// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 26th day of August, 2025 at 4:00 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: None 0

// In the matter of Work Session, City Manager Wynter Benda introduced Stacy Garrett as the new Downtown Lynchburg Association Executive Director, noting her 20 years of experience in leadership and community collaboration.

// In the matter of Legislative Agenda, Assistant to the City Manager Mercedes Braun provided a pop-up presentation to Council regarding the City's 2026 Legislative Agenda. She outlined plans for a focused 2026 Legislative Agenda tailored to Lynchburg's needs. She asked Council to submit proposals by September 5th for review ahead of her October 14th presentation She noted the November 18th legislative dinner at the University of Lynchburg.

// In the matter of Work Session Overview, Mr. Benda suggested a joint work session with Lynchburg City Schools on September 9th at 4:00 p.m. at the IT training center. This would replace the regularly scheduled meeting. By consensus, Council agreed to proceed with canceling the regular meeting and scheduling the special called joint meeting.

// In the matter of Budget, Work Session Agenda Item #1, Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt reported on the June 30 meeting where Council restored services and programs, with related revenue reflected in the budget.

Vice Mayor Diemer asked why some departments with revenue were listed as zero revenue.

Ms. Witt explained that some revenues are accounted for separately from the General Fund, so they appear as zero in this report.

Councilmember Misjuns asked if increased revenue streams could be amended to cover the difference.

Ms. Witt said updated June figures support increasing sales tax revenue, which could be used to amend the budget to cover the difference.

Deputy City Manager Greg Patrick noted that meals and hotel taxes were under budget; relying on budget savings was deemed more prudent than adjusting revenues.

// In the matter of City Attorney's Office, Agenda Item #2, City Attorney Matthew Freedman reported that Virginia local government and the Commonwealth negotiated an MOU on the allocation and use of opioid litigation recoveries. He presented resolutions for participation in two additional settlements for a vote on September 9th emphasizing that the state is seeking 100% participation from Virginia localities

Councilmember Faraldi asked whether the cited manufacturers were responsible due to improper marketing.

Mr. Freedman explained that settlements involve manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, and company owners due to issues like fraud, misrepresentation, or gross negligence in opioid marketing and sales.

//In the matter of City Council, Agenda Item #3, Councilmember Timmer proposed three key rule changes: 1) the opportunity for a response, which would allow the person against whom a complaint is lodged to reply before a meeting concludes to avoid ad hominem attacks without recourse; 2) a requirement that all resignations requiring the Council's attention be provided in writing to Councilmembers; and 3) due process, requiring all motions to censure to be documented in writing and accompanied by supporting statements.

Councilmember Timmer made two procedural requests: suspending the rules to allow individual consideration of each proposal, and requiring that amendments to proposals be submitted as friendly amendments rather than as substitutes.

Councilmember Faraldi opposed major rule changes, citing inefficiency and reduced mayoral authority, and suggested revisions to preserve debate, public discussion, and member participation.

Councilmember Timmer said her proposed rules clarify and support Council and mayor roles, address time limits, and follow Robert's Rules.

Councilmember Timmer stated that there are several documents pertaining to this discussion: the current rules of procedure, a proposal she is putting forward, and a combination of staff recommendations and Council member recommendations. She addressed concerns raised by Mr. Faraldi, specifically

Councilmember Reed stated that the proposed changes contain subjective language and suggested reviewing the rules' purpose with Mr. Freedman to ensure transparency and accountability.

Mr. Freedman said the rules were created to provide a simplified way of running meetings, drawing from Robert's Rules of Order but also adapting to meet City Council's needs — with the underlying goal of having efficient, timely, and fair meetings.

Councilmember Reed stated the importance of balancing free speech with decorum, educating members on proper procedure, and maintaining accountability without overcomplicating the rules.

Councilmember Misjuns asked Mr. Freedman to read the purpose of the rules of procedure into the record.

Mr. Freedman said, "Section 1.1: The purpose of the Rules of Procedure. A) to enable the Council to transact business fully, expeditiously, and efficiently, while affording every opportunity to citizens to witness the operations of government; B) to protect the rights of each individual Council member; C) to preserve a spirit of cooperation among Council members; and D) to determine the will of the Council on any matter." He said that he understood the question to pertain to the history, not the purpose.

Councilmember Misjuns stated that robust debate is needed to transact business, noted challenges in getting agenda items versus censures, and supported the spirit of the proposed changes.

Councilmember Wilder asked Mr. Freedman for his recommendations on whether changes to improve efficiency are necessary at this time.

Mr. Freedman stated some rule changes are needed for clarity, but most decisions depend on Council's goals, noting Councilmember Timmer's proposal emphasizes free speech and debate over efficiency.

Councilmember Timmer stated her proposal addresses ambiguous language, clarifies accountability, prevents personal attacks, and protects debate to help Council effectively conduct business.

Councilmember Faraldi stated his proposal aims to improve efficiency by combining all three documents, suggested line-by-line review with the City Attorney, and noted Councilmember Timmer could provide input on where her proposal fits.

