

March 25, 2025

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 25th day of March, 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 FY2026 Budget, Agenda Item #1, Council conducted a work session regarding the Water, Sewer, and Stormwater FY 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets and Proposed Rates Presentation. Director of Water Resources Timothy Mitchell provided an overview of the Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Enterprise Funds FY 2026 Operating Budgets and Capital Improvement Program as well as the recommended Water, Sewer, and Stormwater rate increases needed to fund ongoing expenses and capital needs while taking into account increasing personnel, contractual, and inflationary expenses.

Councilmember Wilder asked what would happen if Council did not approve the rate increases. Mr. Mitchell replied that the first thing they would do would be to scale back capital improvement projects.

Councilmember Misjuns asked how they were equipped to handle the water plant experiencing a massive power outage. Mr. Mitchell said they had stand-by generators at all critical facilities, and they performed regular exercises. He said there were two water treatment plants in the City, so there was redundancy in the system. He said they were reviewing the recent events in Richmond to ensure they did not face a similar situation. He said he was confident in the backup systems because they performed regular exercises.

Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt provided updates and addressed questions regarding the FY 26 Budget.

Councilmember Reed expressed concerns about spending nearly \$3 million on Wiggington Road improvements to benefit a single development when the development stood to generate over \$225 million from the sale of the units. She asked if Council has ever been asked to contribute millions for road improvements tied to a development. Ms. Witt could not recall such an instance, and Community Development Director Tom Martin confirmed it was highly unusual, noting that while there were projects like Rosedale involving payback over time, none matched this scale.

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Councilmember Faraldi noted that the total cost of the Wiggington Road improvements would be more because of the interest on the bonds.

Councilmember Timmer shared appreciation for City staff prioritizing this project as it has been neglected for decades. She asked the staff whether SMART SCALE funding could be reallocated to other road priorities to potentially free up funding for the project. Deputy City Manager Greg Patrick explained that SMART SCALE funding is not flexible, and revenue sharing is limited each year. Redirecting funds would impact other projects. External funding through earmarks is highly unlikely.

Councilmember Misjuns asked if the inability to move funds between projects means the \$14 million roundabout on Vassar Street and Langhorne Road is the only option moving forward. Mr. Patrick noted that the project is mainly funded by SMART SCALE. The relocation of a water line from the Peddler Reservoir adds costs, which are covered by revenue sharing in this year's budget. Councilmember Misjuns asked if there is a way to shift the funds from the Vassar Street/Langhorne Road project to the 501/221 project. Mr. Patrick replied that it is unlikely but staff would look into it. Councilmember Misjuns questioned the feasibility of completing the Bedford Avenue Bridge replacement within one year, as well as the timeline for the Hollins Mill Bridge. Ms. Witt explained that the cash flow for the project may extend beyond 12 months. However, once the contract is signed, the project is appropriated within that fiscal year. Councilmember Misjuns raised concerns about both bridges being closed simultaneously and requested staff consider delaying projects to avoid overlapping closures.

Councilmember Reed suggested that any canceled project funds should be reappropriated to the Schools due to their underfunding.

Councilmember Timmer acknowledged that road infrastructure is a primary city responsibility and has been neglected since annexation. She highlighted the city's broader deferred maintenance issues.

Councilmember Faraldi inquired about the Bedford Avenue improvements. Mr. Patrick answered that the focus is primarily on pedestrian safety. Councilmember Faraldi expressed disappointment in removing \$1.4 million for traffic safety improvements in the Bedford Avenue area, especially given the ongoing development and investment in the area.

Councilmember Misjuns inquired about the funding sources for past infrastructure projects, specifically Greenview Drive and Enterprise Drive. Staff agreed to research the funding for Greenview

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Drive and confirmed that VDOT funded the Enterprise Drive project. Councilmember Misjuns highlighted that public funds have historically supported major developments and emphasized that Wiggington Road, which serves multiple city subdivisions, is in need of long-overdue improvements.

Ms. Witt provided clarified details of the Property Toolkit.

Councilmember Misjuns inquired about a new state law allowing penalties on commercial structures. Mr. Martin noted the Ordinance would need to be updated to include it. Councilmember Misjuns also asked about the City's progress in recovering demolition costs from property owners. Ms. Witt replied that the City often recovers demolition costs through tax sales and aims to avoid writing off these expenses.

Ms. Witt provided information about tax relief for the elderly and disabled.

Councilmember Wilder asked how someone would qualify for the tax relief program.

Commissioner of the Revenue Mitch Nuckles explained that the income limit for qualification is \$48,200, with the primary restriction being income. Councilmember Wilder inquired about whether there is a specific time period for submitting applications. Mr. Nuckles responded that renewal applications are sent in June and due by August 1st. Staff uses various methods to notify applicants and considers hardship cases.

