

May 27, 2025

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 27th day of May, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Mr. 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 Personnel, Agenda Item #1, Council conducted a work session regarding the Employee Survey results. Special Assistant to the City Manager for Data & Innovation Dr. Hollie Jennings provided a presentation of the results to Council. The City Manager's Office data team conducts a biannual employee survey to gather valuable insights into employee sentiment, engagement, and satisfaction, allowing for data-informed decision-making and improvement initiatives. An overview will be provided of the results of the 2024 employee survey and the strategies implemented in response to the survey results.

Vice Mayor Diemer asked if they had done a similar survey before. Dr. Jennings explained that the City conducted a biennial employee survey, and it had been conducted twice so far, with the next one scheduled for the following summer. She said the survey remained largely unchanged, with the primary goal of maintaining longitudinal results. The only addition was a new set of questions focused on communication preferences, such as preferred methods for receiving emergency information, and this was the only difference between the first and second years of the survey. Vice Mayor Diemer asked if there were any trends, surveys, or graphics that had been developed since they had done this before. Dr. Jennings said the City-wide results were the same as two years ago, showing positive outcomes, with some departments experiencing improved employee morale.

Councilmember Wilder asked whether the hiring practices of the police and fire departments reflected the community's demographics. Dr. Jennings explained that the City was required to submit information every two years to the Office of Civil Rights through the Department of Justice due to certain grant requirements. She highlighted their efforts to diversify and recruit in multiple ways, including expanding outreach to places they had not recruited before. She said that as a result, they had seen a decrease in vacancies, and they were continuing to make progress. Councilmember Wilder asked about

the demographics of upper-management in City government. Dr. Jennings said they must analyze job codes and categories based on the Department of Labor's standards, including an administrative level category, and they had to provide this information every two years.

Councilmember Misjuns pointed out that the fire department was fully staffed, but the position vacancy report indicated there were four Firefighter BLS vacancies, three Firefighter ALS vacancies, one Master Firefighter vacancy, and one Captain vacancy. Dr. Jennings mentioned that there may be a two-week delay in reporting for vacancies, particularly for the new fire station, due to the time it takes for a full pay period to be updated. She also noted that recent graduations and promotions may not be reflected in the report due to this delay.

// In the matter of Community Development, Agenda Item #2, Council was briefed regarding the Draft 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program. Mayor Taylor stated that the item would appear before Council for action at the June 10 meeting. Grants Manager Melva Walker briefed Council. The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires local governments, which receive Federal Community Planning and Development formula block grant funds, to prepare a Five-Year Consolidated Plan and an Annual Action Plan. These Plans outline the City's needs, goals, and objectives for community development (both housing and non-housing areas). The plans have been prepared and consist of the following required components:

1. Executive Summary - A description of the purpose of the Consolidated Plan, summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment, evaluation of past performance, summary of citizen participation and consultation process, and a summary of the public comments.

2. Citizen Participation Process - This section is composed of the citizen participation process utilized in the development of the Consolidated Plan.

3. Identified Needs and Market Analysis - This section consists of: a. needs for housing, public housing, and homeless and special needs population, public facilities and Infrastructure housing;

- b. an analysis of the housing opportunities available and other services that serve low-to-moderate income persons; and

- c. housing and non-housing goals for housing and community development.

4. Housing and Community Development Strategic Plan - The goals identified by City Council form housing priorities for this Plan and guide the direction of City funds and other available resources. This section includes the priorities and strategies to reach them.

5. Action Plan - This section is composed of the required Action Plan components and the CDBG and HOME projects that will be initiated in the first year (PY 2025; [FY 2026]) of the Plan to begin addressing the identified needs and objectives.

Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Walker for all her hard work for managing the funds and helping take care of the community.

// In the matter of Community Development, Agenda Item #3, Council was briefed regarding the Derelict Buildings Ordinance amendment. Mayor Taylor stated that the item would appear before Council for action at the June 10 meeting. Director of Community Development Tom Martin briefed Council. The City of Lynchburg's 2025 Legislative Agenda requested that the General Assembly amend the Code of Virginia (§15.2-907.1) to remove the civil penalties exemption for derelict commercial or industrial buildings. Delegate Wendell Walker introduced HB2128 Derelict Buildings, removing the exemption for derelict commercial and industrial buildings and allowing cities to impose a civil penalty of \$500 per month as is currently allowed for residential properties. The Bill was passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Glen Youngkin. The amendments will become effective July 1, 2025.

Councilmember Faraldi asked how the ordinance would be used in combination with the \$750,000 in demo funds proposed in the budget. Mr. Martin said the \$500 monthly penalty was returned to the general fund and used to offset the costs. On the residential side, they had a very good response from derelict property owners. Once they knew that they were going to get a \$500 monthly bill, they either submitted a plan to renovate the building, or they sold it to someone who will. Councilmember Faraldi said he would support pursuing alternative routes before using tax dollars to demolish buildings, but he was fully behind the amendment. Mr. Martin noted that if adopted, the City could impose a penalty up to the cost of demolition, and since demolishing commercial properties was more expensive than residential, it would take a long time to do that. He reiterated that their goal was to rehabilitate buildings, making it an incentive to get the buildings into the ownership of people who actually would use it. Councilmember

Faraldi stated that \$750,000 was too much and suggested that the funds could be better utilized by removing it from the capital improvement plan or reallocating it to schools.

Councilmember Wilder asked how negotiable the \$500 fee was. Mr. Martin explained that to declare a building derelict, it must be vacant, boarded up, and secured according to the building code, and disconnected from utilities. Once declared derelict, the owner was notified, and they had 90 days to submit a plan for demolition or renovation. He said that if the plan was approved, no \$500 penalty was imposed. Councilmember Wilder asked if the City referred property owners to contractors. Mr. Martin said that the City maintained a list of contractors who were willing to renovate derelict properties.