Councilmember Misjuns stated Section 4.1.C clarifies agenda deadlines, said he has not fully reviewed Councilmember Faraldi's recent proposal, and suggested beginning with the original June proposal.

Councilmember Faraldi stated he emailed his proposal for discussion, suggested sharing it via CivicClerk for public awareness, and recommended reviewing all ideas if the intent is thorough consideration.

Vice Mayor Diemer stated he has not reviewed the latest proposals, stated the importance of voting on Councilmember Timmer's proposal first, and noted rule changes should originate from Council, not staff or outside sources.

Councilmember Misjuns stated they should first review Councilmember Timmer's suggestions and the original revisions before considering Councilmember Faraldi's additions.

Councilmember Reed noted Councilmember Timmer's proposal had been on the agenda twice, suggested tabling it to the next work session for possible amendments, and questioned whether Councilmember Faraldi's ideas or others' could be considered later.

Mr. Freedman clarified that consolidating all proposals into one document for review at once is recommended to ensure full inclusion, noting most staff suggestions are technical.

Councilmember Misjuns said he could support consolidating proposals but noted past delays and substantial changes from Councilmember Faraldi's suggestions; he recommended focusing first on timely submissions before reviewing additional pages.

Mayor Taylor agreed with Councilmember Reed to table the discussion and revisit it with the City Attorney's input.

Councilmember Faraldi proposed procedural changes to improve efficiency, clarify motions and points of order, set agenda deadlines, limit discussion times, and allow written public input.

Mayor Taylor asked if there was consensus to table this discussion to the next meeting.

Councilmember Faraldi said he did not offer consensus.

On the motion of Councilmember Misjuns, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, by the following recorded vote, Council voted to suspend the rules to table the proposal until the next work session, with the intention of revisiting it at the following general business meeting.

Councilmember Faraldi noted that they meet with the School Board on September 9.

Mayor Taylor stated that their next open work session would be September 23.

Councilmember Misjuns amended his motion to table the proposal until their September 23, 2025 meeting.

Councilmember Timmer seconded the amended motion.

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 Roll Call, Agenda Item #5, Councilmember Reed recognized teachers and school staff, thanked Police Chief Ryan Zuidema for 29 years of service, and congratulated Clerk of Council Alicia Finney on her engagement.

Councilmember Wilder thanked all who supported the schools, recognized the passing of late civil rights leader Betty Payne, and Chief Zuidema for his service to the community.

Councilmember Timmer congratulated Humankind on their groundbreaking today, as they expanded their Head Start program to 90 students, offering affordable childcare and prioritizing foster and homeless children.

Councilmember Misjuns congratulated the swimmers in the Lynchburg Aquatic League and thanked Ben Crosswhite for hosting the B-Meet event. Councilmember Misjuns noted that he had questions regarding some credit card transactions and what the travel policy is.

Vice Mayor Diemer congratulated Liberty University on their game, thanked the Water Resources team for a city tour and water services, and requested written flag policies, emphasizing keeping politics out of departmental work.

Mayor Taylor thanked Council and staff for achieving a balanced budget and thanked Chief Zuidema for his many years of service.

// On the motion of Councilmember Misjuns, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, by the following recorded vote, Council elected to hold a closed meeting for consideration of the disposal of City-owned real estate, where competition or bargaining is involved, and where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City, pursuant to Section 2.2-

3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; the subject of the closed meeting being specific to the letting of City-owned real estate at the Lynchburg Regional Airport, and the selling of City-owned real estate at 1505/1517 Jackson Street, Lynchburg, Virginia. And consideration of a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing the performance and conduct of a specific appointee of the Lynchburg City Council and consulting with legal counsel in connection with the same, pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) and 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; the subject of the closed meeting being specific to the performance and conduct of a current member of the Lynchburg School Board. And consideration of a closed meeting to discuss appointments for vacancies to the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company Board of Directors, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A.)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

Councilmember Faraldi questioned proceeding to a closed session without knowing the subject.

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

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

// The meeting was reopened to the public.

// Councilmember Wilder 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, Reed, Wilder, Timmer 5

Noes: 0

Absent: Faraldi, Misjuns 2

// On motion of Councilmember Wilder, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, Council by the following recorded vote appointed Mercedes Braun, Assistant to the City Manager, to the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company Board of Directors for a term expiring October 31, 2026:

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

Noes: 0

Absent: Faraldi, Misjuns 2

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

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 26th day of August, 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 Wilder led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// In the matter of Consent Agenda, minutes of the June 10, 2025, June 23, 2025, June 24, 2025, June 30, 2025, and July 8, 2025 were pulled from consideration.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to approve Item #2, June 12, 2025 meeting minutes, and Item #3, June 13, 2025 meeting minutes.

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

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

Noes: Diemer, Misjuns 2

// In the matter of Public Works, Agenda Item #8, Council held a public hearing in consideration of adopting Resolution #R-25-058 approving a cell tower lease agreement between the City, Lynchburg City Schools, and Milestone Towers, LLC to place a cell tower at 3525 John Capron Road.

