

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 4, 2024

The Lincolnton City Council met in Regular Session on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 114 West Sycamore Street, Lincolnton, NC.

Mayor Hatley called the meeting to order asking everyone to rise for a moment of silence, after which he led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Council members were in attendance:

POINSETTE TIPTON JETTON

NOTE: Councilmember Demeny was absent

Councilmember Christine Poinsette made a motion to approve the Regular Agenda. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve items listed under the *CONSENT AGENDA* as follows:

- Minutes from the March 7, 2024 Regular Meeting
- Minutes from the May 18, 2023 Closed Session Meeting
- Minutes from the June 1, 2023 Closed Session Meeting
- Minutes from the August 3, 2023 Closed Session Meeting
- Proclamation – “Week of the Young Child” – April 6 – 12, 2024
- Lincoln County Tax Department – Requests for Refunds and Releases period ending 03-15-2024
- Historic Cemetery Designation Update
- R-05-24 – Resolution declaring Service Dog as Surplus
- R-06-24 – Resolution to Authorize and Direct City Attorney to Petition for Court Order regarding 812 S. Aspen Street
- Reduction of Bond Amount for Carpenter Farms

Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Apple Drop Disbursements

Mayor Ed Hatley recognized Mr. Trent Mason of the Young Adults Committee to distribute donations collected at the Apple Drop Event on New Years Eve. Mr. Mason explained that representative from two of the organizations to receive funds (Lincoln County Animal Services and Hessed House) were unable to attend. He was, however, able to present Mitzi Williams with Christian Ministries a check in the amount of \$926.68. Mr. Mason expressed gratitude for everyone that donated and for each organizations contribution to the community. On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Hatley took the opportunity to thank the Young Adult Committee members for all of their work. Ms. Shelby Barkley also thanked Ms. Laura Morris for the assistance she provided to the group.

Presentation of Advance Certificate to Dylan Wolf

Chief Brain Greene, Major Dwayne McAllister presented Officer Dylan Wolf with his Advance Certificate. Chief Greene explained this being the highest honor given by the Criminal Justice Training & Standards to an officer, noting the various requirements that must be met to qualify for the award. Officer Wolf spoke to the time and dedication he has invested in working toward the award, as well as how proud he is for his accomplishment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Hatley opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Allen Hoyle expressed his disapproval on the recent passing of the Social District.

PUBLIC HEARING:

There were no Public Hearing

REGULAR AGENDA:

Request to Place Wreaths on National Wreaths Across America Day

Mr. Mark Ward, a Lincoln County veteran, appeared before Council to request permission to place wreaths on the graves of veterans buried in Hollybrook Cemetery. He stated that if request is granted, City Manager Ritchie Haynes has agreed to assist with the disposal of any debris generated. Wreaths will be layed by volunteers and will remain in place for thirty days. Mr. Ward explained that he would be responsible for raising the funds to purchase the wreaths. He informed that an honor and teach ceremony will take place, acknowledging all branches of the military and expressed the desire to have someone from Council present to represent the City at the ceremony, which is scheduled for December 14th. He also invited all media outlets. Mason, an honor driver for the Wreaths Across America was also present in support of the request and spoke to the moto – Remember, Honor, Teach. He extended a challenge to councilmembers to help by participating and working together.

Councilmember Poinsette made a motion that the council support Wreaths Across America. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Lincoln Economic Development Association Update

Mayor Ed Hatley introduced Mr. Cliff Brumfield with the Lincoln Economic Development Association (LEDA), who provided an update on the status of the City of Lincolnton Industrial Incentive Grant Program. He also gave Product Development Committee update. Mr. Brumfield spoke to the numerous redevelopment opportunities in the city limits and gave a review of the growth in small businesses. Members were provided a copy of the information presented.

Mr. Brumfield concluded expressing his appreciation of the leadership council has provided to keep downtown Lincolnton beautiful and to make it a destination place for people to live and shop.