Councilmember Wilder asked if that was an official list and how contractors could be added to it. Mr. Martin clarified that the list was not an official City list, but rather a compilation of contractors staff had identified over the years who were likely to purchase and renovate properties. He emphasized that the City was not trying to force anyone to sell their property, but rather, there were potential buyers willing to purchase it if the owners decided to sell.

Councilmember Timmer suggested the possibility of a public dashboard where people can engage with the process in a transparent manner. Mr. Martin said they had a good start on the dashboard, and they were currently working to ensure the data interacted with it correctly. Councilmember Timmer mentioned the challenge of managing wills, particularly when multiple individuals had equal access to a property, leading to unclear right of way and inheritance issues. She expressed interest in exploring potential partnerships with local nonprofits to create clarity and facilitate property transitions.

Vice Mayor Diemer asked how the 90-day renovation plan would impact commercial properties and Real Estate Taxes. Mr. Martin noted that a meeting was scheduled between the City assessor and the City attorney to discuss the issue. He said it was his understanding that if a plan to renovate or demolish the property was presented, the demolition cost or renovation amount could be abated from the new tax assessment over a 15-year period, serving as an incentive for renovation. He said that the abatement applied to the building, and it was transferable.

// In the matter of School Board Appointments, Agenda Item #4, Council was briefed regarding the School Board appointment voting process. Clerk of Council Alicia L. Finney briefed Council on the matter.

Current Method: Motion / Second / Substitute Motion / Vote

- A Councilmember makes a motion to appoint a nominee.
- Another Councilmember must second the motion.
- The Council then votes on the motion.
- Only one substitute motion may be made at a time.

Proposed Method (1): Ballot Voting

- Councilmembers nominate candidates.
- Discussion is held among Councilmembers.
- Each member casts a single written ballot vote.
- Ballots are read aloud, and each member's vote is publicly announced.
- A majority of votes is required to appoint a candidate.

Proposed Method (2): Ranked-Choice Voting

- Voters rank candidates in order of preference (1st choice, 2nd choice, etc.).
- First round: All the first-choice votes are counted, but each member's vote is not publicly announced.
- If a candidate receives a majority (more than 50%), they win.
- If no candidate gets a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated.
- Voters who chose the eliminated candidate as their first choice have their votes reallocated to their next preferred candidate who is still in the race.
- This process continues in rounds, eliminating the lowest candidate and redistributing votes, until one candidate has a majority.

Proposed Method (3): Roll Call Voting

- Nominations are made from the list of interviewed candidates
- Council votes yes or no on each nominee, one at a time (not using ballots).
- Voting is done by roll call, and each vote is recorded publicly.
- Each Councilmember may vote "yes" on as many candidates as they wish, or none.
- A candidate must receive a majority of votes (4 out of 7) to be considered eligible for appointment.

- If only one candidate receives a majority, they are declared appointed.
- If multiple candidates receive majorities, then the candidate with the highest number of "yes" votes is appointed.

Vice Mayor Diemer asked for the City Attorney to advise on ranked choice ballots in terms of public voting record requirements. City Attorney Matthew Freedman said he had an issue with the second proposed method, only because it did not publicly announce the vote. He said that normally, written ballots were not typically permitted in public body voting processes. He noted that the reason for the exception to the mayor and vice mayor elections was that each individual member's vote was recorded in the minutes, and this information was kept as part of the records. He said he wanted to avoid a secret ballot to appoint School Board members.

Ms. Finney said that these issues could be alleviated by making a public motion and taking a vote in public after a consensus was determined by Council. Mr. Freedman noted that Council could also discuss the appointments in a closed session and make a motion during the public meeting.

Councilmember Misjuns said they should establish a process to consider the merits of each candidate, and it was not right to have councilmembers speak against candidates.

Councilmember Faraldi asked why they needed to change the process.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he aimed to design a process for elections that avoided past downfalls, such as bias and systemic animosity, in order to promote civility and cooperation between elected officials. He wanted to create a system where he could make informed decisions without fear of repercussions, and where he could maintain a collaborative relationship with the School Board. He said that he did not want to end up in a situation where he had to explain to a candidate why he did not vote for them.

Councilmember Faraldi asked how ballot voting would achieve that goal.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he did not know that it would, but he wanted to have a discussion about it. He asked if they had to make a decision at the meeting.

Ms. Finney said she was willing to bring this matter back for a vote on June 10.

Councilmember Misjuns said that in a ballot voting process, votes were cast for candidates, not against candidates.

Councilmember Faraldi emphasized the importance of being able to vote against School Board appointments, as it was a necessary check and balance on the system. He argued that the current method, where four votes were required to win, was sufficient and allowed for public discussion and debate. He said that the proposed ballot voting process was very similar to convention rules, which were historically used to manipulate the process. He said that they should keep the process unchanged.

Councilmember Reed suggested leaving the current process in place. She said that the proposed changes overcomplicated the process.

Ms. Finney said she would bring back the current method and the ballot method which was Proposed Method (1), for a vote on June 10.

Mayor Taylor said the current method worked, and they should continue with it.

Councilmember Timmer asked how this process had worked in the past.

Ms. Finney replied that it was only in recent years that Council began to make the debate public, as it was previously handled in closed session, and they only ratified appointments with a public motion.

