

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from March 11, was held on the 18th day of March, 2008, at 1:00 P.M., Council Chamber, City Hall, Bert Dodson, Jr., Vice President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session regarding the FY2009 Budget. The following Members were present:

Present: Dodson, Garrett, Helgeson, Johnson, Seiffert 5

Absent: Gillette, Foster 2

// Council Member Gillette joined the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

// Mayor Foster joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

// City Manager Kimball Payne and Deputy City Manager Bonnie Svrcek provided an overview regarding individual budgets within the following categories: General Government Administration, Judicial Administration, Public Safety, Public Works, Health and Welfare, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, and Community Development. Municipal staff was present to respond to questions regarding their individual budgets.

// During the budget discussion, Council Members raised several questions that required staff follow-up...

- Sheriff's Office: What are the duties of the two positions that are being considered by the State for reduction?
- Police: What is the cost of one officer and related equipment? How should the positions be grouped for efficiency?
- Law Library: Explain the revenues from Law Library fees on page 208 of the FY2009 Proposed Budget.
- Schools: Provide a comparison of the School's health plan to the City's health plan?
- Animal Warden: How many deer have been killed and how many permits were requested. Also, how many deer-related accidents have been reported?
- Public Works/Streets Division: Provide the Street Condition Index.

Deputy City Manager Svrcek stated that information requested would be provided to City Council at the next work session.

// School Board Chair Julia Doyle along with Schools Superintendent Paul McKendrick and Schools Chief Financial Officer Beverly Padgett provided information regarding the Schools FY2008-2009 Budget request. Ms. Doyle presented a power point presentation that included information regarding ...

- School Board priorities
- operating revenue
- operating expenditures
- employee compensation
- program initiatives
- accreditation status
- indicators of success

// Following the presentation and discussion regarding the Schools budget request, Council Members requested additional information from the Schools ...

- The number of middle school mathematics teachers.
- Information regarding enrollment projections.
- Retirement projections.
- Regular education costs per Student/Special Education Costs per Student
- List of prospective areas to cut if needed to balance the budget.
- Student achievement comparison with that of surrounding counties.
- Description of budget request of \$150,000 for Alternative Education.
- Summary of Fund Balance.
- Enrollment Projections.
- Health Insurance Summary.
- Health Care and Textbook Reserve Information/Account Balance.

Ms. Doyle explained that City Council would be provided the requested information.

// Alan Burchette and Darren Conner, Dewberry & Davis, Inc., along with School Board Chair Julia Doyle and Schools Superintendent Paul McKendrick presented an overview regarding information contained in a feasibility study regarding Heritage High School. Mr. Burchette provided a brief summary regarding three options for Heritage High School ...

- Option 1. Renovations and Additions – Total Project Costs \$61,580,127
- Option 2. Renovations and Major Additions – Total Project Costs \$69,754,425
- Option 3. New School – Total Project Costs \$81,226,040

Dr. McKendrick explained that the feasibility study was prepared to provide options and gather financial data to assist in the planning for the Heritage High School project. In response to Council questioning, Ms. Doyle explained that the School Board has not discussed the various options and questioned if City Council wanted the School Board to proceed with formalizing a recommendation for Heritage High School at this time. City Manager Kimball Payne reminded Council members that there are no funds currently in the Capital Improvements Program for Heritage High School. City Council briefly reviewed the options, and some Council Members expressed concern regarding the community's ability to pay for the increased debt service that would be required for this project, especially considering the new Sandusky Middle School and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court now under construction. Council Members agreed that more information was needed from the Schools regarding the Heritage High School project including what would happen to the building if nothing is done. Ms. Doyle stated that City Council would be provided the information requested.

// City Manager Kimball Payne stated that requests have been received from the League of Women Voters and the Chamber of Commerce to broadcast City Council candidate forums on the City's Government Channel. Mr. Payne explained that in the past, the League of Women Voters has broadcast its forum on the now defunct Public Access Channel and that now both organizations have been told that

according to staff interpretation of the Government Access Policy, the candidate forums could not be broadcast on the Government Channel. Mr. Payne went on to say that other localities were contacted and that ten out of twelve do not allow broadcast of candidate forums. Mr. Payne explained that the two that do allow the forums have very specific policy guidelines that must be followed. Mr. Payne outlined several issues that City Council should consider regarding broadcasting candidate forums:

- What will be the parameters to guide which groups will be provided coverage for their candidate forums?
- Staff Time and Costs – Should sponsoring organization cover the costs? If so, will this limit the organizations that can use this service?
- Is there a concern that this would create a limited public forum that could create additional issues?
- Would coverage be extended to offsite venues or limited to Council Chambers?
- Are there similar groups and circumstances, apart from the election period, that might expect similar access to government channel programming?
- Who determines the content and scheduling of government channel programming?

Mr. Payne noted that should Council decide to allow candidate forums to be broadcast on the government access channel, the approximate costs involved in producing this type of programming if done off-site following minimum standards would be \$980.00, and if held in Council Chambers, \$500.00. Council Members Helgeson and Gillette stated that they would abstain if a vote were taken regarding this matter since they are running for re-election and would probably take part in the candidate forums. In response to questioning, City Attorney Walter Erwin explained that one of the reasons that so few localities allow these types of programs on the government channel is that the law is very clear in that you have to give everyone equal opportunities to broadcast their programs. Mr. Erwin went on to say that Council can establish very specific criteria that everyone would need to follow in order to have their programming broadcast on the government channel. At Council's request, a representative from the League of Women Voters and the Chamber of Commerce came forward to provide a brief summary regarding their candidate forums. Council Members discussed at length the pros and cons regarding the broadcasting of candidate forums on the City's government channel and determined that there was not enough time to thoroughly develop a policy before this year's candidate forums. Some Council Members indicated that development of criteria for broadcasting candidate forums on the City's government channel would be something that could be explored prior to the next City Council election in 2010.

// The meeting was recessed at 5:51 p.m. to March 25, at 1:00 p.m., to conduct a work session regarding the FY2009 Budget and several items.

Clerk of Council