February 25, 2025

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 25th day of February, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Training Room, City Hall, Larry Taylor, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

Present: Larry Taylor, Curt Diemer, Sterling A. Wilder, Chris Faraldi, Stephanie Reed, Martin Misjuns, Jacqueline Timmer 7

Absent: 0

// In the matter of the Budget, Agenda Item #1, Council conducted a work session regarding the Presentation of the FY 2026 - 2030 Capital Improvement Program - City and Schools. City Manager Wynter Benda gave opening remarks. Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt provided the presentation on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process and how it is funded. Ms. Witt highlighted City and Schools capital projects that are proposed as part of the FY 2026 - 2030 CIP funded by the general fund.

Councilmember Misjuns highlighted that the costs for the downtown streetscape have increased.

Data Analyst Shaun Conway introduced the CIP Dashboard and reviewed how to use it.

Councilmember Misjuns asked if revenues could be included on the dashboard. Mr. Conway said that the dashboard currently only focused on the CIP, but revenues could be considered for a future iteration.

Vice Mayor Diemer suggested including a feedback link on the dashboard, along with an option to save favorite sections for easier access.

// In the matter of the General Registrar Office, Agenda Item #2, Council was briefed regarding Polling Place Changes: Third Precinct of Second Ward & First Precinct of Third Ward. The matter will appear before Council for action at the March 11, 2025 meeting. Registrar Daniel Pense reviewed the request. On March 11, 2025, the Lynchburg City Council, after a public hearing, will be asked to consider the adoption of an ordinance that would 1) change and relocate the polling place of the Third Precinct of the City’s Second Ward from the Jubilee Family Development Center, 1512 Florida Avenue, to the Greater Brookville Church, 1916 Florida Avenue and would 2) change and relocate the polling place of the First Precinct of the City’s Third Ward from the Lynchburg Public Library, 2315 Memorial Avenue, to the West Lynchburg Baptist Church, 3031 Memorial Avenue. The reasons for the changes being as follows: the Jubilee Family Development Center is no longer available as a polling place for the Third Precinct of the

City's Second Ward, and the West Lynchburg Baptist Church is now available as a polling place for the First Precinct of the City's Third Ward and is preferred because it is located inside the said precinct (versus the Lynchburg Public Library being outside the said precinct). A Certification of No Objection from the Virginia Attorney General's Office will be required for these changes.

Councilmember Faraldi inquired where the proposed changes were approved unanimously by the board. Mr. Pence confirmed the unanimous approval.

Vice Mayor Diemer stated his support for the changes in Ward 3.

Councilmember Wilder noted his conflict due to his employment at Jubilee Family Center and running for office.

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #3, Council was briefed regarding 1600 and 1602 McVeigh Road - Rezoning - Residential. Mayor Taylor stated that the matter will appear before Council for action at the March 11, 2025 meeting. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen presented the item to Council. Deborah H. Dolan is petitioning to rezone approximately one and one hundredth (1.01) acres from R-1, Low Density Residential District to R-2, Low-Medium Density Residential District at 1600 and 1602 McVeigh Road to allow the subdivision of the existing two (2) lots into three (3) lots to allow the construction of a new home. The petitioner previously requested a rezoning from R-1, Low Density Residential District to R-3C, Medium Density Residential District (Conditional) to allow the construction of up to three (3) duplexes. This change would not have aligned with the recommendation for Low Density Residential uses and may have set precedence for further densification in the neighborhood. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the petition to rezone to R-3C. Following the Planning Commission meeting, the petitioner submitted a request to revise the petition for a rezoning to R-2, Low-Medium Density Residential District. Per Sec. 35.2-11.6 (d), City Council may approve a change to a less intensive land use category, zoning district or use.

Rezoning the properties to R-2, Low-Medium Density Residential District would align with the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) recommendation and would allow an additional home to be constructed between the two (2) existing residences. The petitioner anticipates that the new home could have an accessory dwelling unit, if the home is owner-occupied. In the R-2 district, one accessory dwelling unit may be established in addition to the principal dwelling unit on lots on which the owner resides, subject to certain standards.

