

January 14, 2025

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 14th day of January, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Larry Taylor, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

Present: Larry Taylor, Curt Diemer, Stephanie Reed, Chris Faraldi, Sterling A. Wilder,

Martin Misjuns, Jacqueline Timmer 7

Absent: 0

// In the matter of Work Session Agenda Overview, City Manager Wynter Benda informed Council that the closed session item, Agenda Item #5, *“Consideration of closed meeting to discuss the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; the topic of the closed session being specific to granting a City franchise”*, would be rescheduled to the January 28 meeting. Director of Public Works Gaynelle Hart provided a pop-up presentation regarding how the City prepared for emergency weather events. Mr. Benda provided a pop-up presentation on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Calendar and outlined the upcoming meeting schedule. He noted that there was consensus from Council to schedule a joint meeting with the School Board on February 11 at the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance.

// In the matter of Public Health, Agenda Item #1, Council held a work session on the Warming Center and Sheltering Update. Assistant City Manager Kent White provided the update to Council. During the January 23, 2024 work session, the Virginia Continuum of Care briefed Council on the state of homelessness in Central Virginia. City staff also reviewed the operations of a temporary warming center which operated last January and has opened several times during this winter to assist un-housed residents during extremely cold evenings. Staff will provide an update on the work that is ongoing and what Council and the community can expect in the coming months.

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Councilmember Wilder said that if the City required additional bed space, the gym at Jubilee Family Development Center was an available resource with showers.

// In the matter of the Comprehensive Plan, Agenda Item #2, Council held a work session on the Comprehensive Plan Update. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided the update to Council. For the past year, representatives from The Berkley Group have been engaging with City Council, Planning Commission, our community and staff to update Lynchburg's Comprehensive Plan. Staff will provide an overview of the update process and next steps.

Councilmember Wilder asked if they were in discussions with other stakeholders regarding housing needs, like area colleges and universities. Ms. Frischeisen said that they engaged stakeholders in the focus group stage during Phase 1, and they discussed economic development, housing, and other topics. City Manager Mr. Benda said that through the EDA, they worked with developers to determine growth areas and receive feedback.

Councilmember Misjuns clarified that there were only 257 participants in the Community Engagement survey on the Lynchburg Together website. Ms. Frischeisen replied that was correct, and the low participation was why there were other avenues to participate in the process. She said public workshops were conducted during Phase 1 to facilitate in-person discussions, they conducted focus groups, and they coordinated presentations with the budget team during budget pop-up presentations. She said that once the final plan was drafted, there would be an open-house event and an online comment period.

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #3, Council was briefed regarding the 2810 Campbell Avenue - Conditional Use Permit (CUP) - Multi-Family Dwelling. Mayor Taylor stated that the item would appear before Council for action at the January 28 meeting. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided the briefing to Council. Juan F. Chicas is petitioning for a CUP to allow the use of an existing structure as a three (3) unit multi-family dwelling in a B-1, Limited Business District at 2810 Campbell Avenue.

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The property is zoned B-1, Limited Business District. In this district, single-household dwellings are permitted by-right and multi-family dwellings are permitted upon approval of a CUP by Council. The Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030 Future Land Use Map (FLUM) recommends Mixed Use for the subject property. These areas call for a balanced mix of residential, neighborhood commercial, civic uses, parks, and open spaces. The existing structure was previously used for commercial purposes and is adjoined by residential uses and parking.

On June 28, 2024, a verbal warning was issued and a stop work order was placed on the property for the conversion of the property into multiple residential units without a CUP or building permits. At the time of the stop work order, two (2) dwelling units had already been installed and a third unit was in progress. A notice of violation was issued on July 29, 2024, and the Zoning Division was preparing to pursue the violation in court prior to the submittal of the CUP petition. The units constructed without permits would be subject to applicable building code requirements.

The use of the existing building as a three (3) unit multi-family dwelling should have limited impact on the surrounding area. Approval of the CUP petition would allow for two (2) additional residential units without altering the zoning. This would preserve the opportunity for future commercial uses to occupy the space.

