// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 24th day of June, 2025 at 4:11 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall, Larry Taylor, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

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

Absent: 0

// In the matter of the Budget, Agenda Item #1, Council conducted a work session on the FY 2026 Budget. Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt and Deputy City Manager Greg Patrick provided a presentation to Council outlining several proposed budget scenarios, including the City Manager's proposed budget, an $0.86 Real Estate Tax rate proposal, an $0.83 Real Estate Tax rate proposal, and a $0.76 Real Estate Tax rate proposal.

Vice Mayor Diemer expressed support for an equalized Real Property Tax rate because it kept tax dollars in the pockets of property owners. He said he wanted to introduce a motion to set the Real Property Tax rate at $0.767 per $100 of assessed value.

City Attorney Matthew Freedman said that Council would have to suspend its Rules of Procedure before considering a motion during a work session.

Councilmember Misjuns questioned the 14% increase for the City Manager's Office salaries and benefits, noting it was significantly higher than the 3% general wage increase for the rest of the City.

Mr. Patrick said there were several factors at play, including a previously vacant position being filled and an additional increase for the City Manager provided by Council. He said that staff could follow up with more specific information.

Councilmember Misjuns questioned the continued consideration of a 3% general wage increase for all City staff, given that four council members had publicly stated that the priority should be a public safety pay progression plan and teacher funding.

Mr. Patrick said that if Council directed staff at a meeting not to fund the Cost of Living Adjustment for general City staff, they would remove it from the budget. He said that staff wanted to avoid stratifying the organization, and he stated that they should apply the same benefits across the organization.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about the staff assumption that salary increases should be automatically funded. He said that Council should have to vote to include salary increases.

Mr. Patrick said that was not how the City Charter worked. He explained that the Charter appointed the City Manager as the budget commissioner and charged him with proposing a budget based on information submitted by City departments. He said that after the City Manager proposed the budget, it was up to Council to accept it, deny it, or change it.

City Manager Wynter Benda said that if four councilmembers did not support the 3% general wage increase for City staff, they could remove it from the budget proposal.

Councilmember Wilder believed that City workers deserved a 3% raise to reflect the increasing cost of living. He emphasized the importance of maintaining quality of life in the City, including its institutions, parks, and schools, and acknowledged that a raise would help keep city staff from leaving for other counties. He said he was willing to compromise on the budget, but he wanted to maintain the 3% raise for general staff.

Councilmember Reed emphasized that the cost of living increase should not be limited to just the police and fire departments, but rather should be given to all essential departments, including IT, water, social services, and others, as they were equally important and played a crucial role in the City's operations. She pointed out that the City was not unique in facing cost increases, and that other businesses and individuals in the City had also seen increases. She said that the City's wasteful spending claims were unfounded because she had not seen any evidence. She explained that the City, like every business, was facing inflated costs for goods and services, which was affecting its budget. She emphasized that the City was not buying luxury items, but rather essential goods and services to function, and it was trying to balance the need for quality workers with the need to help taxpayers.

Councilmember Faraldi said that if they reviewed the $0.83 proposal, he wanted to maintain funding for the City Manager's Office data analyst position, the Economic Development and Tourism support for the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, the Fire Pulse Point app, the library online cataloging, drop-off recycling sites, court preparation and expert testimony fees, and social services administration. He estimated the total cost to be around $660,000 if they maintained these items. He suggested deferring the Cost of Living Adjustment to January. He asked staff to provide information on the total cost of the 15.89 vacant FTEs. He suggested that if Council had to remove currently filled FTEs, they should incorporate a minimum of 3 months’ severance pay, and this could be funded through contingencies.

Councilmember Timmer expressed frustration with the missed opportunities for discussion on budget cuts, particularly the absence of a vote on a Real Estate Tax rate and the limited public dialogue. She reiterated her willingness to negotiate on rates, but felt disheartened by the missed opportunity to hear public comment, which she believed was an essential part of their job.

Councilmember Misjuns asked if they had filled the Assistant Director of Tourism, Assistant Director of HR, or Assistant Director of Economic Development positions. Mr. Patrick said that the Assistant Director of Tourism position had been filled. He said they were undergoing recruitment for the Assistant Director of Economic Development and Assistant Director of HR positions. Councilmember Misjuns suggested stopping recruitment for those positions. He said that instead of cutting funding for filled positions, they should remove funding for vacant positions. Mr. Patrick emphasized the importance of considering the goals and objectives of each department when making decisions about reductions, and he encouraged Council to trust department directors and business managers to identify key resources critical to their success, rather than making arbitrary cuts based on position cost or vacancy.

Councilmember Misjuns suggested that if the item were put to a vote, Council would likely support directing the staff not to eliminate positions with people in them and to find alternative solutions for vacant positions. Mr. Patrick warned that it would negatively impact the organization's ability to provide Council's desired level of service. He said that the departments had determined that several of the vacant positions were critical to their missions. He said that arbitrarily deciding which positions to eliminate without using staff expertise was a concern, as it could lead to unnecessary reductions rather than targeted cuts to the proposed budget.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to suspend the Rules of Procedure and direct staff to consider eliminating vacant positions before filled positions.

Vice Mayor Diemer suggested that staff should prioritize eliminating vacant positions that had been vacant for more than six months.

Councilmember Misjuns amended his motion to suspend the Rules of Procedure and direct staff to consider eliminating vacant positions before filled positions and prioritize eliminating positions that were vacant for more than six months.

Councilmember Faraldi said he did not support the motion because they were in a work session to understand the figures, not set policy.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he hoped that Council could have a serious discussion about spending reductions.

Councilmember Faraldi asked if the Rules of Procedure would be reinstated after the motion was voted upon. City Attorney Mr. Matthew Freedman said that the Rules of Procedure would be reinstated because the motion was limited to a specific purpose. He asked for clarification as to whether the proposed motion was specific to the positions listed in the materials before Council. He said that there may be departments that had not offered vacant positions because they were critical to operations. He noted that the motion may be encroaching on the Council/Manager form of government.

