

January 29, 2026

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 29th day of January 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Training Room, City Hall, Larry Taylor, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

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

Misjuns, Jacqueline Timmer. 7

Absent: 0

// In the matter of Work Session Agenda Overview, City Manager Wynter Benda announced that he had declared a local state of emergency due to the recent inclement weather. He explained that Council had to take action to end the state of emergency, so Agenda Item #6 *Declaration of Local Emergency (Winter Storm Fern)* was moved up on the agenda.

He introduced the new Chief of Police, Kennith R. Edwards, Jr.

// On the motion of Councilmember Wilder, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, Council, by the following recorded vote, elected to hold a closed session to discuss appointments for vacancies to the following Boards and Commissions: Greater Lynchburg Transit Company, Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Lynchburg Parking Authority, Social Services Advisory Board, Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority, Planning Commission, Lynchburg Regional Airport Commission, Community Development Advisory Committee, and Horizon Behavioral Health Board of Directors pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; and to discuss the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; the subject of the closed meeting being specific to negotiations regarding the investment of public funds connected to solid waste disposal for the City.

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 was reopened to the public.

// Councilmember Reed made the following motion:

January 29, 2026

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, Faraldi, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 7

Noes: 0

// On motion of Councilmember Reed, seconded by Mayor Taylor, Council by the following recorded vote appointed the following members to the respective boards and commissions:

| Name                                           | Board Name                               | Appointment Date | Term End Date |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <a href="#">Grace Dean (Ward 2)</a>            | Community Development Advisory Committee | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2026    |
| <a href="#">Jacqueline Timmer</a>              | Community Development Advisory Committee | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2026    |
| <a href="#">Kimberly Dyke-Harsley (Ward 2)</a> | Community Development Advisory Committee | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2026    |
| <a href="#">Roman Franklin (Ward 2)</a>        | Community Development Advisory Committee | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2026    |
| <a href="#">Sterling Wilder</a>                | Community Development Advisory Committee | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2026    |
| <a href="#">Susan E. Murray (Ward 2)</a>       | Community Development Advisory Committee | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2026    |

| Name                                            | Board Name                                   | Appointment Date | Term End Date |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <a href="#">Benjamin Blanks (Ward 2)</a>        | Greater Lynchburg Transit Board of Directors | 01/29/2026       | 10/31/2028    |
| <a href="#">Tabatha Sprouse (Amherst Co.)</a>   | Greater Lynchburg Transit Board of Directors | 01/29/2026       | 10/31/2028    |
| <a href="#">Valerie Holmes (Ward 4)</a>         | Greater Lynchburg Transit Board of Directors | 01/29/2026       | 10/31/2028    |
| <a href="#">Atul Gupta (District 3)(Ward 3)</a> | Horizon Behavioral Health Board of Directors | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2028    |
| <a href="#">Scott Campbell (Ward 2)</a>         | Lynchburg Parking Authority                  | 01/29/2026       | 10/31/2028    |
| <a href="#">Charles Gammon (Ward 3)</a>         | Planning Commission                          | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2028    |

January 29, 2026

| Name                        | Board Name                            | Appointment Date | Term End Date |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Albert Billingsly (Ward 3)  | Lynchburg Regional Airport Commission | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2026    |
| Anton Tevelev (Ward 1)      | Lynchburg Regional Airport Commission | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2028    |
| Dan Deter (Ward 3)          | Lynchburg Regional Airport Commission | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2028    |
| Mark Elliott (Ward 1)       | Lynchburg Regional Airport Commission | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2028    |
| Steven Brinly (Bedford Co.) | Lynchburg Regional Airport Commission | 01/29/2026       | 12/31/2028    |
| Aihyana Horsford (Ward 2)   | Social Services Advisory Board        | 01/29/2026       | 09/30/2028    |
| Katheryne Goodman (Ward 4)  | Social Services Advisory Board        | 01/29/2026       | 09/30/2029    |

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

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Local Declaration of Emergency, Agenda Item #6, Council was briefed regarding the Declaration of a Local Emergency (Winter Storm Fern). City Manager Wynter Benda presented information on the City's operation during and management of the state of emergency. He introduced Interim Fire Chief Jonathan Wright, Emergency Management Specialist Piper VanDePerre, and Brian Reusser, who provided additional information to Council.

Interim Fire Chief Jonathan Wright debriefed Council on the emergency response to Winter Storm Fern.