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #4, Council was briefed regarding 815, 825, 832, 833, 903, 903 A, and 906 Wiggington Road - FLUM & Rezoning - The Village at WestPoint. Mayor Taylor stated that the item will appear before Council at the March 11, 2025 meeting. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen presented the item. JAM89, LLC and Langley Land, LLC are petitioning to amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) from Low Density Residential and Medium Density Residential to High Density Residential and to rezone approximately fifty-three and thirty-three hundredths (53.33) acres from I-3, Heavy Industrial District; R-2, Low-Medium Density Residential District; and R-3C, Medium Density Residential District (Conditional) to R-4C, High Density Residential District (Conditional) to allow the construction of 750 total residential units consisting of condominiums, patio homes, and townhomes with associated parking and amenities located at 815, 825, 832, 833, 903, 903 A, and 906 Wiggington Road.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the petition, citing the need for housing within the City, but noted that approval of the petition would require the allocation of City funds toward road improvements.

The City's Future Land Use Maps (FLUM) recommends Low Density Residential and Medium Density Residential uses for these properties. Low Density Residential uses are dominated by single family detached housing at densities of up to four (4) dwelling units per acre. Medium Density Residential uses are characterized by small-lot single family detached housing, duplexes, and townhouses at densities up to twelve (12) units per acre. The petition proposes to amend the FLUM to High Density Residential. These areas are developed or planned to be developed into high density townhouse or multifamily housing. Densities can range up to thirty (30) units per acre.

The petitioner submitted six (6) proffers, three (3) related to traffic. A traffic study indicates the development will more than double road trips in the area, requiring improvements at three locations: a signal or roundabout at Wigginton and 501 Southbound Ramp, an extended left turning lane at Wigginton and Old Forest Road, and left turn lanes into the site. The proffers presented to the Planning Commission were unclear on timing and the petitioner's commitment to these traffic improvements, raising staff concerns about timing, costs, and completion.

Councilmember Faraldi noted there was a petition attached with the presentation expressing opposition, which was not typical.

Councilmember Timmer asked if there are any ancillary developments were planned due to this project.

Ms. Frischeisen replied that there are none at this time, though a large commercial lot exists across from Wiggington Road that proffers restricted to just an office lot which is not currently in play.

Councilmember Timmer inquired about the precedent for bonding road improvements with development tax dollars specifically for infrastructure. City Manager Wynter Benda responded that he is not aware of any current projects that leverage that. Councilmember Timmer inquired whether tax revenues go directly to the general fund or if they can be earmarked for development areas. Mr. Benda explained that the project must generate revenue to rebuild necessary infrastructure to complete the project. Deputy City Manager Greg Patrick explained how Tax Increment Financing (TIF) typically works, noting that the City doesn't considers TIF for residential projects, as the goal is for growth to support the general fund. Community Development Director Tom Martin provided an example of leveraging TIF in the Rosedale development, a commercial-only project. In that case, an agreement was made to use increased tax revenue for road improvements, with the developer paying upfront and the City reimbursing them.

Councilmember Faraldi pointed to the example of Council suggesting to include regional meal taxes in the legislative agenda, which he believes is somewhat similar.

Ms. Frischeisen clarified that the current discussion in the proffers revolves around a cost-sharing formula between the City and developer, but no specific numbers are available yet.

Councilmember Misjuns asked about the Economic Development Authority's (EDA) involvement, to which Ms. Frischeisen responded that the EDA put out a request for projects and is evaluating the responses.

Councilmember Misjuns further inquired whether the units at The Village at WestPoint would be owner-occupied. Ms. Frischeisen confirmed they would be for sale.

Vice Mayor Diemer questioned whether it's typical for traffic studies to include traffic improvements not directly near the property. Ms. Frischeisen responded that while it's uncommon, this area is unique in that the impacted intersections area is easier to identify given the traffic patterns.

Councilmember Timmer asked about the development timeline, phases, and intersection improvements. Ms. Frischeisen stated the project is expected to span ten years, with construction starting within two years of approval.

// In the matter of Water Resources, Agenda Item #5, Council was briefed regarding Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments - Floodplain Management. Mayor Taylor stated the item will appear before Council for action at the March 11, 2025 meeting. Water Quality Manager Erin Hawkins briefed Council. Sections 35.2-59 et seq. are the portion of the City's Zoning Ordinance that addresses properties that are within (or partially within) a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The attached ordinance establishes what land uses can occur in these areas and the requirements to develop them. The adoption of the proposed ordinance amendments will not substantially change the way that the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) has been managed to date. The proposed amendments can be summarized in three parts:

