The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 114 West Sycamore Street, Lincolnton North Carolina.

Mayor John Gilleland called the meeting to order thanking everyone for their attendance and inviting them to join him the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members in attendance were:

RHYNE CLONINGER EADDY HOVIS

Before voting on approval of the REGULAR AGENDA, Councilman Rhyne made a motion to add an agenda item to discuss the Business & Community Development department. Motion was unanimously approved and topic was added as item #12 at the end of the agenda.

Councilman Rhyne made the motion unanimously approved the ***CONSENT AGENDA.***

REGULAR AGENDA:

PUBLIC HEARING
(0-04-14)

ZTA-2-2014 – APPLICATION FROM CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT REQUESTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE LINCOLNTON UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE-SECTION 153.117 OF GENERAL MANUFACTURING & COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND SECTION 153.258 SITE PLAN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

Mayor Gilleland opened the public hearing directing Planning Director Laura Simmons to speak to the item. Ms. Simmons spoke to the request, sharing the history of the ordinance and why it was put into place; then explained why staff feels this change is necessary. She explained that staff's recommendation is threefold, essentially changing the impact review and assessment from City Council to the Staff Review Committee. It will also lessen the review time involved and the cost of the review for the applicant. Recommended changes are as follows:

1. Amend the section of the UDO related to the GMC zoning district to eliminate the requirement for a conditional use permit for those specific land uses.

2. Amend the section of the UDO related to required information to be provided on site plans to add a requirement for information related to water usage, wastewater discharge and traffic impact.

3. Revise the section of the UDO related to the GMC zoning district to add a provision to the screening requirements so that additional screening can be required if necessary.

Ms. Simmons stated the Planning Board voted 3-1 to recommend approval of the text amendment. Some questions were asked and discussion generated regarding the changes this amendment would have on the overall process and how it impacts City residents. Ms. Simmons explained that this "by right" provision currently exists under other zoning classifications and any request would be subject to zoning requirements. She again, per Mayor Gilleland's request, explained the benefit of making this change.

Councilman Cloninger made the motion unanimously approved to close the Public Hearing.

Councilman Cloninger made the motion unanimously approved to approve the text amendment.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES – TITLE VII. TRAFFIC CODE – CHAPTER 74 – TRAFFIC SCHEDULES – SCHEDULE 1: STOP INTERSECTIONS; ADD LINWOOD DRIVE AT THE INTERSECTION OF LINWOOD DRIVE AND BATTLEGROUND ROAD. ALSO ADD "STOP AHEAD" SIGNAGE IN THE CURVE PRIOR TO THE INTERSECTION

(O-05-14)

Mayor Gilleland opened the public hearing and called on Rodney Jordan, Chief of Police to speak to the request. Chief Jordan stated this proposed change is in response to speeding complaint received several months ago from Ms. Pat Ballard who lives on Linwood Drive. After discussing the issue and meeting with Ms. Ballad, Chief Jordan feels these changes should be made in an effort to address the problem of the speeding traffic. Installing a stop sign will change the intersection from a two-way stop, to a three-way stop. Placing a "stop ahead" sign before the curve will alert drivers of the stop sign at the intersection. Chief Jordan is not recommending a four-way stop as it would impede the flow of traffic coming out of the high school.

Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved to close the Public Hearing.

Councilman Rhyne made the motion unanimously approved to approve the proposed amendment to the City's Code of Ordinances.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES – CHAPTER 8 – MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AND SERVICES; ARTICLE III. SEWERS – SECTION 8.50 THROUGH SECTION 8.131, REVISIONS TO THE SEWER USE ORDINANCE *NOTE: THIS AMENDMENT IS TO COMPLY WITH NCDENR REQUIREMENTS*

(O-06-14)

Mayor Gilleland recognized City Manager Jeff Emory to speak to this item. Mr. Emory explained that proposed changes are required to bring the City's Sewer Use Ordinance in line with required EPA changes. Document has been revised and has been approved by NCDENR. Mr. Emory concluded by recommending adoption.

Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved to close the Public Hearing.

Councilman Rhyne made the motion unanimously approved to approve the proposed amendment in the City's Code of Ordinances Chapter 8 – Municipal Utilities and Services under Article III.

PRESENTATION FROM THE PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Laura Simmons, Planning Director, gave an overview of what the Planning Department does, listing their major activities as Ordinance administration and enforcement, land development, code enforcement, regional planning and policy development & changes. Ms. Simmons briefly explained what each of these responsibilities involves and gave some examples of how they may affect city residents.

Mayor Gilleland thanked Ms. Simmons and her department for all of their work and the part they play in making Lincolnton beautiful. Councilman Cloninger also thanked Ms. Simmons and her staff for the time and work they have put into the construction of the Marcia H. Cloninger Rail/Trail. City Manager Jeff Emory reminded Mayor and Council of the tremendous amount of work the department has done on the intersection project to which Mayor Gilleland encouraged staff to continue to take advantage of the many opportunities to make Lincolnton more appealing.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Gilleland took a minute to welcome Mr. Steve Zickefoose, the City's new Finance Director, to the staff.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY AND SYNAGRO, INC. FOR SLUDGE REMOVAL. ACTUAL CONTRACT DATES ARE MAY 1, 2014 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2017.