// In the matter of Boards and Commissions, Agenda Item #5, Council was briefed regarding the Boards and Commissions quarterly reporting (Q2). Mayor Taylor stated that the item would appear before Council for action at the June 24 meeting. Clerk of Council Alicia L. Finney briefed Council. The following volunteer opportunities either currently exist or are upcoming:

- Central Virginia Community College Board
- City Employee Appeals Board
- Economic Development Authority
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Martin Luther King, Jr./Lynchburg Community Council
- Museum Advisory Board
- Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority
- Building Code & Appeals Board

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply by completing our online application at <https://lynchburgva-prod-cityclerk-citymgr.app.transform.civicplus.com/forms/boards-and-commissions-application>. Applications will be taken through Monday, June 16, 2025, and will be kept on file for one

year for any future Council consideration unless advised otherwise by the applicant. City Council is scheduled to discuss appointments to these boards and commissions during a closed session on June 24, 2025.

// In the matter of Budget and Fire Department, Agenda Item #6, Council was briefed regarding the increase in rates for ambulance and related services. Mayor Taylor stated that the item would appear before Council for action at the June 10 meeting. Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt briefed Council. Medicare allows for ambulance billing of up to 150% of Medicare rates. The City of Lynchburg has not changed ambulance rates since 2018 and currently charges well below the 150% allowed. These rate changes were provided by the third-party billing company contracted by the Lynchburg Fire Department and are being provided at the request of members of the City Council.

Vice Mayor Diemer asked who decided on the categorization and determination of whether an ambulance ride was a specialty care advanced practice paramedic call.

Councilmember Misjuns explained it was determined based on the level of service provided.

// In the matter of Roll Call, Councilmember Faraldi said it was not lost on him the impact Dr. Cardwell made on the City over the course of his life, and the achievements he was now taking to the folks above. He was humbled to have known Dr. Cardwell, proud to have disagreed with him on several things, but thankful that their conversations were always productive and driven by the interests of the City. He said he will miss Dr. Cardwell and hoped there were other ways to honor his legacy at the appropriate time.

Councilmember Reed said she knew Dr. Cardwell in several ways, and she respected his courage and contributions to the City's history. She regretted not having more conversations with him about his accomplishments. She recalled their collaboration on the 40 Ways Coalition, which was formed in response to the deaths of three young people, and how they worked together to bring the community together. She congratulated the graduates of 2025, encouraging them to have the same courage and conviction as Dr. Cardwell, and to stand up for what was right.

Councilmember Wilder said he attended memorial services for Dr. Cardwell, who was an amazing legend in the community. He said that as one of the first African-Americans to attend EC Glass, Dr. Cardwell endured persecution just to get an education. He noted that Dr. Cardwell was his dissertation chair, and he was grateful for the support, as he would not have made it otherwise. He

announced that Rev. Chris Roussell of St. John's Episcopal Church had passed away. He said Rev. Roussell was 54 years old and a devoted man to the community. He offered his prayers to Rev. Roussell's family. He noted the community came together to support the Memorial Day Celebration downtown, honoring those lost in combat, and he was thankful for the community leaders and veterans who participated.

Councilmember Timmer said she did not know Dr. Cardwell, but she was thankful for his legacy.

Councilmember Misjuns said he was grateful for the Downtown Lynchburg Business Coalition's efforts to display flags. He offered congratulations to the new superintendent, Dr. Kristy Somerville-Midgette.

Vice Mayor Diemer expressed his appreciation for the Lynchburg Citizens Academy, which he enjoyed and thought was a great opportunity for citizens to learn about the City. He congratulated the graduates, particularly those in Ward 3, and brought attention to the impressive number of graduates from Liberty University, over 36,000 people. He praised the University for its role in preparing them for their next steps in life.

Mayor Taylor said he had the chance to visit Diamond Hill Church with the City Manager, Police Chief, and others. He said that Dr. Cardwell had shared a message of unity and encouraged him to be a good statesman, focusing on the community's well-being. He expressed gratitude to Lynchburg's Public Works employees for their hard work, recognizing National Public Works Week. He thanked the Public Works Department for keeping the City clean, safe, and running well. He commended Clerk of Council Alicia Finney for her dedication, expertise, and for receiving a state award.

// On the motion of Councilmember Timmer, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, by the following recorded vote, Council elected to hold a 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 governmental unit would be adversely affected, pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; the subject of the closed meeting being specific to negotiations regarding the Campbell County Utilities and Service Authority (CCUSA) Water Purchase Contract; and to discuss appointments for vacancies to the following Boards and Commissions: Lyn-CAG, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

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

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

Noes: 0

// The meeting was reopened to the public.

// Vice Mayor Diemer 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, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 6

Noes: 0

Absent: Faraldi 1

// On motion of Councilmember Timmer, seconded by Mayor Taylor, Council by the following recorded vote appointed Councilmember Martin Misjuns to the Lyn-CAG Board of Directors.

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

Noes: 0

Absent: Faraldi 1

// The meeting recessed at 5:49 p.m.

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// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 27th day of May, 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 Timmer led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// In the matter of the Agenda, Councilmember Wilder requested to include Citizen Dave Henderson at the end of the Public Comment section. Mayor Taylor said there was consensus from Council to amend the agenda.

// In the matter of Recognitions, Agenda Item #1, Mayor Taylor recognized the 20th Citizens Academy Graduation. Sarah Blankenship, class spokesperson, offered brief remarks to Council. Mayor Taylor presented the following participants with a certificate: Sarah Blankenship, Rebecca Boyer-Andersen, Chris Byerly, Stephanie Cox, Charmaine Davis, Kathleen Davis, Louise Dawson, Wendy DeJager, in absentia, Curt Diemer, Carmela Dyke, Kimberly Dyke-Harsley, Rise Hayes, Kim Hogan, Peg Hunt, Dave Hunt, Desmond Mosby, Jordan Nesbitt, Davor Pantner, Towana Polk, MaryAnn Racin, Niro Rasanayagam, Patty Richardson, Suzanne Rodemann, Jeanell Smith, Margi Vaughn, in absentia, and Evan Wingfield.

