

February 23, 2026

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 23rd day of February, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Larry Taylor, President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to enter into a closed session to receive legal advice regarding the requirements of Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia as applied to the scheduling of early voting for the referendum on House Joint Resolution 4; the Councilmembers' oath-bound duty to uphold the Constitution; and any related potential litigation. Additionally, a resolution declining to commence early voting prior to expiration of constitutional waiting period was considered. The following Members were present:

Present: Larry Taylor, Curt Diemer, Stephanie Reed, Sterling A. Wilder, Martin Misjuns,	
Jacqueline Timmer	6
Absent: Chris Faraldi	1

Mayor Taylor led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// On the motion of Councilmember Misjuns, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, Council, by the following recorded vote, elected to hold a closed session to consult with legal counsel representing the City regarding specific legal matters that require the provision of legal advice; the subject of the closed meeting being specific to providing legal advice and legal guidance regarding (i) the requirements of Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia as applied to the scheduling of early voting for the referendum on House Joint Resolution 4; (ii) the Councilmembers' oath-bound duty to uphold the Constitution; and (iii) any related potential litigation.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer	5
Noes: Wilder	1
Absent: Faraldi	1

// 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 Vice Mayor Diemer, and Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the motion:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Misjuns, Timmer, Wilder	6
Noes:	0
Absent: Faraldi	1

// In the matter of City Council, Agenda Item #1, Council considered adopting a resolution Declining to Commence Early Voting Prior to Expiration of Constitutional Waiting Period. Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Timmer, to not adopt any resolution.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns that Virginia Democrats were deliberately ignoring the 90-day quiet period in Article 12, Section 1 of the Virginia Constitution. He argued that the Democrats' actions were driven by national party politics, rather than serving Virginians.

Councilmember Timmer thanked City Council and City Attorney Matthew Freedman for a productive conversation.

Councilmember Reed stated that voting was a crucial right and should never be taken away. She urged everyone to vote in all elections this year. She was glad they reversed their decision and was looking forward to a better option for the City.

Vice Mayor Diemer spoke out against gerrymandering. He emphasized his commitment to following and upholding the Constitution. He said that a group in The General Assembly was trying to steal the election and ignore the Constitution, and it made him sad for the Commonwealth.

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Councilmember Wilder said that the selective silence and outrage was a problem. He attributed this to a "selective amnesia", warning that God would judge the nation for being outraged at some issues while being silent on others.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Wilder, Misjuns, Timmer	6
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Noes:	0
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Abstain: Faraldi	1
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// The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Clerk of Council