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BA-02-24

**Budget Amendment to General Fund, Boger, City Fire District, Powell
Bill Fund, Water & Sewer Fund and Electric Fund**

Finance Director Pamela McBryde presented the following budget amendment for council's approval. Ms. McBryde briefly explained the reason for the amendment, describing it as basically routine, other than the funds collected from the Carpenter Farms property which was almost \$402,000.00. She also noted that these funds can be used for needed infrastructure improvements.

BA-02-24

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:

General Expense	\$	197,643
Police	\$	35
Fire		12,934
Solid Waste		5,855
Planning/Zoning		6,490
Bus & Comm. Dev		149
Recreation		30,643
	\$	253,749

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

General: Pilot-Housing Authority	\$	8,173
SW: Rollout Fees		5,855
General: Cemetery Lot Sales		2,250
PD: Sidewalk Café Permit		35
P&Z: Zoning Department Fees		4,950
P&Z: Misc. Revenue		1,540
FD: Inspection Fees		8,575
FD: Misc. Revenue		4,359
Rec: Registration & Entry Fees		25,691
Rec: Sponsorships		2,000
BC&D: Event Fees		149
Rec: Miscellaneous Revenue		153
General: Interest		177,135
General: Insurance Settlement		8,766
General: Repair Settlement		653
General: WEX-Fuel Rebates		666
Rec: Veterans Banner Project		2,800
General: Federal Equitable Deposits		1
	\$	253,749

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General Fund: Record Zoning & Planning fees, Fire Department fees, Solid Waste roll out sales, interest income earned, special event fees, insurance claim settlement for damage to Trash Truck, repair settlement from Koval Builders for damage @ 1110 E. Lincoln Street, Veterans banner donation, WEX fuel rebates, Housing Authority, other miscellaneous revenue, Hollybrook Cemetery sales, and Federal Equitable reimbursement for the Police Department.

Section 3: To amend the Boger City Fire District Fund, the expenditures are to be changes as follows:

Boger Ciy Fire Tax	\$	3,712
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Section 4: To amend the Boger City Fire District Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

Investment Income	\$	3,712
	\$	3,712

Boger City Fire District: Record interest income earned.

Section 5: To amend the Powell Bill Fund, the expenditures are to be changes as follows:

Powell Bill Construction/Other	\$	5,415
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Section 6: To amend the Powell Bill Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

Investment Income	\$	5,415
	\$	5,415

Powell Bill Fund: Record interest income earned.

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

Water Treatment Plant	\$	6,761
Distribution and Collection		550,246
Water and Sewer Intangibles		5,515
	\$	562,523

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

Investment Income	\$	100,882
Connection Charges		449,364
Other Operating Revenues		12,276
	\$	562,523

Water and Sewer Fund: Record interest income earned, water and sewer connection charges, door repair on 2023 Dodge Ram, and Koval Builders repair settlement for damage to 1" galvanized line.

Section 9: To amend the Electric Fund, the expenditures are to be changes as follows:

Electric Operations	\$	95,087
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Section 10: To amend the Electric Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

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Investment Income	\$	63,098
Other Operating Revenue		26,438
Other Operating Sources		5,551
	\$	<u>95,087</u>

Electric Fund: Record interest income earned, default fees, and electric meter fees.

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 \$ 920,485

Ms. McBryde listed several examples of infrastructure work that has taken place this year.

Councilmember Jetton made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

R-07-24

Approval of Resolution for the City of Lincolnton to join the North Carolina Liquid Assets Securities System

Mayor Ed Hatley recognized Finance Director Pamela McBryde who presented a request for the approval of a Resolution for the City to join the North Carolina Liquid Assets Securities System. Ms. McBryde reminded council members of a previous discussion regarding the NC Class investment pool at the budget planning meeting that was held on March 15th. She explained the resolution is authorizing her to invest funds for the City of Lincolnton. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL FOR THE CITY OF LINCOLNTON TO JOIN IN THE NORTH CAROLINA LIQUID ASSETS SECURITIES SYSTEM

A resolution authorizing the City of Lincolnton (the “Local Government Unit”) to join with other political subdivisions of the State of North Carolina as a Participant (“Participant”) in the North Carolina Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (North Carolina CLASS) (the “Trust”) to pool funds for investment.

