

March 10, 2026

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 10th day of March, 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 6

Absent: Jacqueline Timmer 1

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #1, Council was briefed regarding the 609 Dunbar Drive & 612 12th Street - Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment & Rezoning - Apartments.

The item would appear before Council for action on April 14, 2026. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided the staff report. 609 Dunbar, LLC is petitioning to amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) from Neighborhood Commercial to Downtown and to rezone approximately twenty-one hundredths (0.21) of an acre located at 609 Dunbar Drive and 612 12th Street from B-5, General Business District to B-4, Urban Commercial District to allow two (2) existing warehouses to be redeveloped into approximately twenty-eight (28) apartment units.

The subject properties are currently zoned B-5, General Business District. The City's Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030 Future Land Use Map (FLUM) recommends Neighborhood Commercial uses for the properties. The petition proposes to amend this to Downtown. The proposed FLUM amendment to Downtown aligns with the requested B-4, Urban Commercial District. Multi-household structures (apartments) are a permitted use in the B-4, Urban Commercial District. Approval of the petitions would allow for redevelopment of historic structures.

Due to the timing of this briefing, the Planning Commission recommendation and minutes were not yet available. That information will be forwarded to Council once available.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Wilder asked about the proposed parking layout. Ms. Frischeisen explained that the parking would be located across Dunbar Drive in a currently vacant lot. Councilmember Wilder commented that the parking area appeared tight.

Mayor Taylor noted that one of the buildings had previously served as a hospital during the Civil War. Ms. Frischeisen stated that the applicant planned to utilize state and federal historic tax credits to preserve the historic character of the buildings.

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #2, Council was briefed regarding the 271 Riverside Drive - Conditional Use Permit (CUP) - Group Home. The item will appear before Council for action on April 14, 2026. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided the staff report. The Miller Home for Girls is petitioning for a CUP to allow the use of an existing residential dwelling as a group home for up to eight (8) individuals in an R-2, Low-Medium Density Residential District at 271 Riverside Drive.

The property is zoned R-2, Low-Medium Density Residential District. In this district, large group homes are permitted upon approval of a CUP by Council. The Comprehensive Plan 2013- 2030 Future Land Use Map (FLUM) recommends Low Density Residential use for the subject property. The use of the existing structure as a large group home should have limited impact on the surrounding area.

The Miller Home is currently using the property as proposed by the CUP. In September 2025, Miller Home staff consulted with the Zoning Division and were advised that the subject property was appropriate for use as a group home for up to eight (8) children. Based on that information, Miller Home proceeded with relocation to this facility and completed all required Department of Social Services approvals. Upon further review of City Code and State Code, staff determined that a Conditional Use Permit is required for a group home that serves more than four (4) children at the Riverside Drive location. On January 12, 2026, the Miller Home was notified that a CUP was needed and subsequently submitted this petition.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Misjuns noted the recent BZA ruling that group-home uses for protected classes were by-right on single-family-zoned properties due to the Fair Housing Act. He asked what the timeline was to appeal the BZA decision.

Assistant City Manager Kent White replied that the appeal had to be made within 30 days of the decision.

Councilmember Misjuns asked when staff planned to present information to Council and provide options to appeal the decision.

Mr. White replied that staff had sent the information to Council, but they had not received any indication as to whether Council wanted to consider the matter.

City Attorney Matthew Freedman explained that if Council indicated a majority interest in appealing the decision, then he would draft a resolution for consideration at the regular meeting or at a special meeting. He suggested providing more information during closed session.

Councilmember Misjuns said that it would give Council the opportunity to get more information and ask questions. He expressed concerns about the implications on single-family zoning in the City related to the BZA decision. He said that group-homes should require approval from Council, and they should not be by-right in the same zoning as single-family homes.

Councilmember Faraldi said that they should consider the matter separately from the present petition, but he agreed that Council should review the matter at the next meeting.

