

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

Mayor Brent Hagan called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those present: Susan Barto, Jenny Benner, Carla Nalley, Becky Ricketts, Mardy Sidebottom, Amy Stuber and City Attorney, John Singler. Lyndon Police Chief, Deputy Chief and Major were present along with other guests. Council member, Vicki Stanley was absent.

MAYOR Hagan

OK folks, I do have 6:00 PM. Call this meeting to order and we do have a quorum present and Miss Stanley mentioned that she was going to be running a few minutes behind this evening. And this is our regular August caucus meetings April. Or August 19th. Where we talk about items upcoming on the agenda for our next Council meeting next Monday. OK, first and foremost, we need to discuss the recent first reading from August 13th regarding a budget amendment to repeal and replace the 24-25 budget. Several council members were present at that meeting. A special meeting was noticed for this evening, but it was not noticed properly and to spare you any details, it was an error and so therefore this is not a special meeting, it is a regular caucus meeting. No votes will be taken. OK, moving on that. Is there a revised document for the first reading concerning some of the changes that needed to be made? Is that available?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

It's not completed, but I'm working on one.

MAYOR Hagan

OK, OK. We're going to go with what we were presented. Tuesday. August 13th.

City Attorney John Singler

Can I ask you just a few questions about this because. So you know, normally ordinances are submitted to my office before they get a first reading. That wasn't done in this case. Why was that?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Well, I'm a new council person, so I didn't know that that was the process for things to happen that's never been shared with me. And I was just trying to, I just took it over on my own and created it and put it together and presented it.

City Attorney John Singler

Well, I mean, there's a couple of really big issues with this draft #1. You've got \$8,795,000 worth of income and you're spending. \$10,349,000 so you're a million and a half short. You can't have a budget. With a million and a half short on it.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Right. And that that was going off, but that's even better than what our original budget was. I just didn't have the carryover funds in there to cover for that.

City Attorney John Singler

And then the, I mean so the, the other thing of course is the road fund is just thrown into the general fund. We can't do that, OK.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

So that will be addressed. Yeah. So that will be separated out. Too, that's being addressed.

City Attorney John Singler

So why? Why is it that we're going to this brand new budget that we've never done before? You know that we're having an itemized budget that's never happened in the history of the city. Why are we doing that?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

So that we can have more accountability over the spending that's being done.

City Attorney John Singler

OK, so like this is the last budget that Susan did. Looks exactly the same as a budget that you just passed.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

We didn't have a Police Department. We have more money coming in and going out.

City Attorney John Singler

Fair enough. But we have. So we have general categories and large you know we have \$10 million budget in general categories with this itemized budget for instance. You have a line item here. \$500.00 for City Hall floor maintenance. OK, in this proposed budget because you're doing it this way, which has never been done in the city. If the floor wax costs \$501.00, we have to amend the budget. I mean, are you aware that that that's what this means?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Yes.

City Attorney John Singler

And you want to amend the budget over a dollar's worth of floor wax?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Yes, I will. I would like to ask you a question as to why you made accusations of me and involved the City Council, the people that work in the office and the Kentucky League of Cities, when I'm just trying to. To do what I think is best. And I'm new and I don't know why you didn't address me individually and say, can I help you? Let me help you with that. I've seen that this happened. That never happened. That hasn't happened in the last. Six days. So can you tell me where that came from and why?

City Attorney John Singler

Yeah, because I heard that there was discussion. I'm cut out of the process. I'm hearing that there's discussion through KLC legal.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

But that was not true.

City Attorney John Singler

OK, so I want to know when I hear that, I want to know from them. What are they telling you because I'm sitting here looking at a budget. With not enough money to spend. And that you've got the road fund in the General Fund budget and I want to know whether Kentucky League of Cities is giving you that advice.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Is there some reason you're yelling at her? Can you bring it down? I don't think there's any reason to yell.

MAYOR Hagan

We don't have microphones yet, so we're projecting ourselves so it can be heard clearly on the audio tape.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Well, it comes across a little aggressive.

City Attorney John Singler

OK, I will bring it down a notch. How about that?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

So why didn't you ask me first if I spoke with KLC before you addressed them, you didn't even Fact Check that piece of information and I would have told you. No, I did not. I created this myself. I spoke in the special meeting many times that I created this myself.

City Attorney John Singler

Well, because I wanted to hear from KLC. And make sure that they. Responded to me in time for this meeting so I didn't get in here and then somebody say, well, I've talked to KLC and they say that this is great. I wanted to go directly to them. And, you know, it's not an accusation to say that you. Spoke to KLC. I have no problem with you speaking to KLC. I have no problem.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

But when you said no, you you said, I know you spoke to KLC. That's an accusation.

Councilwoman Susan Barto

It was me that I talked to KLC and all I asked them is how to put a line item budget amendment.

City Attorney John Singler

Fair enough. I reached out to KLC to see what advice they were giving my client, Before this meeting, if you feel that that's an accusation, then fine.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Because you didn't come to any of the Council, people that were so-called, in on this, and it was all because mayor, you chose to go upon something that you thought was fact. And really it wasn't. It was fake news. So then you make John look silly sending an e-mail to KLC, accusing them of conspiring to work.

City Attorney John Singler

Yeah, sure.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

On a budget which we would be legally in our right to do so.

Speaker ?

Yes. Legally, yes.

Speaker 8

All of all of this, all of this.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

All of this came about because Carla, you haven't even been here.

MAYOR Hagan

No.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

All of this came about all of this came about because you decided that you.

MAYOR Hagan

Take that down a notch. Please, because you weren't invited to speak.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Weren't going to ask anybody any questions and just go off assumption.