- Aligning the Flood Hazard Ordinance to the FEMA Model Ordinance ensures consistency in meeting the National Flood Insurance Program requirements. Continued participation in the NFIP by the City is important so that property owners can purchase flood insurance to protect improvements located on the properties whether they are within or outside of the SFHA.
- The current ordinance restricts allowable uses of property located in a regulatory floodway by a Conditional Use Permit to that of marinas, boat rentals, docks, piers, and wharves. Unless otherwise prohibited by the amended ordinance, the underlying zoning would control the permissible uses in the regulatory floodway. This would allow for several properties to become eligible for adaptive reuse, whereas the current ordinance prohibits other underlying uses.
- The current freeboard requirement for flood-proofing structures is twelve inches (12”) above the Base Flood Elevation and is proposed to be increased to eighteen inches (18”). Freeboard is "a factor of safety usually expressed in feet above a flood level for purposes of floodplain management" (FEMA). This would apply to any new construction or substantially improved structure through elevation of the structure of height of flood-proofing. In addition to greater

protection from flooding damage, other benefits of an increased freeboard are faster recovery time after a flooding event and potentially lower insurance premiums for policyholders.

Vice Mayor Diemer asked about lower end properties completing significant work would that trigger the need for the new freeboards.

Ms. Hawkins explained that any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the market value of the structure before the start of the construction improvement. She shared that it is unlikely that the lower-end structure wouldn't encounter this scenario, as if has not happened yet.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about the ordinance due to his experience in Roanoke County with a house fire. He said that the substantial improvement threshold could prevent people from repairing their homes and moving back in. He noted that it was likely there were several structures in the City where the assessed value was substantially lower than the repair costs after a fire. He asked Council to consider an exception for repairs to restore the property to a prior state after damage.

Ms. Hawkins said she could investigate an exception prior to the public hearing. She said that there may be differences when the property was a total loss and required a complete rebuild versus a partial loss that required repairs.

Mayor Taylor raised concerns about historical homes in the area under this restriction when they have to be restored to the original structure.

Ms. Hawkins noted that there are variances for historical specifications for different circumstances.

Mayor Taylor asked about a specific structure in the floodplain that has steps that are only 16 inches and inquired if they would have to raise it to meet the code.

Ms. Hawkins explained that there is a differentiation between elevating a structure versus flood proofing a structure. There are things that could be done to the structure to flood proof it while maintaining the historical structure. Providing an opportunity to bring older homes up to code.

Councilmember Misjuns said he supported giving people the option to flood proof structures rather than elevating them where possible.

// In the matter of Water Resources, Agenda Item #6, Council was briefed regarding VDH Lead Service Line Funding and Water Capital Appropriation. Mayor Taylor stated that the item will appear before Council at the March 11, 2025 meeting. Director of Water Resources Timothy Mitchell briefed Council. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) laid out a series of new actions for all water utilities in the United States. The goal of this initiative is to identify lead sources in a water system, implement and/or optimize corrosion control treatment, and establish a plan to eliminate all sources of lead in the water supply system. As required by the new Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, we developed an initial Lead Service Line (LSL) Inventory and submitted it to the State by the required deadline of October 16, 2024. The LSL Inventory is required to identify all service line materials on both public and the private side. Lynchburg has over 26,000 public and private service lines. After the initial inventory approximately 19,000 service line materials remain unknown most of which are on the private side. Any service line that is an unknown service material is assumed to be lead and must treated as lead until the material is confirmed. By 2027 all service lines and galvanized lines requiring replacement must be identified and a replacement plan developed, then by 2037 all lead service lines and galvanized service lines requiring replacement must be replaced. The total estimated cost for this effort is over $30 million.

On November 8, 2024, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) awarded the City $10,025,194 in additional funding for continued inventory efforts and replacement of lead service lines and galvanized service lines requiring replacement. This additional funding includes $3,659,196 as principal forgiveness through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and $6,365,998 as a loan with optional 20-year and 30-year terms which will be administered by the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) and be funded through the Virginia Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Interest rate will be determined based on market rate in the month before loan closing, subject to the required minimum interest rate of 1.00% per annum for a 20-year loan or a 1.50% per annum for a 30-year loan.

This combination of low interest financing and $3,659,196 in principal forgiveness, provides the City with the most affordable option to meet the LCRR and LCRI regulations and eliminate lead service lines from our drinking water system.

Vice Mayor Diemer asked is that places where lead has been identified on the City GIS mapping system.

Mr. Mitchell confirmed that known cases are on the GIS mapping system.

