The Lincolnton City Council met in Regular Session on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 114 West Sycamore Street, Lincolnton, NC.

The following Council members were present and accounted for:

DEMENY JOHNSON TIPTON JETTON

Mayor Ed Hatley called the meeting to order asking all to rise for the moment of silence, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve the REGULAR AGENDA as submitted. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to approve the CONSENT AGENDA items as follows:

- February 6, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- Lincoln County Tax Department – Request for Release for January 16, 2025 – February 15, 2025
- Retirement Recognitions – Effective March 1, 2025
  - William C Harrelson, Jr, Dennis R. Harris, William K. Lovingood
- Resolution to Surplus LPD Captain Dennis Harris's Service Gun and Badge
- Proclamation – "Women's History Month" 2025

Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ed Hatley opened the public comment. Mr. Alan Hoyle and Mr. Trent Mason both signed up to speak during this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Alan Hoyle addressed council regarding a number of social issues and expressed his thoughts on how they are being handled in Lincolnton and Lincoln County. Mr. Trent Mason spoke to the various upcoming events and activities scheduled as we enter into the warmer months. Mr. Mason took this time to promote the Price Is Right event scheduled for March 22nd, inviting all to attend and show support for the Child Advocacy Center. He also reminded members of upcoming soccer season and his request for lights in the near future.

PUBLIC HEARING

ZTA -1-2025
Zoning Test Amendments to Chapter 153 Unifited Development Ordinance

Mayor Ed Hatley opened the public hearing and recognized Jean Derby, Planning Director, to speak to the item. Ms. Derby presented a number of text amendments to the various sections of the city's current ordinance, describing the requested changes as cleanup text amendments that are needed to the City's Code of Ordinances. She explained that no regulations are being changed, sections were just re-organized, grammatical errors were corrected and things that were not necessary were removed. Ms. Derby stressed that changes are being made in order to make the information easy, concise and clear to read by using plain language.

Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to close the public hearing, as well as making a motion to table any action for one month until the next meeting. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

REGULAR AGENDA

Contract for Engineering and Surveying Services – TGS Engineers

Planning Director Jean Derby came before council to request approval of a contract for engineering and surveying services. Ms. Derby identified this as the Highway 27 sidewalk connector project. She explained that this proposed sidewalk is to be constructed to go over the 321 bridge on East Main Street. Ms. Derby provided members with the history of the project, dating back to 2015. She informed due to State funding problems, the project was put on hold but picked back up in 2023. She stated that in order to move forward with the project, the engineering plans must be updated to 2024 standards.

Mayor Hatley shared the desire of the council when the project was approved was to have continuous sidewalks through the City of Lincolnton. There were questions and discussion regarding the funding for the completion of the project once the engineering is updated. Ms. Derby informed that the City's 20% of the $700,000.00 project will be $100,000.00. Councilmember Kevin Demeny voiced his concern with the issue with the possibility of the project being put on hold again.

Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to approve the contract as submitted. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

IT-003 Ocean 10 "Tsunami" 3 Year Proposal

Technology & Innovation Director Chris Jones presented a request to enter into an agreement with Ocean 10 Security LLC, who agrees to provide TSUNAMI 360 surveillance systems and optional Monsoon Pack (PTZ cameras) on a subscription basis.

Mr. Jones informed that the proposed project will cost $184,000 per year for the next three years. He stated that this includes 26 different tsunamis throughout the City. Mr. Jones display several views explaining that each of the 26 cameras provides five to six view, totaling 150 to 160 view throughout the city. City Manager Ritchie Haynes provided some background history explaining staff being tasked (by the previous council) to provide cameras on the rail-trail, downtown, at the parks etc. He spoke to the difficulty keeping up with the technology needed in the cost in replacing the camera's when they became obsolete. Mr. Haynes spoke to the difference between what was done in the past and what is being done now, as well as the options this method offers.

Some discussion was generated among council members and staff regarding the scope and details of the project. There were also conversations regarding backups plans and the cost.

Councilmember Mark Johnson made a motion to approve the three-year plan as outlined. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

IT-004
Uplink Logistics-142 Ross Street – 3 Year Proposal

Technology & Innovation Director Chris Jones presented an Uplink contract to provide an internet source to the City's logistics building in Boger City.

Mr. Jones spoke to the current plans to use building for shared services between the Police Department and the Fire Department, as well as shelter in place in case of an emergency with McGuire Nuclear Station. Approval of the contract is the first step needed for staff to service the proposed location with network to be able to put the needed resources such as the internet, phone, security and door locks. Mr. Jones informed it is a three-year contract for $650.00 a month.

Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve the 3 year proposal. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

BA-03-25
Budget Amendment to the Annual Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025

Finance Director Pamela McBryde presented a request to amend the budget as follows:

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, 2025.

