requests. City Attorney Mr. Matthew Freedman clarified that the City already had the power to petition the circuit court to enjoin the serving of alcoholic beverages, however, this usually happened after it was truly needed. He said that there were some establishments that attracted criminals and high levels of crime, and it was a massive burden on law enforcement to address issues related to these establishments. He said that the item would serve as tool to address the worst-case scenarios. Councilmember Helgeson said that they should consider a different method to address these issues.

Councilmember Helgeson expressed concerns about the item related to unlawful discharges of weapons in public spaces. He said that he was concerned about people being charged with felonies for celebratory fire or other willful discharges that did not result in harm. He said that the felony should only apply if there was intent to harm somebody.

Councilmember Helgeson expressed concerns about the language for the item related to mental health resources. He said that since it stated "any and all" resources, it implied unlimited resources. He suggested that the item should read, "the City supports additional resources provided by the State."

Councilmember Helgeson requested that an item be added to the agenda to include party affiliation on the ballot for candidates in local elections.

Councilmember Misjuns said that it was already a crime to consume alcohol and carry a firearm, so they should not be adding additional laws regarding firearms. He asked what tools the City had to revoke business licenses in the case of public safety. Mr. Freedman replied that they did not have any tools related to an immediate emergency need. He said that the item related to ABC licenses would allow ABC to take immediate action.

Councilmember Misjuns said that they should not be creating more felons if people were not hurt related to willfully discharging a weapon in a public place. He said that if people were hurt, they should pursue the maximum charges.

Vice Mayor Faraldi expressed concerns about the frequency of people shooting firearms in the street. He said that currently, those instances could only be prosecuted as a misdemeanor. He said that he supported increasing the penalty for unlawful discharges.

Councilmember Taylor said that he supported the ABC license item because the City needed a way to address businesses that could not control their customers.

Mayor Reed stated that they would vote on each of the proposed changes separately at the evening session, then they would take action on the legislative agenda as a whole.

Mayor Reed stated that there was consensus from Council to strike the language related to "any and all" resources related to the mental health item.

// In the matter of the Airport, Agenda Item #4, Council was briefed on the Rental Car Concession Agreement and Lease. Mayor Reed stated that the item would appear before Council at the December 10, 2024 meeting. Acting Airport Director Cedric Simon briefed Council on the matter. Rental car concessions constitute a vital service to both airline passengers and the local community. Earlier this year, the Lynchburg Regional Airport rebid the rental concession agreements and received interest from four rental car companies. Following the successful completion of these negotiations, all parties also agreed to minor changes to the existing agreements in order to keep terms consistent across all four companies. The term of the new agreements would be for five (5) years with the option to renew for up to five (5) additional years, in one (1) year increments.

Overall, the minimum annual guaranteed (MAG) revenue amounts and rental revenues will remain the same for the first year of the agreement and will be re-evaluated based on actual gross revenues and the updated Consumer Price Index for future years. The Customer Facility Charge (CFC), a daily fee collected by the rental car companies, would increase from $3.00 per day to $3.50 per day to cover maintenance expenditures related to the rental car facilities.

// In the matter of Community Development, Agenda Item #5, Council was briefed on the Diamond Hill Neighborhood Plan. Mayor Reed stated that the item would appear before Council for action at the December 10, 2024 meeting. Charlotte Lester briefed Council on the matter. The Diamond Hill Neighborhood Plan is a product of the input received from neighborhood residents, citizen members of the project's Stakeholder Advisory Group, and City of Lynchburg staff, working together to envision opportunities for sustainable growth in the neighborhood. The neighborhood planning framework and recommendations are built around Diamond Hill's anchor institutions, community streets, housing, marketplace, and parks and historic resources.

The plan has been developed under the direction established by the City's Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030 to build strong neighborhoods; conserve the City's unique places and resources; promote business vitality; enhance the attractiveness of gateways and travel corridors; and protect the natural environment while also promoting sensitive development and redevelopment.

To achieve this vision, the Diamond Hill Neighborhood Plan is to be adopted as a supplement to the Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030; as such, it reinforces and extends its goals and policies.