Emergency Management Specialist Piper VanDePerre provided a summary of the City's preparations for Winter Storm Gianna and upcoming weather forecasts. She said that each department would provide a summary of their role in the emergency response to Winter Storm Fern.

Director of Public Works Gaynelle Hart reported on the City's efforts to clear roads, and she provided an update on the City's labor hours and materials usage, totaling 4,600 labor hours and 1,300 tons of salt and slag mix.

Director of Water Resources Tim Mitchell provided an overview of his department's efforts during the snow event, including providing 15 plow drivers to Public Works, clearing municipal and partner parking lots, and clearing snow from bridges. He mentioned the department's efforts to monitor and address leaks and breaks throughout the City. He noted that the department had zero operational accidents related to Water Resources or Public Works.

January 29, 2026

Chief of Police Kenneth Edwards debriefed Council on the police and Emergency Communications Center operations. He said they experienced a sustained increase in service demand during the winter storm, driven primarily by medical incidents, roadway hazards, and disabled vehicles. He acknowledged a few challenges, including a prolonged power disruption at the LPD headquarters and issues with the performance of the all-wheel drive Ford Explorer fleet vehicles.

Interim Fire Chief Jonathan Wright highlighted the success of the City's response to the storm, noting the citizens' willingness to stay at home and give the City space to prepare. He noted the effectiveness of the upstaffing efforts, which helped to boost morale throughout the storm.

Airport Director Cedric Simon reported on the Airport's response. He said his staff worked 12-hour shifts through the state of emergency and implemented an FAA-approved snow and ice control plan. He noted that they had a total of 10 canceled flights.

Director of Parks and Recreation Wyatt Woody reported on the department's efforts during the storm. He highlighted the efforts to maintain access to neighborhood centers.

Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt reported on the expenditures directly related to the storm response. She said that VDEM provided a spending threshold of \$383,983.74, and she estimated they had spent \$340,000. She noted that they only received reimbursement for a percentage spent over the threshold, which they did not exceed in this instance.

Director of Communications and Public Engagement Anna Bentson provided a summary of the department's public messaging efforts during the winter storm. She noted that engagement had increased across the City's media platforms.

Director of Human Services Preston Sellers reported that they had provided shelter services in partnership with the Salvation Army. He said they provided 24-hour staffing for shelter services during the storm, and they averaged about 38 un-duplicated individuals, or 14 individuals per night. He said they were winding down the emergency shelter services to transition back to volunteer sheltering services.

Ms. VanDePerre provided additional reports from LCS and GLTC regarding their operations during the storm. She said that LCS had prepared larger spaces for sheltering services, if needed. She

said they also facilitated food pickups for families. She said that GLTC helped meet emergency transportation needs.

Ms. VanDePerre said that staff was requesting Council to take action to confirm the declaration, formally ratifying the emergency actions taken during the storm, and to end the emergency declaration. She said staff recommended terminating, confirming, and ending the emergency declaration.

Mr. Benda stated that the item would appear before Council for action under General Business at the regular meeting.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about the decision to abolish the Department of Emergency Services and reassign the functions administratively. He requested a written legal review whether the City Manager had the authority to eliminate a department without approval from Council, and to identify what charter provisions govern the creation, modification, funding, and elimination of departments and personnel positions. He asked what the procedure was for no-warning emergency events.

Mr. Benda clarified that the Department of Emergency Services was not abolished, but rather reorganized, with 911 operations being moved under the police department and fire department operations being restructured. He emphasized that no one lost their job and that the changes only affected reporting structures and organizational designs, resulting in growth in the 911 center and improved cohesion between the fire and police departments.

Ms. VanDePerre replied that, in terms of a no-warning event, the Emergency Communications Center would receive notification, and once they were overwhelmed, they would notify the Fire Department.

Councilmember Misjuns said that he understood it took about a week to set up the EOC. He asked what equipment and capabilities were missing compared to the former model with the Department of Emergency Services.

Mr. Wright replied that they were preparing over the week for changing forecasts, but the EOC was ready. He said they had no issues related to personnel or equipment.

January 29, 2026

Councilmember Misjuns asked what the expected response was for emergency services employees, specifically the physical presence required for 24-7 duty, and whether they can meet that expectation.

Ms. VanDePerre replied that the general expectation was that the Emergency Operations Center should be activated within two hours of an emergency notification, and public messaging efforts should begin within that timeframe.

Councilmember Faraldi thanked staff for their response to the emergency.

Councilmember Wilder thanked staff for taking care of the City and its citizens.

Councilmember Reed expressed her appreciation and pride for staff's efforts.