Councilmember Faraldi asked if there were other examples from the corridor where they had converted a storefront property into a residential use. Ms. Frischeisen said that she could not recall an example, but she would follow up with more information. Councilmember Faraldi said that he did not support residential development in B1 zoning, and he suggested that Council should include residential limits in B1 zoning during the comprehensive plan update.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about the lack of egress from the buildings and emergency access to the site.

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Councilmember Wilder asked if adjoining property owners had submitted comments. Ms. Frischeisen said that they did not receive any correspondence, and there were no speakers at the Planning Commission hearing. Councilmember Wilder stated that there is a lot of mixed-use in the Campbell Avenue corridor.

// In the matter of the Lynchburg Police Department, Agenda Item #4, Council was briefed regarding the City-Wide Youth Curfew. Deputy Chief of Police Ken Edwards provided the briefing to Council.

- The City-Wide Youth Curfew ordinance expired on January 1, 2025.
- The Lynchburg Police Department (LPD) has been collecting data on the curfew since it began on May 26, 2023.
- As of December 31, 2024, forty-nine (49) individuals have been charged with violating the curfew.
- The curfew continues to provide another tool for officers to address delinquent behavior.

Councilmember Faraldi asked how many individuals had been found guilty of violating the curfew. Deputy Chief Edwards said that he did not have figures related to the disposition of the cases. Councilmember Faraldi asked how many of the 49 individuals were charged since January 2024. Deputy Chief Edwards replied that he did not have the exact number, but it was only a few. Councilmember Faraldi said that only three people had been charged since January 2024. Councilmember Faraldi asked why the request was to extend the curfew from six months to one year. Deputy Chief Edwards said that it helped with data collection. He said that the curfew allowed officers to detain people suspected of being under the age of 18 based on suspicion of violating the curfew. He said that without the curfew, any encounter was consensual and voluntary. Councilmember Faraldi said that since January 2024, three people had been stopped, but only one person had been cited. He said that he did not support the

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curfew because the government should not tell parents when children should be wearing masks and when they should be home. He said that the data did not warrant another extension, and he opposed any further extension.

Councilmember Wilder asked if they had received any negative comments from community members or parents regarding the curfew. Deputy Chief Edwards replied that they had not. Councilmember Wilder said he supported extending the curfew because it provided the police department additional resources to address issues in the community.

Councilmember Misjuns asked if officers had observed more juveniles out during curfew hours since it had expired on January 1. Deputy Chief Edwards said that he had not seen an increase, but that may be due to the weather or that people did not know it had expired. Councilmember Misjuns stated that if there a 6 month expiration would take this into the summer, and that's not good because crime tends to go up in the summer. Councilmember Misjuns said he had heard from several community members who supported the curfew. He said that they needed to find ways to address truancy, as well.

Councilmember Timmer suggested changing the language from parents "encouraging or allowing" a minor to break the curfew to "facilitating" breaking the curfew. She said that there may be instances where a minor goes out after curfew against the parents' permission. City Attorney Matthew Freedman explained that the ordinance as written allowed an officer to exercise discretion when charging parents, especially if the minor snuck out or went against the parent's permission. Councilmember Timmer said she believed amending the language would reduce ambiguity in the ordinance. She said that the curfew was not meant to be a long-term solution, and she was concerned about the 12-month timeframe. She said she had received concerns from community members about how the curfew was impacting youth in the City. She said supported either a three-month or six-month timeframe to provide the opportunity to look at other solutions.

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Councilmember Reed stated that the curfew was first implemented as a response to the death of three children. She said she was not concerned about the language of the ordinance.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he supported the extension. He asked if any parents had been charged under the curfew ordinance. Deputy Chief Edwards replied that parents had been charged, and he would follow up with the correct figures. He said that the curfew was a tool for parents in addition to law enforcement. Vice Mayor Diemer said that he would also support a six-month extension if Council did not want to adopt the year-long extension.

Mr. Freedman asked if there was consensus from Council to amend Item C from "knowingly permit, allow, or encourage" to "knowingly facilitate, allow, or encourage". Councilmember Misjuns, Councilmember Timmer, Vice Mayor Diemer, and Mayor Taylor supported amending the language.