MAYOR Hagan

No, this is what happened. Susan came into the office, asked Stacey when I was not in there, said some comments about her asking KLC about a budget process. Way it was turned to me was that Susan was inquiring whether our budget was done correctly. If it was an illegal budget or whatever, the first budget that we were spending too much. And so I reached out to KLC to find out what was being said because the way it was relayed to me that we've done something wrong, we needed to have an urgent special meeting to address whatever was wrong. OK. So I reached out to KLC. This is all within 24 hours of first hearing about the called meeting. Right. And then the actual day on Tuesday. So this was Monday at

10:00 AM or whatever time it was she came in. And then the next day, the meeting was supposed to be called. So I reached out. Yeah, there were notes, Morgan Patterson. OK, she said. Looks like there's notes here. I don't know the whole thing, but it shows that Susan asked just about the budget and that's all that she wanted to tell me. OK, so that's where we went. And I told John the exact same thing. It's not an accusation. That is just how it happened. We wanted to know why it was so urgent that there was a special meeting that needed.

Councilwoman Carla Nalley

That was my question to you. Why? Why ?

MAYOR Hagan

To Be called.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

So that money wasn't spent.

Councilwoman Carla Nalley

OK, so we could not have.

City Attorney John Singler

What's the difference?

Councilwoman Carla Nalley

Put this all together.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Between money not being spent and money being spent, it's to ensure that.

MAYOR Hagan

Here's the deal. What's the difference between last Tuesday so urgently and today to have that meeting?

What's the difference?

Councilwoman Carla Nalley

6 days

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Well, money being spent decisions can be made.

MAYOR Hagan

Why didn't? Why didn't this document get distributed to everyone so that we could have forwarded it to John before the meeting and so we could have had his advice so that several of the Council members that were unaware of this and folks that were not able to attend as they were, it was said, I think the day that Susan came in.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Why?

MAYOR Hagan

That I was not probably going to be available if I got a lot going on whatever. So I made time to come. Yes, John couldn't come. That's his normal meeting night with Saint Matthews. So all that was known, you were going to proceed. Anyway, and you did OK.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Sure, because that's our legal right, but here's the thing in that e-mail that Stacey responded back and let us know that you and John weren't going to be available and at no point was, there we can't make this day and this time, but we could make this day, and this time there was no you.

MAYOR Hagan

You weren't going to listen anyways, just that's my opinion. So let's move on from all these accusations and just get to the point. So you wanted to cut some of the money down. Give me the reasons.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Oh, okay. Well, good. I'm glad you can go ahead and make that decision accusation.

MAYOR Hagan

For the lines that you decided to take money from, I want to know why you decided to lower salaries for employees. We want to hear it now with the full Council. I think we should be transparent today that people are here to hear this instead of hiding the guise of a special meeting that was called immediately for a business that could be attended to on a normal meeting date at any time of the year.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

This was already discussed last week so I don't feel like we need to do it again.

MAYOR Hagan

People are here now, so. Why are we defunding the police by almost half a million? Why are we taking away raises that we have already approved unanimously from the first budget?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

We're not taking away any raises. We are cutting down costs. We are not advocating, we're not telling them how to spend the money they can.

MAYOR Hagan

It sure seems like it. We already have those people here, so that's.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Spend it however they choose. Really.

MAYOR Hagan

Why the number for the budget you passed is what it is, because those folks are here.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Ok. And there should be enough money for them to be here.

MAYOR Hagan

There is not.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Where is proof of that. I have proof of what's been paid out.

City Attorney John Singler

Well, the, I mean the chief issued a letter. On August 19th, that explains what this does operationally to his budget. Everybody got a copy of that today, so.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

But where are the numbers to show that. There are words saying that, but where are the actual numbers?

City Attorney John Singler

Well, I mean, there's numbers, there's numbers plus the words in here.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

I have a budget.

City Attorney John Singler

Here. I mean, he does, chief, you do have numbers plus the words, right? So perhaps he could address that.

Police Chief Schroeder

Well. 1st off.

Police Chief Schroeder

So. We were completely blindsided by this. Nobody contacted us in advance. This meeting, that just, insults this Police Department. Nobody talked to professionals about what we actually need. Almost \$300,000 is going to be actually over \$300,000, about \$350,000, just shy of that is going to be taken from the salary budget to the health insurance budget and the retirement budget. You can call the duck whatever you want. That is defunding the police and that will take the raises away from our police officers. Deputy Chief Thomas created a budget that explains line by line, what it costs for each of the positions we have. We can, we can get around semantics. I don't think that it's productive. We have always had a good relationship as long as I've been here, to be blindsided, particularly after the three of us volunteered not to take a raise. So our officers could get a reasonable raise to be slapped in the face.

And have that overturned in a meeting that while it was lawful. We have a saying in policing it's lawful, but awful. Was it done in the dark of the night? Maybe not. But it was certainly done in the shadows. That is not how the public expects us to do business, they expect us to do business in the sunshine. It's going to harm our Police Department and it's going to harm the reputation of this Police Department and it's going to harm the reputation of the city. We have talked long and hard about how we tried to get the most professional police officers we can that love this city, that want to serve this city, but when they see the Council trying to take away their money like this? They're going to leave and we are not going to be in a reputational place where we can get officers of equal quality, equal dedication and equal service back. That is the effect this change of the budget has done. If it was something that. Had to be done. It didn't have to be done right now. We're not going to spend \$300,000 over a period of 6 days.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

It's a matter of hiring more officers. That's what I'm talking about hiring more officers because again. You can decide what you want to do with the money if you want to give the raises or if you want to hire more police, that's up to you. You're the chief. But the reason we were calling this meeting is so that, you know, we didn't want any more money to be spent in areas that we were going to potentially take away.

Police Chief Schroeder

Something maybe we should have talked about . Something the public should have been consulted. That was something that was discussed at length in the original budget meetings and again there was no rush to not include all of the Council members there to not include the members of our public there to accomplish this goal.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

OK, please don't act like that, you know

MAYOR Hagan

Excuse me? No.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Special meeting and we made the notice too.