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #2, Council conducted a second reading in consideration of adopting Resolution #R-25-038 amending the FY 2025 City Capital Projects Fund budget and appropriating \$125,000 to improve parking at the Ed Page entrance to the Blackwater Creek Trail, and on the motion of Councilmember Misjuns, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the Resolution:

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

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #3, copies of the minutes of the April 22, 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 the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #4, copies of the minutes of the April 29, 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 Planning, Agenda Item #5, Council conducted a public hearing in consideration of adopting Ordinance #O-25-040 rezoning 665, 667, 669 Leesville Road to allow the construction of townhomes. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided a presentation to Council. Mr. Carl Martin, of Martin Ridge Homes LLC, is petitioning for a rezoning from R-1, Low Density Residential District to R-4C, High Density Residential District (Conditional) to allow the construction of fifty-four (54) townhomes.

The Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030 Future Land Use Map (FLUM) recommends a Medium Density Residential use for the portion of the properties where the proposed townhomes would be located. A small other portion adjoining Burton Creek is recommended for Resource Conservation use. Medium Density Residential areas are characterized by small-lot single family detached housing, duplexes, and townhouses at densities up to 12 units per acre. Where neighborhoods already exist, infill development should be at a compatible density and housing type.

At the time that the Planning Commission report was written, the petitioner had not submitted proffers. Prior to the Planning Commission public hearing, the petitioner submitted the following voluntary proffers:

1. The site will be developed in substantial compliance with the site plan as submitted.
2. Parking will exceed requirements for the number of units shown.

The Planning Commission recommended denial of the petition due to concerns with traffic and preserving R-1, Low Density Residential District, zoning.

Mr. Russ Nixon, Nixon Land Surveying, LLC, representing the petitioner, Martin Ridge Homes, LLC, provided a presentation to Council. He said that the project followed all of the requirements in the City Ordinance, meeting all traffic and entrance requirements. He noted that the neighboring parcels were zoned R4. He said they required the extension of City sewer and water infrastructure, with a project cost estimate of \$9 million. He said his client had purchased over 60 homes in the City, renovated them, and resold them, so they were familiar with the City. He said that the people who did the renovations were Liberty University graduates, and the company was founded by their father. He asked Council to consider rezoning the property to R4.

Dawson Martin, Martin Ridge Homes, LLC, speaking in favor of the petition, said that he moved to the City five years ago, which was when his father started the real estate company. He said they employed several contractors, and their goal was to bring affordable housing to the City.

Tim Bushnell, realtor for Keller Williams, speaking in favor of the petition, said he had worked with Martin Ridge Homes, LLC before because they were the only company to work with properties that were affordable for his first-time homebuyers.

Bradley Shaner, owner of Shenandoah Tires, speaking in favor of the petition, addressed Council regarding concerns over housing affordability. He said that the project would build affordable houses in the City. He asked Council to approve the petition.

Adam Stinespring, speaking in favor, noted the growing demand for housing. He said that approving the petition would create opportunities for families.

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 Reed asked for clarification about the traffic concerns. Mr. Nixon replied that they worked with the City Traffic Engineer to perform an ITE, which determined the development would generate a daily trip count of 361. He said the AM peak volume was 30 vehicles, and the PM peak volume was 36 vehicles. He said the proposed entrance was designed to be as safe as possible onto Leesville Road. Councilmember Reed noted the growing demand for affordable homeownership and the desire for townhome-style homes. She asked what the price point would be for the homes. Mr. Nixon said the homes would be in the range of \$270,000.

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Councilmember Reed motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt Ordinance #O-25-040.

Vice Mayor Diemer asked for insight on why the Planning Commission voted no on the project.

Mr. Nixon listed the reasons provided in the Planning Commission minutes.

Vice Mayor Diemer made a substitute motion that Council not support the project.

Councilmember Misjuns asked if the motion was to deny the petition.

Vice Mayor Diemer said that the substitute motion was to table the matter.

Councilmember Faraldi called a point of clarification on the motion. He said that not supporting the project and tabling it were two different things. He said that "not supporting the project" was ambiguous, because they could vote to not support it and still approve the petition.

Vice Mayor Diemer withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Wilder noted the petitioner had addressed his concerns about traffic impacts. He said that the City was growing, so they needed to address housing demands, and he tended to favor townhomes over apartments.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about rezoning the property because it would open the door to other uses.

Vice Mayor Diemer expressed concerns about the number of existing developments on Leesville Road.

Councilmember Timmer shared Vice Mayor Diemer's concerns. She said that the Leesville Road corridor was becoming congested and difficult to address.

Councilmember Faraldi called the question. He noted that the motion included adoption of the for-sale proffers recently submitted by the petitioner.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	6
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Noes: Diemer	1
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// In the matter of the School Board Appointments, Agenda Item #6, Council continued a public hearing to receive citizen input regarding appointments, or reappointments, to vacancies that will exist June 30, 2025, in School Board Districts I, II, III. Clerk of Council Alicia Finney briefed Council on the procedure for

School Board appointments. Section §22.1-50 of the Code of Virginia and Section §32-16 of the City Code provide that within thirty days preceding July 1st of each year, City Council shall appoint a successor for each school board member whose term expires on June 30th of that year. Section §22.1-29.1 of the Code of Virginia requires City Council to hold a public hearing on school board appointments at least seven days prior to making the appointments. It also provides that no nominee or applicant whose name has not been considered at a public hearing can be appointed to the school board.

Additionally, due to a voluntary resignation effective June 30, 2025 from a member in District II, a forthcoming vacancy has been created that will also need to be filled.