City Manager Mr. Wynter Benda asked if there was consensus from Council to include the item under General Business at the 7 p.m. meeting. Councilmember Faraldi said that he did not support adding the item to the evening agenda. Mr. Freedman explained that if the ordinance was not approved at the evening meeting, then the effective date would have to be moved to a later date to accommodate City Charter requirements. He said that the Charter required a minimum of 30 days advertisement for ordinances that imposed certain penalties on the public. He explained that Council could vote on the ordinance at the evening session, but it would have to suspend the rules of procedure to include it on the agenda. Mr. Benda recommended adding the item to the January 28 meeting agenda under General Business. Mayor Taylor stated that there was consensus to include the ordinance on the January 28 agenda under General Business.

// In the matter of Roll Call, Councilmember Faraldi reiterated his request for speed bumps in Richland Hills. He requested Council hold a conversation regarding speeding on Enterprise Drive. He stated that the General Assembly was considering legislation related to collective bargaining, but it was not addressed in the City's legislative agenda. He explained that the

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legislation would remove Council's discretion to adopt collective bargaining and would require the City to enter into collective bargaining if certain conditions were met. He requested that Council take an official stance regarding the legislation considering its implications. He said that the General Assembly voted to adopt House Joint Resolution 1, adding a constitutional amendment related to abortion. He said that Council had a duty to take an official stance against the resolution, because they should recognize the sanctity of life in the City.

Councilmember Reed reflected on the deaths of Malaysia Solomon, Terrion Marshall, and Kingston Campbell. She said that she started the 40 Ways Coalition in response to their deaths. She said that they were still awaiting closure on Terrion's and Kingston's deaths. She noted that there were several unsolved cases in the City, but these children's deaths were particularly devastating. She said that the coalition was having its first meeting of the year on January 27, and they met the fourth Monday of every month. She said that the meeting location was at the Miller Center. She said that meetings were open to anyone, and they focused on non-profits, organizations, and individuals working to keep youth in the City safe, and they focused on prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation. She said that encouraged the community to join the discussion.

Councilmember Wilder announced that the Martin Luther King Breakfast would be hosted on Monday at 8:30 a.m. at the Bella Vista Hotel, and it was sponsored by the Martin Luther King Commission. He said that it was a time to come together and support unity. He said that a 16 year-old was killed last Thursday by a gunshot wound, and he offered his prayers to the family. He offered his prayers to the family of WSET-TV Anchor Mark Spain who died from pancreatic cancer. He commended the police department for the arrest of three suspects in a recent murder.

Councilmember Timmer thanked the frontline workers for responding to the winter weather.

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Councilmember Misjuns congratulated the LCA Bulldog football team for winning the VHSL State Championship. He said that the team should be invited to a Council meeting to be recognized. He said that he used to play on the LCA football team. He said that, regarding HJ-1, Northern Virginia Democrats should not be dictating how the City should treat life. He said that Council should consider options, via zoning ordinances and land use, to protect life in the City. He said that Council never voted on removing or restructuring the Office of DEI into the Office of Civil Rights. He said that he wanted to review how the City was approaching DEI, because he was aware there were committees, and it was part of the EEO plan. He said that the City needed to start considering higher standards, merit, excellence, and opportunity for the workforce.

Vice Mayor Diemer congratulated the LCA football team on winning the VHSL State Championship. He expressed his gratitude for the winter weather response from the City. He thanked the police department for its work on the murder in Ward III and charging three suspects. He thanked his fellow councilmembers for making him feel welcome, and he looked forward to working with them.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for working with him in preparing to lead the meeting. He thanked Clerk of Council Alicia Finney, City Attorney Matthew Freedman, and City Manager Wynter Benda. He thanked Council for supporting him. He said that after talking with several community members, he brought up the possibility of establishing a permanent curfew. He said that older citizens wanted the curfew to be permanent because they were afraid to be out in the evening.