Vice Mayor Diemer expressed gratitude for the City's response to the emergency. He praised the citizens who came together to help each other during the crisis. He said that they could not plan for everything, but they apparently had a plan, and it seemed to work well, and he looked forward to an after-action report.

Councilmember Timmer recounted a personal experience she had riding in an ambulance the other day, and she praised the EMS staff who responded. She thanked her neighbors who helped clear her trampoline for her son. She said that Council should receive a presentation on how the EOC operated.

Mayor Taylor expressed gratitude to the City staff and citizens, noting the efforts of citizens helping each other during the snowstorm.

// In the matter of the Registrar's Office, Agenda Item #3, Council was briefed regarding the Polling Place Change, Ward 4, Precinct 1. General Registrar Dan Pense briefed Council on the matter. The General Registrar has been notified that St. Thomas More Catholic Church, the polling place for the First Precinct of the Fourth Ward in the City, will no longer be able to serve as a polling location. The Registrar has met with representatives of All Peoples Church and the Electoral Board has authorized this location as a replacement polling place for the upcoming elections. City staff is preparing the paperwork for the change to be presented to the City Council and, if approved, communication with the Attorney General's office.

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #4, Council was briefed regarding the 1516 Greenview Drive, 798 & 794 Leesville Road - FLUM Amendment & Rezoning - Fuel Center and Convenience Store. The item will appear before Council for action on February 10. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen briefed Council on the matter. TPB Enterprises, LLC is petitioning to amend the Future Land Use Map from Neighborhood Commercial to Community Commercial and to rezone approximately four and nine hundred fifteen thousandths (4.915) acres located at 1516 Greenview Drive, 798 & 794 Leesville Road from R-1, Low Density Residential District; B-1, Limited Business District; and B-3C, Community Business District (Conditional); to B-3C, Community Business District (Conditional) to allow for a fuel center and convenience store on a portion of the property.

The City's Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030 recommends Neighborhood Commercial uses for the property. The petition proposes to amend this to Community Commercial. The proposed FLUM amendment to Community Commercial aligns with the requested B-3, Community Business District, and is logical given the location at the intersection of two (2) major corridors. According to aerial photography, 1516 Greenview Drive has never been improved, and given the high traffic counts of the adjoining roads, is unlikely to be developed under the current R-1, Low Density Residential District zoning. The proposed B-3C, Community Business District (Conditional) is consistent with the B-3C zoning that exists on approximately half of the site. Approval of the petition would allow the existing nursery business to remain and facilitate development on the remainder of the site.

// In the matter of City Council, Agenda Item #5, Council was briefed regarding Vice Mayor Diemer Councilmember Faraldi's request of reaffirming the City of Lynchburg's Second Amendment Sanctuary status. Vice Mayor Diemer introduced a resolution to affirm the City's 2nd Amendment Sanctuary City status. He noted proposed legislation in the General Assembly to restrict firearm ownership, and he emphasized the importance of reaffirming the City's position.

Councilmember Faraldi introduced a separate resolution to affirm the City's 2nd Amendment Sanctuary City status. He distinguished his resolution from the Vice Mayor's proposal because his resolution did not rewrite or expand the previous resolution and maintained a legally defensible position. He said that the Vice Mayor's proposal introduced new language, new interpretations, and established an

January 29, 2026

activist posture. He said these were legitimate points, but they should be saved for a separate discussion, and a safer approach would be to affirm the status quo.

Councilmember Wilder asked if they had seen any impacts related to the sanctuary city status.

Deputy City Manager Greg Patrick replied that they would work with the police department to provide follow-up information.

Councilmember Misjuns said he fully supports the Vice Mayor's proposed resolution, though he acknowledged they may need to tweak the wording. He expressed concerns about the pending legislation before the General Assembly regarding firearm regulations, such as magazine capacity limits.

Councilmember Faraldi said that item 3 of the Vice Mayor's resolution was his main point of concern. He said he wanted to ensure that the language stood up to legal scrutiny.

Mayor Taylor expressed support for re-affirming the existing resolution.

Councilmember Wilder requested for legal counsel to review the two resolutions and provide opinions and recommendations on each one.

// In the matter of Economic Development, Agenda Item #7, Council held a work session regarding Downtown Lynchburg Association Bright Nights on the Bluffwalk. Executive Director of the Downtown Lynchburg Association Stacy Garrett provided a presentation to Council. Downtown Lynchburg Association will discuss data and the economic impact generated by the 2025 Bright Nights on the Bluffwalk, provide photos from the event, and share quotes from local stakeholders.

