

**CITY OF LYNDON
CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024**

Mayor Brent Hagan called the Caucus Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those present: Susan Barto, Mardy Sidebottom, Jenny Benner, Carla Nalley, Amy Stuber and Attorney John Singler. Vicky Stanley and Becky Ricketts were absent. Many guests were present.

Mayor Hagan began meeting welcoming the number of guests who mostly were in attendance to discuss the occupational tax. Brian Keisler, UPS, who has spoken to Mayor and staff prior to the meeting stated he was caught off guard by the tax, not knowing what an occupational tax was and unaware he worked in Lyndon. He asked how employees could dispute the tax and be included in discussions. Mayor Hagan informed guests of important facts about Lyndon's status in population compared to other cities in Kentucky, the need and means to generate revenue. He spoke about the police department costs as the driving factor for increase in revenue but also the rate increases for essential services the city provides and for improvements projects. Discussion was held about current financial standings.

Councilmember Carla Nalley stated she was hesitant to impose the occupational tax because she not only resides in Lyndon but also works in the city. After a question was raised about increasing taxes on residents, it was stated that property taxes would have to dramatically increase to generate what a 1% increase on employee wages would produce. Ms. Nalley said that would be too detrimental for those on a lower income. Ms. Nalley also stated the residents are her priority. Discussion was held. Anthony Hosein, UPS employee, asked about the refund policy and stated cities raise taxes they don't reduce them and believes this 1% will not be reduced. Another UPS employee asked if the city has calculation on what revenue to expect. The Mayor informed him Lyndon shares 3 zip codes that also fall outside the limits, so the calculations are not accurate. He also stated after the first quarter, the council is committed to reviewing the tax and will have the figures to revisit the 1%.

Councilmember Amy Stuber stated she was against the occupational tax at first, but employees will benefit from the Lyndon Police such as a workplace incident, because Metro is not timely. She asked the crowd if that is what they would want. Mr. Hosein said they had no choice and were never asked before it was imposed. Kathy Blessitt, a UPS employee that drives from Mt. Washington and works in Lyndon, feels this tax was not communicated. A question was asked how much revenue is needed. The Mayor stated about \$5 million; the police department alone will need \$4 million to be sustainable and continue to grow. More discussion was held regarding raising residential property taxes again.

Mayor Hagan stated there was discussion about generating more revenue prior to acquiring the police department because of inflation. Financial figures were read by City Attorney, John Singler from the 2022 Audit to show there was only \$92,000 left over after all revenue, grants and expenditures were accounted for. Occupational tax in St. Matthews was discussed but it's not comparable. The Mayor recited that cities in Kentucky on average generate about 60%

revenue from occupational tax, 25% from property tax and 14% insurance premium tax. More discussion held.

Anthony Tishar, UPS employee, asked about the refund policy and he was informed. Mr. Singler added that Lyndon is working towards a uniform policy based on what Metro uses. This policy would guide Lyndon to calculate refunds and for the first year, the dates will likely be flexible for those still learning about the tax.

Equitability of tax on residents to employees seems to be the main issue with the imposition to one employee. Mr. Singler stated it's hard to convince employees about the equitably to those paying the tax that only work in Lyndon and he informed him the city has been talking about acquiring more revenue for a while and there are only certain tools to legally do so. The occupational tax is one of those. Several guests continued to express their positions as employees of Lyndon but not a resident. More discussion was held.

One employee stated how he appreciates the police and doesn't want the discontent of this tax to reflect on police. He asked if any other budget cuts have been made. Mayor Hagan stated he plows streets, mows grass, and picks up trash himself to cut costs. A council member attested. He stated he runs a lean government and has two other full-time employees in the office, one part-time employee that was just hired for occupational tax administration, 1 full-time maintenance person and the police department.

Susan Barto invited guests to the May meeting when the city can report the figures from the first quarter. It was said again by Mayor Hagan and Councilmember Amy Stuber, the city is committed to re-evaluate and our findings will be transparent.

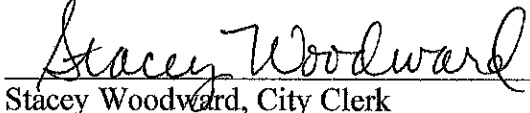
Resident Pamela Pringle urged more people to get involved in the city meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Brent Hagan, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stacey Woodward, City Clerk