// On the motion of Councilmember Wilder, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, by the following recorded vote, Council elected to hold a closed meeting to discuss appointments to the Community Development Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 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:

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Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 7

Noes: 0

// The meeting was reopened to the public.

// Councilmember Misjuns 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: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 7

Noes: 0

// On motion of Councilmember Misjuns, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council by the following recorded vote appointed the Councilmember Sterling Wilder as a Chair and Councilmember Jacqueline Timmer as Vice Chair of the Community Development Advisory Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2025.

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 7

Noes: 0

// The meeting recessed at 5:48 p.m.

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// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 14th day of January, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Larry Taylor, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

Present: Larry Taylor, Curt Diemer, Stephanie Reed, Chris Faraldi, Sterling A. Wilder, Martin Misjuns, Jacqueline Timmer	7
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Absent:	0
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Councilmember Timmer led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// In the matter of the Items Not on the Agenda, Vice Mayor Diemer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to amend the agenda to add Shawn Hunter, representing the Peacemakers, to Public Comment. Mayor Taylor stated there was consensus from Council to accept the amendment.

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #1, the minutes of the November 19, 2024 Legislative Dinner meeting were pulled by the Clerk for correction.

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #2, copies of the minutes of the December 10, 2024 City Council meeting were previously furnished to Council, and on the motion of Councilmember Faraldi, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council, by the following recorded vote, approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Taylor, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder, Misjuns	5
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Noes:	0
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Abstain: Diemer, Timmer	2
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// In the matter of Consent, Agenda Item #3, copies of the minutes of the January 3, 2025 Mayoral Election meeting were previously furnished to Council, and on the motion of Councilmember Misjuns, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council, by the following recorded vote, approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder, Timmer, Misjuns	7
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Noes:	0
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// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #4, Council held a public hearing in consideration of adopting Ordinance #O-25-001 approving the rezoning of 2712 Concord Turnpike and a portion of 118/120 Spinoza Circle to allow for the construction of a residential subdivision. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided a summary of the request to Council. Michael L. Dillard is petitioning to rezone approximately four and fifty-four hundredths (4.54) acres from R-2, Low-Medium Density Residential District to R-3C, Medium Density Residential District (Conditional) at 2712 Concord Turnpike and 118/120 Spinoza Circle to allow the construction of a residential subdivision with single-household detached homes.

The property is recommended for Low Density Residential Use on the City's Future Land Use Map (FLUM). These areas are dominated by single family detached housing at densities of up to four (4) dwelling units per acre. Proffers indicate that the property will be subdivided to accommodate up to twenty-two (22) single-household detached homes. The density of the proposed development is similar to that which is recommended by the FLUM.

The proposed development of single-family homes would also adjoin other single-family lots and would align with the development recommendations of the Tyreeanna & Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Plan.

Amy Seipp, Accupoint Surveying and Design, representing the petitioner, provided a presentation to Council. She said that the project would be affordable to build, so they were hopeful that they could make the units affordable to families.

There was no one to speak in favor or opposition, either by phone or in-person, so the public hearing was closed and the matter rested with Council.

Councilmember Wilder motioned, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to adopt Ordinance #O-25-001.

Councilmember Wilder said that the project represented gradual development for the area. He noted that the Tyreeanna area was an untapped resource in the community, and he was excited to see developers move into the area.

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Councilmember Misjuns said he hoped to see more projects in the area in the future.

Councilmember Timmer motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to call the question.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #5, Council held a public hearing in consideration of adopting a resolution amending the Future Land Use Map (FLUM), and; adopting an ordinance approving a rezoning, and; adopting a resolution approving a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow the construction of eighteen (18) townhomes, one (1) duplex, and associated parking at 3142, 3146, and 3150 Wards Ferry Road. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided a summary of the request. Timberlake Investments, LLC is petitioning to amend the FLUM, to rezone, and for a CUP to allow the construction of eighteen (18) townhomes, one (1) duplex, and associated parking at 3142, 3146, and 3150 Wards Ferry Road.