MAYOR Hagan

We're not going to do that.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Excuse you. You're accusing us of not allowing the community to come to a meeting.

MAYOR Hagan

Well, you didn't.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

How? How? Please explain.

Police Chief Schroeder

I'm not accusing that. I'm not accusing that what I'm saying is this was rushed through when there was no apparent need and certainly.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

That's your. That's your belief.

Police Chief Schroeder

And certainly well, when we walked in, Deputy Chief Thomas was told we didn't need to be at that meeting when we were talking about our budget. So is that correct Deputy Chief Thomas? So while it may, while it may not be improper, it does not have the light of sunshine on it. That's what I'm saying. I'm not saying it's anything you can't do. I'm saying it doesn't look good part of policing and part of what we want for the public is a concept called procedurally procedural justice. We want everything we do, to look on the up and up, be procedurally. Just the first step in that is being procedurally just with our police.

Speaker

Sure.

Police Chief Schroeder

Officer. And I'm sorry. I'm getting emotional because these are all our officers that are going to be affected by this. I am angry. I'm sorry. I like you all, but this topic makes me angry.

Speaker

Wow.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

I guess I'm just confused on why you left our special meeting without verbalizing any of that because the two things that you addressed were the well. The number one issue was longevity awards.

Police Chief Schroeder

Well.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

And after you explained how you felt, what did we do? We gave you the money. Back for the Longevity awards.

Police Chief Schroeder

That simple one. We didn't have a chance to look at this before, so I didn't realize it was in there. We didn't get a copy of what was actually in there until about midway through the meeting when Ms. Barto gave us all a copy so we didn't catch it during that meeting when we had time to actually look at it. So. We could drop out. We were able to go, oh, this is a huge problem.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Well, there were also other areas. Of the budget other than the police. That were reduced there. Was the additional building maintenance building and then the equipment?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

And other salaries.

MAYOR Hagan

The largest number is the police public safety budget so.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

They are also the largest number that we pay money into in our budget.

MAYOR Hagan

I get it? But if you want public safety to just continue to be a fantasy, it's not going, this is not going to work. This is this is the reality, OK? He just expressed the fact that we need to pay these folks and taking this money away from them now. Is a detriment to the city and the police department.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

We are told one time that when we were talking about, you know, the building. That you know, if we don't find a better place to house our Police Department, our police officers, then we are going to lose police officers, because we're not so.

MAYOR Hagan

That's right.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

We now are giving them a. Three million, \$4 million building pretty darn good.

MAYOR Hagan

Yeah. Right. Good. One time cost.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

Yeah, but I mean, well, there will be an ongoing cost because of the utilities and.

MAYOR Hagan

Sure. But again, that's what makes the budget look large. OK.

Speaker

(inaudible) Kind of things.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

That was out there and we knew that was going to be that way. In all fairness we knew that was going to happen when we bought the police department from Graymoor Devondale.

MAYOR Hagan

We can go away from the police for a moment if you want. So back when I was talking about appropriations for general government salaries, alright, without consulting with me, you just because we spent a certain amount on our on our actual year before you just made it that amount again without. Knowing that we didn't have two-part time maintenance people. Without knowing that, we're hoping to get one other full time maintenance person. And possibly an office staff person, which we've contracted out at the time as our occupational license tax specialist. So the reason why the budget for salaries was over \$200,000 in general government this time is because we weren't fully staffed with maintenance, OK. And we possibly needed somebody else in the office. We worked around that so we don't have anybody for maintenance. I'm going to have to pay somebody more to come in full time. I need two. 2 People. OK, because the mayor shouldn't have to be out there doing the things that I do every day. And so I'm the savings. And I've said it again and I don't mean to be that way, but. And so maybe you think I'm not managing things properly by not having people in place, but I can't help that somebody wants to go somewhere else and work in the private sector to make 2 times more money than they're making here, picking up trash and mowing grass. I do those things. So at the end of the day, we need \$100,000 for two maintenance people, but you've taken that away from me. So you're telling me that every morning I'm still going to continue to wake up and go to the park and stock the toilet paper and take all the trash and mow all the grass on Thursdays and Fridays? I can hire somebody else. Sure part time. Whatever, you can smile about it, Amy. I don't mean to say it has to be this.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

I just think it's funny because, you know, if you need to hire people to communicate that to council.

MAYOR Hagan

I will do so, but I've been doing that for the last eight years in some capacity, it doesn't matter.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Communicating that to us, we could.

Councilwoman Carla Nalley

He included it in the budget that was just passed. It was in there.

MAYOR Hagan

That just happened. OK, so now you've taken that ability away for me to hire another person full time. So what are we going to do about it now?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

That, I'm not taking anything away from you.

MAYOR Hagan

You Are.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

I am making a budget that makes sense. You can choose how to do that however you want.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

I'm gonna say this.

MAYOR Hagan

Hold on, we've got to bring order back in here so we can continue on. Thank you. Miss Sidebottom has the floor. Thank you.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

Did we not pass the budget a month? Six weeks ago.

MAYOR Hagan

Six weeks.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

Why was this uproar not addressed then? Why has everybody gone crazy? At this point, how come all this has just come to light? The waters have parted and everybody has lost their mind. Why? Wasn't this brought up when everybody said, I think one person maybe. I'm not sure that voted nay. Everybody else smiled fat dumb and happy went right along and voted yes.

MAYOR Hagan

One person.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

And now all of a sudden, everybody says everything. That we did all the time, we poured into that budget, and they poured into the budget, talking to Brent, coordinating. They agreed to give their increases up to get the policeman raises. So what did we do? Well, good, thanks. But we're still going to cut the salaries of the officers that we've already told that they were going to get a raise. I do not understand. How it has come to this and I would like for someone. With obviously more sense than me to explain to me how this has happened. And what is going on? That's all I ask. And John, you probably have more insight to this being a legal person than anyone in that well, no, not anyone in this room that, I truly need an answer to that because we poured and poured over the budget. We looked at it. I remember Brent saying particularly. He had a budget and then Amy protested it, Brent says. OK, what do you want it to be? Amy told him, he wrote it in, made it that this went back forth, back forth, back forth. I don't understand. Why we are where we are today?