Councilmember Reed expressed concerns about removing positions that were critical to departments. She said she did not support the motion on the floor if it would put departments at risk.

Councilmember Timmer expressed concerns that they were having the first reading of the budget without setting the Real Property Tax rate first. She said she supported setting an equalized Real Property Tax rate. She said that she had discussed an $0.83 Real Property Tax rate and an audit committee with the Mayor, but she had not seen any progress with that discussion.

Councilmember Faraldi said he was open to a discussion on prioritizing eliminating vacant positions or on setting an $0.83 Real Property Tax rate. He said he did not believe the motion on the floor was appropriate and expressed concerns regarding the way Council was conducting business.

Councilmember Misjuns amended his motion to exclude public safety positions from consideration. Vice Mayor Diemer agreed to the amendment.

Councilmember Wilder was disappointed with Council's micromanagement of the City Manager and the budget process. He said that Council should choose one of the scenarios presented by staff.

Councilmember Misjuns withdrew his motion. Councilmember Misjuns said that if Councilmembers wanted to raise taxes, they should tell citizens where they should cut back on spending.

Councilmember Faraldi suggested compromising on an $0.83 Real Estate Tax rate.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he was fully in favor of not funding the 3% cost of living increase. He said that the City needed to have a full, detailed audit that reviewed individual expenditures, and it needed to establish an audit committee.

Councilmember Misjuns said he wanted to eliminate trash fees and DMV license fees for two years, or at least one, by reducing the fund balance from 11.8% to 10% of general fund revenue. He expressed concerns about the internal auditor working in the finance department, citing a charter requirement that the auditor be appointed by Council. He said that the capital improvement projects were concerning to him, and he mentioned the incomplete plaster repairs at RS Payne Elementary. He pointed to the example of the Miller Park pool project, where a $500,000 fix was an option, but it was not presented to Council, and instead, a $12 million rebuild was recommended by staff. He questioned the decision-making process and the lack of transparency, stating that it was hard to get answers from staff.

Councilmember Reed said she wanted to include funding for items that were removed under the $0.83 Real Estate Tax rate proposal, including tools, equipment, contractual services, uniforms and apparel, and training equipment and props for Fire and Rescue as well as law enforcement supplies and protective wear for Police. She noted that the pool project presented by staff did not only address leaks in the pool itself, but it included a complete renovation and redesign of the facilities and grounds. She noted that the bathrooms needed to be renovated, and the City would realize cost savings by doing all of the repairs and renovations at once rather than piecemeal.

Councilmember Faraldi said he did not support funding for conferences for Fire and Rescue. He said he did not support funding for third-party promotion assistance because department leadership should be able to make those decisions. He noted that the cost for investigation services and apparel and protective wear for the police were relatively minor and should be kept in the budget. He also proposed exploring the idea of an audit committee, but was skeptical about hiring an additional staff member to serve as an auditor.

Councilmember Timmer suggested moving funding for one of the communications positions to support an auditor position directly reporting to Council. She noted that, regarding Miller Park pool, it could be repaired for $500,000, but no repair projects were presented to Council. She said that an internal auditor could help improve City processes and keep them accountable.

Councilmember Faraldi said he supported funding for the zoning enforcement position. He said he would rather remove funding for the online library cataloguing and other smaller items to keep funding for the position. He asked if staff needed any further direction from Council.

Mr. Patrick said that if Council wanted to add back the items noted by Councilmembers, they were closer to an $0.84 Real Estate Tax rate than $0.83. He said that if Council wanted to establish an audit committee, staff needed to know whether it would require a new staff position. He noted that an auditor would also require support staff.

Councilmember Timmer said that Council could fund an audit position for one year with one-time funds, or they could appoint the elected Treasurer to oversee the audit functions.

Councilmember Faraldi said that Council could instruct the treasurer to perform such functions, according to the Charter. He said that Council should consider establishing an audit committee to work with the Treasurer rather than establish a whole new department.

Mr. Patrick said that if they hired an auditor for one year with one-time funds, it would be difficult to recruit someone and have them complete an audit in that timeframe.

Councilmember Reed said she supported starting with an audit committee.

Councilmember Misjuns said he supported deferring the cost of living salary adjustments to January.

Councilmember Faraldi said he would support deferring the Cost of Living Adjustment even though it would have budget implications for the following year.

Councilmember Misjuns said he would support maintaining funding for GLTC over funding the Cost of Living Adjustment for City staff. He suggested that they could reduce the Cost of Living Adjustment from 3%.

Councilmember Faraldi said he would support reducing it to 2% to maintain funding for GLTC instead of deferring the Cost of Living Adjustment to January.

Councilmember Wilder said he supported a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment effective July 1.

Councilmember Reed said she supported a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment effective July 1.

Mr. Patrick said that if they were to restore all of the reductions suggested by Council, including Fire and Rescue, Police, and GLTC, and move to a 2% cost of living salary adjustment, it would require an $0.84 to $0.845 Real Property Tax rate. He said that staff could draft an ordinance with that level of expenditure.

Councilmember Faraldi suggested having staff present the expenditures and tax rate as the first item on the regular meeting agenda.

Councilmember Misjuns said he would accept that proposal if Council agreed to adopt a rate.

Mr. Patrick said that staff would present on the budget reductions that were restored and the corresponding tax rate to meet the expenditure requirements.

Councilmember Faraldi emphasized that the conversation had been productive, and only four votes were required to make the proposal happen. He said the funds primarily benefited teachers, police officers, and firefighters. He proposed that Council recess until the regular meeting.

// The meeting recessed at 6:25 p.m.