Councilmember Helgeson asked how much it would cost to implement the recommendations. Ms. Lester replied that several projects were identified with various funding sources. She said that there was no total cost estimate for the entire plan. Councilmember Helgeson requested an estimate on the total cost before action was taken on the plan.

Councilmember Wilder noted that the Diamond Hill residents are excited for this plan.

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #6, Council was briefed on 750 Leesville Road – Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment; Rezoning, and; Conditional Use Permit (CUP) – Townhomes. Mayor Reed stated that the item would appear before Council for action at the December 10, 2024 meeting. City Planer Rachel Frischeisen briefed Council on the matter. Maddox and Sons Construction, Inc. is petitioning to amend the FLUM, to rezone, and for a CUP to allow the construction of eighty-eight (88) townhomes, located at 750 Leesville Road. The FLUM currently recommends Institutional uses for the property. These areas include the religious, educational, and other nonprofit entities in the City, such as churches, private schools and universities, private nonprofit hospitals, and other nonprofit institutions. The petition proposes to amend the FLUM to Medium Density Residential. These areas are characterized by small lot single- family detached housing, duplexes, and townhouses at densities up to twelve (12) units per acre. Where neighborhoods already exist, infill development should be at a compatible density and housing type.

The proposed density is below that which is recommended by the requested Medium Density Residential category on the FLUM and would be located adjacent to an existing townhome community. The petitioner is working with the neighboring property owners to address buffering, and plans to submit proffers accordingly.

Councilmember Helgeson said that there had been enough high-density development in Ward 3 and Ward 4, and until they started seeing high density development in Ward 1 and Ward 2, he would vote against the proposal.

Vice Mayor Faraldi stated that he appreciates that these are townhomes as it helps with not raising taxes but he shared Councilmember Helgeson's concerns about density.

Councilmember Misjuns asked if there was a traffic study. Ms. Frischeisen said that there was a traffic narrative, but the development did not meet the threshold to warrant a traffic study. She said that the narrative indicated a need for a right-turn taper lane. Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about the existing traffic conditions.

// In the matter of Horizon Behavioral Health, Agenda Item #7, Council was briefed on Horizon Crisis Receiving Center Funding. Mayor Reed stated that the item would appear before Council for action at the evening session. Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt briefed Council on the matter. Last year, Horizon Behavioral Health requested the City partner in a new Crisis Receiving Center (CRC). The CRC would benefit the City and surrounding localities' public safety staff by providing a detoxification and stabilization facility for citizens with acute opioid disorders.

At the time, Horizon had a shortfall of $4.1 million. Their request was that the City commit to funding this shortfall. City staff, in cooperation with Campbell County, submitted a grant application to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority for $1,946,372 to contribute towards the site acquisition and renovation costs for Horizon's CRC. Council unanimously authorized the City Manager to execute all documents in connection with the grant, and set aside up to $4.1 million for the CRC.

The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority grant was awarded and appropriated. The $4.1 million was reduced by the grant award of $1,946,372.

City Council action is required to appropriate the Assigned Funds. The first reading (introduction) to amend the FY 2025 General Fund budget and appropriate funding will appear for Council's consideration on the November 12, 2024, General Business agenda.

Vice Mayor Faraldi noted that he was a member of the Horizon Board, and the leadership team continued to seek all options to reduce the reliance on these funds. He said that the funds would serve as a contingency to ensure the project was completed.

// In the matter of Boards and Commissions, Agenda Item #8, in the interest of time, Council forwent their briefing on the Boards and Commissions Quarterly Reporting. Clerk of Council Alicia Finney stated that she would send a memo to Council containing the information in the presentation and advertise the positions on social media.

// In the matter of Roll Call, Councilmember Helgeson said that yesterday was Veteran's Day where he honored his father who served in the Army Air Corp. He said that his father's story helped understand what people went through during WWII. He thanked veterans for their service. He said that they had to share those stories because many children had not heard them.