Vice Mayor Diemer asked if there is verification on net worth. Mr. Nuckles said the department has access to income tax information to verify.

Ms. Witt shared that staff is compiling responses to questions from the Budget & Brews events and plans to publish them on the City's website next week.

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #2, Council was briefed regarding 2811 Campbell Avenue - CUP - Pawn Shop. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided the presentation to Council. LPP, LLC, is petitioning to amend the conditions of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the existing pawn shop at 2811 Campbell Avenue. A CUP was previously issued for the pawn shop in 2014. The petitioner has requested that the conditions of that CUP be modified to adjust operating hours and allow the sale/pawn of firearms.

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The property is zoned R-3, Medium Density Residential District. The Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030 Future Land Use Map (FLUM) recommends a Traditional Residential use for the subject property. Small retail uses can be consistent with this land use designation.

The Planning Commission motion to approve the petition failed in a tie vote. The Planning Commission Bylaws, Article VII - Voting, 7.2 states: "A tie vote shall be a rejection of the motion presented."

Councilmember Faraldi asked if the ATF issued a license for the business. Ms. Frischeisen replied that the ATF issued a firearms license in 2021, but the zoning administrator at the time was not aware there was a CUP in place that specifically prohibited firearm sales. Councilmember Faraldi asked if using a CUP to limit business operations is still practiced. Ms. Frischeisen explained it is not. Councilmember Faraldi asked if resuming a discontinued zoning practice would violate the current ordinance or set a new precedent. Ms. Frischeisen explained that due to changes in authority, Council – not the Board of Zoning Appeals – must now handle requests to amend conditions for lawful non-conforming uses. This case is considered unique, and not intended to set a precedent.

City Attorney Matthew Freedman confirmed that any amendments to the conditional use permit would need City Council approval. Ms. Frischeisen explained that rezoning could create challenges, including setbacks, buffers, and the potential for undesirable uses near residential areas. Councilmember Faraldi asked what staff's recommendation was. Ms. Frischeisen explained that staff recommended approval of the amended conditions based on the fact that the business has been operating since 2021 without issue. Councilmember Faraldi asked if this were to stay in, if they would forbid the sale of knives anywhere. Mr. Freedman responded that he supposed they could as part of a CUP, but he was not aware of that. Councilmember Faraldi said that he hoped Council would adopt staff's recommendations as he understands them, and hopefully this would not turn into anything more than a simple approval. He said he would not be at the next meeting and reiterated that he hoped Council would adopt this.

Councilmember Misjuns asked staff to follow up with information on any other properties that may have similar restrictions. Ms. Frischeisen said that it would likely be through a CUP, and staff could look into it. Councilmember Misjuns asked staff to also look into whether the City restricted people from obtaining federal firearms licenses for their personal residences, as they would need to reverse that if it

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was the case. He clarified that it is a license to be a firearms dealer, as sometimes you needed that license just for antiques, collectibles, etc., and he wanted to ensure they weren't restricting that.

// In the matter of Roll Call, Councilmember Wilder announced that Beacon of Hope was hosting an event during the first week of April called HOPEX. He said that he was thankful for the work done by Beacon of Hope.

Councilmember Timmer said she had three encounters with the fire department in the past two weeks. She said that an ambulance was on fire, and the fire department responded. She said that she received a text message from a constituent containing images depicting an open flame fire, and the fire department responded. She said that the fire department recently drove down her street, and she recognized the driver of the fire truck. She gave a shout-out to the fire department and acknowledged its frequent activity in the City. She said she wanted to shout-out Jevon, who helped her clean out brush and bulk waste from her yard. She said that people at Park View Mission had a tour opportunity, and she appreciated the work they were doing. She asked that staff look into providing councilmembers a work space in City Hall to meet with constituents, print materials, and work with staff.

Councilmember Misjuns said he appreciated staff addressing assessments being sent to the wrong addresses. He said that the City was not adequately communicating the proposed tax rate to residents, and he suggested more emphasis on the proposed tax rate when materials were sent out to residents. He said that he wanted to see more information regarding the maintenance plan for EMS equipment. He said that the equipment was in a poor state, and they should reconsider CIP allocations to meet the equipment maintenance needs.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he wanted to provide an update on the visits he had been having with different City departments. He said that he almost lost his hearing visiting the bell tower in the courthouse. He said that the fire department ride along was the least eventful. He said he visited the new airport director, but the visit was cut short due to an emergency landing. He said he had to postpone a tour of the water department, but he wanted to reschedule it. He said he agreed with the confusion over assessments, and he believed the City could improve communications. He said that regarding the budget dashboard, they should have a graph or chart that showed a breakdown of revenues by ward. He said that he wanted to highlight the Habitat for Humanity team who recently completed a residence in Ward 3.

