// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 2nd day of April, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Treney Tweedy, President, presiding. The purpose of this meeting was to hold a Public Hearing on the FY 2020 Proposed Operating Budget and the Proposed FY 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Program for the City of Lynchburg, which includes funding for General, Schools, Fleet, Airport, Water, Sewer, Stormwater and Other Funds. The following Members were present:

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

Absent: 0

// City Manager Bonnie Svrcek provided introductory remarks on the funds associated with the FY 2020 Operating Budget and FY 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Program. Ms. Svrcek's brief overview observed that the $408.1 million proposed budget included a significant investment in capital assets over the next five years. Guiding Principles noted the primary preservation of core service delivery and secondary need for quality of life items. Council's focus areas of growing and redeveloping the economy, maintaining impactful schools, having exceptional neighborhoods and strong families as well as a resilient, agile and innovative organization were considered in the budget. Budget Highlights from Ms. Svrcek's presentation included:

- Maintains current services with no tax rate increases for services in the General Fund; however, an increase in trash decals/bag fees is proposed
  - 64 gallon ($80 to $110); 32 gallon ($40 to $55); bags ($1.25 to $2.00)
- Preserves majority of funding for Police Department, Fire Department, Sheriff, Animal Control and Emergency Services
- Schools Operating expenditures of $42.0 million equal to FY 2019 Adopted appropriation
- Total revenues projected to increase 3.0% or $5.5 million compared to current year
- Biggest increase is in Real Property Taxes due to reassessment
- Budget issue will be whether to equalize the tax rate
  - This means reducing the tax rate from $1.11 to $1.05 per $100 assessed value to generate the same revenue as current year; this would mean revenues and expenditures need to be adjusted by $3.4 million.
- Total proposed expenditures, reserves and transfers are $193.6 million or an increase of

$945,100 or .5% over current year.

- Council policy requires a fund balance equal to 10% of General Fund revenues
- This proposal includes a 10.4% fund balance
- $4.4 million in General Fund pay-go dedicated to maintaining the City's capital assets.
- Projects proposed for funding include:
    - Major building repair: $1,358,000
    - General street improvements: $500,000
    - Downtown Development: $900,000
    - Parks Paving and Lighting: $251,000
    - Radio Replacements: $203,908
    - Snow, Streets, and Bridges Reserve: $250,000

Ms. Svrcek remarked that the budget was built on organic growth rather than a proposal to increase taxes. She also thanked City Department Heads and their departmental support teams, as well as the budget team of Donna Witt, Chief Financial Officer; Starlette Early, Budget Analyst; Megan Palmer, Budget Specialist, Reid Lanham and Tyler Grachan in Financial Services, and Deputy City Manager Dr. Reid Wodicka for stellar work on the budget.

// In the matter of Finance –Budget, a public hearing was held regarding City Council Report #1 concerning the FY 2020 Proposed Operating Budget and the Proposed FY 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Program for the City of Lynchburg, including funding for General, Schools, Fleet, Airport, Water, Sewer, Stormwater, and Other Funds. Fifteen speakers rose to address items related to the FY 2020 Proposed Budget including three in support of additional funding for Lynchburg City Schools, one suggesting the City of Lynchburg reconsider not being a member of the Virginia Municipal League in FY 2020, one voicing concerns on cuts to the Museum budget, one in opposition to cutting funding for poverty reduction, one representing the Lynchburg Firefighters Association, one representing the Lynchburg Police Foundation, another expressing concerns about cuts to the Police budget, two commenting on the Great Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) budget, two citizens voicing opposition to increased real estate taxes, a representative from One Community One Voice regarding cuts in budget for the Police Department, and a citizen who provided opinion on proposed cuts to GLTC, a need for teacher raise, and support of funding for Lynchburg Fire and Police employees. There was no one else present who wished to speak and the Public Hearing was closed.

Mayor Tweedy noted that the Public Hearing on proposed real property tax increases will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7:30PM.

// The meeting was adjourned at 8:05P.M.

Acting Clerk of Council