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 24th day of June, 2025 at 7:00 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

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

// In the matter of Item Not on the Agenda, Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to amend the agenda to allow anyone who was present at the meeting on June 23 an opportunity to speak during Public Comment.

Councilmember Faraldi said that if people wanted to speak during public comment, they should sign up prior to the meeting. He explained that the public hearing and item before Council at the meeting the night before failed and was no longer considered by Council. He said he would be voting against the motion.

Councilmember Wilder said he would vote against the motion because there had already been several opportunities for public comment.

Councilmember Timmer voiced frustration over the lack of public input at the prior meeting.

Councilmember Misjuns said that they had to prioritize listening to public comment. He explained the last meeting was not officially adjourned, so he seconded a tax rate motion before the work session. He supported letting people speak since they did not get a chance earlier.

Councilmember Faraldi said the tax motion was not allowed because Council was in recess. He's filing a FOIA request because Vice Mayor Diemer and Councilmembers Misjuns and Timmer met after the recess without public notice or minutes, which he says breaks state law. He believes the motion was an attempt to make that unofficial meeting seem official.

Vice Mayor Diemer said it was right to stay and hear the public, even if the meeting was not official. He said no action was taken, just listening and prayer. He criticized those who left and said he would do it again, even if it broke the rules. He believes their rights come from God, not the government.

Councilmember Reed explained the public hearing was legally required due to proposed tax increases, but it was not the first chance for public input since citizens had shared feedback for months. She said the meeting was adjourned early because the measure would not pass, no debate was planned, and Council would present and discuss the budget at tonight's meeting instead. She called the question.

Councilmember Timmer stated her desire to read an email into the record, addressed to the City Attorney, regarding the Rules of Procedure and the legality of the meeting the night before.

Mr. Freedman advised that if the letter was addressed to him, it could have elements of attorney-client privilege, but he did not know the contents of the communication.

Mayor Taylor permitted Councilmember Timmer to read the email.

Councilmember Timmer read the email into the record. She expressed concerns about the violation of transparency and accountability rules during a public meeting on June 23, 2025, regarding a Real Property Tax proposal. She pointed out that a motion to adjourn was made without a recorded vote, violating the rules that require a vote for procedural motions, including adjournments.

Mr. Freedman said the City Attorney represents the City, not individual members, and only the Council can waive privilege. He said the meeting ended properly when most members left, so no business could happen. The Mayor's adjournment was valid, and that the Rules of Procedure were for Council's convenience and efficiency.

Mayor Taylor accepted full responsibility for the issues arising from adjourning the meeting the night before. He called the question.

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

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

Mayor Taylor asked people in the gallery to raise their hands if they were present at the last meeting and wished to speak. He noted that five people raised their hands.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #1, Citizen Rise Hayes addressed Council regarding religious freedom violations. She raised concerns about promoting religious beliefs in public schools, saying it could violate the First Amendment. She noted the difficulty of choosing one religious viewpoint and pointed out that private schools already offer faith-based education.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #2, Citizen Jeff Rosner addressed Council regarding School Board Appointments. He noted School Board candidates who supported including Creationism in LCS curriculum. He said that teaching Creationism in LCS would violate the Constitution as well as Virginia's Standards of Learning and accreditation requirements. He submitted materials to the Clerk related to his comments.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #3, Citizen Greg Berry, representing the City Elders, addressed Council regarding evil. He expressed concern about the moral direction of the City. He opposed the proposed tax increase, called for equalizing the Real Estate Tax rate, and urged the Mayor to follow God's guidance or step down.

// Councilmember Misjuns called a point of order. He said that Council adopted a motion that allowed everyone who wished to speak at the previous meeting the opportunity to speak, not just five people.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned to listen to five people who wished to speak at the previous meeting.

The motion did not receive a second and failed.

Mayor Taylor said that six people would be allowed to speak.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Item Not on the Agenda, Citizen Sam Howe addressed Council regarding vehicle personal property tax proposal. He argued that lowering the Real Estate Tax rate would mostly benefit large corporations, while lowering the vehicle tax would provide broader relief to local residents.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Item Not on the Agenda, Citizen Peter Cefaratti addressed Council regarding concerns about the June 23, 2025 meeting. He said that the meeting could have been adjourned appropriately or handled differently. He said that Council should have listened to public comment, even if they were not considering the proposal.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Item Not on the Agenda, Citizen Rise Hayes addressed Council regarding treatment of the City Manager. She said it was unfair to blame him for budget decisions made by Council and suggested the criticism could be grounds for legal action if it continued.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Item Not on the Agenda, Citizen Ron Storer addressed Council regarding impacts of taxes. He expressed concerns about how a Real Property Tax increase would impact him since he was on a fixed income. He said he would be happy for corporations like Walmart to have lower taxes because it may mean that they reduce the price of groceries.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Item Not on the Agenda, Citizen David Ream addressed Council regarding lowering the tax rates. He expressed concerns about the increases to his property taxes. He said he appreciated that Council would lower taxes for corporations because it encouraged business in the City. He said he was on a limited income, and he requested that Council eliminate the vehicle Personal Property Tax rate and lower the Real Property Tax rate below equalization.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Item Not on the Agenda, Citizen Beth White addressed Council regarding concerns about the June 23, 2025 meeting. She said that the meeting felt hostile and intimidating. She called for more respectful dialogue, noting that many residents are struggling financially and hoping for practical solutions like vehicle tax relief.

// In the matter of Water Resources, Agenda Item #4, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-25-043 to direct the notification of the Campbell County Utilities and Service Authority (CCUSA) of the City's intention to enter into a new water contract on July 1, 2027, while also reserving the right to renegotiate the terms of the City's current contract with the CCUSA. Clerk of Council Alicia Finney stated that the item was previously introduced at the June 10 PDC meeting. Director of Water Resources Tim Mitchell provided the presentation to Council. The current water contract between the City of Lynchburg and Campbell County Utilities and Service Authority (CCUSA) expires on June 30, 2027. By contract, the City must notify CCUSA in writing by June 30, 2025, of our intent to renew or terminate the contract. Failure to notify will result in an automatic 10-year renewal under the current terms beginning July 1, 2027. Staff will provide an overview of the current contract and a previous Contract Supplement that is still in effect, along with recommendations for the contract extension.