Councilmember Wilder thanked the police department for responding to a person running through his church during daycare hours. He said that police were able to diffuse the situation and calm the children. He said that Diane Swain, a retired principal at Sheffield Elementary, passed away, and they held a memorial service last Saturday. He thanked the people in the community for participating in Mustaches for Kids, raising over $600,000 in 30 days. He said that it showed how much the community loved children and how well they worked together.

Councilmember Misjuns said that last year, a friend of his contacted him about the safe haven baby boxes. He explained that the boxes served as a discrete and safe option for mothers in crisis to surrender an infant. He encouraged staff to prioritize this program so that people had the option, and he asked them to come to Council for help navigating any obstacles.

Vice Mayor Faraldi said that Richland Hills residents were demanding speed bumps. He noted that while the traffic figures did not merit one, he wanted to see speed bumps to help reduce traffic speed concerns. He thanked all of the service members in the City. He highlighted the National Center for Healthy Veterans, which recently had a fire, and he encouraged people to donate to its recovery. He said that yesterday, they recognized the latest edition to Monument Terrace commemorating the War on Terror and the Gulf War. He congratulated the EC Glass Hilltoppers for winning the Jug Bowl.

Mayor Reed honored her grandfather, who passed away on November 1 at the age of 102. She said that he was a WWII veteran, serving in the Army 6th Division as an infantryman. She said that he served four years in the Pacific Theater, deployed to New Guinea and the

Philippines. She said that she was thankful for the years she got to spend with him. She highlighted the work and contributions of the Office of the Treasurer. She highlighted the work and contributions of the Community Corrections and Pretrial Services Department. She announced that November was recognized as Lung Cancer Awareness Month. She said that it was an important opportunity to support those affected and promote early detection. She encouraged everyone to learn about the risks from smoking and other environmental factors.

// On the motion of Councilmember Dolan, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, by the following recorded vote, elected to hold a closed meeting to 1) discuss the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, and to 2) discuss private and personal matters connected to such public contract which are not related to public business, pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(9) and – (A)(29) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. The closed meeting being specific to discussing the award of a Towing and Vehicle Recovery Service contract to a particular vendor pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder	7
Noes:	0

// 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 Councilmember Taylor, and Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the motion:

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder	7
Noes:	0

// The meeting recessed at 6:05 p.m.

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 12th day of November, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Stephanie Reed, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

Present: Stephanie Reed, Chris Faraldi, MaryJane Dolan, Jeff Helgeson, Martin Misjuns, Larry Taylor, Sterling A. Wilder	7
Absent:	0

// Vice Mayor Faraldi led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// Mayor Reed noted that there was a consensus from Council to move the Legislative Agenda item to the very end of the agenda.

// In the matter of Recognitions, Mayor Reed presented the Nurse Practitioner Week Proclamation. Liz Melcher, Lynchburg Chapter President of the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners, and Allison Helgeson, fellow Nurse Practitioner, were present to accept the proclamation.

// In the matter of Recognitions, Mayor Reed presented the GIS Day Proclamation. Allison Johnson, GIS Manager, accepted the proclamation.

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #3, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-24-080 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating $4,434,217 to hire (21) twenty-one firefighters with the Lynchburg Fire Department.

Councilmember Helgeson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt Resolution #R-24-080.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #4, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-24-081 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating $95,000 to expand substance abuse treatment capacity in the Lynchburg Adult Drug Court.

Councilmember Helgeson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt Resolution #R-24-081.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #5, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-24-082 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating $45,266 for support of the Drug/Recovery Court docket by enhancing testing.

Councilmember Helgeson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt Resolution #R-24-082.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #6, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-24-083 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating $500,000 to enhance the criminal justice response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in the City of Lynchburg.