Director of Public Works Gaynelle Hart said this is a request for approval of a lease for Milestone at the schools, transportation, and facilities building. She stated that the City has had a master marketing agreement since 2013 and already has three towers already built on City property: at Perrymont Park, at Fire Station 7 on Lakeside Drive, and at Old Wards Road near Sheffield Elementary School. She noted that the proposed lease would provide a 40% share of monthly gross rental revenue and a $25,000 site fee for the first tower and first carrier, with additional $5,000 fees for each subsequent carrier. She said the site is zoned for heavy industrial and is located at 3525 John Capron Road, with access from Bradley Drive, and cell sites are permitted under I-3 zoning. She concluded by stating that there were no comments received when economic development solicited input, and staff recommends approval of the lease as well as appropriation of funds to the school capital fund for the transportation and facilities department buildings.

Mayor Taylor opened the public hearing. There were no speakers in favor or in opposition to the project. The Clerk confirmed that there were no voicemails. Mayor Taylor closed the public hearing.

At its July 8, 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. No second was required.

Mr. Freedman pointed out that the lease itself is with Milestone Towers Limited Partnership IV, although the resolution states Milestone Towers, LLC. He also clarified that the proceeds of the lease would go to the schools' capital fund.

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

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

// In the matter of Water Resources, Agenda Item #9, a public hearing was held in consideration of adopting Resolution #R-25-059 approving the Blackwater CSO Tunnel - Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Funding, Ms. Finney stated that this item was discussed at the Finance Committee on August 26, 2025, and Director of Water Resources Tim Mitchell would provide a summary of the request.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the purpose of this action is to secure the most cost-effective financing for the Blackwater CSO tunnel project, the largest capital project in Lynchburg's history — achieving significant environmental benefits, restoring sewer capacity to the Blackwater Creek Interceptor, and meets CSO Long-Term Control Plan and state consent order requirements. He said the City has secured $107 million in appropriations fir CSO-related projects and $50 million in ARPA grants, requiring a $25 million local match, and has confirmed the use of the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund as a local match.

He said the loan and funding applications were approved in December 2024 by the State Water Control Board for $54.1 million for the balance of the $104.1 million total project cost, with $29.4 million of that being a loan at 0.5% interest for 25 years, and $24.7 million of that being principal forgiveness. He stated that the City recommends adopting a resolution to issue sewer revenue bonds not to exceed $29,395,000 million in principal repayment with a term of 25 years and interest rate of 0.5% annum, to enter into a funding agreement with the Virginia Resources Authority for a grant in the form of principal forgiveness of $24,705,000, and to authorize the city manager and staff to execute the appropriate documents.

Mayor Taylor opened the public hearing. There were no speakers in favor or in opposition to the project. The Clerk confirmed that there were no voicemails. Mayor Taylor closed the public hearing.

At its August 26, 2025 meeting, the Finance Committee recommended approval. As Chair of that committee, Councilmember Misjuns brought the committee’s recommendation for approval forward as a motion. No second was required, and Council, by the following recorded vote approved the motion:

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

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #10, Citizen James Wicks addressed Council regarding civility. He spoke about the importance of civility and respect in City Council interactions.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #11, Citizen Justin Hensley, representing the Central Virginia Community College Local Advisory Board, addressed Council regarding an update and a summary of CVCC offerings.

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

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #13, Citizen F.J. Jalil addressed Council regarding City clubs. He invited city officials and staff to join Toastmasters, emphasizing personal development.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #14, Citizen Dr. Beth White, representing Citizens United for Lynchburg, addressed Council regarding a kinder, gentler Lynchburg: Writing the vision and making it plain. She urged the Council to listen respectfully, work together across party lines, and support local schools and youth.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #15, Citizen Glen Robinson, representing Concerned Residents of Ward 1, addressed Council regarding halfway house operating in Ward 1 residential area. He urged Council's action since it is not certified by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #16, Citizen Deborah Trefzger addressed Council regarding a new season. She spoke about how to follow biblical principles that lead to prosperity for the people of Lynchburg.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #17, a citizen representing the Central VA Alliance for Community Living, Inc., addressed Council regarding a request to reinstate funds in the city budget.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #18, Citizen Heather Legge was not present to address Council.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #19, Citizen Gregory Berry, representing City Elders, addressed Council regarding lamentations. He urged Council members to reconcile with each other and prioritize serving the community.

// On a motion by Councilmember Misjuns, seconded by Councilmember Reed, Council voted to add an item to their next meeting restoring funding to the Central VA Alliance for Community Living, Inc.

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

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

// In the matter of Social Services, Agenda Item #20, Council conducted its first reading of Resolution #R-25-060 amending the FY 2026 General Fund Human Services - Social Services budget and appropriating $94,909 to establish a Kinship Navigator Program. Deputy Director of Human Services April Watson stated that the grant would establish a program to support relatives and others raising children outside the foster care system. The funds will cover staffing, outreach, and resource services, require no local match, and Lynchburg is one of five agencies statewide selected.

At its August 26, 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-25-060 to amend the FY26 General Fund, Human Services – Social Services budget and appropriate $94,909 to establish a Kinship Navigator Program.

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

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

// The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Clerk of Council