

**CITY OF LYNDON
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024**

Mayor Brent Hagan called the Special Meeting to order at 5:00pm. Those present: Susan Barto, Jenny Benner, Becky Ricketts, Mardy Sidebottom. Councilmembers, Carla Nalley and Vicki Stanley and City Attorney, John Singler could not attend special meeting because of short notice. Police Chief, Rob Schroeder and Deputy Chief Thomas and Major Tucker were also in attendance. Councilmember Jenny Benner stated, "we have come up with an ordinance to repeal and replace the budget that we approved, Ordinance #5-7-24 to itemize a worksheet style budget for the appropriations" and the revenue would stay the same as what was approved. Ms. Benner claimed this is saving about \$1.2 million.

Councilmembers decided it was best to go line by line comparing the amended budget spreadsheet Ms. Benner is proposing and the income statement for 2023-2024. She announced the revenue totals are the same as currently budgeted. Few questions arose from discrepancies in salaries of 4th quarter totals on actual expenditures. Mayor Hagan explained that may be due compensation in July for that period of time but needs to confirm with the City Treasurer.

Councilmember Amy Stuber announced each group under appropriation and read the proposed amendments of each item under that group and compared to year to date actual of 2023-2024. Discussions were held to clarify changes. In summary, the total proposed budget for General Government showed a decrease of almost \$18,000 and Public Works decreased by \$25,000 from current budget to match more closely with actuals spent. Sanitation/Recycling stayed the same. In Public Safety, the proposed total was a significant decrease by \$455,000. When Mayor Hagan asked for an explanation, Ms. Benner stated the salary was lowered to match what was paid in salaries last year. Mayor Hagan reminded her of the raises that were implemented at the beginning of the fiscal year and asked if that means taking it away. She stated "potentially, but we know like, as with any business, there's a fluctuation of officers. And, so you're not going to have a full force of people the entire year. So there is usually room within that." and also, insurance and retirement line items stayed the same. If there are a lower number of officers, there may be room to move funds within those totals. Ms. Benner also explained Longevity Awards and Overtime were zeroed. Uniforms, vehicles, equipment and training were lowered on the proposal. The Mayor asked about specifics on vehicles and Ms. Benner explained the bulk was the fuel was lowered to match previous year spent. Grant opportunities were considered with equipment and Police Chief, Rob Schroeder and Deputy Chief, Chris Thomas explained most equipment has been purchased or grants have paid for but the fees for storage and programs will be ongoing. Discussion was held about future equipment and the possibility to amend if needed.

Ms. Stuber continued with line items of Community Development. Events and Romara line items were lowered and one item added to purchase audio/visual equipment for City Hall meetings. Ms. Benner stated the \$10,000 for that equipment is just a "random number". Capital Projects showed slight decrease in amended proposal as Robsion line item and signs and banners were omitted. Mayor Hagan suggested they reconsider signs because of unforeseen replacements and a project to replace signs in Eagle Creek that was promised. Ms. Benner brought up it

showed as 0 in the current budget and the Mayor explained those totals were moved to Municipal Road Aid since it will support some of those projects. Ms. Benner said that could be added back in. \$300,000 for possible street widening was added and Lyndon Lane Streetscape was lowered. Two other line items were removed. Discussion was held. \$30,000 was added back in for signage/banners.

Chief Schroeder asked if he could request a reconsideration in the police category. He informed council the overtime cannot be 0 because of time spent on certain runs, storm damage and covered shifts will always exist. Ms. Benner asked if that could be part of salary and he stated he must be a separate line. Chief also expressed his personal issue with omitting longevity compensation from the budget. This increment in pay for officers that have been employed 5, 10 and 15 years (\$.50 per increment) would be detrimental. Much discussion was held. Ms. Benner expressed she was against longevity because of the department only in existence less than 2 years. The Chief explained it is the same department that was Graymoor-Devondale, the name was only changed to Lyndon. There are certain officers who have been employed for many years and are currently getting longevity pay. Ms. Benner suggested it be part of the salary and Mayor stated as uniform financial reports, it must be a separate line. Both Chief and Deputy Chief spoke highly of the officers who serve Lyndon. Chief Schroeder informed the council the department will lose officers if these benefits are taken away and he is committed to protecting them. He also stated that he and command staff elected to not receive a raise so that officers can have the needed raises, and it would be a insult to take that away. Discussion was held about adding longevity and overtime back into the proposed amendment. It was agreed to add \$5,000 for overtime and \$9,360 for longevity. Councilmember Susan Barto reminded council the budget can always be further amended if needed.

Ms. Benner summarized the changes to be made to the proposal totals and a motion was made by Amy Stuber, seconded by Becky Ricketts to have a first reading of Ordinance 8-13-24 to repeal and replace Ordinance 5-7-24. Motion carried. Jenny read the first reading noting revenue total \$8,795,767 and appropriation total of \$10,349,610. Discussion was held to hold another Special Meeting to have second reading and action. Amy Stuber asked if it could be this week and to 'get it done.' Becky Ricketts suggested Thursday night. Mardy Sidebottom requested the meeting be held when all council members are present rather than the following day or the day after as suggested initially for transparency. The council agreed to have the Special Meeting at 6:00pm on August 19th and the Caucus Meeting to follow.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:28pm.



Brent Hagan, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stacey Woodward, City Clerk