Councilmember Helgeson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt Resolution #R-24-083.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder	7
Noes:	0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #7, Councilmember Helgeson requested to defer approval of the October 22, 2024 meeting minutes to the December 10 meeting to review a clarification. There was a consensus from Council.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #8, the Consuella Jordan was not present to address Council.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #9, Citizen Jeremy Rowlett, representing Big Toe Towing LLC, addressed Council regarding the City of Lynchburg going to towing rotation for accidents. He stated that Big Toe Towing was capable of participating in a tow rotation, as they had contracted previously with the state police. He said that all drivers had a DAD license, accident response training, and vehicle recovery training.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #10, Citizen Susan Stengel addressed Council regarding misogyny by members of City Council. She outlined the instances of misogyny directed at Mayor Reed and Councilmember Dolan. She said that the men on Council should lead by example, not by their present and past behavior.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #11, Citizen Michael Bremer addressed Council regarding moving forward in Lynchburg. He advocated for focusing on local issues rather than national political concerns.

// In the matter of City Council, Agenda Item #12, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-24-085 to establish the Lifelong Learning Committee of the City of Lynchburg, Virginia. Mayor Reed stated that the item was presented to Council during Business Item Briefings at the September 10, 2024 meeting.

The Committee will provide collaborative review, analysis, and recommendations that support high-quality public education for all residents of the City of Lynchburg. The Committee will meet monthly, or at the discretion of the Co-Chairs, to work on topics including, but not limited to the following:

- Fiscal clarity
- Capital construction and improvement projects,
- Student enrollment and population, school zoning,
- Talent management and resources, and
- Instructional excellence.

The committee will be composed of three members from each governing body, with the Mayor and School Board Chair serving as ex-officio members. The Mayor and School Board Chair will be responsible for appointing the three members from each of the respective bodies.

Vice Mayor Faraldi motioned, seconded by Mayor Reed, to adopt Resolution #R-24-085.

Vice Mayor Faraldi stated that the committee served as an effort between Council and the School Board to improve communication between the bodies.

Mayor Reed stated that the resolution was supported by both the chair and vice-chair of the School Board, as well as the deputy superintendent.

Councilmember Helgeson noted that the current the joint meeting with the School Board had been canceled without rescheduling. He suggested that Council should hold regular meetings with the School Board instead of creating the committee. He said that Council should wait until the new Councilmembers took their seats to approve the committee, and he would be voting against the present motion.

Vice Mayor Faraldi clarified that the most recently scheduled meeting with the School Board was canceled because the chair was hospitalized, the superintendent resigned, and the deputy superintendent indicated he would not be present for the meeting, so there was no one to guide the discussion on the School Board's 49-page presentation on maintenance needs. He said that the committee meetings would increase transparency because they would be open to the public and held monthly, and it would only serve in an advisory capacity.

Councilmember Dolan suggested adding parent representatives to serve on the committee.

Councilmember Misjuns asked if the interim superintendent supported the creation of the committee. City Manager Mr. Wynter Benda said that they did not request the interim superintendent's opinion, but he had been informed about the committee.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Helgeson, to table the matter until the first regular meeting of Council in January.

Councilmember Wilder said that he supported the idea of having parents serve on the committee, and he would not support the substitute motion.

Councilmember Helgeson said that tabling the item would allow the new councilmembers to have a say in whether the committee should exist.

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the substitute motion:

Ayes: Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor	3
Noes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Wilder	4

Vice Mayor Faraldi proffered an amendment to the original motion to make the effective date January 14, 2025. Mayor Reed seconded the amendment.

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the amended motion:

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Taylor, Wilder	5

Noes: Helgeson, Misjuns 2

// In the matter of Towing and Recovery Operations, Agenda Item #13, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-24-086 approving either Option A, Option B, or Option C related to the City’s Towing and Vehicle Recovery Services Contract. Mayor Reed stated that the item was tabled at the October 8, 2024 meeting.

The City's towing and vehicle recovery services contract with Bee Line Transport, Inc. reached the end of its renewal year options and needed to be re-solicited. This contract is primarily used for City-owned fleet vehicles, including Refuse Trucks and Fire apparatus, and Lynchburg Police Department initiated tows. It also covers towing of derelict vehicles requested by Community Development. The Towing Advisory Board convened to finalize the scope of services and terms of a request for proposals which was then posted on May 14, 2024 with all proposals due by June 13, 2024. Three proposals were received - Bee Line Transport, Cash's Garage, and Mitchell's Towing and Recovery.