(C-11-14)

Mr. Emory explained sludge removal being one of the major expenses for the City in the Water/Sewer fund. Mr. Emory informed Council that after comparing prices, with the help of Pease Associates, Inc., he, as well as Mr. **Stever Peeler, is recommending**

Council execute the "Materials Management Agreement" with Synagro for the liquid land application of the Bio Solids from our Waste Water Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant.

Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved to approve the contract with Synagro.

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY AND NCMPA#1.

(C-12-14)

He explained the agreement is for the generator at Walmart that is used by NCMPA#1 to supplement energy on the grid during peak electrical demand periods. Agreement contains changes mandated by US EPA relating to air quality, and specifically relates to changes to the Reciprocating Combustion Engine (RICE), and the National Emission Standard of Air Pollutants (NESHAPs) requirements.

Mr. Emory expressed how well the agreement has worked for Walmart as well as for the City of Lincolnton and that other municipalities have entered into similar agreements with Walmart's in other areas. He recommends adoption of this agreement.

Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved to approve the contract between the City and NC Municipal Power Agency #1.

REPORT ON 2014 HOG HAPPENIN AND REQUEST TO SCHEDULE 2015 HOG HAPPENIN EVENT FOR JUNE 5TH AND 6TH

Brooke Sherrill came before Mayor and City Council on behalf of the Downtown Development Association. Ms. Sherrill began by thanking the Mayor and City Council for their support for the Hog Happenin event. She admitted the challenge they faced with the resignation of Mr. Brad Guth, however felt that Abby Cole and the committee members involved rose to the challenge. Some sponsorship was secured, at the suggestion of Council, which helped make the event a huge success. Ms. Sherrill stated that committee members are already meeting to address flawed items and concerns, as well as begin the planning for next year's event. Corporate sponsorship is a possibility for next year's event however approval to hold the event must be secured. With this approval, the necessary steps to solicit and secure this sponsorship can begin. June 5th and 6th are the requested dates to host the 2015 15th Annual Hog Happenin event. Some discussion was generated among staff and Council. Councilman Eaddy stated he did attend this years event and pointed out a number of positive aspects. It was confirmed that the event should not interfere with 2015 graduations across the county with June 9th being the last day of school.

Councilman Cloninger made the motion unanimously approved to approve June 5th & 6th, 2015 for the Hog Happenin event.

PRESENTATION OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL AND OVERTIME REPORT:
City Manager Jeff Emory presented his monthly financial and overtime report to Mayor and City Council. He explained report reflected numbers through the month of May comparing the present year with the previous year in several funds. Mr. Emory introduced Mr. Steve Zickefoose, the Citys new Finance Director, giving him an opportunity to address Council in his new role. Mr. Zickefoose gave a brief explanation of what is taking place and what to expect, as his department closes out the 2013-2014 fiscal year. He ended by expressing his appreciation for the opportunity he has been given to work for the City and stated he is looking forward to working with and being a part of the staff.

Item number 12, which was added at the beginning of the meeting, was discussed. Councilman Rhyne requested that the Business and Community Development department be discussed and he voiced his thoughts on the future of the department and how City Council, as a whole, wishes to see the department move forward. He expressed his desire to see the department more business development based before getting someone who can bring that to the downtown level. Discussion was generated among Council and staff regarding some of their expectations. In response to a question from Councilman Cloninger, City Manager Jeff Emory stressed that according to the job description, the Business & Community Development Director works for the entire city, not just the downtown area. He stated that unsuccessful attempts have been made to get community/citizen input in the past. Mr. Emory pointed out several of the requirements within the job description which are some of the same requirements Council has stated they would like to see in the successful candidate.

City Manager requested to address Council at this time, directing their attention to copies of the 2014-2015 budget and capital improvement plan at their respective places. He also pointed out recognition the City's water system received for surpassing federal and state drinking water standards.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed to speak

NEWS MEDIA

No questions from the news media

Before adjourning, meeting date was set for a strategic planning session. Monday, August 27th at 5:30 pm.

The first meeting be held without a facilitator. Council will identify two or three goals, then start the process of finding a way to accomplish these goals. Councilman Cloninger commented on his desire to encourage Lincoln County to stay downtown. Discussion was generated regarding the topic with Mayor Gilleland stating that he, on behalf of City Council, has made it known that the City of Lincolnton encourages the County to find a way to stay downtown.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Rhyne made the motion unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

NOTE: Daphne Ingram sat in on this meeting and transcribed the minutes in the absence of Mrs. Flowers.

DONNA C. FLOWERS, MMC **CITY CLERK**	**JOHN O. GILLELAND, Jr.** **MAYOR**