City Attorney John Singler

Who Are you addressing that to? Me?

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

No, well, I guess.

City Attorney John Singler

I'm at a loss as well. I have no idea. I have the same question that you do because you know, is this a business where you can't really 100% predict outcomes and whatever all you can do is set up processes to try to get to a result. And we have a budget process in the city that we followed. We had many meetings about the budget, we had charts and graphs and details and all this kind of stuff. And we passed the budget. I thought it was over. And then this just comes out of the blue. So. I don't have any answer for you on that. I do think even if you're going to cut the police, if you're going to do those things, to have this itemized budget and change the way you've done things for dozens of years, decades is a really a bad idea. I mean, you've got. Line items in here of \$1200. You've got line items of \$790.00. I mean, there's many of those in here and it just it's not smart. It's just there's other things that you can do if you want to have more controls over. The details of the expense accounts, there's ways to do that without having to amend the budget every other month.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

Yes. And say now our \$1200 budget is now a \$1400 budget. Oh, I make a motion to amend the budget.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

By the way, Mardy, just to correct you, you initially said. There was only one, nay, and I was in nay for the first reading of the budget. I didn't even want the budget read because I was in a disagreement with the numbers.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

When we voted on the budget, 2nd reading?

MAYOR Hagan

Ordinance number 5.7.24. 5 votes yes, one nay vote. I believe Miss Nalley was not present.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

I voted nay for a first reading of the budget, like I said.

City Attorney John Singler

So just just for instance, I want to pass out this document. This is the Kentucky Cities Financial Manual, OK. This is a really long document. I've just gotten page 31, which I've underlined.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Yeah.

Speaker

Right.

City Attorney John Singler

And you know I mean, this is where you're at it. It speaks to line items on the budget proposal. The legislative body must make a balanced decision regarding the level of detail necessary for proper oversight of city operations and the latitude necessary for the executive authority to administer the budget. While the city legislative body should ensure it has sufficient information to perform its oversight responsibility. The Council Commission should strive to develop a framework that doesn't require amendments for minor changes, so I mean it that when I say that it's not the way that you've done it in the past. It's the, it's because of that reason. It's not smart to do. It that way.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

Yeah. What I have John, you're looking at. This is what I'm looking at. This is the two, I'm just curious, since we're talking about going over numbers, this is from the audited report from ending June. So this would be a 22-23, correct?

City Attorney John Singler

OK.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

So we went over 3 million, 712,000 over. Budget that year, do you see how mean?

City Attorney John Singler

No, that's the fund balance. That's not, that's not an expense guidance. That's your fund balance at the end of the year.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

OK.

MAYOR Hagan

OK.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

I do want to point out we've gotten so many documents on this budget so much that even I believe it was the second reading you were doing, Mr. Singler, that you didn't even read the right numbers because it took like two or three times to find. The right document.

MAYOR Hagan

Because you kept thwarting the readings from the original one that you wanted to change things you said. No, we want to wait. Wait more times. And that all stemmed from the time that I said if you want to affect change, then you need to do that within the budget because you all don't have the ability to make administrative decisions. That's my decision. And so from that point on, you've made every effort to undermine the process to and, just say out loud. You don't trust me and you don't trust John? I don't believe so, you know. Tell us what the real agenda is here, because I feel like there is some sort of plot at this point and so tell me why.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

There is a plot, to be fiscally responsible and be mindful of our city that I grew up in.

MAYOR Hagan

Tell me what the difference is between this year and all of the years in the past, including the years that the former mayor was there.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

I Said that I'm new and I'm looking. I've also found errors on the budget that we passed.

MAYOR Hagan

That may be true, and there's where you go when the auditor comes in several weeks, they'll give that report, and then we can reconvene and discuss, which would have been the perfect time to talk about what we're talking about. Now, if there are any glaring errors. But at the end of the day, the budget is a proposal of what we intend to spend. And I sat down with the former mayor. She taught me how to. Do the budget. On the first day. OK, so I've done it the same way and I'm not trying to throw anybody under the bus. But as you can see and I have all the budgets from 1996 and even before, but that's a. 43 pages. I felt like printing out when you told me that your mother never did it that way. Drove me up wall because I went back and looked every single budget has been done that I've done. She did the same way, just like estimated revenues. OK, our one number appropriations are always higher. They have not ever been lower. Not one time. In fact, she one time got close. It was about \$300,000. I was about the same for two years. In 2019 and 2020, OK. At the end of the day, we're always getting into the fund balance carried forward and so when you said you don't want that to happen, that's why I got frustrated and sure it shouldn't. But at the same time, we're discussing that we are spending \$3,000,000 on the police headquarters and that's not going to be in there next year. And because we've made arrangements to increase revenue by occupational tax. That we've certainly covered our expenses. So after this year, next year's budget is going to show that we have an excess amount of money that there needs to be something to do with and that's the discussion that the folks that are getting 1% taking off their check are going to come back in here and say why do you all have \$7,000,000 sitting in the Bank. Well, you're. You're taxing us too much. Well, that's a discussion we'll have then, but that's what I'm trying to explain is there's several items in this budget and capital projects that are one time expenses. They're not every year. Just because this year looks a little bit different. But when you look at the ratios of the difference in how much we're over or whatever, it's the same for the last 30 years, there's nothing different.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

OK, but that doesn't mean we can't change it. We also added something, right. We also added something into the budget too. And my biggest issue is I want to make sure that money is getting spent where it's supposed to be spent. And so when we're amending this budget, where does that money come from? We've amended the budget multiple times. So last year's budget.