Ms. Finney read the names of the following candidates into the record. For District 1: Dr. Karin Warren, Patrick Earl, Selina Morgan, Taran Johnson, Dr. Laura Morrison-Hussein, Dr. Tony Ryals, Marques Bush, Nigel Alleyne, Liza Gijanto, and Deborah Trefzger. For District 2: Diane Sillaman, Earl Kennedy, Paula Mills, Rodney Hubbard, Jibri Poe, Jack Collins, April Watson, Karen Storer, Ronald Storer, Todd Williams, Dr. Harvey Klamm, Myke Barron, and Sheron Simpson. For District 3: Taormina Howard, Tiona Wilson, Dr. Brenda Farmer, Corey Thomas, Gloria Preston, and Jackie Randolph.

Deborah Trefzger, candidate for District 1, addressed Council regarding her qualifications for the School Board.

Sheron Simpson, candidate for District 2, addressed Council regarding her qualifications for the School Board.

Rodney Hubbard, Sr., candidate for District 2, addressed Council regarding his qualifications for the School Board.

Karen Storer, candidate for District 2, addressed Council regarding her qualifications for the School Board.

Dr. Brenda Farmer, candidate for District 3, addressed Council regarding her qualifications for the School Board.

Taormina Howard, candidate for District 3, addressed Council regarding her qualifications for the School Board.

Sarah Blankenship endorsed Myke Barron for School Board based on her experience working with Mr. Barron.

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Rise Hayes spoke against the nomination of Rodney Hubbard due to Mr. Hubbard's advocacy for the reinstitution of corporeal punishment.

A citizen who did not give her name endorsed Paula Mills for School Board based on Ms. Mills' teaching experience.

Desmond Mosby spoke against the nomination of Rodney Hubbard due to Mr. Hubbard's support for corporeal punishment, including paddling, in the public schools.

Dr. Samantha Foster endorsed Myke Barron for School Board based on his work in and commitment to the community.

Jessica Hipskind endorsed Dr. Liza Gijanto for School Board based on Dr. Gijanto's experience working in LCS.

Sharon Davies endorsed Dr. Liza Gijanto for School Board due to Dr. Gijanto's professional experience, practical skills, and investment in LCS.

Katrina Marple endorsed Deborah Trefzger and Myke Barron for School Board. She said that Ms. Trefzger was her mother, and Mr. Barron was a family friend.

Karen Quigg supported corporal punishment in LCS.

Vice Mayor Diemer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to close the public hearing.

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

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

Ms. Finney said Council could select candidates for interview, and they would finalize the list of interviewees on June 10. She said residency checks would be performed on those who Council interviewed.

Councilmember Faraldi chose Dr. Harvey Klamm, Jibri Poe, Jack Collins, April Watson, Myke Barron, and Sheron Simpson to be interviewed. He said he would be asking each candidate, yes or no, if they would vote to close Sandusky Elementary School.

Councilmember Reed chose Dr. Liza Gijanto and Dr. Brenda Farmer to be interviewed.

Councilmember Wilder chose Selina Morgan and Gloria Preston to be interviewed.

Vice Mayor Diemer chose Nigel Alleyne, Marques Bush, Dr. Karin Warren, and Deborah Trefzger to be interviewed.

Councilmember Misjuns chose Karen Storer and Taormina Howard to be interviewed.

Councilmember Timmer chose Corey Thomas to be interviewed.

Mayor Taylor chose candidates who had already been selected to be interviewed.

Ms. Finney said Council could select additional candidates until June 10.

// In the matter of Lodging Tax, Agenda Item #7, Council conducted a public hearing in consideration of adopting an ordinance to amend Section 36-223 of Division 3 of Article V of Chapter 36 of the Code of the City of Lynchburg and increase the City's Transient Lodging Tax. Deputy City Manager Greg Patrick provided a summary of the request. At the request of the City Council, the City's Transient Lodging Tax on each transient is proposed to increase from 6.5% to 12.5% of the total amount paid for lodging and from \$1 to \$10 per room per night, excluding any other taxes levied thereon, by or for any transient to any hotel.

These increases are to provide additional revenue from visitors to Lynchburg and reduce the Real Estate Tax burden on citizens.

Council recessed at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened at 9:09 p.m.

Mayor Taylor opened the floor for public input.

Amy Corbitt, speaking in opposition, said she owned a company that managed 20 short-term rentals within the City. She said the increased lodging tax would cause her to lose revenue, noting that the proposed lodging taxes were higher than anywhere in the state.

Meryl Thornhill, IV, speaking in opposition, said the proposed lodging tax would impact everyone in the City, such as people traveling to the City to attend conferences and events. He said that a study should be done to understand the full impacts of the tax increase.

Mike Bremmer, speaking in opposition, expressed concerns about the impacts of the increased lodging tax on sports tourism.

Adam Hall, speaking in opposition, said he owned a short-term rental company in the City. He expressed concerns about the unknown impacts of increasing the lodging taxes. He asked Council to defer the matter until it fully understood the economic impacts.

Wanda Crocker, speaking in opposition, said she was the owner of the Acorn Hill Lodge. She expressed concerns about how the increased taxes may impact her business.

George Stanley, speaking in opposition, said he was the owner and developer of the Virginian Hotel. He said the proposed tax increase would raise the average price of a hotel room by 13%, and it would raise prices at the Virginian Hotel by \$665,000 per year, based on 2024 figures. He expressed concerns about the potential negative impacts of the lodging tax increase. He asked Council to deny the increase.

Danielle Bifulco, speaking in opposition, said she operated her house as a short-term rental in the City. She expressed concerns about how the increased Lodging Tax would impact her income.

Richard Palazzo, speaking in opposition, said he operated a bedroom short-term rental out of his home. He noted that short-term rental property owners constantly maintained the properties, which benefitted the City.

Kristin Fox, speaking in opposition, said she opposed the tax increase based on the facts presented by previous speakers.