At its June 10, 2025 meeting, the Physical Development Committee recommended approval. As Chair of that committee, Councilmember Timmer brought the committee's recommendation for approval forward as a motion to adopt Resolution #R-25-043. 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 Community Development, Agenda Item #5, Council considered introducing Resolution #R-25-044 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating $15,000 to fund a wayfinding system for the Dunbar Community Schoolyard. Clerk of Council Alicia Finney stated that the item was previously discussed by the Finance Committee on June 24, 2025. Director of Community Development Tom Martin provided the presentation to Council. The Department of Community Development has been awarded a $15,000 Flagship Grant from the 2025 AARP Community Challenge Grant Program to fund a wayfinding system for the Dunbar Community Schoolyard. The Grant will provide funds for pedestrian-oriented wayfinding signs to be placed at entrances to the schoolyard.

At its June 24, 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 to adopt Resolution #R-25-044. 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 Fire Department, Agenda Item #6, Council considered introducing Resolution #R-25-045 amending the FY 2025 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating $12,269 to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Fire Department. Clerk of Council Alicia Finney stated that the item was previously discussed by the Finance Committee on June 24, 2025. Fire Chief Greg Wormser provided the presentation to Council. The VDFP administers this grant to lessen the economic burden for localities. The Fire Department was awarded a grant for PPE. This grant is 100% reimbursable; no local match is required.

Councilmember Misjuns noted that the turnout gear was specifically designed for hot weather, and there was no local match required.

At its June 24, 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 to adopt Resolution #R-25-045. 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 Budget, Agenda Item #8, Council considered appointing School Board members for terms beginning July 1, 2025, in Districts I, II, and III. Clerk of Council Alicia Finney stated that Council held interviews on June 12 and June 13. 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.

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.

Mayor Taylor opened the floor for appointments for District I.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned to appoint to Marques Bush for District I.

There was no second, so the motion failed.

Councilmember Wilder motioned to appoint Selina Morgan for District I.

There was no second, so the motion failed.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to appoint Rev. Nigel Alleyne for District I.

Councilmember Misjuns said he had known Rev. Alleyne for a long time, and he would be dedicated to the position. He noted his education experience through his church.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he had known Rev. Alleyne for a long time. He said that Rev. Alleyne was a calming influence and would be good for the School Board.

Councilmember Timmer said she supported Rev. Alleyne due to his background and capacity for collaborative approaches.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	5
Noes: Wilder, Faraldi	2

Mayor Taylor opened the floor for appointments for District II for a new term.

Councilmember Reed motioned, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi, to appoint Myke Barron to a new term for District II.

Councilmember Reed said she had known Mr. Barron for a few years. She said he was a parent of LCS students and a former teacher, so he understood the issues within the schools.

Vice Mayor Diemer made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to appoint Dr. Harvey Klamm for District II.

Vice Mayor Diemer said that Dr. Klamm was his childhood soccer coach. He noted Dr. Klamm's extensive experience, wisdom, and administrative expertise. He said that Dr. Klamm would bring success to LCS.

Councilmember Timmer said that Dr. Klamm's experience was essential for the School Board. She encouraged everyone to watch his interview.

Councilmember Wilder said he did not support the appointment of Dr. Klamm. He said that School Board members should have public school experience, and Dr. Klamm did not have any.

Councilmember Reed maintained her support for Mr. Barron because he had children in LCS. She noted that Dr. Klamm had private school experience, but he did not have public school experience, which was necessary to address the issues LCS was facing.

Mayor Taylor said he supported Mr. Barron because of his ties to the community.

Councilmember Faraldi said he would be voting against the substitute motion because he believed Mr. Barron should be considered for a full term.

Councilmember Misjuns said he supported Dr. Klamm. He expressed concerns about an after-school program Mr. Barron ran called Hot Topics, where students discussed various topics, including politics. He said that parents had stated they did not want teachers discussing those things with students, and as a parent, he did not want teachers or anyone discussing topics such as politics, gender, or sexuality with students.

Mayor Taylor called the question on the substitute motion.

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

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

Councilmember Faraldi clarified that Mr. Barron facilitated an after-school program in Texas where students could debate various topics. He noted that the program did not include any instruction. He shared a similar experience from when he was in high school, where he engaged in debates with peers, and it led to valuable discussions and learning how to remain civil.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he questioned each applicant about the $10,000 grant E.C. Class received for an LGBTQ-friendly safe room, asking if they would have accepted it. He said that he did not intend for the question to be a litmus test, but he thought it would show a candidate's character. He said that he thought the School Board was right in denying the grant because it did not pertain to education. He said he could not support a candidate who would accept the grant.

Councilmember Timmer said she respected Mr. Barron's leadership and dedication to the community, but she would support other candidates.

Councilmember Misjuns asked how being appointed to the School Board would impact Mr. Barron's job as a bus driver.

City Attorney Matthew Freedman said that they would have to look into it since all LCS employees were appointed by the School Board, so Mr. Barron may not be able to maintain his position.

Councilmember Misjuns said he was afraid of people creeping into the school system to indoctrinate students. He noted that the grant for E.C. Glass was funded by the It Gets Better Project, which was associated with an organization called the Trevor Project. He expressed concerns about the source of funding because the projects supported gender affirming care. He encouraged Mr. Barron to protect the students of LCS like they were his own kids.

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the motion to appoint Myke Barron to a new term for District II:

Ayes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 4

Noes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 3

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to appoint Jibri Poe to the vacant position on the School Board for District II.

