

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 12th day of October, 2021, at 4:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, MaryJane Dolan, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

Present: MaryJane Dolan, Beau Wright, Jeff Helgeson, J. Randy Nelson, Treney Tweedy,
Sterling A. Wilder, Chris Faraldi 7

Absent: 0

// In the matter of the City Manager's Office, Agenda Item #1, City Manager Wynter C. Benda walked Council through the Work Session agenda.

// In the matter of Economic Development & Tourism, Agenda Item #2, Ms. Marjette Upshur, Director of Economic Development & Tourism Director presented Council with the department's new brand campaign, *LYH Loves You*. As part of the implementation of the Blueprint for Opportunity, the department's five-year strategic plan, the Office of Economic Development & Tourism has developed a new brand campaign to promote the City of Lynchburg to businesses, visitors and talent. The campaign will also target residents to build awareness of City assets and community pride. Early in the pandemic, staff reached out to business and community stakeholders who offered that they needed 1) communication and information; 2) focus on key industries and local, placemaking businesses; and 3) positioning the city for talent attraction and investment. Staff worked through a steering committee, focus groups, a visioning workshop and surveys to develop the concept for the campaign. *LYH Loves You* revolves around the citizens, businesses and organizations of Lynchburg and their stories. From print to social to organic promotion, the goal of the campaign is to be a central, positive, engaging message with spokes that reach residents, talent, businesses and visitors to drive visitation, location and investment in the City. Several community leaders and stakeholders, known as Brand Ambassadors, were present at the meeting in support of this new campaign.

// In the matter of City Council – Elections, Agenda Item #3, Council received a presentation from City Attorney Matthew C. Freedman providing feedback on draft ordinances and resolutions that would revise City Council election dates. Changes in Virginia law have made it necessary to move councilmember elections from May to November. Given such changes, City Council should review multiple options to determine how it can comply with such changes in a manner which serves the best interests of the public. Such options include possible changes to councilmember terms, possible holdovers, and possible changes from even to odd year elections. At its September 14, 2021 meeting, Council discussed two possible draft ordinances associated with changes from May to November general election dates. City Council requested (i) one draft be removed (Option 2) that would have caused an extended office holdover (12 months or more) with a change to odd-year general elections, (ii) one draft return for discussion (Option 1 with corrections) that would meet the minimum standards required by Virginia law with elections remaining in even years, and (iii) that two potential charter amendment resolutions be presented for discussion (Option 3(A) & Option 3(B)) which would temporarily authorize three (3) or five

(5) year terms, respectively, create odd-year elections, and avoid extended holdovers greater than 6 months.

Vice Mayor Wright made the motion to approve Option 3 & 3(A), stating that this option makes the most sense of the options presented since Option (1) would align local elections with federal elections, and Option 3(B) of a 5-year super term would be unfair to Lynchburg's citizens. Councilmember Tweedy seconded the motion, stating that moving elections to odd years would ensure local elections are not overshadowed with federal elections and opting for a 3-year term instead of a 5-year term would sit better with constituents.

Councilmember Faraldi asked Mr. David Neumeyer, Chair of the Electoral Board, who was in attendance to comment on the intent of the bill passed at the General Assembly. Mr. Neumeyer replied that he believes the intent was to maximize voter turnout for local elections by aligning them with federal elections. Councilmember Faraldi stated that he does not believe that City Council should decide when local elections are held since this legislation came from the state. The intent of the bill was to increase voter turnout and holding local elections in odd years, in his opinion, would not increase voter turnout.

Councilmember Helgeson stated that in order to change elections to odd years, City Council will have to ask the General Assembly to change Lynchburg's charter. He sees this as an unnecessary change when the charter currently states that its elections will occur in even years. He is in support of Option 1 which would not change the election years or the term-lengths of Councilmembers and effectively leave the charter unchanged, so he is not in support of the motion.

Councilmember Wilder stated he is in favor of the motion because he believes that local elections, and subsequently local issues, would get lost in the federal election cycle.

Councilmember Faraldi stated for the record that it is his intention to stay impartial on this matter given his responsibilities as Delegate Wendall Walker's employee.

Mayor Dolan stated that holding local elections in odd years would provide for a more informed voter to local issues and feels comfortable supporting the motion that supports informed voters going to the poll versus one that will merely increase voter turnout.

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

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder	5
Noes: Helgeson, Faraldi	2

After the vote, Council came to a consensus that directed Mr. Freedman to prepare the resolution without naming a sponsor for the charter change.

// On motion of Councilmember Wilder, seconded by Vice Mayor Wright, Council, by the following recorded vote, elected to hold a closed meeting to discuss the appointments to the following Boards and Commissions: Lynchburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority, Social Services Advisory Board, Transit Company Board of Directors, and Youth Services Citizens Board pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A.)(1) of

the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. With no discussion from Council, the following vote was recorded:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

// The meeting was reopened to the public.

// Councilmember Helgeson 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 Wilder, and Council, by the following recorded vote, adopted the motion:

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

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

Lynchburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority (LRHA): there were no appointments made at this time. Council elected to have Mr. Turner Perrow, whose term expired on September 30, 2021, holdover his membership until the LRHA could close on a pending bond.