Tommy Herbert, Director of Government Affairs for the Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association, speaking in opposition, said the Lodging Tax increase would make the City an outlier compared to other localities in the state. He said the proposal lacked a plan for what the City would do to increase and develop tourism in the City, noting that 8% of the workforce in the City depended on tourism.

Toby Tomko, General Manager of the Virginian Hotel, speaking in opposition, said the increased Lodging Tax would impact employee incomes through lower occupancies and reduced hours. He said that 13,500 room nights were purchased by local businesses in 2024, so the tax increase would negatively impact local businesses. He expressed concerns that the revenue was not earmarked for a specific purpose. He asked Council to deny the proposal.

Thomas Bradner, speaking in opposition, said he owned a local business in the Downtown District across from the Virginian Hotel. He said that the tax increase would ruin his business because he relied on the revenue from hotel patrons.

Mark Corbitt, speaking in opposition, expressed concerns about the Lodging Tax increase.

Bryan Runk, owner of the Bella Vista Hotel, speaking in opposition, agreed with the comments made by representatives of the Virginian Hotel. He noted that increasing the Lodging Taxes would impact the local industry's ability to competitively bid for conferences and events.

David Marple speaking in opposition, said his family owned several short-term rentals. He said that tourism was a vital part of the City, and he had helped many visitors eventually purchase homes in the City. He said that local businesses owners and short-term rental operators would be impacted.

Michael Nevarez, Regional Director for Parry Restaurant Group, speaking in opposition, said he operated two restaurants in the Virginian Hotel. He said the Lodging Tax increase would impact all local businesses through a trickle-down effect. He asked Council to find another way to raise revenue.

Megan Lucas, Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, speaking in opposition, said the proposed Lodging Tax increases were unprecedented. She said that the tax increases would impact business travelers, such as corporate decision makers, and it may impact future investment decisions in the City. She said that increasing the taxes would have wide ramifications, resulting in decreased spending at local businesses.

Evan Wingfield, speaking in opposition, expressed concerns about the impacts of the Lodging Tax increases on local businesses.

Chris Boswell, speaking in opposition, encouraged a compromise on the Lodging Tax but noted that the increase was masking a larger issue related to the Real Estate Tax rates. He said that they had already reduced the real estate rate below equalization two years ago, so maintaining the current rate, or even offering a two-cent reduction, would be good. He encouraged Council to invest in the City.

Jenae Davis, Interim Executive Director of the Lynchburg Historical Foundation, speaking in opposition, said she owned a lounge downtown, and they relied on revenue from tourist traffic. She said that increasing the Lodging Taxes would negatively impact her business revenue. She encouraged Council to consider ways to increase tourism to the City.

Katrina Marple, speaking in opposition, said she and her husband owned several short-term rental properties. She said that she would have to lower her per-night costs in order to absorb the tax increase. She said they were considering transitioning their properties to long-term rentals, but if they did, they would not be able to care for the properties to the same degree.

Colin Jennings, speaking in opposition, said he owned SuperRad. He expressed concerns about the impacts of increasing the Lodging Tax.

Deborah Trefzger, speaking in opposition, said that Council should consider a detailed audit to determine where funds were being spent. She said she knew for a fact that money was wasted in the City.

Ms. Finney played 15 voicemails into the record.

Angel Voggenreiter, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said she would like the Lodging Taxes to remain unchanged.

Drake Rufus, speaking in opposition by voicemail, expressed concerns about the impacts of raising the Lodging Taxes on growth. He said the tax increase would drive business to surrounding localities, and he asked Council to deny the proposal.

Eric George, LTG Associates, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said he was a short-term rental owner, and he expressed concerns about the impacts of the tax increase on his profit margins. He expressed concerns about the lack of data regarding the increase.

Danielle George, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said she was a short-term rental owner. She expressed concerns about the impacts on her profit margins. She said that increasing the taxes could discourage travel, further reducing revenue. She expressed concerns about the lack of data and research regarding the increase.

Tom Vigalero, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said he was a short-term rental owner. He expressed concerns about the impact of the tax increase on his profit margins. He said that increasing the taxes could discourage travel, further reducing revenue. He expressed concerns about the lack of data and research regarding the increase.

Steven Willis, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said the Lodging Tax increase was an outlier compared to other localities in the state. He expressed concerns about how the tax increase would impact his short-term rental business.

Kelly Ayers, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said she owned multiple short-term rental properties in the City. She said that increasing the tax could negatively impact travel and the local economy.

Joshua Dowdy, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said he was a short-term rental property owner. He expressed concerns about the impact of the tax increase on his profit margins. He said that increasing the taxes could discourage travel, further reducing revenue. He expressed concerns about the lack of data and research regarding the increase.

Raymond Bromley, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said he was a short-term rental property owner. He expressed concerns about the impact of the tax increase on his profit margins. He said that increasing the taxes could discourage travel, further reducing revenue. He expressed concerns about the lack of data and research regarding the increase.

Linda Purey, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said she was a short-term rental property owner. She expressed concerns about the impacts on her profit margins. She said that increasing the taxes could discourage travel, further reducing revenue. She expressed concerns about the lack of data and research regarding the increase.

Roxanne Bromley, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said she was a short-term rental property owner. She expressed concerns about the impacts on her profit margins. She said that increasing the taxes could discourage travel, further reducing revenue. She expressed concerns about the lack of data and research regarding the increase.

Michelle Dowdy-McCormick, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said she was a short-term rental property owner. She expressed concerns about the impacts on her profit margins. She said that increasing the taxes could discourage travel, further reducing revenue. She expressed concerns about the lack of data and research regarding the increase.

Samuel Patrick Lavar, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said he was a short-term rental property owner. He expressed concerns about the impact of the tax increase on his profit margins. He said that increasing the taxes could discourage travel, further reducing revenue. He expressed concerns about the lack of data and research regarding the increase.