Councilmember Reed encouraged people to explore and appreciate the City's locally owned businesses, which she believed were often overlooked in favor of bigger stores.

Councilmember Wilder appreciated the event's ability to bring people into the City and enhance its tax base.

Councilmember Timmer suggested that they consider interactive exhibits for children at the next event.

Vice Mayor Diemer praised the success of the event.

// In the matter of Roll Call, Councilmember Faraldi reported that he had received several complaints from the Perrymont and the Sandusky area related to snow and ice removal. He noted that the topography of

January 29, 2026

the area likely made it difficult, but he requested that staff look at how they could address the reported problems. He stated that he had an item that he would like addressed at an upcoming Council meeting, *Cooperation with State and Federal Authorities*.

Councilmember Reed congratulated the Liberty University cheer team, which placed 2nd in the Worlds Competition. She said that her son recently passed his FAA check ride to be a captain.

Councilmember Wilder announced that there was a shooting at Greenfield Market on Florida Avenue, resulting in injuries to multiple people, and he expressed concern for their well-being. He mentioned a murder that occurred last week, which affected a close family friend, and he prayed for the victim's family. He emphasized the need for community unity and responsible gun ownership to prevent gun violence.

Councilmember Timmer noted that she had additional road clearing requests that she would provide to staff. She said she would like to continue the discussion on deer culling and consider additional prioritization strategies.

Councilmember Misjuns requested an update on the Safe Haven baby box. He requested that the Police Chief be present for Councilmember Faraldi's scheduled business item briefing. He emphasized the need for police officers to have every tool possible to enforce federal immigration laws and keep citizens safe. He brought up concerns from a church about the ice removal on Melinda Drive.

Vice Mayor Diemer thanked the first responders, noting that he recently had to take a ride in an ambulance. He reiterated that Council needed an after-action report regarding the emergency response to Winter Storm Fern.

// The meeting was recessed at 6:43 p.m.

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 29th day of January, 2026 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, Stephanie Reed, Chris Faraldi, Sterling A. Wilder, Martin

Misjuns, Jacqueline Timmer.

7

Absent:

0

January 29, 2026

Councilmember Wilder led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// In the matter of Recognitions, Agenda Item #1, Director of Communications and Public Engagement Anna Bentson announced the retirement of Broadcast Services Coordinator Phil Spinner.

Mayor Taylor presented Mr. Spinner a bronze microphone in recognition of his years of service to the City.

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #2, copies of the minutes of the September 23, 2025 City Council meeting were previously furnished to Council.

Vice Mayor Diemer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to adopt the consent agenda.

Councilmember Faraldi stated that the minutes should not be a repository for written speeches from councilmembers, instead, they should serve as a summarization of business.

Vice Mayor Diemer called a point of order. He said that Councilmember Faraldi's comments were not germane to the motion on the floor.

Mayor Taylor ruled against the point of order.

Councilmember Faraldi stated that since the minutes included written speeches from councilmembers, they should be amended before they were approved.

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

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Misjuns | 4 |
| Noes: Reed, Faraldi                   | 2 |
| Absent: Timmer                        | 1 |

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #3, copies of the minutes of the October 14, 2025 City Council meeting were previously furnished to Council, and on the motion of Vice Mayor Diemer, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, Council, by the following recorded vote, approved the minutes as presented:

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Misjuns | 4 |
| Noes: Reed, Faraldi                   | 2 |
| Absent: Timmer                        | 1 |

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #4, copies of the minutes of the October 28, 2025 City Council meeting were previously furnished to Council, and on the motion of Vice Mayor Diemer, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, Council, by the following recorded vote, approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Misjuns 4

Noes: Reed, Faraldi 2

Absent: Timmer 1

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #5, copies of the minutes of the November 12, 2025 City Council meeting were previously furnished to Council, and on the motion of Vice Mayor Diemer, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, Council, by the following recorded vote, approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Misjuns 4

Noes: Reed, Faraldi 2

Absent: Timmer 1

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #6, copies of the minutes of the November 18, 2025 City Council meeting were previously furnished to Council, and on the motion of Vice Mayor Diemer, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, Council, by the following recorded vote, approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Misjuns 4

Noes: Reed, Faraldi 2

Absent: Timmer 1

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #7, copies of the minutes of the December 9, 2025 City Council meeting were previously furnished to Council, and on the motion of Vice Mayor Diemer, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, Council, by the following recorded vote, approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Misjuns 4

Noes: Reed, Faraldi 2

Absent: Timmer 1

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #8, Council considered adopting Ordinance #O-26-001 authorizing the sale and disposal of 1505 and 1517 Jackson Street

Vice Mayor Diemer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to adopt Ordinance #O-26-001.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Misjuns 4

Noes: Reed, Faraldi 2

Absent: Timmer 1

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #9, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-26-002 amending the FY 2026 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating \$39,954 to fund further treatment, training, and supplies for the Lynchburg Behavioral Health Docket.