Councilmember Timmer made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to appoint Dr. Harvey Klamm to the vacant position on the School Board for District II.

Councilmember Timmer acknowledged the need to balance various factors within the school division, and she highlighted the strengths of Dr. Klamm, including his outside perspective and experience.

Councilmember Faraldi said he supported Mr. Poe for his dedication, for being a parent of LCS students, and for his community engagement. He noted that Dr. Klamm had no experience in LCS, and the School Board needed more members who were parents of LCS students. He said he would be voting against the substitute motion.

Councilmember Misjuns supported Dr. Klamm because he was a Virginia State certified superintendent and had an exceptional background in policymaking. He said that LCS needed a fresh perspective, and Dr. Klamm offered that.

Councilmember Reed noted that Mr. Poe worked part-time in the City's group-home, and he understood the needs of students. She said that working with and mentoring students was a valuable strength when addressing issues like truancy, behavior, and academic problems. She said that Dr. Klamm lacked relatability to the specific problems students in the school system faced.

Councilmember Wilder questioned the motives of people who had not volunteered for LCS but wanted to serve on the School Board. He said that School Board members should have a vested interest in LCS.

Vice Mayor Diemer said that Dr. Klamm had public school experience because he supervised Liberty University students who worked as student teaches in LCS. He noted that this was the same thing his mom did. He said that Dr. Klamm had a proven track record of improving academic scores and had the support of teachers. He said that the School Board needed an older, wiser voice, and Dr. Klamm had that voice.

Councilmember Faraldi said that the School Board did not need more administrators, professors, teachers, or doctors. He said that they needed parents on the School Board. He said he would vote against the substitute motion.

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

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

Councilmember Timmer said she would support Mr. Poe's nomination. She encouraged people to watch Mr. Poe's interview, because having children in LCS was not part of the questioning. She said that Mr. Poe would bring a culture of honor to the School Board.

Councilmember Misjuns said he would support Mr. Poe's nomination because Mr. Poe had proposed consolidating the City Government and LCS IT departments since they were located in the same facility. He noted that he had advocated for consolidation for years.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he would support Mr. Poe's nomination.

Councilmember Wilder said he would support Mr. Poe's nomination.

Ms. Finney stated that she had received Councilmember Misjuns' statement of disclosure that he was the member of a group representing spouses of teachers employed by LCS, but he was able to consider the matter impartially.

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the motion to appoint Jibri Poe:

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

Noes: 0

Mayor Taylor opened the floor for appointments for District III.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to appoint Dr. Brenda Farmer for District III.

Councilmember Wilder made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi, to appoint Gloria Preston for District III.

Councilmember Wilder said he appreciated Ms. Preston's experience as a former principal, administrator, and School Board member. He noted her continued involvement in the school system. He highlighted the need for her insight and dedication to support the new superintendent.

Councilmember Faraldi said that while he strongly disagreed with Ms. Preston's voting record, he recognized the value of her experience, which he believed was crucial for effective governance.

Councilmember Timmer praised Dr. Farmer's heart, ability to hold people accountable, and kindness.

Councilmember Reed believed that Ms. Preston's experience and continuity would be necessary for the School Board.

Councilmember Misjuns said he would be voting against the substitute motion. He said that Dr. Farmer brought a new perspective to the School Board.

Vice Mayor Diemer said that Dr. Farmer was his assistant chief at the Liberty University voting precinct, and he commended her for preparing students to vote. He said the truancy problem was getting worse, and they needed to address the school-to-prison pipeline, and Dr. Farmer would be able to address those issues.

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the substitute motion to appoint Gloria Preston for District III:

Ayes: Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 3

Noes: Taylor, Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 4

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the motion to appoint Dr. Brenda Farmer for District III:

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

Noes: Faraldi, Wilder 2

// Council recessed at 9:15 p.m. and reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to reconsider the appointment of Jibri Poe to the School Board after regular business.

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

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

Noes: Wilder 1

// In the matter of Budget, Agenda Item #7, Council conducted a first reading on the adoption of the FY 2026 Budget. Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt presented to Council. Following the April 22, 2025 Public Hearing and further discussions during City Council work sessions, including staff adjustments, the Proposed FY 2026 General Fund Budget was reconciled as follows:

	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	**Adjustments**	**FY 2026 Adopted Budget**
Revenues and Use of Fund Balance			
Revenues	$242,314,644	($7,157,313)	$235,157,331
Use of (Additions to) Committed/Assigned Fund Balance Reserves	1,438,988		1,438,988
Use of Fund Balance	9,036,650	4,030,440	13,067,090
Total Revenues and Use of Fund Balance	**$252,790,282**	**($3,126,873)**	**$249,663,409**
Expenditures, Reserves, and Transfers			
Operating	$166,736,855	($3,021,414)	$163,715,441
Debt Service	19,266,289		19,266,289
Schools Operations	42,072,111		42,072,111
Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) - City Operating	1,879,308		1,879,308
Transfers to Other Funds	1,398,906		1,398,906
External Service Providers	10,707,926	(105,459)	10,602,467
Addition to Reserve: General Fund Reserve for Contingencies	1,200,000		1,200,000
Addition to Reserve: Law Library	3,488		3,488
Addition to Reserve: Public Safety Building	56,412		56,412
Addition to Reserve: Recreation Programs	75,417		75,417
Transfer to School Capital Projects Fund	950,000		950,000
Transfer to City Capital Projects Fund	8,443,570		8,443,570
Total Expenditures, Reserves, and Transfers	**$252,790,282**	**($3,126,873)**	**$249,663,409**

<u>Fund Balance</u>

With the adjustments noted above, the Unassigned General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2026 is projected to be $24,349,125 or 10.4% of revenues. City Council’s target for Unassigned General Fund Balance is a minimum of 10% of General Fund revenues with a goal of 15% as the City strives to grow incrementally each year subject to revenues available.