Terry Evans, speaking in opposition by voicemail, noted that the proposed increases to the Lodging Tax would make the City have the highest rate in the state.

Cam Colquitt, speaking in opposition by voicemail, said he was a short-term rental property owner. He noted that the proposed rate was higher than any other jurisdiction in the state. He said the

increase would disproportionately affect short-term rental owners and budget travelers. He expressed concerns about the impacts on the tourism and short-term rental industries.

There was no one else to speak, so the public hearing was closed and the matter rested with Council.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to deny the ordinance.

Councilmember Misjuns noted the proposed increase could cause hotel rates to increase from \$15 to \$30 per night. He said that the industry would likely absorb the cost of the increase, which could impact profits and possibly personnel. He said it would impact the local businesses and residents who relied on tourism revenue. He opposed increasing the tax burden, suggesting that the City should rather reduce discretionary spending. He expressed concerns about the chance the proposed increase would deter conferences and events from lodging in the City.

Councilmember Timmer said the Lodging Tax increase was to support a 16% tax increase, not to meet revenue needs. She said she opposed the tax increase because it would drive people away from the City to the counties. She noted the concerns about thin profit margins as a reason she did not support the increase. She said the City should work to reconsider its priorities in order to address budget needs.

Councilmember Faraldi questioned whether hoteliers would rather pay increased costs on the real estate rate or through lodging rates. He was disappointed in the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance for not supporting any increase in the lodging rates. He noted that, regarding the requests for a detailed audit, one was performed every year, and it could be accessed via a direct link on his website under the "Resources" tab. He said that if they did not approve a Lodging Tax increase, it would make it more difficult to equalize the real estate rate. He was not negotiable on budget items related to teacher pay, public safety, and keeping Sandusky Elementary open, but he was open to proposals on any other budget item. He said that no councilmember had provided him with information about what proposed budget items they would remove to enable an equalized real estate rate.

Councilmember Reed said the Lodging Tax rate was proposed to balance the budget and equalize the real estate rate, otherwise they would have to make significant cuts to the budget. She said they had to find ways to compromise on the tax rates, and while they focused on the real estate rate, only

49% of residents were property owners. She said that they had to work together and consider all of the tax rates.

Councilmember Timmer questioned the cost of rebuilding the city pool, citing vendor input suggesting renovation is viable, and advocated for creative, cost-effective solutions like public-private partnerships while opposing the Lodging Tax increase.

Councilmember Wilder made a substitute motion to set an 8.5% Lodging Tax rate and a \$7 per night fee.

The motion was not seconded and failed.

Vice Mayor Diemer said that there were a lot of ways the City could reduce expenditures. He said he did not support the use of scare tactics. He promised that equalizing the real estate rate would result in more tax dollars coming into the City.

Councilmember Faraldi reiterated his willingness to support equalization if specific budget cuts are identified, noting repeated unanswered requests for clarity from Council on what would be removed to balance the budget.

Councilmember Misjuns emphasized that equalizing the tax rate prevents a net tax increase on citizens and the lodging industry.

Mayor Taylor made a substitute motion to table the matter to the next meeting.

The motion was not seconded and failed.

Mayor Taylor called the question on the motion to deny the ordinance.

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

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

Noes: Taylor, Wilder 2

Councilmember Faraldi motioned to reconsider the matter under Agenda Item #22, *Consideration of adopting an ordinance to set the Real Estate Tax Rate effective July 1, 2025*, in conjunction with the real estate discussion. Councilmember Wilder seconded the motion.

Councilmember Misjuns called a point of order because the motion to reconsider was a manipulation of the rules of procedure to tie together two agenda items and prevent consideration of each item on its own.

Councilmember Faraldi said that consideration of the Lodging Tax rate could be added to the agenda as a separate item after the Real Estate Tax rate item.

Mayor Taylor ruled against the point of order.

Mayor Taylor called the question on the motion to reconsider.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed, 4

Noes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 3

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #8, Citizen Diva Garland, representing Shifting The Narrative, LLC, addressed Council regarding how to identify trouble entities, probable solutions, and target corrective actions before they manifest into critical mass for the youth in the City. She operated a business called Shifting the Narrative, which hosted seminars to help at-risk youth.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #9, Citizen Dr. Beth White addressed Council regarding appreciation of two specific city departments. She recognized the work of City Manager Wynter Benda and his team. She acknowledged Marjette Upshur and the Office of Tourism and Economic Development.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #10, Citizen Thomas Bradner, representing Eight O One Raw Bar, LLC, addressed Council regarding the embarrassment of the City Council, and how the parking authority made it difficult to enforce parking rules. He suggested parking enforcement at night.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #11, Citizen John Wolhfort was absent.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #12, Citizen Barbara Mays was absent.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #13, Citizen John Fees addressed Council regarding the budget and taxes. He asked Council to find a way to work together and reach a consensus. He expressed concerns about the budget impacts of setting an equalized real estate rate.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #14, Citizen Daryl Calfee addressed Council regarding the current Council behavior, and small business and development concerns. He said that Councilmember Misjuns' recent actions on Council were unacceptable, and Council's behavior was driving away business and residents. He expressed concerns about the fearful work environment Council had created for City staff.

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// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #15, Citizen Peter Cefaratti addressed Council regarding the future of Lynchburg. He expressed concerns about the City's finances and increasing the Real Estate Tax rate. He asked Council to equalize the Real Estate Tax rate.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #16, Citizen Greg Berry, representing City Elders, addressed Council regarding lightening the burden. He expressed concerns about raising taxes, and he begged Council to establish a City-wide period of fasting and prayer according to 2 Chronicles.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #17, Citizen Ryan Thomas, representing Common Sense Lynchburg, addressed Council regarding the tax rate. He supported equalizing the Real Estate Tax rate, and he encouraged that the City reduce spending.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #18, Citizen Ellen Nygaard was absent.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #19, Citizen Karen Jacobson was absent.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #20, Citizen Bill Hawkins addressed Council regarding taxes. He expressed concerns about increasing taxes and spending.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #21, Citizen Dave Henderson addressed Council regarding concerns about its behavior and how it drove away local business.