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WHEREAS, the provisions of Section 159-30 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, as amended (“N.C. Gen. Stat.”), provide the guidelines for any local government or public authority of the State of North Carolina (a “Local Government” or “Local Government Unit”) to invest idle funds;

WHEREAS, under N.C. Gen. Stat. §159-30(c)(10), moneys may be invested in a commingled investment pool established by interlocal agreement pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §160A-460 through 160A-464 (a “Local Government Investment Pool”), if the investments of the Local Government Investment Pool are limited to those qualifying for investment under N.C. Gen. Stat. §159-30(c) or other laws of the State of North Carolina governing the investment of monies of a the City of Lincolnton (“Permitted Investments”);

WHEREAS, certain Local Government Units have executed an Interlocal Agreement dated March 1, 2023 (the “Original Interlocal Agreement” and as supplemented and amended the “Interlocal Agreement”) for the purpose of creating the Trust or executed a joinder agreement for purposes of joining the Original Interlocal Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Trust is governed by the terms of an Indenture of Trust dated as of March 1, 2023 (the “Indenture”), which provides for the deposit of the pooled idle funds in the Trust and the investment of such funds in only Permitted Investments; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Unit desires to become a party to the Interlocal Agreement and a Participant in the Trust.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lincolnton City Council (the “Governing Body”) of the City of Lincolnton as follows:

1. The Governing Body hereby approves the City of Lincolnton’s participation in the Trust
2. The Governing Body authorized the execution and delivery of a joinder agreement to the Interlocal Agreement (the “Joinder Agreement”) substantially in the form presented at this meeting, together with such changes, modifications and deletions, as may be approved by the City of Lincolnton’s Finance Director (the “Authorized Representative”). The approval of the Joinder Agreement will be evidenced conclusively by the execution and delivery of the Joinder Agreement by the Authorized Representative.
3. The Authorized Representative is hereby authorized to take or cause to be taken any and all such other actions as they may determine in their discretion to be necessary or advisable or in the best interest of the City of Lincolnton in order to effectuate, complete and carry out the intent and purposes of the foregoing resolutions and the investment of the City of Lincolnton’s idle funds, including, but not limited to, the execution of all depository forms or other documents required by the administrator, the custodian or the investment advisor of the Trust and execution of amendments to the Interlocal Agreement entered into for the purposes of (i) adding an additional Participant to the Trust or (ii) which do not have financial implications for the City of Lincolnton.

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4. The Governing Body hereby approved the Authorized Representative to serve as the City of Lincolnton's Authorized Representative under the Interlocal Agreement and the Indenture (as "Authorized Representative" is defined in such documents).

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Lincolnton City Council has enacted this Resolution and that such Resolution is a true and correct copy of the original.

Councilmember Poinsette made a motion to approve the resolution. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Consideration of Request to Apply for Community Policing Development Grant

Chief Brian Greene appeared before council to request permission to apply for a Community Policing Development Grant. Chief Greene presented this as being an opportunity to receive up to \$400,000 with no matching funds. He explained that grant funds would be used to help embed Behavioral Health Services with the police department, which is what was discussed at the budget retreat in March.

Councilmember Jetton made a motion to approve. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion. Chief Greene also gave his quarterly homeless report update.

Consideration of Request for the Naming of City Property

City Manager Ritchie Haynes addressed council to ask that the City dedicate the splash pad at First Federal Park in honor and memory of Devin Rhyne. Mr. Haynes presented a rendering of the proposed signage. He explained that he has spoken to First Federal and they have no objections to the request and the board will take an official vote this month. Mr. Haynes explained that Devin Rhyne was the person that started the park project but unfortunately passed away shortly after the park was opened. He stated that he felt it would be fitting to put his name on the Splash Pad forever. Members of council voiced their approval of the idea and spoke to Mr. Rhyne's service as a member of council.