MAYOR Hagan

Thank you. But we can. We can do it the right way. Can we can do it the right way?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

It wasn't just perfect to where we didn't have to amend it, so I want to make sure that the money is being designated where it's supposed to go and that is what's getting spent and that projects are happening like we are saying that we're doing because we're telling.

MAYOR Hagan

It never is.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Our constituents and doing things and it's not happening. And so I'm hearing feedback about that. And so a line item budget make sure that that money goes directly to that project and that's what we're doing with it, not that that's being used to spend over here for this or that. And so trying to manage that and make it and also cut some of the spending.

MAYOR Hagan

Right. Sure.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

But isn't that why we have caucus as a planning meeting and council? As a business meeting. To address those kind of things. Hey, may I have a question? Can you tell me why blah, blah blah. I feel like we are all working every one of us. Working against each other we weren't like that before and don't know what has happened. We never have operated like this and we're not going to get anything done if we continue doing this.

Councilwoman Carla Nalley

Right. That's my concern

City Attorney John Singler

Wouldn't a lot of this just go away if we just started doing either quarterly or monthly variance reports? With a formal presentation, I mean what you have every month is you've got, you've got a summary of activity and the checks that were written.

MAYOR Hagan

They do get the variance reports.

City Attorney John Singler

But they do get variance reports OK.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

I've never gotten one since January.

MAYOR Hagan

We're going to look at Sonya's records then.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

And another thing, if something was weird. Wouldn't the auditor have picked up on it.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Why hasn't this been picked up on what? So this is the document that I printed out at the special meeting that Stacey emailed to us that has.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

Why? Pardon?

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

The actuals for John, you're welcome to. Look at.

MAYOR Hagan

Doesn't it say pending audit approval somewhere on that? And if it doesn't, it should, but at the same time, the auditor comes every year at the end of August. At the beginning of September.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Just look at the columns. It doesn't make sense.

MAYOR Hagan

OK, well that will be if there's something wrong there, we're going to find out.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

But couldn't that be something that we could address calmly as a Council and a caucus meeting?

MAYOR Hagan

Yes.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

I mean, we have a budget that we approved and if we have to amend it or if anybody thinks something's still wrong with the budget. Say, hey, you know something's wrong with the budget. I don't get it.

City Attorney John Singler

Well, this is a variance report that I was just talking about. What is. What is it that doesn't appear correct?

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

So I asked Stacey for the actuals for of what we actually spent. So, the way if I try to compare.

City Attorney John Singler

Yeah.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

That report to the similar reports.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

That we get at meetings.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Budgeting time that shows you know what we've spent. As of 3/31. What he anticipates on spending as of 6/30 then it doesn't make sense because. Each cut, like on the bottom half, it's the money that's put out. So in that first column it has like 109,000 like it's for one quarter. We've spent 109,000 in salary, but then the next quarter goes up, but then the third quarter goes down. So how do you pay out money and then take it back and that amount of money is the full budget.

City Attorney John Singler

Well, that that appears to be the quarterly actuals. In salary and that changes every quarter, right?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

It's a running total though, is what it should be.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Right.

City Attorney John Singler

When you mean it is a running total.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

It's not paid out each quarter, so if you look under general government, the very first clerks and treasurer compensation, there's a number there under the first quarter and then it only goes up by 1700 dollars. The next quarter, then it goes up another similar and then it goes down in the fourth quarter. So how could you have spent that much in the first quarter and then only limited amounts moving forward?

City Attorney John Singler

Well, I mean salaries. There's different amount of days, there's different amount of holidays, there's different amounts that go to the retirement. There's just some different amounts that go to unemployment and workers compensation. I mean, so that you're not going to have it in every quarter. You're not going to have the exact same figure for payroll.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

The end of the first quarter is more than what the year to date was? How is that possible? You spent more in the fourth in the first quarter than you did in the entire year? Just under that clerks and treasurer line. And there are multiple lines like that.

MAYOR Hagan

Again, if you're not receiving those emails, you're supposed to be getting those, so that could have been something you could have addressed or asked questions or called Sonya and we could have identified that there might be an error somewhere. But and to tell us about it now, then don't.

City Attorney John Singler

Yeah, it looks like it looks like they have that she didn't hit the calculate on that column. So if you look at if you got 1234, that's the 5th column. So it looks like the 5th column is exactly the same as the 4th column. That that just got transferred over on every one of those. So it looks like she didn't calculate the year to date actual on that last column. Then. And, or. No, I don't, but. It just looks like that column is duplicated. So that I mean, that's something that the Treasurer should be able to answer and I you know, I've I've told the the mayor and the I think Vicki suggested as well to have more formal presentations of of the financials and I agree with that I think that's a good idea and so that might answer some of these questions.

MAYOR Hagan

We will do so. So at the end of the day. What's the deal with that first reading until?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Well, I guess. We have to scrap it because there are things that we're missing. So that will be done

And. I'll have to work on a new one.

Undetectable Speaker

So that's like a motion to no?

MAYOR Hagan

There's no action. You need to know, yes.

Councilwoman Carla Nalley

I'd like to say something, mayor.

MAYOR Hagan

Miss Nalley, go ahead.

