

154

April 14, 2015

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 14th day of April, 2015, at 4:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Michael Gillette, President, presiding. The following Members were present:

Present: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette 7

Absent: 0

// City Manager Kimball Payne provided information for balancing the FY 2016 Budget. The questions that had been raised at the March 17th work session have been answered. Mr. Payne reviewed each line item on the Budget balancing sheet starting with the Revenues. The revised balancing sheet reflects the revisions made after April 1, 2015. These revisions included a \$160,000 increase in sales tax, a decrease in business license and lodging tax, and an increase in the meals tax. Mr. Payne stated that an Inter-local agreement with Campbell County for Wards Crossing West offers a revenue generating component. As a result of this agreement, the City will see additional revenue of \$30,000 more than initially budgeted. The local aid to the Commonwealth was removed by the General Assembly and provides additional resources. The State reduced the House Bill 599 funding back to the 2014 level, which impacts the City this fiscal year in the amount of \$123,000. All the Revenue adjustments total \$256,000. Next, Mr. Payne discussed the expenditure side and there are some adjustments: over-hire a position in Emergency Services (Network Administrator – due to retirement), and an additional engineering position in Public Works to establish project management capabilities for the Downtown Streetscape Improvements. More funds have been spent for burial assistance in Human Services, so it has increased. The Libraries personnel cost is correct. Mr. Payne stated that he wanted to move more money from the savings for Local Aid to the Commonwealth to the Market Adjustments in Parks and Recreation and Social Services salaries. The Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority has approved its budget and the City owes \$2,000 less than anticipated. The Capital Maintenance Reserves will be moved to the Streetscape Improvements Downtown. There will be added money for recruitment expenses to fill department head positions (Parks and Recreation Director and Police Chief). These changes amount to \$234,000 of expenditures, which leaves a balance of \$13,000 out of \$185 million in the General Fund. The following Expenditures were discussed: Council training and travel and the Poverty Initiative. The Clay Street Reservoir and Jefferson Park is listed under the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Council Member Helgeson proposed four questions about the budget:

1. The need for more Public Works employees (2 extra people could be dispersed to areas outside the Downtown area).
2. School Funding: Requested 60 new employees. He questioned the amount proposed in the budget because property values must be considered in relation to school performance.
3. Tourism budget: Lodging tax is declining. Needs additional information about rewards and results of tourism efforts in Lynchburg.
4. Generalized Salary Increases: Compensation adjustment of \$1.3 million. Asked for clarification on wage increases with no new employees.

Regarding question #4, Mr. Payne clarified the funding differences reflect Human Resources Professional progressions. Council discussed the school funding, tourism budget and salary increases. The majority of Council was not in favor of cutting the proposed school funding listed in the budget because the schools need the proposed monies to address deficiencies in pre-K, Kindergarten, behavioral, and societal issues that arise in the schools impacting student performance. Mr. Payne further stated that the surplus monies could be used in the following way: training for Bridges Out of Poverty, study circle program that addresses poverty, or other activities, but the monies must be endorsed by Council. Additional direction from Council would be needed. Council Members also thought outside consultants may be a possible option.

In conclusion, Mr. Payne reported that the FY 2016 Budget has been balanced and the first reading of the Budget will be presented at the April 28th Council meeting.

// During roll call Council Member Nelson announced that the Lynchburg College soccer team is hosting a fundraising for students in Uganda and ten students from Dunbar Middle School. The Depot Grille has agreed to provide a portion of their proceeds on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 for this event.

// Mayor Gillette announced the following:

- Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a public information meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 5-7 p.m. at the Information Technology Building – 3550 Young Place.
- Stormwater Workshop will be held Thursday, April 16, 2015 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Information Technology Building – 3550 Young Place.

// On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson, seconded by Council Member Perrow, Council by the following recorded vote elected to hold a closed meeting for consultation with legal counsel and staff members about a specific legal matter, the City's interest in the property located at 2007 Memorial Avenue now that the Lynchburg Life Saving Crew is no longer providing emergency services to Lynchburg's citizens, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A.)(7), of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended:

Ayes: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette

7

Noes:

0

// The meeting was re-opened to the public.

// Council Member Perrow 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 Johnson, and Council by the following recorded vote adopted the motion:

Ayes: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette 7

Noes: 0

// City Council recessed the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

// City Council reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The following Members were present:

Present: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette 7

Absent: 0

Council Member Foster gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

// Vice Mayor Ceasor Johnson was recognized for receiving the Platinum Certificate – Leadership Statesman from National League of Cities.