Vice Mayor Diemer expressed concerns about the implications of the BZA decision, and he was worried about the properties surrounding his home becoming by-right group-homes. He encouraged Council to discuss the matter during the closed session.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed interest in how other localities were addressing group-home zoning.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Faraldi cautioned Councilmembers to be mindful of comments made regarding protected classes and group homes. Assistant City Manager Kent White emphasized that recovery homes serve individuals seeking treatment and noted the importance of balancing neighborhood concerns with support for individuals recovering from addiction.

Councilmember Misjuns requested additional information regarding how other localities address similar zoning matters and asked about the potential precedent created by the BZA decision.

// In the matter of Finance, Agenda Item #3, Council was briefed regarding the Financing Analysis and Refunding Opportunity of the 2016 Bond Issue. The item will appear before Council for action on March 10, 2026. Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt introduced the item, and Senior Vice President of Davenport & Co. Courtney Rogers, a financial advisor for the City, briefed Council on the matter. A line of credit was established in June 2023 to fund capital projects in the City Capital, Schools Capital, Fleet, Water, Sewer and Stormwater funds. This line of credit will expire June 2026 and must be permanently financed with General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds. The resolution to establish the 2023 Line of Credit also includes the authority to permanently finance the Line of Credit, so no further action is required of City Council.

The City's financial advisors have reviewed the City's bond portfolio and believe there is a refunding opportunity associated with the Series 2016 bonds. This refunding is estimated to result in approximately \$900,000 in net savings over the life of the bonds. Savings would be allocated between the General, Fleet, Water, Sewer, and Airport Funds.

This refunding is in alignment with the City's "Refinancing Debt Policy," which states "a refunding transaction to achieve debt service savings should only be undertaken when the net present value of savings, net of issuance costs, will be at least 3% of the principal amount of the

March 10, 2026

refunded bonds". The City's financial advisors estimate that the net present value of the savings will be in compliance with this policy.

Councilmember Faraldi asked what would happen if Council did not approve the resolution.

Mr. Rogers replied that if Council did not approve the resolution, they would have \$57 million in interim financing due to be paid over the summer.

// In the matter of Finance, Agenda Item #4, Council was briefed regarding the Issuance Costs for the General Obligation Public Improvement Bond Series 2026. The matter would appear before Council for action on March 10, 2026. Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt briefed Council. The estimated issuance cost to permanently finance the 2023 LOC and a potential refunding of the General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds, Series 2026.

Issuance Cost Components	FY 2026 Estimates
Bond Counsel	\$63,000
Bond Ratings	199,200
Financial Advisor	244,153
Official Statement Preparation, CUSIPs	8,000
Copying, Postage, Overnight Mailing, etc.	2,000
Miscellaneous	83,647
Total	\$600,000

// In the matter of Airport, Agenda Item #5, Council held a work session regarding Airport DC-8 Briefing. Airport Director Cedric Simon provided the presentation to Council. Liberty University and the City of Lynchburg are working together on opportunities to showcase a DC-8 aircraft that was recently donated to the university by Samaritan's Purse International Relief. Staff will

March 10, 2026

provide an overview of ongoing coordination with federal and regional partners, as well as the consideration and timeframe for City Council to move this project forward.

Councilmember Wilder expressed support for the project and stated that it would be beneficial for aviation opportunities in the City and for local students.

// In the matter of City Council, Agenda Item #6, Council held a work session regarding VMI Resolution of Support. Vice Mayor Diemer introduced the matter. He remained concerned about preserving VMI's independence, traditions, and mission. He warned that any further attempts to interfere with its governance and character should be approached with caution, as it may impact future students considering VMI.