Councilwoman Carla Nalley

I'm not normally a reader but I have comments related to my opinions regarding city business, but today I felt compelled to do so. I would like my thoughts to be more concise than they would be if I. Spoke again. As a Member of this body, I can't understand why the special meeting was called last week to amend our budgets. The 2024-2025 budget was voted on, it passed just last month. The city business could have been conducted during our regular August caucus and council meetings. The meeting was scheduled at 5:00 PM an hour earlier than our normally scheduled meetings and did not include our city attorney. A first reading was voted on. It was without our city attorney. Then to find out the budget contained 3 errors as read, all in an unnecessarily urgent effort to get to a second reading and vote at another special meeting. Not a good look considering the biggest budget cut was to our Police

Department when we unanimously approved the retention of our own Police Department by ordinance in 2022, we knew this would be a big expenditure, hence the passing of the Occupational Tax Ordinance, again passing unanimously, this budget was a bear. I get it. Should we ask questions as elected officials to be good stewards of city taxpayers money? Of course. But if questions are answered or asked and justifiable answers given, we should also trust that those answers are honest and accurate. I feel like the trust has been greatly diminished within this body. For example, I trust our chief of police to present a budget to our mayor. That is not only fiscally responsible, but also meets his needs to fully staff our City, our Police department with well-trained ethical officers to say we that said, we have to factor in recruitment and retention for those officers into any budgetary line item that the chief has. Submitted for our approval. I'm not a police officer or the chief. I don't know what might be needed to accomplish his proper Departmental funding. I trust the chief to submit on his numbers and I have no reason not to trust him. I also trust the mayor to spend responsibly with the knowledge that spending will include creating a better city for us. He too has never given me a reason not to trust his judgment. I was always under the impression that special meetings should be held for urgent matters. To my mind, this budget amendment meeting wasn't urgent or necessary. In fact, it gave the impression of something a little unethical. And that's it.

MAYOR Hagan

Thank you. Anybody else with comments about this says we are not sure if there's an actionable item regarding this.

MAYOR Hagan

OK. OK so. We're going to potentially have another first reading next Monday. It remains to be seen, I guess, let me know please, so that we can get it. On the agenda. Otherwise, you do have another item that you've discussed that needs action. We're going to move on to something a little different. You've got before you the medical marijuana facilities, proposed changes to the Land Development Code ordinance that John has produced.

City Attorney John Singler

Just for additional reference.

MAYOR Hagan

I missed you sorry, I was looking down. What you want to comment? Yes and.

Deputy Chief Thomas

Yeah.

MAYOR Hagan

I missed you all right.

Deputy Chief Thomas

Ms. Benner you specifically said no raises for police. You simply said that. You most certainly, you most certainly did. Thank you. When we went line item by line item.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

When did I say that? When? When did I say? That. I did not.

Deputy Chief Thomas

Because humanize this a little bit about the raises. Our officers have already gotten 3 paychecks with those raises. They've already made financial decisions for their families. From your decision to pass the budget. One officer that you met last Tuesday or this past Tuesday, she bought a new. A car for her family. It was much needed.

Deputy Chief Thomas

One officer is a first time home buyer. Because of that budget which was approved. These officers are making plans for their family financially. Send their kids to daycare. Paying for school clothes. Buying groceries and gas, they continue to go up in price. Think about that before you vote. To lower this budget back down. That's all I ask. Humanize it. These are human beings. It's not black or white on a piece of paper. Why would you approve this? Thank you.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Thank you.

Councilwoman Barto

Can I ask you a question about the vehicles? Can you give us how many vehicles there are and what year they are and what they're going to be looking forward to?

Deputy Chief Thomas

Yeah, I mean, I can make a list though. Yeah, I.

Councilwoman Barto

OK.

Deputy Chief Thomas

Mean I've got a running list but. I couldn't itemize it for you, so. You understand it a little bit more it's kind of thrown together.

Councilwoman Susan Barto

OK. I just want to know.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

What about the cars in the parking lot?

Deputy Chief Thomas

Well, we got most of the equipment out of it, we need to take the stripes off the side before you send them to auction.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

You need help?

MAYOR Hagan

Come on over.

Deputy Chief Thomas

You know, they're big old sticky pads. Basically what they are, so it's going to take a little bit of time to heat gun to get those off and then we can auction them off. Make a few bucks off of them.

Mayor HAGAN

Just a few.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

We have, we're talking, I don't know if we can do this can we? Increase the pay that the other cities pay. Or could we increase the pay that the other cities pay for us, for police, or drop some of those cities? You know, we had, we started out, we have eleven officers. Now we have 20,25, 26 officers.

Police Chief Schroeder

I think if I'm remembering. Correctly. I'd have to look and I was thinking when you took it over, there were 19. But I would, I would argue, even as we talked before, I would argue, even just for the city of Lyndon that's under staffed. I think as we talked before, just looking at the per 1000 right at that 26, 27 number.

MAYOR Hagan

Yes.

Police Chief Schroeder

Where we had this sweet spot just. For the city of Lyndon. But we're able to use efficiencies, which is where we get that. To cover those other cities. I think we still need more, but we're able to use efficiencies to do that. So in essence, we are charging the city slightly more than cost per officer in those cities. I don't think you'll really see a whole lot of savings getting away from that.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

Could we increase? I mean knowing based on what Chris is saying, cost of living is going up. You know, if things keep going up, we don't know what's gonna happen. Can we increase the cities that the smaller the other cities that we serve please can we increase them another dollar an hour or two?

City Attorney John Singler

We did that.

MAYOR Hagan

We gave him a 10% increase last year.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

Dollars an hour.

MAYOR Hagan

And we did not increase them this year. Because they hadn't had that much of an increase in several years from the graymoor-devondale department moving forward. So Hurstbourne was increased like 13%.

Police Chief Schroeder

I would, I would argue that, you know, like you all may be time to prepare for that in your budget. You will not get that the conversation that we were going to have, I would say you probably need to have around budget time with those cities. But during the last budget cycle, I don't recall what the number is anymore more. But I did just a quick rundown taking the. Budget as it was, dividing that by the number of officers and the number of potential hours for those officers. And not break it down by rank or anything like that. Just the overall budget and we were charging them slightly more than it cost us to fill the team. So we're already charging them slightly more than it cost us.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

This I'm just trying this out. Three, they do 3, 12 hour shifts, 3, 12 hour shifts. Would anything change if they were to do four days, 10 hour shifts ?

MAYOR Hagan

So you want Overtime now?