// City Attorney Walter Erwin received his 35 Year Service Award from the City.

// A Proclamation on National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week was presented to Director of Emergency Services Melissa Foster and staff.

// Copies of the minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting, having been previously furnished Council, reading was dispensed with, and on motion of Council Member Foster, seconded by Council Member Nelson, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette 7

Noes: 0

// Copies of the minutes of the March 24, 2015 meeting, having been previously furnished Council, reading was dispensed with, and on motion of Council Member Foster, seconded by Council Member Nelson, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette 7

Noes: 0

// Copies of the minutes of the March 31, 2015 meeting, having been previously furnished Council, reading was dispensed with, and on motion of Council Member Foster, seconded by Council Member Nelson, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Community Development - Zoning, a public hearing was held regarding City Council Report #7 outlining the petition of New Covenant Schools for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) at 122 Fleetwood Drive to allow a lighted athletic field associated with the school in an R-1, Low Density, Single-Family Residential District. City Planner Tom Martin gave a summary of the request and stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the CUP. Mr. John Heaton from New Covenant Schools asked Council for approval of the CUP. There was no one else present who wished to speak to this item,

and the public hearing was closed. On motion of Council Member Helgeson, seconded by Council Member Perrow, Council by the following recorded vote adopted Resolution #R-15-022, as presented, granting the New Covenant Schools a Conditional Use Permit at 122 Fleetwood Drive to allow a lighted athletic field associated with the school in an R-1, Low Density, Single-Family Residential District:

Ayes: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette

7

Noes:

0

// In the matter of Schools - General, a public hearing was held regarding City Council Report #8 regarding a request to enter into a Lease Agreement between the City and Virginia PCS Alliance, L.C., for the installation of telecommunications equipment on the roof of Dunbar Middle School. City Manager Kimball Payne gave a summary of the request for the lease agreement. There was no one else present who wished to speak to this item, and the public hearing was closed. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson, seconded by Council Member Nelson, Council by the following recorded vote adopted Resolution #R-15-023, as presented, granting a Lease Agreement between the City and Virginia PCS Alliance, L.C., for the installation of telecommunications equipment on the roof of Dunbar Middle School:

Ayes: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette

7

Noes:

0

// In the matter of City Code/Sewer, a public hearing was held regarding City Council Report #9 regarding the adoption of an Ordinance to amend the City Code relating to Sewer Rates. Water Resources Director Tim Mitchell provided a summary of the FY 2016 Sewer Rate changes that will go into effect July 1, 2015. There was no one else present who wished to speak to this item, and the public hearing was closed. On motion of Council Member Perrow, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson, Council by the following recorded vote adopted Ordinance #O-15-024, as presented, to amend the City Code relating to Sewer Rates:

Ayes: Foster, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette

6

Noes: Helgeson

1

// In the matter of Budget, a public hearing was held regarding City Council Report #10 regarding amending the FY 2015 Third Quarter Adopted Budget and appropriate or rescind funds to adjust revenue, expenditure, and transfer adjustments. Director of Financial Services Donna Witt gave a summary of the FY 2015 Third Quarter Adopted Budget. There was no one else present who wished to speak to this item, and the public hearing was closed. On motion of Council Member Perrow, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson, Council by the following recorded vote introduced and laid over to a later meeting for final action Resolution #R-15-025, as presented, amending the FY 2015 Third Quarter Adopted Budget and appropriate or rescind funds to adjust revenue, expenditure, and transfer adjustments:

Ayes: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette

7

Noes:

0

// In the matter of City Council - Krista Hartmann with the Mayor's Youth Council announced the Mayor's Youth Council is working to raise awareness about the obesity problem in Lynchburg by hosting the

"Lighten-Up Lynchburg": 5K Run/Walk to Fight Obesity on May 16, 2015 at Peaksview Park. The race will begin at 8 a.m., and she asked the community to come out and support this event.

// In the matter of Parks and Recreation – General, City Council Report #12 was considered. Council Member Helgeson, Chair of the Finance Committee (FC), stated this item came before the FC which recommended approval. This motion does not require a second, and Council by the following recorded vote introduced and laid over to a later meeting for final action Resolution #R-15-026, as presented, amending the FY 2015 City Capital Fund budget and appropriating \$284,960 with resources from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, State Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, for improvements to the Miller Center:

Ayes: Foster, Helgeson, Johnson, Nelson, Perrow, Tweedy, Gillette

7

Noes:

0

// Mayor Gillette announced that the Budget Work Session for April 21, 2015 has been cancelled.

// The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Clerk of Council