// In the matter of Roll Call, Councilmember Faraldi stated he would request future agenda items related to attorney-client privilege and the City's abortion zoning ordinance. He congratulated the Heritage High School girls track and field team on its state championship victory and expressed interest in reviewing the City's ordinance regulating unrelated persons living together in a domicile. He also addressed prior public comments made during a previous Council discussion, stating he disagreed with comparisons previously used in that debate and had requested a public apology from the Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Reed recognized local citizens and students for their contributions to the community, including Dorothy Civitillo and Perrymont Elementary student Desire Wood. She congratulated the Sandusky Middle School girls basketball team on its undefeated season and championship victories and requested a future Council recognition for the team.

Councilmember Wilder announced that the City Armory would host March Madness events during the month of March. He also recognized the passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson and Deborah Marshall and expressed condolences to their families and the White Rock community.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Misjuns expressed interest in reviewing the relationship between the City's regulations on unrelated persons living together and the short-term rental ordinance. He requested future recognition for the Lady Pioneers Track and Field team and stated his interest in discussing proposed state legislation related to assault rifles during a future Work Session.

Vice Mayor Diemer stated that no offense was intended regarding prior remarks. He referenced correspondence involving the City Manager and Councilmembers and stated that he intended to discuss matters related to Council oversight responsibilities and public correspondence.

Councilmember Reed raised a point of order and stated that the discussion involved personnel-related matters that should be addressed in closed session.

Mayor Taylor determined that the discussion involved personnel matters and directed that the matter be addressed in closed session. The Work Session recessed at 5:10 p.m.

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 10th day of March, 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 6

Absent: Jacqueline Timmer 1

// Councilmember Misjuns led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// Mayor Taylor recognized the Old Dominion Job Corps students who were in attendance.

// In the matter of the Agenda, Clerk of Council Alicia Finney noted that Council did not address four closed session items during its work session, so staff had prepared to address them at the end of the regular meeting. She indicated that there was consensus from Council to add the items to the agenda.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Reed requested to add Duane Yuhas to the end of the public comment period. There was consensus from Council.

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #1, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-26-017 amending the FY 2026 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating \$9,000 to the Lynchburg Police Department for electric bicycles.

Councilmember Wilder motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to adopt Resolution #R-26-017.

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

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

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #2, Council conducted a public hearing in consideration of adopting Resolution #R-26-020 approving a Conditional Use Permit allowing the use of an existing structure at 2057 Garfield Ave for Virginia University of Lynchburg Modular Classrooms. City Planner Rachel Frischeisen provided a summary of the request. Virginia University of Lynchburg is petitioning for a CUP to allow four (4) modular classroom buildings, which were previously intended to be temporary, to remain permanently in an R-3, Medium Density Residential District at 2057 Garfield Avenue.

Temporary modular classrooms are permitted by the Zoning Ordinance without the approval of a CUP. The petitioner decided they would like the classrooms to remain permanently. The property is zoned R-3, Medium Density Residential District. In this district, colleges and universities are permitted upon approval of a CUP by Council. The Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030 Future Land Use Map (FLUM) recommends Institutional uses for the subject property. The modular classrooms should have limited impact on the surrounding area.

March 10, 2026

Russell Orrison, Perkins & Orrison, and representing the petitioner, stated that he was available to answer any questions.

There was no one wishing to speak, either in person or voicemail so the public hearing was closed and the matter rested with Council.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to adopt Resolution #R-26-020.

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

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

// In the matter of Economic Development, Agenda Item #3, Council conducted a public hearing in consideration of introducing Ordinance #O-26-021 authorizing the sale and disposal of 147 Mill Ridge Road. Director of Economic Development & Tourism Marjette Upshur provided a summary of the request. The City of Lynchburg owns approximately 5 acres with a 42,250-square-foot commercial building located at 147 Mill Ridge Road (Tax Map #24308002). Acquired in 1988, the facility was originally constructed as a business incubator utilizing funds from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the City. Since that time, it has been operated by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose board is appointed by City Council. Over time, the facility transitioned from an incubator model to primarily below-market leased space. The property is assessed in 2025 at \$2,586,200 and was independently appraised at \$1,765,000. There have been recent inquiries about options to purchase the building.

