

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 114 West Sycamore Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

The following council members were present and voting:

DEMENY POINSETTE TIPTON JETTON

Mayor Ed Hatley opened the meeting, asking everyone to stand for a moment of silence, after which he led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of REGULAR AGENDA

Councilmember Tipton made a motion to approve the Regular Agenda with the addition of Item 6b - Discussion regarding hosting public informational meetings to update residents on steps being taken to address a number of issues. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Approval of CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Poinsette made a motion to approve the following items listed under the Consent Agenda. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

- **Approval of August 3, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **Approval of Releases of \$100.00 or more for July 16, 2023 - August 15, 2023**
- **Public Power Week Proclamation - October 1 - 7, 2023**
- **Still Birth Prevention Day - September 19, 2023**
- **Sgt. John Howell 1st Responder Memorial Day Proclamation**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Both Dr. Ronald Thomas of 511 S. Academy Street and Mr. Trent Mason of Mockingbird Lane addressed Council during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Dr. Thomas thanked council for the opportunity to speak and expressed his displeasure and disapproval with the recent Drag Me to Broadway Show held at the Lincoln Cultural Center and urged the Council to hold them accountable since the Cultural Center does receive public funds.

Mr. Mason, not sharing the same opinion, spoke to the beneficial impact the event brought to Lincolnton and Lincoln County. He also gave an update on the Young Adult Committee and some of the things they are currently working on and helping with. He also reminded Council of the Habitat for Humanity project currently under way and the opportunity to volunteer.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Constitution Week Proclamation - September 17 - 23, 2023

Mayor Ed Hatley made a special presentation to Ms. Fran Goins with the Daughters of the American Revolution recognizing and proclaiming September 17th - September 23rd as Constitution Week. The proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2023, marks the two hundred and thirty-sixth anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it; and

WHEREAS, Public law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17th through 23rd as Constitution Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ed Hatley, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Lincoln do hereby proclaim the week of September 17th through 23rd as

CONSTITUTION WEEK

and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Lincoln to be affixed this 7th day of September, the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three.

Ms. Goins thanked Mayor Hatley, and spoke briefly about the DAR and the importance of Constitution Week.

Report/Update from Lincoln Economic Development Association

Mr. Cliff Brumfield, Director of the Lincoln Economic Development Association, provided Council with an update on all that is happening in industry, as well as small businesses, in and around the City of Lincoln. Mr. Brumfield spoke to the fiscal new & expanded investment announcements this fiscal year, reporting a total

of \$194,331,385 in new investments by in Lincoln County, with a reported 380 jobs announced. Some of the highlighted industries being Huber Technology, Race City Steel, Kirk & Matz, Cataler, LeeBoy, Blum, United Plate Glass, KACO USA, TIMKEN, and bosh. He also highlighted the many ribbon cuttings and grand openings in 2022 and 2023. No action was needed or taken by council.

BA-07-23

Approval of an amendment to the Annual Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Finance Director Pam McBryde presented a request for a budget amendment as follows. Ms. McBryde gave a brief synopsis of where the various funds stand, reporting the General Fund up 14%, the Water & Sewer fund up 9.67% and describing the Electric Fund as currently flat.

BA-07-23

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Lincolnton, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the Annual Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Section 1: To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changes as follows:

Police	\$	214,416
Recreation		87,207
	\$	301,623

Section 2: To amend the General Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

Grants - Other	\$	87,207
SRO Reimbursement		214,416
	\$	301,623

General Fund: To record the additional SRO reimbursement from the County for the 3 new SRO positions for Elementary. To record the State (Ted Alexander) grant funds designated for the Rail-Trail Project maintained by Lincoln County.

Section 7: To amend the Water and Sewer Fund, the expenditures are to be changes as follows:

Distribution and Collection	\$	153,328
	\$	153,328

Section 8: To amend the Water and Sewer Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

Loan Proceeds	\$	153,328
	\$	153,328

Water and Sewer Fund: Record loan proceeds for purchase of Backhoe Loader for the D&C department. Capital purchase was approved in FY2223's budget.

Section 16: Appropriations are authorized by fund totals. The City Manager is authorized to reallocate fund appropriations among line item objects of expenditures and revenues as necessary during the budget year.

Section 17: Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board and to the Budget Officer and Finance Director to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

TOTAL AMENDMENT \$ 454,951

Adopted this 7th day of September, 2023

Attest:

Daphne Ingram
City Clerk

Edward L. Hatley
Mayor

Councilmember Poinsette made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

C-15-23

IT-ServerBackup001 Approval of contract for server backups. Unitrends "Datto"

Chris Jones, IT Director, presented a request for the approval of a 36 month contract with Unitrends for server backups. Mr. Jones recommended going with this solution due to it being the most cost effective and it also has the ability to serve the needs of the City. He reported that the solution will mimic a disaster recovery side implementation, and it will give the City the ability to proceed with business as usual in the event of an attack. After some discussion between staff and council members, **Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.**

P-01-23

Approval of amendment to the Administrative Policy - Service Supplement for regular full-time employees

