

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 25th day of April, 2017, at 3:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Joan Foster, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

Present: Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Wilder, Foster

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Absent:

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// Donna Witt, Director of Financial Services explained the second reading of the Revised FY 2017 Third Quarter Adjustments. This item was first introduced at the April 11, 2017 Council Meeting.

The revised Resolution (#R-17-029) amends the FY 2017 Budget and appropriates funds with resources from the General, City/Federal/State Aid, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Forfeited Assets, Children's Services Act (CSA), Lynchburg Expressway Appearance Fund (LEAF), Airport, City Capital Projects, School Capital Projects, and Airport Capital/Grant Projects Funds to reflect the FY 2017 Third Quarter Adjustments. This item, laid over from the April 11, 2017 meeting, was again presented and read.

Council Member Perrow made a motion to approve the revised FY 2017 Third Quarter Adjustments. The motion was seconded by Council Member Helgeson and Council by the following recorded vote adopted the Resolution as presented, amending the FY 2017 Budget and appropriating funds with resources from the General, City/Federal/State Aid, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Forfeited Assets, Children's Services Act (CSA), Lynchburg Expressway Appearance Fund (LEAF), Airport, City Capital Projects, School Capital Projects, and Airport Capital/Grant Projects Funds to reflect the FY 2017 Third Quarter Adjustments:

Ayes: Dolan, Helgeson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Wilder, Foster

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Noes:

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// City Manager Bonnie Svrcek stated Staff is prepared to answer questions regarding the downtown traffic management plan for Church and Main Streets. Staff is proceeding with the March 28, 2017 direction of Council to make Church and Main Streets one-way rather than continue on the path of two-way conversion. Ms. Svrcek further stated Staff needs conclusive and final direction on how to proceed with traffic management as it relates to Phase I of the Downtown Water Main Replacement and Streetscape Project that is currently under construction. Ms. Svrcek went on to say delays in Council direction are likely to result in project delays and could have a fiscal impact as well.

Mayor Foster made the following statement regarding the Downtown Traffic Management Plan - Church and Main Streets. "Following the public comments on April 11, 2017, Council by consensus agreed to bring this item back for further discussion regarding the Downtown Traffic Management Plan. Council Member Nelson made a brief comment and agreed that the hour was late and Council should defer this item to the April 25, 2017 meeting." Mayor Foster further stated before she deferred to Council Member Nelson, Council would defer any further discussion on the matter of the downtown traffic management. The Planning Commission will consider adopting a Resolution to initiate updates to the Downtown and Tyreeanna Master Plans as funding is available in the current budget. The Downtown Master Plan has served well for 17 years, but Downtown has changed significantly over the years.

Mayor Foster stated that the decision that was made on March 28, 2017 to maintain the one-way traffic on Church and Main Streets stands as decided and voted upon.

Council Member Helgeson agreed with the Mayor's statement, but he raised an issue regarding the procedure dealing with the vote. He stated that he did not agree by consensus because he disagreed with a Council Member being able to comment on a current issue.

Council Member Nelson stated he voted with the majority to abolish two-way traffic so he could procedurally preserve a right to revisit this item or hold a public hearing. Council Member Nelson stated some of the concerns:

- Two-way traffic was only a consideration in the City's Current Downtown Master Plan.
- Both opponents and advocates of two-way traffic were articulate in expressing their concerns and desires to City Council.
- Neither viewpoint has provided factual evidence to support their conclusions about the adoption of two-way traffic.
- Current downtown conditions could not conveniently accommodate two-way traffic on either Main or Church Streets.
- Opponents correctly argue that one-way traffic allows Main Street to smoothly flow even when delivery vehicles block a travel lane to unload from that lane or buses stop in traffic lanes.
- Traffic lanes are designed for moving vehicles, not to park trucks, unload goods, or serve as bus stops.

The core problems are:

- Inadequate loading zones to accommodate recent increases in Main Street merchants.
- Casual enforcement of unlawful parking in the existing loading zones.
- Poor regulation of store delivery schedules.
- Ineffective design of key bus stop locations.
- City Administration and two-way traffic advocates assure us that there are procedures and protocols to effectively deal with these problems without compromising traffic flow and curb-side parking.

Council Member Nelson noted that the City Manager does not need City Council's approval to implement on-street protocols but he would endorse the City Manager in implementing the following:

1. Continue to maintain one-way traffic on Main and Church Streets, with exceptions for the construction zones and the previously designed areas around the Virginian Hotel project.
2. The City will work with downtown merchants to implement protocols, enforcement procedures and physical modifications to prevent buses, commercial trucks and delivery vehicles from parking or blocking travel lanes on Main Street and Church Street.
3. Consider options to convert Church Street to two-way traffic between 12th and Pearl Streets.
4. Prohibit through-trucks on both Main and Church Streets, so they must use either Commerce Street or cross the John Lynch Bridge to the Route No. 210 Connector.

5. Report to Council in 8 to 9 months on the effectiveness of these measures as they relate to improving traffic flow, pedestrian safety, and the improved availability of customer parking.
6. Before two-way traffic can be implemented on either Main or Church Streets between 5th and 12th Streets, City Council will hold a public hearing on the effectiveness of these new procedures as tested in the current one-way traffic pattern, and determine whether they may be effective in a two-way pattern.
7. City Council request the City Manager to work closely with the merchants who are opposed to two-way traffic as the City explores considerations for converting to two-way traffic on Main and Church Streets.

After a lengthy discussion regarding two-way traffic, Council agreed to defer any further action on traffic management pending the outcome of a new Downtown Master Plan.

// City Manager Bonnie Svrcek began with the following items regarding outstanding issues associated with balancing the budget:

FY 2018 Proposed Balanced General Fund:

- Staff Adjustments to Revenues – no change
- GAP of (\$267,612) balance
- Citywide Compensation Study and Implementation Plan
- Contractual Services for a Department Strategic Plan for Communications and Marketing

Ms. Svrcek then reviewed the Proposed FY 2018 – FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) with City Council.

FY 2018 Pay-As-You-Go Funding City Capital Projects Fund balancing

- Sources of Funding for General Fund Pay-As-You-Go Projects

Expenditures and Revenue Funding

- Buildings
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Parks and Recreation

Schools Capital Projects Fund

- Schools Project List
- Athletic Complexes
- Major Building Repairs – Schools
- Roof Replacement - Schools

// The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.