In December 2025, the City issued a 30-day Request for Proposals for the purchase and redevelopment of the property. One proposal was received from Framatome Inc. Framatome proposes to redevelop the facility to support expansion of its Lynchburg operations, including office space, light manufacturing for nuclear-grade component machining and fabrication,

March 10, 2026

workforce training areas, and research and development space. The company has offered \$2,051,000 for the property and has committed an additional \$6 million to building renovations and site improvements. The project will accommodate 40–80 employees and relocate approximately 20 existing positions from Campbell County into the City.

Framatome has operated in Lynchburg for more than 50 years and is the City's largest taxpaying employer. The company is currently executing a multi-year growth plan that anticipates 515 net new jobs in Virginia by 2027, with an average wage exceeding \$122,000. This transaction returns the property to the tax rolls, eliminates ongoing public subsidy of below-market space, leverages significant private investment, and strengthens Lynchburg's position as a national leader in advanced nuclear energy and manufacturing.

Dominique Grandemange, of Framatome, and representing the petitioner, provided comments to Council.

There was no one wishing to speak, either in person, by phone, voicemail, or email, so the public hearing was closed and the matter rested with Council.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to adopt Ordinance #O-26-021.

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

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

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #4, Citizen Beth White, representing Citizens United for Lynchburg, addressed Council regarding a point of order. She expressed frustration and concern over the recent lawsuit filed by three councilmembers regarding the upcoming election, and the subsequent public opinion poll. She said that the Vice Mayor compared the redistricting efforts to rape, which she felt was both unethical and morally repulsive. She

March 10, 2026

referenced the recent increase in reported forcible sexual offenses in the City and asked the audience if they were okay with the mayor's response.

Councilmember Misjuns called a point of order. He said that citizens were not allowed to interact with the audience during their comments.

City Attorney Matthew Freedman said that a citizen was allowed to ask a question as part of their comments, but the audience did not have to respond. He noted that Council had previously allowed citizens to poll the audience during public comment.

Mayor Taylor ruled against the point of order and allowed Ms. White to ask her question.

Ms. White asked for those who personally knew a person who survived sexual assault to raise their hand. She expressed concern about what was in the Vice Mayor's heart and mind that made him compare political decisions to sexual assault. She asked the Vice Mayor to apologize to every person who had survived sexual assault in the City.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #5, Citizen Tauri Tucker addressed Council regarding adoption of the 287(g) Program. She expressed concerns that the program would erode trust in law enforcement and lead to division within the community. She pointed out that there was no substantial evidence showing that cities participating in the 287(g) program experienced measurable reductions in crime. She asked Council to support evidence-based policy, fiscal responsibility, and community unity by not adopting the 287(g) program.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #6, Citizen Nathan Hendrix, representing President of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Police Benevolent Association, addressed Council regarding their discussion about LPD's participation in the ICE 287(g) program. He emphasized that federal immigration enforcement and local law enforcement had very different missions. He said that the PBA was strongly opposed to Council adopting any ordinance or resolution compelling the Chief of Police to make operational decisions contrary to his professional judgment.