The petitioner initially wanted to develop townhomes at this location, but did not have enough acreage to meet the two (2) acre minimum and chose to pursue a twenty-four (24) unit apartment complex instead. That petition was withdrawn prior to the City Council public hearing in October 2023 to again explore the possibility of townhomes. The Board of Zoning Appeals approved a variance on May 30, 2024, to reduce the minimum acreage needed for a townhouse development in this instance.

The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) recommends a Neighborhood Commercial use for 3146 and 3150 Wards Ferry Road properties. These areas consist primarily of office, retail, personal service and restaurant uses that are scaled and designed to be compatible with and serve their immediate neighborhood. The petitioner proposes to amend the FLUM from Neighborhood Commercial to Medium Density Residential. These areas include small-lot single family detached housing, duplexes and townhomes at densities up to twelve (12) units per acre.

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The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) already recommends a Medium Density Residential use for 3142 Wards Ferry Road.

The proposed townhomes would serve as a transition between the commercially-zoned properties on the opposite side of Copley Place and the single household residences on Adams Drive.

Due to the location near the intersection of Wards Ferry and Timberlake Roads, Copley Place should be restricted to right-in, right-out turning movements due to safety concerns, as noted by the Transportation Engineer. This has been recommended as a condition of the Conditional Use Permit. It is likely that improvements to Copley Place to limit turning movements to right-in, right-out only would be required at the site plan phase of a by-right development at this location as well.

The Wards Ferry Road Corridor Study was adopted by City Council on January 14, 2014. The plan recommended "revising study forecasts if land use development policies in the corridor area are modified to accommodate an increase in dwelling units" and that "It is likely that an increase in density will generate traffic volumes that would need a widened Wards Ferry Road to provide adequate service levels." However, uses such as offices, could be permitted by-right in the existing B-1, Limited Business District zoning that may generate more traffic than the proposed twenty (20) units.

Norm Walton, Perkins and Orrison, representing the petitioner, provided a presentation to Council. He stated that townhomes were the best use for the property because they provided a means of homeownership for City residents. He noted traffic concerns, but compared to a commercial development on the site, the proposed use would generate fewer trips.

Mayor Taylor opened the floor for public input; there was no one to speak in favor.

Rex Hammond, speaking in opposition, requested Council to require a comprehensive traffic study before approving the development. He expressed concerns about the traffic impact

on Wards Ferry Road, which already lacked adequate infrastructure for the current traffic volume.

Bevin Alexander, an attorney representing Angela Gupta and Sashi Lata, adjacent property owners, speaking in opposition, expressed concerns about traffic safety. He explained that entering and exiting the proposed development would be difficult and dangerous. He said that a traffic study was necessary to determine the impacts of the development, and he requested that Council require a study before approving the development.

Paul McDaniel, adjacent property owner, speaking in opposition, expressed concerns about traffic safety. He said that the development would have negative impacts on the tenants of his property.

Atul Gupta, speaking in opposition, expressed concerns about traffic safety. He requested that Council require a traffic study to address the safety issues.

Mayor Taylor offered the petitioner time for a rebuttal to public input.

Mr. Walton explained that the project did not require a traffic study because of its size. He noted that the City had long-term plans for traffic improvements on Wards Ferry Road, and it was not the responsibility of the developer to solve those traffic issues.

The public hearing was closed and the matter rested with Council.

Vice Mayor Diemer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to table the matter until a comprehensive traffic study was conducted.

Vice Mayor Diemer said that traffic safety was one of his top priorities, and since the area had three major roads converge, Wards Ferry, the expressway, and Timberlake Road, and Heritage High School was located nearby, the development deserved a traffic study.

Councilmember Faraldi asked for clarification about the process for requiring a traffic study. He asked who would fund the traffic study and how it would be implemented. He said he was concerned about the financial impact on the developer. Mr. Walton said that the cost of a traffic study would depend on the scope, but if it was limited to the parcel and the intersection,

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the cost would range from \$6,000 to \$10,000. He noted that if it were to include the signalized intersection at Timberlake Road, the cost could increase to \$20,000.