Mr. Mitchell noted that they would normally make the request during the CIP process, but VDH wanted an answer sooner than the process would allow so that they could reappropriate the funding if the City did not accept it.

// In the matter of the Finance Committee, Agenda Item #7, Councilmember Reed motioned, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi, to temporarily suspend the rules of procedure to refer all agenda items pertaining to the Finance Committee back to the Finance Committee for further review and discussion and then immediately reinstate the rules once the motion was adopted.

Councilmember Reed explained that more information had been presented by staff and Davenport, so she would like to discuss those matters. She requested to continue holding Finance Committee meetings at 3 p.m. until Council could review the guidelines.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to include the items on the agenda for debate at the regular meeting.

Councilmember Misjuns said that they should honor the citizens who signed up to speak on the matter at the regular meeting, otherwise he believes that Council would be silencing them.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he supported the guidelines, and they should have debate in a public forum at the regular meeting. He said that sending the matter back to the Finance Committee was not transparent and open.

Councilmember Faraldi asked if the members of the public who signed up to speak on the item would be removed from the agenda if the matter was referred back to the Finance Committee.

Clerk of Council Alicia Finney replied that they would still be able to speak on the item at the regular meeting.

City Attorney Matthew Freedman noted that since Council had the final decision on matters, referring the items to the Finance Committee would provide citizens more opportunities for input when the matter was finally addressed.

Councilmember Faraldi noted that Finance Committee meetings were open to the public, and by referring the items back to committee, citizens would have another opportunity to comment on the matter.

Councilmember Timmer said she found value in having the debate at the regular meeting. She said she was still reviewing staff recommendations, and she did not oppose the matter returning to the Finance Committee.

Councilmember Wilder emphasized that no one is being silenced and reaffirmed that the concerns raised will be heard.

Councilmember Misjuns discussed the importance of budgeting within the city's means, moving towards priority-based budgeting, and ensuring that essential services like public safety are properly funded, while reassuring that the proposed policy could be adjusted in the future.

Mayor Taylor noted there were only two people signed up to discuss the Finance Committee.

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

Ayes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer	3
Noes: Taylor, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder	4

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about having Finance Committee meetings at 3 p.m. because of time constraints.

Councilmember Timmer expressed her opposition to the original motion, preferring not to refer the matter back to the Finance Committee, as she believed there is value in having the discussion in a Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Diemer emphasized the importance of allowing citizens to hear Councilmembers discuss the topic directly in the meeting, in alignment with the agenda that had been published.

Councilmember Faraldi referenced a previous item that was discussed in the Finance Committee, where ample time was allocated for debate and decision-making. He expressed his support for referring the guidelines back to the Finance Committee, noting that additional information has been presented since the initial discussion.

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the motion to refer the matters back to the Finance Committee:

Ayes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 4

Noes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 3

// In the matter of the Finance Committee, Agenda Item #8, Finance Committee Revision of Policy III: Budget of Financial Management Policies, the matter was referred back to the Finance Committee for review following a vote on the previous item.

// In the matter of Boards and Commissions, Agenda Item #9, Boards and Commissions Quarterly Reporting (Q1), the matter was deferred. Clerk of Council Alicia Finney stated she would provide the information to Council prior to the March 11 meeting.

// In the matter of Roll Call, Councilmember Faraldi stated that he received a letter from the owners of The Summit, and he requested for it to be presented to Council and scheduled for a work session. He said it was important they consider the development impacts on the surrounding area.

Councilmember Timmer said she would follow up with the City Attorney about the rules of procedure and potential amendments.

Councilmember Misjuns said he received a report about the status of Fire Department equipment that was reaching the end of its lifecycle. He said that Council needed to consider options and alternatives to replace the equipment, and they needed to ensure the equipment was operational.

Councilmember Wilder thanked those who attended the Unity Day held on Saturday at 5th and Federal. He said that they needed more unity in the community.

// The meeting recessed at 6:28 p.m.

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 25th day of February, 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, Sterling A. Wilder, Chris Faraldi, Stephanie Reed, Martin Misjuns, Jacqueline Timmer 7

Absent: 0

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

// In the matter of the Agenda, Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to amend the agenda, adding an item to consider broadcasting committee meetings.

Councilmember Misjuns said that it would be good for public transparency.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he had addressed the request with staff, and they had the necessary equipment to broadcast the meetings. He said that it would promote open and transparent government.