Police Chief Schroeder

Don't know, First things first. You would have to have three shifts, so you would need a lot more officers. Then you probably need about 25% more officers. To pull that off, yeah. And you have overtime, you would have an overlap of officers between the shifts. It really would not be an efficient way of doing it 10 hours I think is popular among officers because it makes your life great. But from the city's perspective? I don't think it's a terribly efficient way. To do it. I also think one of the things that sells us even though we're slightly less hey, that cities like Saint Matthew, cities like Jeffersontown, I think one of the things that attracts our officers is kind of the scheduling we have, I think that's, Well, it's not directly. I think that's something that attracts them because the 12 hours allows them to spend more time with their families and whatnot where they wouldn't in other scenarios. I can tell you 8 hours, which would be probably the most comparable with 12 hours as far as staffing levels and we would probably lose most people here.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

I mean, I think I, you know, medical staff, people like that that I've seen do those 3 twelves at about the 10th hour. They are zombies and that may or may not be true. I. Hope not as a police officer. They can drink a lot of coffee, but they just see you. When I was in the hospital that that last two or three hours of that 12 hour shift they were just sort of going through the motions.

Police Chief Schroeder

When I was with Metro. That's what I thought it would be when we first went to it. I thought we were going to see that and it didn't really come, and I don't know if that's because the dynamics of policing, where we're always moving, you know we don't typically have a whole lot of downtime. I don't know if that's what causes that, I know personally. I work 5-10 to 12 hour days per week. I work a lot of hours every week just because I want to not because I'm, you know, moaning and groaning about it, but. I'm actually energetic during that time.

Deputy Chief Thomas

In the City of Lyndon, for whatever. Reason is extremely busy between 3:00 PM and about 8:00PM.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

I can't hear.

Deputy Chief Thomas

Probably it's all the traffic.

MAYOR Hagan

We're extremely busy between 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM is what he said.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

Two just went flying down Lyndon Lane on my way here.

Speaker

Yes. Right.

MAYOR Hagan

OK, sorry, I missed you there, deputy chief.

MAYOR Hagan Do we have anymore questions?

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

And how many police did you say currently have on staff?

Police Chief Schroeder

Since the budget we hired, since it passed it just.

MAYOR Hagan

Two people.

Deputy Chief Thomas

So currently we just hired a young a guy who has already given his resignation to his previous department, he will make #29.

Deputy Chief Thomas

But two of those are part time officers, so 27 full time. And two-part time.

Police Chief Schroeder

One of those part time just got a promotion at his full time job and his hours will be greatly reduced. However, he happens to be our technology guy and we don't want to lose him.

Speaker

Thank you.

MAYOR Hagan

Anybody else? Yes.

Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom

When we have, I'm assuming. We're going to shoot for our first reading. Amendment next week are we are we going to have discussion before we have the first reading?

MAYOR Hagan

Sure, it's just the first reading, so it's not finality. Probably the same heated discussion we had this evening.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

I have a question.

MAYOR Hagan

Yeah, one more.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

Away from budget to go back to this.

MAYOR Hagan

No, we're not there. When we were. So we're getting ready to be. We went back to police. So we're on that. So anybody else then anybody else want to make a comment or statement?

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts OK.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner I would like to make a comment I just want to point out that in redoing this budget proposal that the police is not the largest area that we cut funding from. So I just wanted to make that known.

MAYOR Hagan

What was it then? Public works, so street lights, snow removal, street supplies, maintenance. That's fine. I can get by like I said. I Don't. I don't contract with a lot of people anymore, so no problem. Yeah, Ms. Popham please.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Noted.

Resident Camie Popham

So I wasn't the best Council person, but I have a little bit of experience, so I've been back reading the minutes and this as Accusatory. So you can call me on it girl looking back through the minutes I am certain that accusatorily, in my humble opinion, that the budget is a red herring. And I think that out there, I think there's an ulterior motive. I think Jenny was the only name on purpose, so the special meeting could be called. I think the special meeting was called and I think there's been a lot of discussion, not quite a quorum, but a lot of discussion behind people's backs privately and after reading everything. I think, Mr. Mayor, they're coming for your job. My friend that's what I think.

MAYOR Hagan

Good.

Resident Cami Popham

That's what it is. So be on the lookout. I've read through it. I think Ms. Barto is is kind of the the puppeteer. I think it's happening and she's telling Jenny what to do. And. I think. I think that's what's happening. So there's a nice piece of truth. Coming for you. You're welcome.

MAYOR Hagan

Thank you. Thank you. OK. All right.

MAYOR Hagan

All right, move on to what we need to talk about here, that we are going to take action on. We need to have an answer with revision of the Land development code concerning medical marijuana related uses and locations.

City Attorney John Singler

We've talked about that in different meetings. I passed out the LDC. Amendment just so you'd have it in front of you if you look at that on page 8 of 11/8 of 11, the LDC.

OK look there BCB. The 1000 foot distance. OK, Metro Louisville last week or the week after passed it without that. So that's what they did because that. You know that the AP is written into the statute. You can't change that. You can't be within 1000 feet of a school childcare center. B. Were the same limitations that were placed on vape shops in the previous amendments. So when the Planning Commission did this, they included that 1000 foot from a park playground, recreational use, public Community Center, athletic facility, Public Library and religious building or other dispensary. So that's what Metro did. I want to make You aware of that. The ordinance that I've drafted up approves the Metro Land Development Code Regulation, where it modifies. It is in the parking. The parking was only Two spaces per thousand. Yeah, here we go.

Speaker 2

Are you?

Speaker

Yeah.

Speaker 2

What are you looking at?

MAYOR Hagan

Page?