Councilmember Faraldi asked if there were concerns over requiring a traffic study when they did not typically require it of other developers. City Attorney Matthew Freedman said he had some concerns. He suggested that instead of tabling the matter and requiring a traffic study, the motion should be amended to defer the matter to a date specific and have the petitioner and staff work to address concerns.

Councilmember Reed asked what the developer would do if the petition was denied. Mr. Walton said that they had not discussed that as a group. He said they had discussed the viability of a commercial development, and they did not believe it would be successful. He said that they would likely sell the property if the petition was denied. He said that the developer would prefer a decision at the hearing, but they were amenable to a deferment to keep the petition moving forward.

Councilmember Misjuns asked for a friendly amendment to the motion to defer the matter for two months so the petitioner and staff can work to address concerns brought up during the hearing. Vice Mayor Diemer and Councilmember Timmer accepted the amendment.

Councilmember Timmer requested that staff's assessment of the traffic conditions include the high school carpool lanes and bus traffic.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer 5

Noes: Faraldi, Wilder 2

City Manager Wynter Benda suggested that the PDC receive a preliminary report from staff regarding the development as they worked with the petitioner. Councilmember Faraldi advised that the matter should not be presented to PDC, as a recommendation from the committee would not require a second. He suggested that the report from staff should be sent via a memo.

// In the Planning of Zoning, Agenda Item #6, Council held a public hearing in consideration of adopting Resolution #R-25-002 approving a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a K-12 private school with a maximum of seventy (70) students at 742 Leesville Road. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided a summary of the request to Council. NSS Propco, LLC, d/b/a Rivermont School, is petitioning for a CUP to allow the use of an existing structure as a K-12 private school in an R-1, Low Density Residential District at 742 Leesville Road.

Private schools are permitted in the R-1, Low Density Residential District upon approval of a CUP by City Council. The Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030 Future Land Use Map (FLUM) recommends an Institution use for the subject property. Private schools are consistent with this recommendation. Public school transportation will be utilized for most of the students attending this facility. The reuse of the existing structure as a private school should have limited impact on the surrounding area.

Jamey White, White Engineering and Design, representing the petitioner, provided a presentation to Council. He explained that the exterior of the building would not change, and there was more parking than needed for their use. He said they performed a traffic analysis for the project, including an analysis of the morning peak traffic with left- and right-hand turn lane warrants. He noted that the afternoon traffic for the school did not align with the general afternoon peak traffic flow. He said that the turn lane warrants were below the required threshold. He explained the school provided a service for students in need of alternate education, particular for students with autism. He said that the school had outgrown its current facility and needed room to expand.

Audrey Daniel, Principal of Rivermont North School, speaking in favor, addressed the school's positive impact on the community and the need for additional space.

Dr. Beth White, Ward III, speaking in favor, spoke about her experience working with Dr. Ackerman and students with special needs. She asked Council to approve the petition so the school could help more children in the City.

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Beth Ackerman, Senior Vice President of Rivermont Schools, speaking in favor, said that they had outgrown the current facility, and they needed more space in order to provide additional programs.

Katie Lee, a parent of a student at Rivermont School, speaking in favor, addressed the need for a new facility and the need for additional outdoor space.

There was no one to speak in opposition, either by phone or in-person, so the public hearing was closed and the matter rested with Council.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt Resolution #R-25-002.

Councilmember Misjuns said he supported the petition and hoped that Council approved the request unanimously.

Councilmember Wilder said he appreciated the work done by the Rivermont School, and he supported its expansion.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #7, Citizen Jamie Maxwell, representing the Lynchburg Firefighters Association, addressed Council regarding welcoming new councilmembers. He said that the fire department required 24 additional staff immediately, better pay and benefits to attract firefighters, and replacement equipment through the Striker Plan.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Item Not on the Agenda, Citizen Shawn Hunter, representing the Peacemakers, addressed Council regarding the City-wide youth curfew. He said that since 2023, the Peacemakers had found full-time jobs for 66 young men and installed 88 cameras for residents free of charge. He spoke in support of the curfew.

// The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

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Clerk of Council