Councilmember Wilder asked staff if they had the ability to broadcast the committee meetings.

City Manager Wynter Benda noted that they had the capability, but he had not consulted the necessary staff on what would be required. He requested that staff be provided a grace period to prepare and implement the necessary systems.

Councilmember Wilder said he supported the request because it would increase transparency for the public.

Councilmember Faraldi said he supported the concept, but the Rules of Procedure prevented items requiring action from being introduced and considered at the meeting. He supported the City Manager's request to provide a grace period for implementation, and he requested that Council, by consensus, agree to pursue the request and provide staff time for implementation.

Councilmember Timmer expressed support for the motion. She said that given the upcoming budget process, it would be valuable to broadcast the meetings as soon as possible.

Mr. Benda said he expected they would be able to broadcast committee meetings by March 25. He said that staff would brief Council on the implementation at its Work Session on March 11.

Councilmember Misjuns amended his motion to implement committee meeting broadcasts by the next Finance Committee meeting on March 25.

Councilmember Faraldi said he did not want to hold staff to a specific deadline due to the potential for unforeseen delays. He said that they should instruct staff to implement broadcasts as expeditiously as possible.

City Attorney Matthew Freedman clarified that instead of the matter being included on the agenda for action, it would appear as a Business Item Briefing at the March 11 Work Session.

Councilmember Misjuns stated his motion was to amend the agenda to include an item for Council to consider broadcasting committee meetings. He said he made an amendment that would make Council's decision go into effect now and have broadcasting implemented by March 25. He said that if Council did not want to consider that route, he would revert to his original motion.

Mayor Taylor stated that there was consensus from Council to implement broadcasting by March 25.

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #1, copies of the minutes of the January 28, 2025 City Council 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, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	7
Noes:	0

// In the matter of Community Development, Agenda Item #2, Council conducted a public hearing in consideration of adopting Resolution #R-25-013 approving goals for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan. Grants Manager Melva Walker briefed Council. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires state and local governments, which receive federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program funds, to prepare a Consolidated Plan. The previous Consolidated Plan for Lynchburg was submitted in May 2020 and covered the period from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2025. With the submittal of the annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program Action Plan in June 2025, another five-year plan must be prepared and submitted for the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030. This plan will outline the City's needs, goals, and objectives for community development (both housing and non-housing areas).

On January 22 and 23, 2025, City staff and the professional consulting team at Mullin & Lonergan Associates (M&L), who are assisting the Grants Administration Team with the development of the five-year plan and annual action plan, conducted several stakeholder meetings with the public to allow for input on the community development needs and goals of the community.

On January 23, 2025, the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) conducted a public meeting to hear citizens' comments on the proposed housing and non-housing goals for the Consolidated Plan. At the meeting, the citizens spoke to the Committee regarding the proposed goals. The comments made to the Committee carried general themes of the need for goals that would provide programs and activities that support housing affordability in both rental and homeownership markets;

services that help youth, adults, and families with housing and economic opportunities; services for homeless citizens; and improvements to public facilities and infrastructure. At the conclusion of the meeting, the members of the CDAC discussed the comments presented to them in relation to the proposed goals. The Committee's discussion included wanting to ensure that the proposed goals would provide a funding avenue for programs that would support affordable housing and economic opportunities for all income levels; improved neighborhoods and public infrastructure; supportive services for homeless persons; and support efforts for improvements to rental housing and blighted properties. At the end of the discussion, the Committee members unanimously agreed to recommend to the City Council that the proposed goals be approved as presented.

M&L President Bill Wasielewski provided a presentation summarizing the input received at the stakeholder meetings and CDAC public meeting.

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 Timmer, to adopt Resolution #R-25-013.

Councilmember Wilder said that the program made a difference in the community in terms of housing needs. He said that they were thankful to partner in the project.

Councilmember Timmer said she was impressed how staff structured its goals to obtain the maximum amount of funding and putting the needs of the community first.

Councilmember Faraldi expressed concerns about the use of public funds to demolish private property. He said that Council should find other ways to address blight and incentivize demolition and redevelopment.

