

// An additional scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 31st day of March, 2009, at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Joan F. Foster, President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct public hearings regarding the proposed real property tax increase, the FY2010 Proposed Budget and the 2010-2014 Capital Improvements Program. The following Members were present:

Present: Dodson, Garrett, Gillette, Helgeson, Johnson, Perrow, Foster

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Absent:

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// City Manager Kimball Payne provided an overview regarding the proposed real property tax increase, explaining that the lowered rate necessary to offset increased assessment would be \$0.998 per \$100 of assessed value.

// A public hearing was held regarding the "Notice of Proposed Real Property Tax Increase." Mayor Foster stated that the public hearing is required by State law because the total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 5%. Twelve individuals questioned the recent high reassessment of their properties and asked that City Council reduce the current real property tax rate to significantly offset the increase. Some of those individuals asked that the tax rate be reduced to \$0.99 to make the increase in assessments revenue neutral, while others stated that they are on fixed incomes or disability and that the increases in their real estate taxes would cause them severe financial difficulties. Several people suggested the City could offset the lowered tax rate by delaying further work in areas like downtown revitalization. The Clerk also read into the record a letter expressing concern regarding the increase in the assessment on their home. There was no one else present who wished to speak, and the public hearing was closed.

// City Manager Kimball Payne provided an overview regarding the FY2010 Proposed Budget and the 2010-2014 Capital Improvements Program.

// A public hearing was held regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2010 Budgets of the City Government, Public Schools, Water, Sewer, Solid Waste, Airport and Other Funds, and the Proposed 2010-2014 Capital Improvements Program. Twenty-nine individuals spoke regarding the FY2010 Proposed Budget and the 2010-2014 Capital Improvements Program. Multiple people asked City Council not to close the downtown library, expressing concern that closing the downtown branch would negatively impact thousands of people, including families and low-income residents, and argued that the repercussions of closing the downtown library would far outweigh the expected savings of \$81,000 a year. Others asked that the Law Library, which is contained in the Downtown Branch Library, remain downtown and open to the public. Several people spoke in support for the Schools, asking that City Council not reduce the requested level support to the Schools. One individual requested that the Schools stop the free tuition program while one other individual asked that the City not provide funding for the downtown fountain. Some speakers expressed support for the Ivy Creek Park, while others asked City Council to retain the School crossing guards, positions that are slated for elimination under the budget proposal. Several individuals urged City Council to provide funding to the Transit Company to keep the buses running, citing

employment and medical needs of the people riding the buses. Several individuals asked City Council to continue to provide funding for CASA of Central Virginia, the Lynchburg Life Saving Crew, and Lynchburg Neighborhood Development Foundation. There was no one else present who wished to speak, and the public hearing was closed.

// The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Clerk of Council