Vice Mayor Diemer motioned, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to adopt Resolution #R-26-002.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Wilder, Misjuns 4

Noes: Reed, Faraldi 2

Absent: Timmer 1

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #10, Citizen Zachary Carter, representing Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living, Inc, addressed Council regarding appreciation for support from Council for CVACL programs, including Elves for Elders and Medicare insurance assistance during Open Enrollment.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #11, Citizen Pat O'Hara, representing Indivisible Lynchburg, addressed Council regarding public safety in light of current events. He criticized the Council's lack of response to the victims of ICE violence, specifically Renee Goode and Alex Pretti, who was lawfully carrying a firearm at the time of his death. He emphasized the importance of the Second Amendment and highlighted the need to protect other constitutional rights, such as the First and Fourth

Amendments. He called for Council to take a strong stance in defending all constitutional rights, not just the Second Amendment.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #12, Citizen Greg Berry, representing City Elders, addressed Council regarding life. He discussed the biblical perspective on life and the threat of Satan to destroy mankind. He referenced Genesis and John 10:10, and he mentioned Margaret Sanger's eugenic views, which advocated for the destruction of minorities. He said that they must honor the sanctity of all life and prevent Lynchburg from becoming a location for abortion tourism.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #13, Citizen Alan Davis was not present.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #14, Citizen Marla Abe, representing Lynchburg Church of the Brethren, addressed Council regarding the Fourth Amendment and the Bill of Rights. She expressed gratitude for the moment of silence at the Council meeting for Charlie Kirk. She held a moment of silence for Alex Pretti and offered a prayer. She spoke about gun safety, and she emphasized that armed citizens should not cover their faces because it hindered the ability to communicate. She emphasized the importance of the Bill of Rights.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #15, Citizen Jeff Rosner addressed Council regarding Second Amendment Resolutions. He expressed concern that support for the Second Amendment resolutions was based on incorrect information. He disputed Vice Mayor Diemer's claim of almost unanimous support for the sanctuary city resolution, and he noted that the resolution was adopted during a work session, where public comment was not heard. He expressed support for reasonable gun control measures.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #16, Citizen Peter Cefaratti addressed Council regarding respect for Lynchburg citizens. He requested that Council not cancel any future public comment opportunities. He requested transparency on the cost of the new police headquarters, the creation of an auditor position to monitor city spending, and a mechanism for Council to receive and consider citizen feedback.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #17, Citizen Gary Taylor, representing Citizens for a Better Lynchburg, addressed Council regarding Lynchburg City Schools. He noted that Lynchburg City

Schools ranked 122 out of 131 in SOL scores. He highlighted the significant change in the school system, citing the replacement of the superintendent, director of instruction, and finance director, which he thought was good. He suggested a joint meeting between the superintendent, finance director, and Council to discuss the issues and break down silos, allowing for a fresh start.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #18, Citizen Kimberly Dyke-Harsley addressed Council regarding Lynchburg Burial Grounds. She expressed frustration with the inefficiency of the meetings and requested more preparation and planning in respect of citizens' time. She inquired about the history of the Old City Cemetery, specifically the 700 block of Smith Street in Dearington. She sought clarification about who was buried in the cemetery and who was responsible for its maintenance.

Councilmember Faraldi asked for staff to investigate the history of the cemetery to provide answers to Ms. Dyke-Harsley's questions.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to have staff research the history of the cemetery and present the findings to Council by the second work session in April.

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 Public Comment, Agenda Item #19, Citizen Joan Pense was not present.

// In the matter of Recovery Court, Agenda Item #20, Council considered introducing Resolution #R-26-004 amending the FY 2026 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating \$45,590 to enhance drug testing to comply with best practice standards in the Lynchburg Adult Recovery Court. The item was previously discussed by the Finance Committee. The Lynchburg Adult Recovery Court is a specialized court docket existing with the Circuit Court that is designed to enhance public safety by providing an integrated system of treatment and judicial supervision that results in a reduction of substance use/dependency and recidivism. The Lynchburg Recovery Court began in March 2017 as a result of a grant from the Supreme Court of Virginia.