City Attorney John Singler

No parking. Oh yeah. Here we go. OK, so it's. On page four of 11. It just says for for all the different counters 3 categories. There's a dispensary, there's a safety compliance facility. There's a growth facility, so they've lumped them all together and just said require three spaces per a thousand 1000 foot of retail floor area. So that's all that the LDC amendment says. Parking in your revision, we had discussion about changing that to say that dispensaries should have the same parking as a pharmacy. Medical compliance safety facility should have the same parking as a general professional office and that the cultivators and processors should have the same parking as industrial and manufacturing rather than lumping them all in the one and saying, you know, X per thousand. Then finally in in item two of the ordinance that's been drafted. We've said that any waiver of the separation distance, you know the and that would include the separation distance that I pointed out on page 8 of of 11, that any waiver of that has to come through this City Council. So those were the changes, for instance, that Saint Matthews made. It's up to you. What? You know how you want to enact this, but you do have to do something in this year before the years out.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

Do we know what the same parking requirements of pharmacies and drug stores are.

City Attorney John Singler

We do and I had. Pulled all of that out. And thought it was in this file. I can't find it.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

Because the reason I asked that because, like Walgreens has a gazillion spots and let's say like Trippy's has three.

City Attorney John Singler

Well, I'll have it Monday. Yeah.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts And they share it with the donut shop.

City Attorney John Singler

I don't know. I think it's found its way into the wrong file, but they they differentiate between. The the pharmacy and the general retail part, you know and you have to have different numbers for how much

you have in pharmacy and then General office, but I'll have that. Then. You know you. I mean you can change this however you want. You can ban it if you wish. They wrote that into the to the statute that you can ban it.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

I just. I just don't want somebody to feel like they have to have like, 40 parking spots, like Walgreens. Has. Maybe they only need 4 spots, you know?

Speaker

So.

MAYOR Hagan

You want to take it home and read over it, bringing changes to us on Monday. Or do you want to have further discussion questions? As he said, he doesn't have the actual totals for parking spaces today.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

I know we talked about the waiver before. I'm wondering. Just throwing it out there. Do we want to match more of what the City of Louisville did and remove that piece and just allow it within near churches and parks and that or do we want to still keep the waiver?

MAYOR Hagan

You talking about the distance requirements?

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Something to think about.

Councilwoman Jenny Benner

Yes. The distance requirements.

MAYOR Hagan

Would that still allow us to. If it still comes before this body before any approval, so that we can make a case by case decision on that type of thing. Where is that what you're asking?

City Attorney John Singler

No, the the, The amendment says that it's way downtown. So unless you well I guess go back because your question was to if you remove.

MAYOR Hagan

OK.

City Attorney John Singler

The 1000 feet, then it's gone and the waiver doesn't matter if you don't remove the 1000 feet. The way the LDC amendment is set up is that it's waived downtown. So that's why Saint Matthews put that in there. They didn't want it waived unless it came through them.

MAYOR Hagan

It's important for home rule local control.

Speaker

Where in here is this 1000 feet?

MAYOR Hagan

It doesn't mean that we still can't allow it. I just think that we ought to be able to hear why it's here close.

City Attorney John Singler

It's in the LDC, yes.

MAYOR Hagan

Whatever. If it's right next to Robsion Park or even when it's someday whenever we develop some of that property, would you want one right there? Yeah. Let's think about that. Rather than giving Metro ultimate Authority on it. So that would mean that we take the waiver away and that it goes through. Planning downtown, they send us just like they always do, approve or deny. Right. So that we still have on the.

City Attorney John Singler

On the waiver on the waiver, it would, they would have to come here and they they may not make a recommendation on a waiver, but they should.

MAYOR Hagan

Make sure that we have the final decision So that it can be discussed anyway.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

A waiver would be somebody who wants to be within that 1000 feet?

City Attorney John Singler

You know, within 1000 feet from another dispensary or a park or something like that. So.

Speaker

Yeah.

MAYOR Hagan

So as presented, it seems OK. Otherwise, read over this. Come back with any recommendations or changes that will be for action. It is an ordinance. It is going to be a first reading and first reading only Monday the 26th. OK.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

I am also for removing the requirement as well. With the park public place playground, recreation, outdoor Community Center library.

Speaker

Sure.

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

So just making it schools and. OK. OK, OK.

MAYOR Hagan

Is there any other comments? Anybody in the audience have anything they'd like to discuss or comment about tonight or anything else they have.

Police Chief Schroeder

Yes. Mr. Mayor can I just make one comment about our police department that doesn't have anything to do about our budget?

MAYOR Hagan

OK. Yes.

Police Chief Schroeder

I'm really proud to say that we had a missing person. An unserved domestic violence order was in existence. The father and there's some questions about the whether the father is the father. But the the purported father. Went to pick up the Child from daycare. Took the child out to Shelby County, our officers were able to work with Shelby County Sheriff, go out to Shelby County and assist them in serving the protective order and recovering the infant for the mother. It was a little bit of scary moment there. When we didn't know what was going on with infant and kind of how that was going to work out. I'm really proud of them. The decisions they made and how they. Were able to rescue that child.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber

Thank you. That's awesome.

MAYOR Hagan

Anyone else?

Councilwoman Becky Ricketts

You haven't been by a new location over on Ormsby. Fences are up and there's a big old poster showing a picture of the new building. OK. Check it out.

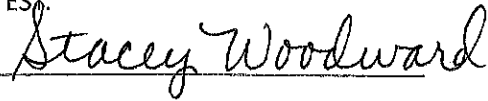
MAYOR Hagan

Construction is underway. There will be photos of the progress posted and attached to the City of Lyndon Facebook page. Almost, if not weekly. Certainly more than your phone might be able to handle every other week, 30 to 40 pictures of the progress. As we move forward, so big changes. They're underway. OK, folks, there's nothing further. 7:01 meetings adjourned. See you next Monday.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brent Hagan", written over a horizontal line.

Brent Hagan, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stacey Woodward", written over a horizontal line.

Stacey Woodward, City Clerk