// In the matter of Real Estate Tax, Agenda Item #22, Council considered adopting an ordinance to set the Real Estate Tax Rate effective July 1, 2025.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to set the Real Estate Tax rate to \$0.761 per \$100 of assessed value.

Councilmember Misjuns said that setting the equalization rate was preventing a tax increase. He expressed concerns about the proposed budget because several items increased above inflation. He proposed capping expenditures based on twice the rate of inflation. He said that equalization was a compromise given the increases to the water, sewer, and trash collection rates.

Vice Mayor Diemer said that they could never pull themselves up by their own bootstraps and tax themselves into prosperity. He said that business investment in the City had grown due to the City's tax policies. He said that Council could balance the budget by reducing spending, which would allow them to reduce taxes and increase revenues.

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Councilmember Wilder made a substitute motion, seconded by Mayor Taylor, to set the Real Estate Tax rate to \$0.83 per \$100 of assessed value.

Councilmember Wilder said he proposed the \$0.83 rate as a compromise. He noted that Council would still have to find ways to balance the budget.

Mayor Taylor said that an \$0.83 rate was a tax rate decrease from \$0.89.

Councilmember Faraldi said he wanted to make a substitute motion, but he could not since one was already on the floor.

Mayor Taylor withdrew his second, and Councilmember Wilder withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Faraldi made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to direct City staff to produce a budget at an equalized Real Estate Tax rate.

Councilmember Wilder said that the community needed to see the impacts of an equalized Real Estate Tax rate on the budget.

Councilmember Misjuns called a point of order. He said the substitute motion was out of order because it was not germane to the matter at hand, which was to adopt an ordinance, not direct staff to draft a budget.

Mr. Freedman said he believed the substitute motion was germane. He said that if Council was considering an equalized rate, it should be able to see what the budget would look like. He advised that the substitute motion was in order.

Vice Mayor Diemer called a point of order. He said that the substitute motion was not germane.

Mayor Taylor ruled that the substitute motion was germane to the original motion.

Councilmember Misjuns said he did not support the substitute motion because Council should be adopting a tax rate.

Councilmember Reed said there was a reason certain councilmembers did not want the public to see the budget at an equalized rate, because it removed essential operations of the City. She said she campaigned for education and schools, and Council was yet to deliver on those promises because of budget constraints. She said Council had already delivered on its promise to reduce taxes, and it was time to have a sincere discussion about the impacts of further reductions.

Councilmember Timmer expressed concern over rising government spending, emphasized the importance of healthy disagreement, advocated for fiscal restraint and transparency, and opposed the current motion – citing unaddressed cost-saving opportunities and calling for a vote on the tax rate.

Councilmember Faraldi urged colleagues to specify proposed budget cuts, questioned opposition to key funding priorities, and called for a vote – citing concerns over political motives.

Councilmember Misjuns argued that elected officials – not staff – should drive budget decisions, advocated for capping non-personnel spending, consolidating overlapping city and school departments, and using one-time funds more efficiently, while expressing frustration that cost-saving ideas have been ignored.

Mayor Taylor called the question on the substitute motion.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed	4
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Noes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer	3
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The substitute motion became the main motion.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed	4
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Noes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer	3
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// In the matter of Lodging Tax, Item Not on the Agenda, Council considered adopting an ordinance to amend Section 36-223 of Division 3 of Article V of Chapter 36 of the Code of the City of Lynchburg and increase the City's Transient Lodging Tax.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to table the matter to the next meeting.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to table the matter indefinitely.

Councilmember Misjuns said that this would prevent a procedural issue regarding public hearing requirements. He said that this would prevent the 12% Lodging Tax rate and \$10 fee from being reintroduced, but it did not prevent a lower rate or fee from being considered.

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Vice Mayor Diemer expressed frustration over efforts to delay a vote on the Real Estate Tax rate, and supported passing the motion by indefinitely to signal strong opposition to the proposal.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 4

Noes: Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 3

The substitute motion became the main motion.

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

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

Noes: Taylor, Wilder 2

// In the matter of Budget, Agenda Item #23, Council conducted a second reading in consideration of adopting Ordinance #O-25-037 approving the FY 2025 Third Quarter Adjustments. The General, City/Federal/State Aid, Forfeited Assets, Children's Services Act (CSA), Water, Sewer, Airport, Risk Management, City Capital Projects, Stormwater Capital Projects, and Airport Capital/Grant Projects Fund are amended to reflect the FY 2025 Third Quarter Adjustments.

Vice Mayor Diemer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to approve Ordinance #O-25-037.

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 Hillcats, Agenda Item #24, Council conducted a second reading in consideration of adopting Ordinance #O-25-039 amending the FY 2025 City Capital Projects Fund budget and appropriating \$5,250,000 to create a fan experience project at the City of Lynchburg's Bank of the James Stadium in conjunction with the 2025 Hillcats Franchise Agreement. This item will amend the FY 2025 City Capital Projects Fund budget to add a new \$5.25M project to improve the Bank of the James Stadium, home of the Lynchburg Hillcats. The improvements will primarily include fan experience amenities. This project will be funded with the city's line of credit and repaid with new revenues based on the new 15-year franchise agreement between the city and the Lynchburg Hillcats.

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Councilmember Wilder motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to adopt Ordinance #O-25-039.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Reed, Timmer	5
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Noes: Faraldi, Misjuns	2
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// The meeting adjourned at 12:58 a.m.

Clerk of Council