Human Resources Director Tanya Osborne asked for Councils approval of an amendment to Administrative Policy #3 regarding the service supplement for regular full time employees. Ms. Osborne reminded members of the discussion that took place during the 2023-2024 budget planning session, and informed council that this policy is a direct result of that discussion. She also stated that funds need to implement this change are included in this years adopted budget. Ms. Osborne reported that approximately 45% of the employees will see an increase in their service supplement this year as a result of the change. Being no further discussion, **Council member Demeny made a motion to approve the policy amendment to the Service Supplement. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.**

Change/Revision to Salary Schedule/Position Classification

Tanya Osborne addressed Council to request approval of proposed changes to the 2023-2024 Salary Schedule/Position Classification listing. Ms. Osborne explained staff's recent discussions regarding position changes within departments due to identified staffing needs and upcoming retirements. She identified each department as follows: Public Works, the Police Department, the Electric Department and Water Resources Department. **Councilmember Christine Poinsette made a motion to approve the proposed changes as presented. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.**

C-16-23

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for the Execution of Grant Agreements for the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Regional Airport

City Manager Ritchie Haynes presented a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Lincolnton and Lincoln County. City Manager Ritchie Haynes assured member that approval of the agreement in no way obligated the City to provided

matching funds for any grants applied for. **Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.**

C-17-23

Interlocal Agreement Between Lincoln County and the City of Lincolnton for Services of Lincoln County Planning and Inspections Department

City Manager Ritchie Haynes spoke to Council to request approval of an agreement for service provided by the Lincoln County Planning and Inspections Department. Mr. Haynes explained that the City currently contracts with Lincoln County for code enforcement services and the agreement will continue for another term. He noted that a lot of positive movement has taken place recently regarding code enforcement and abandoned structures. He took the opportunity to thank the new City Attorney for aggressively dealing with the identified parcels. Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve the agreement between the City and the County for services for the planning and inspections. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Appt-02-23

Appointment of the 2023-2024 Lincolnton Student Advisory Council Members

Nominees for appointment to the 2023-2024 Student Advisory Council were submitted to the governing board. The nominees are as follows:

West Lincoln High School

Lily McCabe
Brooke Eurey
Addison Wright
Lucan Moretz
Adleigh Sutton

North Lincoln High School

Brooke Custer
Zoey Dellinger
Elijah Lendof
Luke Haynes

East Lincoln High School

Rachel Lin
Samuel Rabon
Ryan Walsh
Bailey Farabaugh
Mabel Clark

Lincolnton High School

Campbell Barker
Kendria Bynum
Julia Carpenter
Megan Carroll
Sarah Rhyne

Lincoln Charter School

Kyrsten Ovaes Castilloux Turner
Zack Garner

Council also has the option to submit three additional names if an interested student is not nominated by their school's principal. With that being said, Councilmember Christine Poinsette nominated Andrew Phelps a student at Lincolnton High School, Council member Kevin Demeny nominated Grant

Mullen, a student at North Lincoln High School and Mayor Ed Hatley nominated Seraphina Shutt, a student at West Lincoln High School. **Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to appoint students as submitted and nominated by the Council. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.**

Adoption of the 2024 Election Filing Fees

City Clerk Daphne Ingram spoke to council regarding setting filing fees for the upcoming 2024 election. **Councilmember Christine Poinsette made a motion to adopt the filing fees for the 2024 Elections. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.**

Councilmember Christine Poinsette spoke to the item that was added to the agenda regarding Community meetings. Councilmember Poinsette expressed her desire to host several community meetings and inform the public of the work being done to address many of the identified issues and concerns expressed by the city residents. Citizens will also have an opportunity to speak to council during this time. City Manager Ritchie Haynes voiced his agreement with the suggestion, adding that this could also be a good time to re-evaluate the City's strategic plan. There was a consensus among councilmembers to have the meetings. Mr. Haynes suggested holding the meeting by ward. Mayor Hatley directed Mr. Haynes to move forward with scheduling the meetings. Councilmember Roby Jetton communicated his desire to discuss the Community Watch program. Some discussion was generated regarding the program.

OTHER BUSINESS

Manager's Update/Activity Report

City Manager Ritchie Haynes provided an update of various upcoming activities and events. Mr. Haynes began by recognizing Brian Greene as the new Lincolnton Chief of Police, stating that Chief Greene has all of the qualifications for the position as well as a passion for Lincolnton and its department. Mr. Haynes also recognized Jason Leonard with the Fire Department who received his Advance Firefighter Certificate

Mr. Haynes continued as he mentioned several activities taking place in the month of September. He then directed council's attention to a spreadsheet he provided showing the City's tax rate versus the surrounding communities. He briefly spoke to the information and explained some of the reasons for the differences in the tax rates. He also pointed out the many additional services the City of Lincolnton provides.

NEWS MEDIA

Mr. Wayne Howard was given the opportunity to address council.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Ed Hatley announced the need for the governing enter into a closed session to discuss property acquisition and personnel. **Councilmember Roby Jetton made the motion to enter into closed session. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.**

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to adjourn. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

**DAPHNE INGRAM, CMC
CITY CLERK**

**ED HATLEY
MAYOR**