Ms. Witt reviewed the budget items which were added as a result of the work session discussion: a data analyst position in the City Manager's Office; the short-term rental monitoring service and zoning official position in Community Development; Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance partnership funding; the Pulse Point app, the reduction for minor tools, equipment, and contractual services, training equipment and props, conference funding, and uniforms and apparel for the Fire Department; apparel and protective wear, the reduction in investigation services, and law enforcement supplies for the Police Department; online cataloguing for the Library; drop off recycling for Public Works; court preparation and expert testimony fees for Social Services; GLTC component funding; and the 3% COLA for City staff was reduced to 2.5% effective July 2.

Councilmember Misjuns asked if the figures included the waiver of trash fees, DMV license fees, and the reduction of fund balance to 10% of general fund revenues.

Ms. Witt said they included a one-year waiver of the trash and DMV license fees with one-time funds by reducing the fund balance.

Councilmember Wilder expressed concerns about the programs and services which remained unfunded in the budget, such as the senior citizen center, the Jackson Heights Center, the naturalist program, and the downtown library closure. He said he wanted citizens to understand the budget impacts.

Councilmember Faraldi noted the desire for a staffed position for the proposed audit committee. He suggested removing $100,000 from the unassigned fund balance to align it with the audit committee. He said they could then fully define the role of the auditor position and use the funds to support the position with full knowledge of what they would be used for. He asked if Councilmember Timmer supported this proposal as a compromise.

Councilmember Timmer said she continued to support an equalized Real Property Tax rate. She emphasized the value of establishing an audit committee to check growth in City government. She said she was worried that the audit committee would not amount to what they intended for it to be.

Councilmember Faraldi suggested that the Mayor appoint Councilmember Timmer and himself to serve on the committee to ensure it was established properly.

Councilmember Wilder expressed interest in serving on the committee.

Councilmember Faraldi said he would support Councilmember Wilder in his place. He said he would second a motion from Councilmember Timmer to set the Real Estate Tax rate and approve the audit committee appropriations as proposed.

Councilmember Timmer said she was not willing to make that motion.

Councilmember Faraldi said he did not want to appropriate funds for a position without establishing what the position would entail. He said he did not agree with an audit committee because the City already had an audit process, but he was willing to compromise. He noted that during the work session and private conversations, Councilmember Timmer needed funds to support the audit committee. He asked if Councilmember Timmer supported an $0.84 Real Property Tax rate.

Councilmember Timmer said she did not support an $0.84 Real Property Tax rate, partially due to the nature of the conversation.

Councilmember Faraldi noted that Councilmember Timmer had expressed support for an $0.83 Real Property Tax rate. He said he was compromising on the audit committee, and there were $3.1 million worth of spending cuts to the budget, yet Councilmember Timmer was backing out of the compromise.

Councilmember Timmer said the audit committee stood on its own merits, and she supported an equalized Real Estate Tax rate. She said she was concerned about the follow-through from Council, but she hoped their conversations would continue.

Councilmember Faraldi asked what he could do to alleviate the concerns over trust.

Councilmember Timmer said that was a discussion she would have behind closed doors, but she would not have it in public.

Councilmember Faraldi asked at what rate the vehicle Personal Property Tax rate would have to be set to effectively have an $0.84 Real Property Tax rate. Mr. Patrick said that the vehicle Personal Property Tax rate would have to be set to $3.00 to provide the same value of tax relief as an $0.84 Real Property Tax rate.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to set the Real Property Tax rate to $0.767.

Mayor Taylor ruled Councilmember Misjuns out of order. He said that Councilmember Faraldi retained the floor.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to hold a special meeting on the night of June 30, 2025 for the second reading of the budget and to consider setting the vehicle Personal Property Tax rate to $3.00 per $100 of assessed value.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion to hold a special meeting at 10 a.m. on June 30, 2025 for the second reading of the budget and to consider setting the vehicle Personal Property Tax rate to $3.00 and the Real Estate Tax rate to $0.82.

Mr. Patrick said that if the vehicle personal property tax was reduced to $3.00, and Council wanted to maintain sufficient funds for the budget, the Real Estate Tax rate would need to remain at $0.89.

Councilmember Misjuns said that setting the vehicle Personal Property Tax rate to $3.00 and the Real Estate Tax rate to $0.82 would further reduce the tax burden by $1.8 million below equalization.

Councilmember Reed expressed concerns about the games that other councilmembers were playing with the budget process. She noted that they were being accused of being untrustworthy, yet all attempts at negotiation and compromise were now being reneged. She said that staff had been abused by councilmembers for three months during the budget process.

Councilmember Misjuns withdrew his substitute motion.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to hold a special meeting at 10 a.m. on June 30, 2025 for the second reading of the budget and to consider setting the vehicle Personal Property Tax rate to $3.00 and the Real Estate Tax rate to $0.84.

Councilmember Faraldi said he would oppose the substitute motion.

Councilmember Misjuns said the budget included $249,663,000 in expenditures, a $14 million increase from last year's budget. He emphasized the need to rein in spending and proposed a substitute motion that would create a revenue-neutral budget, reducing spending by about $11.2 million. He pointed out that this is a historic tax increase. He reiterated his commitment to smarter spending, stating that he opposed projects such as amphitheaters, reimagined municipal projects, or moving the municipal complex and courts, and he did not support $14 million in new spending. He emphasized that his substitute motion aimed to put citizens first and protect their wallets.

Councilmember Timmer said she supported an equalized real estate tax rate. She said they should consider the opportunities before them.

Councilmember Faraldi said he would be voting against the substitute motion.