March 10, 2026

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #7, Citizen Robert Flood, representing Rescuers of the Youth Hoop-City, addressed Council regarding safety and honoring Ms. Mary Payne, Civil Rights Activist. He requested that Council formally recognize Mary Payne for her significant contributions to civil rights, education, and community service. He suggested that Council form a committee to consider ways to honor her legacy.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #8, Citizen Rise Hayes, representing Central Virginia Young Democrats, addressed Council regarding Vice Mayor Diemer's comparison. She stated that the Vice Mayor's comparison of political redistricting efforts to sexual assault was insulting and harmed the community. She requested that the Vice Mayor be required to publicly apologize and serve community service at women's shelters.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #9, Citizen Jordan Nesbitt addressed Council regarding the Vice Mayor's political analogy. She expressed outrage over Vice Mayor's use of rape and murder as political analogies, calling the language unacceptable. She explained that analogies were often used to simplify complex policy issues, but the Vice Mayor's comments did not achieve this and instead created violent and distracting rhetoric. She said the Vice Mayor prioritized his own political agenda over the well-being of the citizens. She recited Proverbs 18:20-21, Ephesians 4:29, Proverbs 16:23-24, Matthew 7:20, and Galatians 5:22-23.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #10, Citizen Gary Taylor, representing Citizens for a Better Lynchburg, addressed Council regarding local elections. He noted that three Democrats had announced candidacies in the upcoming election, but they faced a significant challenge in disassociating themselves from the national and local Democratic parties. He said that three independent Republican candidates had announced campaigns, which put the LRCC in a difficult position to either accept the candidates or to run their own ballot. He hoped that conservatives could find a way to mend fences within the party.

March 10, 2026

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #11, Citizen Mike Bremer addressed Council regarding 287(g) agreements. He said that the 287(g) program was wrong for Lynchburg, diverted resources from the LPD and eroded trust between law enforcement and the community. He expressed concern about the potential for civil rights violations. He urged Council to reject any 287(g) agreements.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #12, Citizen Ryan Ball, representing Concerned Local Cops, addressed Council regarding state of love and trust. He asked Council to respect the expertise of the Chief of Police regarding participation in the 287(g) program. He noted the Vice Mayor's comparison of political issues to rape and genocide was highly inflammatory and did not serve the interest of public discourse.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Agenda Item #13, Citizen Sarah Bonner addressed Council regarding special training and education about autism and mental health for first responders. She spoke about Alex LaMorie, a Maryland man with autism who was shot six times by police responding to a wellness check for him. She said the training could help prevent similar tragedies in the community.

// In the matter of Public Comment, Item Not on the Agenda, citizen Dwayne Yuhas addressed Council regarding the Vice Mayor's online behavior. He expressed concerns regarding comments made by the Vice Mayor and requested that Council investigate the matter and hold the Vice Mayor accountable.

Councilmember Reed motioned, seconded by Councilmember Faraldi, to amend the agenda to add an item at the end of General Business to discuss removing funding for the Vice Mayor's sponsored trip on the inaugural flight from Lynchburg Regional Airport to Chicago.

Councilmember Misjuns raised a point of order, stating that the motion was not relevant to the public comments raised. City Attorney Matthew Freedman advised that Councilmember

March 10, 2026

Reed had connected the motion to the public comments that had been made. Mayor Taylor ruled the motion to be in order.

Vice Mayor Diemer addressed prior comments that had been referenced during public comment. He stated that no offense was intended and apologized to individuals who were offended by the remarks. Vice Mayor Diemer also stated that he believed he was complying with applicable conflict of interest requirements related to the Chicago trip and indicated that he could support canceling the trip.

Mayor Taylor stated that several citizens had requested an apology from the Vice Mayor during public comment and asked why the Vice Mayor would not apologize. Vice Mayor Diemer responded that individuals who had concerns should address them with him directly.

Councilmember Reed stated that her motion was intended to demonstrate accountability regarding the matter.

Mayor Taylor called the question. With no further discussion from the Council, the following vote was recorded:

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

// the matter of Schools, Agenda Item #14, Council considered introducing Resolution #R-26-022 reallocating funds to Lynchburg City Schools. This item was previously discussed by Council on January 13, 2026. Dr. Somerville-Midgette, Superintendent, has requested the Lynchburg City School's (LCS) fund balance of \$3,317,910 from FY 2025 be returned to LCS. The request includes \$1,100,000 be returned to the Health Insurance Reserve, \$1,217,910 be appropriated to the LCS Textbook Reserve, and \$1,000,000 be appropriated to the Schools Capital Fund to establish a Vehicle Replacement Account. These items were approved by the City School Board at the December 16, 2025 meeting.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Reed motioned to approve Resolution #R-26-022, and direct the School Board to utilize a portion of the return to fund balance to fund the \$1,000 employee bonuses.