An evaluation subcommittee composed of four Board members was established to review all proposals and bring forth their observations to the full Board. The full Board then performed site visits to examine facilities, operations, and equipment. There was full consensus to bring forth a recommendation to City Council to award the contract to Bee Line Transport.

Based on direction of City Council, three options were brought back for review and they are now included:

• Option A: Consideration of adopting Resolution #R-24-__ approving the City's award and execution of a Towing and Vehicle Recovery Services Contract with Bee Line Transport, Inc. as provided in the City's Request for Proposal 2024-058.

• Option B: Consideration of adopting Resolution #R-24-__ approving the City's award and execution of a Towing and Vehicle Recovery Services Contract with Bee Line Transport, Inc. as provided in the City's Request for Proposal 2024-058, but for a three (3) year term.

• Option C: Consideration of adopting Resolution #R-24-__ to direct (i) the issuance of a Request for Proposals specific to a City Towing and Vehicle Recovery Services contract, with uniform rates, to a single provider for the towing of City-owned vehicles, inoperative vehicles, and police-initiated tows resulting in impoundment, and (ii) the development of a separate Request for Proposals specific to multiple City towing and recovery service contracts, with rotations and uniform rates, for all other police-initiated tows of privately-owned vehicles.

Vice Mayor Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt Option A, Resolution #R-24-86.

Vice Mayor Faraldi said that he had full faith and confidence in the bid process, and choosing an option other than Option A would be detrimental to the integrity of the RFP process.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about not having a copy of the towing contract because he could not make a decision on the terms and he did not know what fees citizens would be charged. Deputy City Manager Mr. Greg Patrick explained that they typically developed the full contract after Council voted to award it.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Taylor, Wilder	6
Noes: Misjuns	1

// In the matter of Horizon Behavioral Health, Agenda Item #14, Council conducted a first reading of Resolution #R-24-087 amending the FY 2025 General Fund budget and appropriating $2,153,628 to provide additional funding for site acquisition and renovation costs for the Horizon Crisis Receiving Center (CRC). Mayor Reed stated that the item was presented to Council during the Business Item Briefings at the earlier session.

Last year, Horizon Behavioral Health requested the City partner in a new Crisis Receiving Center (CRC). The CRC would benefit the City and surrounding localities' public safety staff by providing a detoxification and stabilization facility for citizens with acute opioid disorders.

At the time, Horizon had a shortfall of $4.1 million. Their request was that the City commit to funding this shortfall. City staff, in cooperation with Campbell County, submitted a grant application to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority for $1,946,372 to contribute towards the site acquisition and renovation costs for Horizon's CRC. Council unanimously authorized the City Manager to execute all documents in connection with the grant, and set aside up to $4.1 million for the CRC. The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority grant was awarded and appropriated. The $4.1 million was reduced by the grant award of $1,946,372.

Vice Mayor Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt Resolution #R-24-087.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder	7
Noes:	0

// In the matter of Budget, Agenda Item #15, Council conducted a second reading and adopted Ordinance #O-24-078 approving the FY 2025 First Quarter Adjustments. The General, City/Federal/State Aid, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Forfeited Assets, Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Regional Juvenile Detention Center, Technology, Fleet Services, as well as the City Capital Projects and Airport Capital/Grant Projects Funds are amended to reflect the FY 2025 First Quarter Adjustments.

Vice Mayor Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt Ordinance #O-24-078.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder	7
Noes:	0

// In the matter of Business, Agenda Item #16, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-24-088 approving the 2025 Legislative Agenda.

Mayor Reed stated that Council would proceed through the list of recommendations given during the evening's Work Session and vote on whether to include or remove the item from the legislative agenda.

Mayor Reed requested a motion on the addition of support for school choice funding.

Councilmember Helgeson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to adopt support for school choice into the legislative agenda.

Councilmember Helgeson said that school choice allowed parents the ability to pick which schools their children would attend, and it made sense to fund those choices with the money that would normally be allocated to public schools.

Councilmember Misjuns said that tax dollars should follow the students to the schools that they attended.