Vice Mayor Diemer reiterated his proposal for a $0.767 equalized rate, which he had tried to implement, and he expressed frustration that the City was now considering a different approach. He said his original proposal was a $0.75 Real Estate Tax rate, but he compromised on the equalized tax rate. He said that an equalized tax rate would not defund critical programs or services, and the City would receive the same, if not more, revenue.

Councilmember Reed said lowering the Real Estate Tax rate equally would cause 32 job losses, including 16 filled positions, within a week. It would also mean cutting the 3% cost of living raise, reducing school funding, and cutting $9.3 million from city services like public safety, schools, and social services, which would greatly affect residents.

Councilmember Wilder expressed his opposition to the substitute motion, citing a broken process. He thanked his former colleagues for successful past budget processes. He said he had never experienced a budget process like the current one.

Councilmember Timmer offered an amendment to the substitute motion to set the vehicle personal property tax to $2.95 and the Real Estate Tax rate to $0.83. She said that she supported a revenue-neutral budget. She expressed concerns over the difficulty of accessing information from department leadership, debating budget line items, and reviewing the impacts of an equalized Real Estate Tax rate. She suggested amending the budget process to align it more with past processes.

Mayor Taylor called the question on the substitute motion.

Ms. Finney clarified that the motion proposed holding a special meeting on Monday, June 30, 2025 at 10 a.m. to conduct a second reading of the budget, reduce the vehicle personal property tax to $2.95, and set the Real Property Tax rate to $0.83.

Mr. Patrick said that the proposed rates were equivalent to a rate lower than equalization, so Council would need to find $5 million in additional reductions.

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

Ayes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 3

Noes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 4

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the original motion to hold a special meeting on June 30, 2025 at 10 a.m. to conduct a second reading of the budget and set the vehicle Personal Property Tax rate to $3.00:

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

Noes: Diemer 1

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi, to set the Real Property Tax rate to $0.767 per $100 of assessed value.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed frustration with the budget process. He specifically pointed out $14 million in new spending, a 5.6% increase, which he could not support.

Councilmember Wilder opposed the motion. He noted that the $0.89 Real Estate Tax rate also resulted in budget cuts to vital community resources, such as the senior center.

Councilmember Timmer said she hoped they could craft a budget that grew at the rate of inflation.

Councilmember Reed said she could not support an equalized Real Estate Tax rate because of the budget cuts which would be required.

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the motion to set the Real Property Tax rate to $0.767:

Ayes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 3

Noes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 4

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to adopt Ordinance #O-25-046 increasing the Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Rates.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Wilder, Reed, Timmer 4

Noes: Diemer, Faraldi, Misjuns 3

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to consider introducing Ordinance #O-25-047 appropriating the FY 2026 General Fund Operating Budget (excluding Discretionary External Service Providers and Schools Operating Budget).

Councilmember Faraldi said they eliminated the $10 trash fee and $35 DMV fee, cut $3.1 million in spending, and funded teacher pay raises and public safety increases. Depending on Monday's meeting, they would also reduce personal property tax significantly. He supported funding police, firefighters, and teachers and was okay losing votes over it. Some jobs would be cut, but he aimed to provide severance and consider affected employees for other city roles.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to adopt the Public Safety budget of $58,826,627, and the Judicial Administration budget at $7,171,390.

Councilmember Misjuns said this would fully fund the requests for public safety and the criminal justice system. He noted that the proposed budget included about $450,000 less in funding for public safety and judicial administration, which he could not support.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	5
Noes: Wilder, Faraldi	2

Councilmember Misjuns clarified that the motion was to appropriate funds for public safety and judicial administration at the original FY 2026 request in the operating budget and the general fund expenditures as shown in the ordinance.

Councilmember Faraldi said he would be voting against the motion, and he would renew his motion to pass the proposed budget once the motion on the table failed. He expressed concerns about restoring funding for apparel, conferences, and third-party promotional assistance when they had to consider cuts elsewhere.

Mr. Patrick clarified that Council would need to find almost $634,000 in reductions in other areas of the budget.

Councilmember Misjuns stated that the judicial administration funding was a relatively small cost of $50,000, and emphasized the importance of maintaining previous investments in the Sheriff's Office and the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. He also highlighted the critical role of the Fire Department's administrative and emergency management positions. He noted that his proposal restored a $100,000 match for capital equipment, and it was typically better to have a neutral third-party be involved in public safety promotional processes. He said that part-time personnel for the Sheriff's Office were force-multipliers. He said that apparel funds were important because they needed to ensure firefighters and officers were not doing their jobs with holes in their clothes.

Councilmember Wilder said he did not support the new motion because it added an additional $600,000 to the budget that needed to be addressed.

Mayor Taylor called the question.

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

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

Councilmember Faraldi asked the Mayor where he would find $600,000 to address the delta.

Mayor Taylor said that they would find the revenue through an $0.84 Real Property Tax rate.

Councilmember Faraldi said he would not support an $0.84 Real Estate Tax rate, so they needed to find another means of closing the $600,000 budget gap.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to consider introducing Ordinance #O-25-048 appropriating the FY 2026 Discretionary External Service Providers Budget for Impact Living Services.

Councilmember Misjuns said that this was a great investment because it provided mental health support for first responders.

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

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

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed to approve the rest of the FY 2026 General Fund Operating Budget. With no further discussion from Council, the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed	4

Noes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 3

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to consider introducing Ordinance #O-25-049 appropriating the FY 2026 Operating Fund Budgets for all other funds.

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 noted she received Councilmember Misjuns' disclosure that he was a member of a group called Spouses of Teachers employed by LCS.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to consider introducing Ordinance #O-25-050 appropriating the FY 2026 Schools Operating Budget by major classification.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion, seconded Councilmember Timmer, to fund LCS at the operating request of the School Board of $119,913,199 in accordance with the submitted FY 2026 line item.

Councilmember Misjuns said that this would fully fund the request from LCS.