Social Services Advisory Board: Mr. Gregory Robey – appointed to a new 4-year term effectively immediately and expiring on September 30, 2025.

Transit Company Board of Directors: – Ms. Mary-Winston Deacon – reappointed to a 3-year term expiring October 31, 2024; Ms. Cameron Howe – reappointed to a 3-year term expiring October 31, 2024; Ms. Holly Trent – appointed to an unexpired term effective immediately and expiring on October 31, 2022; Mr. Randy Woods – appointed to a new 3-year term effective immediately and expiring on October 31, 2024.

Youth Service Citizens Board: Dr. Caroline Wilson – appointed to an unexpired term effective immediately and expiring on June 30, 2022; Ms. Krystal Grant – appointed to a new 3-year term effectively immediately and expiring June 30, 2024; Miss Kori Randolph – appointed to a new 1-year youth membership term effective immediately and expiring on June 30, 2022.

Ayes:	Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi	7
Noes:		0

// In the matter of Roll Call, Agenda Item #5, Councilmember Nelson had on items. Councilmember Tweedy asked City Manager Mr. Wynter Benda to address a citizen concern that she would relay the details of in an email. Councilmember Helgeson asked to reconsider how City Council handles the fund balance returns from the Lynchburg City Schools in general, but also as a way to address compression issues in the police department. Councilmember Faraldi announced it was Police Week and commented on the events honoring the department; he asked for an update on refuse collection and the delays that have been happening with the new collection schedule; he commented that the deadline to register to vote is today. Councilmember Wilder commented on a fire fighters memorial service that was held the past weekend; he commented on a breast cancer awareness event hosted by Lynchburg City Schools; he commented on the grand reopening for the Yoder Center; he stated that he and Clerk of Council Ms. Alicia L. Finney recently graduated from Citizens Police Academy and commended the department for a great program; he asked the City Manager to look at the compression issues for all hard-to-fill positions across the City; he also requested a joint meeting with the LCS School Board. Vice Mayor Wright had no items. Mayor Dolan thanked City Manager Mr. Wynter Benda and Deputy City Manager Dr. Reid A. Wodicka for working diligently to restore power to several street lights within the city.

// The meeting was recessed at 5:25 p.m.

// City Council reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The following members were present:

Present: MaryJane Dolan, Beau Wright, Jeff S. Helgeson, J. Randy Nelson, Treney Tweedy,
Sterling A. Wilder, Chris Faraldi 7

Absent: 0

Councilmember Tweedy gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// In the matter of Recognitions, Mayor Dolan proclaimed the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ms. Stephanie Andrews, YWCA, Chief Executive Officer, Pro Tem, was in attendance to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Dolan also proclaimed October 13 – 17, 2021 as National Police Week. Police Chief Ryan Zuidema was in attendance to accept the proclamation.

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda Item (A), Council conducted a second reading of Resolution #R-21-072 amending the FY 2021 Operating Budget and appropriating funds to reflect the FY 2021 Fourth Quarter Adjustments. Councilmember Helgeson asked staff if the second reading could be tabled so that staff could prepare a proposal on how to use these funds to address compression issues in public safety. Deputy City Manager Dr. Reid A. Wodicka replied that these funds are nonrecurring funds and staff would not suggest these be used for salaries. On motion of Councilmember Wilder, seconded by Councilmember Tweedy, Council by the following recorded vote approved the motion:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda Item (B), Council conducted a second reading and adopted Resolution #R-21-073 amending the FY 2022 Operating Budget and Capital Budgets and appropriating or

rescinding funds to reflect the FY 2022 First Quarter Adjustments. On motion of Councilmember Wilder, seconded by Councilmember Tweedy, Council by the following recorded vote approved the motion:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda Item (C), copies of the minutes of the May 25, 2021 meeting have been previously furnished to Council, and on motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda Item (D), copies of the minutes of the June 2, 2021 meeting have been previously furnished to Council, and on motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda Item (E), copies of the minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting have been previously furnished to Council, and on motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda Item (F), copies of the minutes of the June 22, 2021 meeting have been previously furnished to Council, and on motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of the Consent Agenda Item (G), copies of the minutes of the June 23, 2021 meeting have been previously furnished to Council, and on motion of Councilmember Helgeson, seconded by Councilmember Wilder, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #6, a public hearing was held to receive citizen input on the adoption of Ordinance #O-21-075 approving the right-of-way vacation of a portion of Manassas Street. This item was presented to City Council at the September 28, 2021 meeting under Business Item Briefings.

Mr. Doyle Allen with Hurt & Proffitt was in attendance to provide Council with a presentation in favor of the petition.

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

Vice Mayor Wright made the motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Wilder. With no discussion from Council, the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Planning, Agenda Item #7, a public hearing was held to receive citizen input on the adoption of Ordinance #O-21-076 approving the right-of-way vacation of Pointdexter Street. This item was presented to City Council at the September 28, 2021 meeting under Business Item Briefings.

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

Vice Mayor Wright made the motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Tweedy. With no discussion from Council, the following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Dolan, Wright, Helgeson, Nelson, Tweedy, Wilder, Faraldi 7

Noes: 0

// The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Clerk of Council