Councilmember Dolan said she supported school choice, but she did not support using tax dollars for private schools. She noted that a majority of the private schools in the City were religious schools, and she was concerned about the separation of church and state.

Councilmember Wilder said that he did not support the motion because it was another method to defund the school system.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor	5
Noes: Dolan, Wilder	2

Mayor Reed requested a motion on the addition of support for elected school boards.

Vice Mayor Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, to adopt support for elected school boards into the legislative agenda.

Councilmember Helgeson expressed concerns about an elected school board. He noted the lack of taxing authority, and the 3-year terms would make election cycles confusing. He said that he did not support the motion.

Councilmember Misjuns said that he would not support the motion because he did not want to see further political polarization of the School Board.

Vice Mayor Faraldi said that schools were already politicized, and the City was one of only a few remaining jurisdictions that still appointed school board members, a process held over from the Byrd political era.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Taylor	3
Noes: Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Wilder	4

Mayor Reed noted that there was consensus from Council to adjust the wording from the Mental Health item to remove the verbiage “any and all”.

Mayor Reed requested a motion on the removal of the item regarding the felony status of willfully discharging firearms in public spaces.

Chief Zuidema explained that currently, willfully discharging firearms in public spaces was a Class 6 Felony if it caused an injury and a Class 1 Misdemeanor otherwise. He said that the discharge had to be willful. He said that this item would serve as another tool for the City to address unlawful discharges. He explained that the Commonwealth's Attorney had the discretion to not pursue charges under this code section.

Vice Mayor Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to deny removal of the item from the legislative agenda.

Councilmember Wilder said that this would provide police with more resources to address unlawful discharges.

Councilmember Helgeson said that he wanted the police to focus on people who were intentionally trying to cause harm. He said that if someone accidentally discharged a weapon and no one was harmed, then it should not be a felony.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about charging people with felonies who accidentally discharged their weapon.

Councilmember Taylor said that he was concerned about the gunshots he often heard outside of his home. He said that the police needed tools to be able to address the gunshots.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Taylor, Wilder	5
Noes: Helgeson, Misjuns	2

Mayor Reed requested a motion on whether to remove the item related to the emergency suspension of ABC licenses after an act of violence involving a firearm in the establishment.

Vice Mayor Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to retain the item in the legislative agenda.

Councilmember Helgeson said that this item would hurt businesses and employees because it would require establishments to close for 14 days. He said that they should instead target the individuals who committed the crime rather than business owners.

Councilmember Misjuns said that this item could harm businesses even if the crime did not happen within the building because the law applied to acts immediately adjacent to the establishment. He said that he did not support closing a business for 14 days if the business was not directly involved. He said that he supported making it easier for police officers to do their job.

Vice Mayor Faraldi asked if the policy would require businesses to shutdown entirely. Mr. Freedman replied that it would not. Mayor Reed clarified that the policy would only suspend the ABC license for up to 14 days. She said that food sales could continue, but alcoholic beverage sales would be suspended.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Taylor, Wilder	5
Noes: Helgeson, Misjuns	2

Mayor Reed requested a motion on whether to remove the item related to the literacy program.

Mayor Reed explained that there were hundreds of students in LCS reading below grade level, and the item would advocate for allocating funds to provide a full-time reading teacher for middle school and high school.

Councilmember Misjuns asked what was preventing the City from staffing that position now. Mayor Reed said that there was currently not enough funding to staff the reading teacher positions, so the item would advocate for additional funds from the state.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to retain the literacy program item in the legislative agenda.

Councilmember Helgeson suggested amending the language of the item to make the request clearer. He said that he would support the motion.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder	7
Noes:	0

Mayor Reed requested a motion on the addition of the item related to the political party affiliation ballot identifier.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Helgeson, to adopt the item into the legislative agenda, using the same language as the previous year.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor	5

Noes: Dolan, Wilder 2

Mayor Reed requested a motion on the adoption of the legislative agenda.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Helgeson, to adopt the legislative agenda.

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

Ayes: Reed, Faraldi, Dolan, Helgeson, Misjuns, Taylor, Wilder 7

Noes: 0

// The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Clerk of Council