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He said he attended the unveiling and saw the family move in. He said that it was important to help families achieve homeownership and generational wealth.

Mayor Taylor said that Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day was upcoming, where they recognized the veterans' courage, sacrifice, and dedication that helped shaped the freedoms they enjoyed. He said an event would be held on Friday at Monument Terrace, and he offered thanks to Dr. Beth White for initiating the proclamation request in honor of her late husband.

// On the motion of Councilmember Timmer, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi, by the following recorded vote, Council elected to hold a closed meeting to 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, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the subject of the closed meeting being specific to a future contract between the City and CertainTeed; and for the purpose of a briefing by staff to Council on public safety and vulnerability, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(19), of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended; and to discuss appointments for vacancies to the following Boards and Commissions: Economic Development Authority, Historic Preservation Committee, Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and Planning Commission, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

The motion did not include Item #6, in consideration of a closed session to review and/or evaluate the performance of the City Attorney pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. Councilmember Timmer suggested Council consider a rules change, and there was an opportunity to move away from premature action and establish a process of deliberation.

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

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

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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 Vice Mayor Diemer, and Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the motion:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 6

Noes: Faraldi 1

// Councilmember Misjuns made the motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to appoint Gary Woodson to the Planning Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2027. Councilmember Faraldi stated that he would be voting in opposition due to the fact that he felt there were other candidates more qualified.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 4

Noes: Faraldi, Reed, Wilder 3

On motion of Councilmember Misjuns, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, Council by the following recorded vote appointed the following members to the respective boards and commissions:

Name	Board Name	Appointment Date	Term End Date
Mark Cox (Ward 1)	Planning Commission	03/25/2025	12/31/2027
Kevin Pietrzak (Ward 1)	Economic Development Authority	03/25/2025	06/30/2028
Jacqueline Eubanks (Ward 2)	Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority	03/25/2025	09/30/2025
Austin Englund (Ward 2)	Historic Preservation Commission	03/25/2025	06/30/2027

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

Noes: 0

// The meeting was recessed at 6:35 p.m.

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// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 25th day of March, 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

// Councilmember Reed led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// In the matter of Recognitions, Agenda Item #1, Mayor Taylor recognized the LCA Bulldogs for winning the VHSL Class III State Championship. He congratulated Head Coach Frank Rocco, his staff, and team captains Gideon Davidson, Easton Ware, Ryan Sissney, and James Deyo. He said that Coach Rocco was named Region 3C and Seminal District Coach of the Year.

// In the matter of Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #2, copies of the minutes of the February 18, 2025 City Council meeting were previously furnished to Council, and on the motion of Councilmember Wilder, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, Council, by the following recorded vote, approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer 6

Noes: Faraldi 1

In the matter of Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #2, copies of the minutes of the February 25, 2025 City Council meeting were previously furnished to Council, and on the motion of Councilmember Wilder, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, 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 Public Comment, Agenda Item #4, Citizen Deborah Trefzger addressed Council regarding the City Budget. She expressed concerns about books in the public library for attacking the image of God.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #5, Citizen Katie Yergler addressed Council regarding building a stronger community through civil discussion.

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// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #6, Citizen Jamie Maxwell, representing The Lynchburg Firefighters Association, addressed Council regarding the aging fire department infrastructure. He said he would provide a presentation showing the deteriorating conditions. He displayed ceiling tiles from Station 1 and 8 covered in black mastic asbestos and asked if it was worth the risk to the health of firefighters. He said it was urgent that Council fund fire station improvements.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #7, Citizen Greg Berry, representing City Elders, addressed Council regarding support for Councilmember Misjuns. He called for a full audit of City finances and the establishment of a Library Board.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #8, Citizen Joshua Pratt, representing Action Mission, addressed Council regarding moral and ethical direction of the City of Lynchburg in regards to leadership from the City Council.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #9, Citizen Margaret Johnson addressed Council regarding public safety. She said that on February 7, 2019, a Lynchburg Police Officer assaulted her, causing her to lose all of the teeth on the left side of her mouth. She asked that Council examine this matter.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #10, Citizen Ronald Storer addressed Council regarding wisdom for City Council. He said that councilmembers who were Christian should meditate on God's word when making decisions.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #11, Citizen William Maxson addressed Council regarding the West Point Village rezoning decision. He said that the decision left him with a feeling of corruption from Council because it was inconsistent with previous decisions. He requested that Council consider a traffic circle to mitigate traffic impacts.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #12, Citizen Peter Cefaratti addressed Council regarding an agenda item. He called for an audit of City finances.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #13, Citizen Jason Cholewa, representing Opposition Group to the Rezoning of 805-916 Wiggington Road, addressed Council regarding voting inconsistencies related to rezoning by Councilmembers. He criticized City Council for inconsistent rezoning decisions and prioritizing corporate interests over community concerns, demanding transparency and accountability.