Councilmember Misjuns called a point of order. He said that he understood the only way Council could direct funding to Lynchburg City Schools was through the use of major fund classifications such as instruction, transportation, and information technology. He said they did not have the authority to earmark the use of specific funds.

City Attorney Matthew Freedman explained that Council could request or suggest how the School Board used the funds, but they could not require the School Board to use the monies for a particular purpose.

Councilmember Reed said that if the School Board needed to use the monies for other needs, then the funds for employee bonuses should be included in the School Board's budget request.

Councilmember Reed motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to approve Resolution #R-26-022, as-is.

Vice Mayor Diemer said he supported allowing the School Board to determine how to spend the funds.

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

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

// In the matter of City Council, Agenda Item #15, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-26-023 providing that the City will continue to partner with Virginia and Federal agencies consistent with City practice and applicable law. This item was previously discussed by Council on February 10, 2026.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to adopt the resolution.

Councilmember Faraldi expressed concerns about the Governor's decision to remove state police from federal 287(g) agreements and the mandate for local police to coordinate with federal immigration enforcement. He emphasized that Lynchburg would continue to operate as normal, regardless of state direction. He said that they would be setting an example for a common sense approach to immigration enforcement.

Vice Mayor Diemer emphasized the importance of cooperating with federal law enforcement.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to amend motion to add to the resolution that, (1) the City, by and through its police department, shall enter into a contractual relationship with the Department of Homeland Security, by and through its US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, to participate in the 287(g) enforcement program; (2) that the City Manager and Chief of Police of the LPD are both authorized to take any and all action necessary to carry out the substance of the resolution; and (3) that the resolution should become effective upon its adoption.

City Attorney Matthew Freedman clarified that the draft language he had circulated included provisions allowing the Chief of Police or City Manager discretion to enter into a 287(g) agreement if determined to be in the best interest of the City or Police Department.

Councilmember Faraldi called a point of order. He said that the motion to amend significantly altered the intent of the original resolution, so it was not a proper amendment.

Mayor Taylor ruled in favor of the point of order and determined that the motion to amend was out of order.

Councilmember Misjuns made a substitute motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to adopt the resolution provided by Mr. Freedman via email, that (1) the City, by and through its

March 10, 2026

police department, shall enter into a contractual relationship with the Department of Homeland Security, by and through its US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, to participate in the 287(g) enforcement program; (2) that the City Manager and Chief of Police of the LPD are both authorized to take any and all action necessary to carry out the substance of the resolution; and (3) that the resolution should become effective upon its adoption.

Councilmember Faraldi called a point of order. He stated that the substitute motion substantively altered the original resolution, so it was not a proper substitute motion.

Mr. Freedman explained that a substitute motion could alter the substance of the original motion.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concern about the state-level cancellation of 287(g) agreements, leaving Lynchburg without coverage from the Virginia State Police. He emphasized the importance of partnerships between law enforcement along with the financial benefits of the 287(g) program.

Vice Mayor Diemer stressed the importance of using all available funding for public safety. He said that public safety was strengthened by cooperation, clarity, and common sense.

Councilmember Faraldi noted that LPD already handled criminal cases, but immigration enforcement was a civil matter. He said that the better place for a 287(g) agreement was through the jail or the Sheriff's Department, not the police department.

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

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

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

March 10, 2026

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

// In the matter of LYH 250 Committee, Agenda Item #16, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-26-024 establishing the Lynchburg Historical Foundation as the fiscal agent of LYH 250. The item was previously discussed by Council on February 24, 2026. VA 250 local committees work with the State's VA 250 Commission to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Virginia's role in American independence (1776–1781). Previously, local representatives self-selected as Lynchburg's committee and listed themselves on the VA 250 website; Ashleigh Meyer, formerly with the Old City Cemetery (Southern Memorial Association), was identified as the committee contact.