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

General Expense	$	65,376
Solid Waste		960
Planning/Zoning		1,275
Recreation		2,300
	$	69,911

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

SW: Rollout Fees	$	960
General: Cemetery Lot Sales		4,000
P&Z: Zoning Department Fees		1,275
General: Interest		56,276
General: Insurance Settlement		5,005
General: WEX-Fuel Rebates		94
Rec: Veterans Banner Project		2,300
General: Federal Equitable Deposits		0
	$	69,911

General Fund: Misc Revenues for the P&Z and Solid Waste departments, Interest income, Insurance/Repair Settlements from: NCLM - PD; Officer Darius Collins hit a deer, & Federal Equity Interest income.

Section 3: To amend the Powell Bill Fund, the expenditures are to be changes as follows:

Powell Bill Construction/Other	$	2,069

Section 4: To amend the Powell Bill Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

Investment Income	$	2,069
	$	2,069

Powell Bill Fund: Record interest income earned.

Section 5: To amend the Water and Sewer Fund, the expenditures are to be changes as follows:

Distribution and Collection	$	24,750
Wastewater Treatment Plant	33,816	
	$	58,566

Section 6: To amend the Water and Sewer Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

Investment Income	$	33,666
Connection Charges	24,720	
Other Operating Revenues	150	
	$	58,536

Water and Sewer Fund: D.R. Horton Inc, Red Cedar Homes, Carolina Elite Builder, & NRGEE Construction Services connection fees, miscellaneous fees, and Interest income

Section 7: To amend the Electric Fund, the expenditures are to be changes as follows:

Electric Operations	$	27,097

Section 8: To amend the Electric Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

Investment Income	$	25,527
Other Operating Revenue	1,570	
	$	27,097

Electric Fund: Interest income earned, Electric meter charges to Carolina Elite Builder & NRGEE Construction Services, and Utility receivables.

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	$	157,612

Ms. McBryde reviewed the amendment, requesting to add an additional $158,000.00 to the budget, explaining the majority is investment income.

Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment as presented. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Request to Approve a Proposed Uniform Guidance Procurement Policy

Finance Director Pam McBryde addressed council to request approval of a written procurement policy that local governments are required to have to expend federal funds. She presented the Uniform Guidance Procurement policy, which is the template from the UNC School of Government. This policy covers normal purchasing, service contracts, construction contracts and professional contracts. Ms. McBryde assured members that she was not asking to eliminate Policy# 13 due to the fact that it is more restrictive than the proposed policy.

Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve the Uniform Guidance Procurement Policy. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Before taking her seat, Ms. McBryde informed the members that the first FEMA check was received. She recognized all of the departments that helped with the debris removal (street department, solid waste and equipment services) for their hard work. She reported that the check was a little less than $163,000.00.

Prequalification Resolution for Bidders on Construction & Repair Projects

Business Services Director David Ramsey represented a request to Council to approve the prequalification resolutions as follows:

WHEREAS, N.C. General Statute 143-135.8 provides authorization for the prequalification of bidders on construction and repairs projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lincolnton that the City's prequalification policy be adopted as follows and included in the City's Procurement and Purchasing Policy: ***Complete resolution and policy is attached to and made a part of these minutes***

Mr. Ramsey explained that in order to accept bidders they are required to through this pre-qualification process. He stated that this allows the City to rank the bidders and confirm that they have all of the qualifications required to bid. He summarized by saying that pre-qualifying your bidders makes the bidding process cleaner.

Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Administrative Policy #25
Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Human Resources Director presented an administrative policy for consideration of approval. Ms. Osborne explained the details of the policy, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA), explaining that the policy was previously put in place last year, however the guidance had not been completed. She stated that this portion of the policy addresses how you treat accommodations for pregnant works. Ms. Osborne confirmed that this is something that the City already does, however there must be a policy in place outlining the process an employee should follow.

Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to approve the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act policy. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Manager's Report / Activity Update

City Manager Ritchie Haynes reviewed his manager's report and activity update. Mr. Haynes began dates and a reminders of things to remember. Mr. Haynes recognized Finance Director Pamela McBryde and her staff for the countless hours spent working with FEMA. He mentioned the City Page newsletter, spotlighting some of the information included. Mr. Haynes announced recent promotions, trainings and certifications, and referred to the homeless report that was included. Mr. Haynes moved into the other business, announcing the purchase of the property adjacent to First Federal Park.

Mr. Haynes informed members of his continued work on the budget. He also noted the housing report and the information regarding the proposed improvements at the top of Tank Hill.

NEWS MEDIA

Mayor Ed Hatley opened the floor for questions from the new media in attendance. Mr. Mike Powell asked a question regarding the specific location of the property recently purchased. He also requested a list of the Alive After Five concert dates. City Manager Ritchie Haynes responded to those questions.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Ed Hatley asked for a motion to enter into closed session, with City Attorney John Friguglietti citing the reason as N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5) – to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of a price in terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real.

Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to go into closed session. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon returning to open session, Councilmember Roby Jetton made motion to adjourn. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

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DAPHNE INGRAM, CMC	**ED HATLEY**
CITY CLERK	**MAYOR**