Councilmember Jetton made a motion to approve the recommendation. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Manager's Report/ Update

Referring to the activity report provided for each member, City Manager Ritchie Haynes mentioned several dates to remember. Among them were First Friday Recycling, Second Saturday Shop local and a fish fry sponsored by Hesed House on April 13, 2024. Mr. Haynes continued as he mentioned the Spring Art Crawl on April 19th, the Student Advisory Council Color Run scheduled for April 20th, and informed that members currently on the Council will be recognized at the May 2nd Council meeting. The last date mentioned was April 27th, when the Western Carolina Home Brewers event will be held. Mr. Haynes recognized Mr. Todd Elmore for receiving his grade one Biological Operator Certification, and Mr. Joe Fletcher who has been invited to join the UNCC Charlotte Fire and Rescue Management institute Board of Advisors for 2024 & 2025. He briefly noted the decline in the incidents and charges on the homeless report and the upcoming budget schedule.

Other business, Mr. Haynes gave an update on the decision to wait until the phase two of the neighborhood is completed to install the requested stop signs in Lincoln Meadows. He also informed that after meeting with the committee and making the corrections/changes requested by council, the Social District application has been submitted. Mr. Haynes noted several other documents included for Councils review and convenience. He concluded with an update on the paving schedule.

NEWS MEDIA:

Mayor Hatley opened the floor for questions from the new media. City Manager Ritchie Haynes responded to a question regarding the proposed social district.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Councilmember Jetton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

DAPHNE INGRAM, CMC
CITY CLERK

ED HATLEY
MAYOR

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Place Wreaths

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 4,225 locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. Anyone who wants to offer a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy can volunteer at a wreath laying ceremony to assist in saying veteran names aloud and thanking them for their service.

When you volunteer at a cemetery near you on National Wreaths Across America Day, you'll play a valuable role by placing live, balsam veterans' wreaths on the headstones of our fallen heroes. For centuries, fresh evergreens have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute renewed annually. Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military, and their families. When each wreath is placed the servicemember's name is said out loud, ensuring their memory lives on.

Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December as National Wreaths Across America Day. **This year's Wreaths Across America Day will take place on December 14, 2024. On that day, more than 2 million Veterans' Wreaths will be placed across Local, National and Military Cemeteries as well as Veterans' Memorials and historic sites.**

At each of those sites, a Wreaths Across America Location Coordinators works throughout the year with cemetery contact and local governments to organize and promote the ceremony, coordinate wreath delivery and manage the placement of wreaths. In addition to location coordinators, most Wreaths Across America locations rely on the assistance of community members, local businesses and civic groups and organizations to place wreaths on the day of the event. Typically, more than a third of our volunteers across the country are children, and we welcome all participants to play a part!

What to Expect as a Volunteer on National Wreaths Across America Day

As a volunteer, you will join tens of thousands across the nation in placing wreaths on the markers of our fallen heroes. As you place each wreath, you will "say their name" to ensure that the legacy of duty, service, and sacrifice of each veteran is never forgotten. We invite families and volunteers of all ages to come and share in this patriotic experience!

You can play an important as part in the mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those that serve and their families, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom. Join us by volunteering at a location near you.

Mark Ward

REGISTER FOR A LOCATION NEAR YOU!

How much is a wreath for Wreaths Across America?

There is no cost to attend an event on National Wreaths Across America Day, all are welcome to join. However, Wreaths Across America receives no government funding. National Wreaths Across America Day and other events are made possible by thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths and participate in the events. Individual wreath sponsors and corporate donors, pay for the majority of the cost for the program and volunteer truck drivers and trucking companies make it possible for WAA to transport wreaths all over the country. Each Veterans' Wreath placed on National Wreaths Across America Day is sponsored for \$17 per wreath. [Learn more about our financials here](#)

[SPONSOR A WREATH](#)

Spread the word

[Click here](#) to invite your friends and family to sponsor a wreath, volunteer at a location, and stay up-to-date on the mission.

63.5"

24"

Devin Rhyme

SPLASH PAD