On May 28, 2024, City Council issued a support resolution, so Lynchburg's committee could be officially recognized as a VA 250 committee. The resolution formally designated the local committee - LYH 250 - through December 31, 2026 and assigned the Southern Memorial Association as the fiscal agent for purposes of applying for, receiving, and managing state programs and grants on behalf of the committee. To date, LYH 250, has not received any state funding, instead conducting local fundraising efforts for projects through the support of private donors.

Southern Memorial Association has requested that they no longer serve as the fiscal agent for LYH 250 and that Council adopt a new resolution assigning the Lynchburg Historical Foundation to this role. The Foundation's Executive Director, Ashleigh Meyer, would continue to serve as the committee's contact and there would be no other substantive changes to the resolution. The committee would still be monitored by the City's Finance Department like other subrecipients, such as those for Community Development Block Grant and HOME grant programs.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Wilder motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to adopt Resolution #R-26-024.

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

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

// In the matter of Finance, Agenda Item #17, Council considered adopting Resolution #R-26-025 authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$28,070,000 principal amount of General Obligation Public Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series 2016. This item was previously discussed by Council. A line of credit was established in June 2023 to fund capital projects in the City Capital, Schools Capital, Fleet, Water, Sewer and Stormwater funds. This line of credit expires June 2026 and must be permanently financed with General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds. The resolution to establish the 2023 Line of Credit also includes the authority to permanently finance the Line of Credit, so no further action is required of City Council.

The City's financial advisors have reviewed the City's bond portfolio and believe there is a refunding opportunity associated with the Series 2016 bonds. This refunding is estimated to result in approximately \$900,000 in net savings over the life of the bonds. Savings would be allocated between the General, Fleet, Water, Sewer and Airport Funds.

This refunding is in alignment with the City's "Refinancing Debt Policy," which states "a refunding transaction to achieve debt service savings should only be undertaken when the net present value of savings, net of issuance costs, will be at least 3% of the principal amount of the refunded bonds". The City's financial advisors estimate that the net present value of the savings will be in compliance with this policy.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Reed motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to adopt Resolution #R-26-025.

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

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

// In the matter of Finance, Agenda Item #18, Council considered introducing Resolution #R-26-026 authorizing the issuance cost for the General Obligation Public Improvement Bond issue 2026. This item was previously discussed by Council. Chief Financial Officer Donna Witt provided the presentation. The estimated issuance cost to permanently finance the 2023 LOC and a potential refunding of the General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds, Series 2026.

Issuance Cost Components	FY 2026 Estimates
Bond Counsel	\$63,000
Bond Ratings	199,200
Financial Advisor	244,153
Official Statement Preparation, CUSIPs	8,000
Copying, Postage, Overnight Mailing, etc.	2,000
Miscellaneous	83,647
Total	\$600,000

Councilmember Reed motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to adopt Resolution #R-26-026.

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

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

Absent: Timmer

1

// In the matter of the Police, Agenda Item #19, Council conducted a second reading and considered adopting Resolution #R-26-016 amending the FY 2026 City/Federal/State Aid Fund budget and appropriating \$20,844 to the Lynchburg Police Department for drone equipment. This item had its first reading on February 24, 2026. The Police Department was awarded \$20,844 through a competitive grant process from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, CY2026 Unmanned Aircraft Trade and Replace Grant Program. This will purchase a Skydio X10 Patrol-Led DFR Kit and three additional batteries. This unmanned aircraft will replace a current aircraft and be used to support patrol officers regarding crimes in progress reimbursable by the grant at 100%, with no local match required.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to approve Resolution #R-26-016 and immediately consider the next agenda item.