Vice Mayor Diemer expressed support for efforts that help people own homes and create long-term financial stability.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	6
Noes: Faraldi	1

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #3, Citizen Susan Stengel addressed Council regarding DEI policies being legal. She said that she spent her career in US companies, where she faced discrimination for being a woman. She expressed support for DEI policies, which enhanced merit hiring practices. She asked Council to continue to support DEI policies in local government and public schools.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #4, Citizen Megan Huffman addressed Council regarding the misconduct of Ward 1 School Board Representative Mr. Christian DePaul. She said that Mr. DePaul's actions violated the School Board's non-discrimination policy and code of conduct. She asked Council to revisit the resignation of Mr. DePaul with all members present. She asked Council to approve the $5.5 million request from the School Board.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #5, Citizen Zachary Karnavas was not present to address Council.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #6, Citizen Beth White addressed Council regarding appreciation and recognition of two specific departments. She commended the Public Works Department and Director Gaynelle Hart. She noted the multiple decades of experience in the Finance Department and commended them for their work.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #7, Citizen Greg Berry, representing City Elders, addressed Council regarding the School Board and other issues. He said it was not necessary for Council to address issues on the School Board, and they should focus on correcting and forgiving. He demanded that funding stop for the Downtown Lynchburg Alliance because the organization promoted LGBTQ events. He said that tax dollars should not support such events because it was an abomination before God. He expressed concerns about rising real estate assessments. Mr. Berry said that Council needed to ensure they received a fair return on their taxes. He asked for a full audit of the City's finances and called for the create of a local Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #8, Citizen Peter Cefaratti addressed Council regarding ideas for generating revenue. He supported Councilmember Misjuns' proposal to merge LCS and City government departments. He suggested that Council solicit revenue generation ideas from the public. He expressed concerns about the decline of the education system.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #9, Citizen John Vassar, representing Lynchburg Republican City Committee, addressed Council regarding management policies concerning taxpayer funds. He asked Council to estimate revenues and provide a working figure of expenditures, ordered in priority. He said the process should be transparent and open to public comment.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #10, Citizen Andrea Hurtt was not present to address Council.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #11, Citizen Joshua Pratt addressed Council regarding financial management policies. He called for a full audit of Council, all departments, and all non-profits that receive tax payer funds, including the Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia, the Jubilee Center, the Downtown Lynchburg Association, the Academy of Arts, and the Beacon of Hope. He expressed concerns about Councilmember Wilder's involvement in the Jubilee Center as Executive Director and Councilmember Reed's involvement in the Boy and Girls Club as CEO.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #12, Citizen Gary Woodson was not present to address Council.

// In the matter of Engineering, Agenda Item #13, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-25-014 to increase the lane mileage for street maintenance entitlement funds from the Commonwealth. Mayor Taylor stated that the item was previously presented to the Physical Development Committee.

At its February 18, 2025 meeting, the Physical Development Committee recommended approval. As Chair of that committee, Councilmember Timmer brought the committee's recommendation for approval forward as a motion stating that the resolution would allow the City to capture more state funding for road maintenance, and the item was recommended unanimously by the committee. No second was required, and Council, by the following recorded vote approved the motion:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	7
Noes:	0

// In the matter of the Fire Department, Agenda Item #14, Council considered introducing Resolution #R-25-015 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating $75,000 to fund equipment for the Fire Department Technical Rescue Team. Mayor Taylor stated that the item was previously presented to the Finance Committee.

At its February 25, 2025 meeting, the Finance Committee recommended approval. As Chair of that committee, Councilmember Misjuns brought the committee's recommendation for approval forward as a motion stating that the Finance Committee unanimously recommended adopting the resolution. He noted that a local match was not required.

No second was required, and Council, by the following recorded vote approved the motion:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	7
Noes:	0

// In the matter of the Fire Department, Agenda Item #15, Council considered introducing Resolution #R-25-016 amending the FY 2025 Fleet Fund budget and appropriating $2,400,000 to purchase a Ladder Truck for Fire Station 9. Mayor Taylor stated that the item was previously presented to the Finance Committee.

At its February 25, 2025 meeting, the Finance Committee recommended approval. As Chair of that committee, Councilmember Misjuns brought the committee's recommendation for approval forward as a motion stating they were saving money by appropriating the funds for the ladder truck. He noted that the costs continued to increase, and the lead-time for new ladder truck orders was 51 months.

No second was required, and Council, by the following recorded vote approved the motion:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	7
Noes:	0

// In the matter of the Finance Guidelines, Agenda Item #16, the item was referred to the Finance Committee during the 4 p.m. Work Session.

// In the matter of the Finance Committee Policy III, Agenda Item #17, the item was referred to the Finance Committee during the 4 p.m. Work Session.

// The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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Clerk of Council