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// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #14, Citizen Chris Adams was not present.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #15, Citizen Jon Fallen addressed Council regarding the Lynchburg Public Library in the CIP. He expressed support for the Lynchburg Public Library and encouraged Council to fund the library renovations.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #16, Citizen Dierdra Flavin addressed Council regarding support for the Lynchburg Public Library. She said that the library was professionally managed by the City Manager, and the establishment of a Library Board would be an unnecessary expansion of City government. She said that parents were responsible for monitoring their children's library access. She said that the library had an established process to review books of concern, initiated by a simple form submission, but zero books had been challenged in the last decade. She asked Council to support investment in the library.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #17, Citizen Hope McRorie, representing We the People, addressed Council regarding property value. She expressed concerns about her increasing property values, and she requested an audit of City finances.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #18, Citizen Gary Taylor was not present.

// In the matter of City Council, Agenda Item #19, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-25-025 approving the relocation of Lynchburg City Council's Work Session meetings to the Second Floor Training Room for the remainder of the 2025 calendar year. Mayor Taylor said that the item was discussed during a previous work session. Clerk of Council Alicia Finney briefed Council on the request. To ensure seamless streaming of City Council committee meetings, all Council work sessions must be held in the same location. Since the 2025 City Council meeting calendar has already been set, City Council must suspend their Rules of Procedure relating to the location of meetings to allow for a new schedule to be set for the remainder of 2025.

The resolution will be effective for a time period of May 13, 2025 - December 9, 2025.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to adopt Resolution #R-25-025 and amend the end date to July 31, 2025.

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City Attorney Matthew Freedman explained that the resolution was essentially correcting the actions of Council from July 2024. He said that this resolution would not impact the decisions of Council to set the 2026 calendar in July.

Councilmember Misjuns said that he did not want to make changes to the rules of procedure if they were going to make changes later in the year.

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

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

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Parks and Recreation, Agenda Item #20, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-25-026 accepting the return of real estate from Lynchburg City Schools specific to Heritage Elementary and Heritage High Schools. Mayor Taylor stated that the item was previously discussed during the March 11 work session. Parks & Recreation is requesting acceptance of a former Heritage High School athletic facility as part of Heritage Park. The facility would be renovated using existing capital funding to provide a much-needed multipurpose field in an area of the City that has limited public recreation options. As part of the renovations, field lighting would be added to extend the availability of the field's use.

The Lynchburg City School Board unanimously approved the return of real estate at their March 4, 2025 meeting.

Councilmember Timmer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to adopt Resolution #R-25-026.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed the need for a public park and investment in parks and recreation in Ward 3.

Vice Mayor Diemer thanked staff and noted that the park would fulfill standing promises.

Councilmember Wilder emphasized the importance of investing in community assets like Heritage Park to enhance quality of life and attract people to Lynchburg.

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

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

Noes: 0

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// In the matter of Recovery Court, Agenda Item #21, Council considered introducing Resolution #R-25-027 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating \$17,490 for support of the Lynchburg Adult Recovery Court docket to address public health crisis. Mayor Taylor stated that the item was previously presented to the Finance Committee. Adult Recovery Court Program Director Taylor Jones provided the presentation to Council. The Lynchburg Drug/Recovery Court is a court docket within the existing Circuit Court that is designed to enhance public safety by providing an integrated system of treatment and judicial supervision that results in a reduction in substance use/dependency and recidivism. The Lynchburg Drug/Recovery Court began in March 2017 as the result of a grant from the Supreme Court of Virginia.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services State Opioid Response (SOR) team has awarded the Lynchburg Adult Recovery Court a grant of \$17,490 to address the public health crisis caused by escalating opioid misuse, opioid use disorder (OUD), and opioid-related overdose across the nation. These funds can be used to: (1) increase access to U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (MOUD); (2) support the continuum of prevention, harm reduction treatment, and recovery support services for OUD and other concurrent substance use disorders; and (3) support the continuum of care for stimulant misuse and use disorders, including those involving cocaine and methamphetamine.