January 29, 2026

At its January 29, 2026 meeting, the Finance Committee recommended approval. As Chair of that committee, Councilmember Reed 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, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Airport, Agenda Item #21, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-26-005 correcting the initial lease terms described in Lynchburg City Council Resolutions #R-25-071 and #R-25-090. The item was previously considered by the Finance Committee. Resolutions #R-25-071 and #R-25-090, approving Lease Agreements between (i) the City of Lynchburg ("City") and Freedom Aviation, Inc. (dated October 14, 2025) and (ii) the City, Bon Air Brokerage Company, LLC, and Davis Air, Inc. (as a Guarantor) (dated November 12, 2025), respectively, were adopted by the Lynchburg City Council. The initial terms, as described in Resolving Clause #1 of each of the Resolutions, were intended to reflect initial lease terms of five (5) years (i.e. January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2030), but contain Scrivener's Errors reflecting initial lease terms ending December 31, 2031. This Resolution would correct the Scrivener's Errors.

Councilmember Reed stated that the Finance Committee unanimously recommended approval.

At its January 29, 2026 meeting, the Finance Committee recommended approval. As Chair of that committee, Councilmember Reed 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, Reed, Faraldi, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Finance, Agenda Item #22, Council considered adopting an ordinance approving the transfer of \$25,000 for funding provided to the Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living. The item was previously presented to the Finance Committee. At the October 28, 2025 City Council meeting, City Council voted to fund the request by Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living (CVACL) for FY 2026. The appropriation for CVACL was funded from the FY 2026 Reserve for Contingencies. Councilmember

Misjuns requested funds in the Reserve for Contingencies be made whole by transferring \$25,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance.

Councilmember Reed stated that the Finance Committee made no recommendation.

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

Councilmember Timmer said that the request would keep funding within the appropriate categories by restoring funds to the reserve for contingencies.

Councilmember Misjuns said that they needed to be good stewards of the tax dollars and refill the reserve for contingencies.

Councilmember Faraldi pointed out that taking \$25,000 from the unassigned fund balance to put into the reserve for contingencies would be a duplicitous accounting maneuver, as the reserve would eventually return to the unassigned fund balance anyway. He questioned the necessity of the move.

Councilmember Misjuns withdrew his second; Councilmember Timmer withdrew her motion.  
// In the matter of Redistricting, Agenda Item #23, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-26-006 supporting Section 6-A of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia and strongly opposing any attempt to remove or amend said section or otherwise change the Commonwealth of Virginia's current redistricting processes. The item was previously discussed by Council on January 13. Councilmember Faraldi provided the presentation to Council. On the resolution, Councilmember Misjuns requested that the number of Lynchburg voters be reflected to show the following:

- 26,436 Lynchburg voters in favor; and,
- 7,842 in opposition

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Misjuns, to adopt Resolution #R-26-006, as amended with the updated figures from the agenda item summary.

Councilmember Faraldi opposed the General Assembly's proposed constitutional amendment to change congressional district boundaries based on party preference. He said that gerrymandering was unacceptable, regardless of which party was doing it. He emphasized that the amendment would harm Lynchburg's influence in the 5th Congressional District and undermine the community's interests. He

January 29, 2026

supported a resolution that upheld the Virginia Constitution's current provisions and opposed gerrymandering for partisan gain.

Councilmember Misjuns noted that 26,436 Lynchburg voters were in favor of the current Constitution, with a nonpartisan redistricting commission, and 7,842 were in opposition, which he described as an overwhelming mandate. He emphasized the importance of standing up against attempts to erase the City's state representation.

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

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

Noes: Wilder 1

// In the matter of Local Declaration of Emergency, Agenda Item #24, Council considered adopting a Resolution #R-26-007 confirming and ending the declared emergency made in response to Winter Storm Fern. The item was previously discussed by Council at the work session earlier that day.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed his appreciation to the first responders.

Councilmember Reed expressed her appreciation to City staff and first responders.

Councilmember Wilder thanked staff for their efforts.

Vice Mayor Diemer expressed appreciation for the citizens who helped each other during the emergency.

Councilmember Timmer thanked staff for making it possible to end the state of emergency.

Mayor Taylor thanked City staff and the first responders.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to adopt Resolution #R-26-007.

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

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

Noes: 0

// The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

January 29, 2026