Councilmember Faraldi called a point of order. He said his motion was to adopt the LCS operating budget by major classification, but the substitute motion provided uncategorized funding, which was different from the nature of his motion.

Councilmember Misjuns clarified that he was discussing a discrepancy between the FY2026 budget and the ordinance, specifically a $840,000 difference between the two.

Ms. Witt said that the difference was attributed to state revenue.

Mr. Patrick explained that LCS originally requested an additional $5.4 million in local funding, but the City Manager proposed $2.7 million to cover salary increases. The state provided an additional $1.9 million, and the School Board adopted a final budget that included this extra revenue. He said that as a result, the school was now receiving about $2.7 million less from the City than originally requested, but $2 million more from the state.

Councilmember Misjuns said he wanted to fully fund the original request by category. He said that page 187 in the budget, the agency submitted column.

Mr. Patrick said that this would require Council to find another $900,000 in budget reductions, and it would provide $900,000 more than the School Board requested. He said that in total, Council had to find $1.5 million in additional cuts.

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

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

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the motion to appropriate the FY 2026 Schools Operating Budget by major classification:

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

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to consider introducing Ordinance #O-25-051 adopting the FY 2026 - 2030 Capital Improvement Program and appropriating the FY 2026 Capital Budget.

Ms. Witt stated that there was an added signal project at Enterprise Drive and Duncraig. Wiggington Road intersection improvements were also included.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to repair the Miller Park pool project with $500,000 and eliminate the library renovation project funding.

Councilmember Timmer suggested an amendment to increase the pool renovation funding to $1 million and provide funding to repair plumbing issues at the library.

Councilmember Misjuns amended his motion, agreed to by Vice Mayor Diemer, to provide $1 million for Miller Park pool repairs and $1 million for library repairs.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed frustration with the proposed budget, citing $25-30 million for a reimagination of the Miller Park pool and the public library, which he deemed unnecessary. He argued that the library should be left to the library board to make decisions, and that the funds could be better spent addressing the financial struggles of citizens, such as rising real estate taxes and grocery prices. He specifically pointed out the $600-a-year increase in real estate taxes, which would add $75 a month to a homeowner's mortgage payment.

Vice Mayor Diemer expressed his concerns about the proposed pool and library projects, stating that most people in Ward 3 will not benefit from them and that he was not convinced about the necessity of the projects. He wanted to vote in a way that did not meet the promises made by other people. He said that they had to stop making promises. He questioned the decision-making process, suggesting it was a last-minute, knee-jerk reaction, and expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the proposed solutions.

Councilmember Reed noted that they were about to allocate $2.6 million to benefit a development project, but they were only allocating a combined $2 million to address the library and pool projects. She did not support the substitute motion.

Councilmember Timmer said she supported the substitute motion. She said she supported keeping Miller Park pool open through alternative routes, such as public-private partnerships or repairs. She emphasized the need to reduce debt service. She said that additional funds could be added to the CIP if needed.

Mayor Taylor called the question on the substitute motion.

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

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

Councilmember Timmer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to suspend the Rules of Procedure and divide the question on the main motion to address Wiggington Road separately.

Councilmember Faraldi called a point of order. He said that it was not in their Rules of Procedure to divide the question.

Councilmember Misjuns said that the motion was to suspend the Rules of Procedure.

Councilmember Timmer said she supported the road improvement project. She encouraged people to attend her town hall to discuss the budget process.

With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded on the motion to suspend the Rules of Procedure:

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

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to adopt the Wiggington Road improvement project funding in the CIP.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 4

Noes: Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 3

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to adopt the FY 2026 - 2030 Capital Improvement Program and appropriating the FY 2026 Capital Budget.

Councilmember Misjuns said he would be voting against the motion because of the pool and library project funding. He said they did not need to be doing exorbitant projects with tax payer dollars. He said he supported school infrastructure funding. He would not oppose repairing the library and pool to keep them operational, but he could not support the whole CIP.

Councilmember Timmer said she supported the schools and keeping the pool and library open. She said what had been represented in various capacities was incongruent, so she would not support the CIP.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 4

Noes: Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 3

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, to consider introducing Ordinance #O-25-052 appropriating $50,000 of the FY 2026 Reserve for Contingencies for use by the City Manager.

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

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

Noes: Diemer, Misjuns 2

Mr. Patrick suggested holding the next item, "*Consideration of adopting an ordinance setting the Personal Property Tax Relief Rate at 100.00% for January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026*", until Council addressed the property tax rate on Monday. There was a consensus from Council.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi, to consider adopting Ordinance #O-25-053 prohibiting charging certain trash collection fees in the City for FY 2026.

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

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

Noes: 0

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi, to consider adopting Ordinance #O-25-054 prohibiting charging motor vehicle license fees in the City for FY 2026.

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 stated that Agenda Item, "*Consideration of adopting an ordinance prohibiting charging motor vehicle license fees in the City for FY 2027"* was pulled.

// In the matter of Appointments and Vacancies, Agenda Item #16, Mr. Freedman suggested that if Council were to reconsider the appointment of Jibri Poe for School Board, they should conduct a brief closed session.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to table the item to reconsider.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to enter into a closed session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711-A(8) to receive legal advice regarding a School Board appointment.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 4

Noes: Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 3

The substitute motion became the main motion and the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer 4

Noes: Wilder, Faraldi, Reed 3

// The meeting was reopened to the public.

// Councilmember Misjuns made the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Lynchburg has convened a closed meeting on this date, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2 3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by City Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Lynchburg certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by Council.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Timmer, and Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the motion:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer	4
Noes:	0
Absent: Wilder, Faraldi, Reed	3

// Councilmember Misjuns withdrew his motion to reconsider. Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to adjourn.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Misjuns, Timmer	4
Noes:	0
Absent: Wilder, Faraldi, Reed	3

// The meeting adjourned at 12:12 a.m.

Clerk of Council