Councilmember Misjuns called a point of order. He said that the motion combined two matters of business, and the rules of procedure stated that only one item may have the attention of Council at a time.

Mayor Taylor ruled in favor of the point of order and determined that Council would consider the item at hand.

Councilmember Reed expressed concern that the Vice Mayor would try to adjourn the meeting immediately following the present item to avoid discussion on the following agenda items.

Mayor Taylor stated that the meeting would not adjourn after the item was considered.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, to adopt Resolution #R-26-016.

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

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

6

March 10, 2026

Noes: 0

Absent: Timmer 1

// In the matter of City Council, Item Not on the Agenda, Council considered removing funding for the Vice Mayor's City-sponsored trip to Chicago.

Councilmember Faraldi motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to remove funding for the Vice Mayor's City-sponsored trip to Chicago.

Councilmember Faraldi expressed frustration and disappointment with Vice Mayor's actions. He stated that he had privately reached out to the Vice Mayor to apologize, but the Vice Mayor had refused to apologize. Instead, the Vice Mayor continued escalating the situation with increasingly extreme analogies, including rape, murder, and genocide, which he found vile. He criticized the Vice Mayor for using taxpayer funds for the trip while supporting tax increases.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Taylor ruled the motion to adjourn out of order. He said that only one motion was allowed on the floor at a time, and there was currently a motion under debate.

Councilmember Reed expressed frustration over the lack of a public apology. She said that the Vice Mayor had not earned the privilege to represent the City on the flight to Chicago, so if he wanted to attend the flight, it should not be supported by taxpayer dollars.

Councilmember Misjuns expressed concerns about Council's focus on the Chicago trip when they had yet to be presented a budget. He noted they had canceled a meeting to accommodate the trip without rescheduling the meeting. He said he was worried about the implications of government punishing speech.

Vice Mayor Diemer apologized for spending time on the matter, and he did not mean to offend Dr. Beth White with his statements. He reiterated his commitment to the teachings of Matthew 18. He stated his desire to go on the trip to Chicago and his willingness to fund it himself. He said he would think about choosing his words more wisely.

March 10, 2026

Councilmember Reed withdrew her second.

The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Councilmember Misjuns motioned, seconded by Councilmember Reed to dispose of the matter and move into closed session.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Wilder, Misjuns	5
---	---

Noes:	0
-------	---

Absent: Faraldi, Timmer	2
-------------------------	---

// On the motion of Councilmember Misjuns, seconded by Vice Mayor Diemer, Council, by the following recorded vote, elected to hold a closed session 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 contractual negotiations connected to expending funds for a new City facility; to discuss the potential resolution of a pending law-enforcement lawsuit involving the City, its officers and/or employees, pursuant to Section(s) 2.2-3711(A)(7) and -(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; and to receive legal advice from the City Attorney regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of such advice, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(8), the subject of the same being related to appealing the Board of Zoning Appeals determination connected to group homes.

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

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Wilder, and Misjuns	5
---	---

Noes:	0
-------	---

Absent: Faraldi, and Timmer	2
-----------------------------	---

// The meeting was reopened to the public.

March 10, 2026

// 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 Reed, and Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the motion:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Wilder, Misjuns	5
Noes:	0
Absent: Faraldi, Timmer	2

// Councilmember Wilder made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Reed, authorizing the City Attorney, or his designee, to settle the case styled *Herman Tracy Evans v. The City of Lynchburg and Officer Seth Reed*, Case No. 6:24-CV-00019, United States District Court - Western District - Lynchburg Division in excess of the City's Self-Insurance Plan's claim settlement limit of \$55,000, and all previous actions taken by the City Attorney, or his designee, in the matter were ratified.

Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the motion:

Ayes: Taylor, Diemer, Reed, Wilder, Misjuns	5
---	---

March 10, 2026

Noes: 0

Absent: Faraldi, Timmer 2

// The meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Clerk of Council