At its March 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. 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 Financial Services and Roads to Recovery, Agenda Item #22, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-25-028 to authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Roads to Recovery, Inc. (R2R); and consideration of introducing Resolution #R-25-029 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating \$193,422 for purposes of providing funds to establish and deliver withdrawal management services. Mayor Taylor stated that the item was previously presented before the Finance Committee. Chief Financial Officer

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Donna Witt provided the presentation to Council. The City receives funds from the OAA through direct distributions and grants. R2R has applied to utilize City grant funds to establish and deliver withdrawal management services for individuals with opioid and other substance-use disorders in the City. The OAA has awarded R2R \$193,421.31 for this purpose. In order to accept the grant funds and transfer the funds to R2R, City Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to sign the MOU between R2R and the City and also adopt the resolution to appropriate the funds.

At its March 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. No second was required.

Mayor Taylor disclosed that he was a contractor for Roads to Recovery, so he would abstain from the vote.

Councilmember Faraldi disclosed he was on the Board of Horizon Behavioral Health, but he was able to engage on the matter independently. He expressed concerns that they did not go through an RFP process for the request. Ms. Witt explained that the funds had to be used specifically for opioid abatement and recovery. She said that if they issued an RFP, there were several national non-profits who could be awarded the funds, but then the funds would not be used within the community. She said their goal was to work with local non-profits.

Deputy City Manager Greg Patrick explained that the City partnered with Roads to Recovery in an application process reviewed by the state to access the pool of funds; it was not the City unilaterally allocating the funds. He said that this was more akin to a grant application process.

Ms. Witt noted that another non-profit had reached out to her, and she was investigating whether they could apply these rules to their request.

Councilmember Misjuns asked what would happen if they did not use the funds. Ms. Witt replied that there was no guidance as to what would happen if the funds were not spent.

Councilmember Timmer acknowledged citizen concerns about the audit committee, and supported exploring it as a long-term solution while emphasizing the value of leveraging available funds.

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Councilmember Faraldi clarified for the record that the MOU on page two includes a warehouse clause authorizing a grant application for FY25 programming service costs totaling \$193,000, confirming the MOU's financial relevance.

Vice Mayor Diemer expressed the need for fairness and broader outreach to other organizations, expressed support for the project and its current participant, and advocated for reestablishing the audit committee to strengthen financial oversight.

Ms. Witt confirmed that staff will review the use of funds to ensure compliance, following the same procedures used for CDBG and Horizon funds.

Councilmember Timmer called the question.

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

Ayes: Diemer, Wilder, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	5
Noes: Faraldi	1
Abstain: Taylor	1

At its March 25, 2025 meeting, the Finance Committee recommended approval of Resolution #R-25-029, appropriating the funds. As Chair of that committee, Councilmember Misjuns brought the committee's recommendation for approval forward as a motion. No second was required.

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

Ayes: Diemer, Wilder, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	5
Noes: Faraldi	1
Abstain: Taylor	1

// In the matter of the Police Department, Agenda Item #23, Council considered introducing Resolution #R-25-030 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating \$36,705 to purchase computer equipment for the Lynchburg Police Department, the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office, and the Lynchburg Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney. Mayor Taylor stated that the item was previously presented to the Finance Committee. Chief of Police Ryan Zuidema provided the presentation to Council. The City of Lynchburg was awarded \$36,705 in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funding. The Lynchburg Police Department will use this funding to purchase computers and computer memory upgrades (\$31,070). The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office will use funds to purchase a Toshiba

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Document Output and Management Station (\$3,795). The Lynchburg Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney will use funds to purchase a laptop computer and computer accessories (\$1,840). No local matching funds are required.

At its March 25, 2025 meeting, the Finance Committee recommended approval of Resolution #R-25-030. As Chair of that committee, Councilmember Misjuns brought the committee's recommendation for approval forward as a motion. Councilmember Misjuns said that the Finance Committee unanimously recommended approval. No second was required.

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

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

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Water Resources, Agenda Item #24, Council conducted a second reading and considered adopting Ordinance #O-25-022 amending the FY 2025 Water Capital Projects Fund Budget and appropriating \$10,025,194 for the Lead and Copper Water Service Line Project. Director of Water Resources Timothy Mitchell provided the presentation to Council. On January 15, 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, which later took effect on December 16, 2021. These revisions 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 as an unknown service material is assumed to be lead and 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.

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On November 8, 2024, 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 funding can be used to replace both the public side and private side service lines. This additional funding includes \$3,659,196 as principal forgiveness and \$6,365,998 as a loan with optional 20-year and 30-year terms. 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.

Councilmember Timmer motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to adopt Ordinance #O-25-022.

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

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

// The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Clerk of Council