

**CITY OF LYNDON
CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024**

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

Mayor Hagan announced the council received a letter from the Vice President of Trilogy Health Services, Ryan Green, regarding reducing the occupational tax. He allowed Mr. Green to present his concerns. Mr. Green stated the tax is a financial burden on his employees and feels it is unfair. He spoke about relocating and mentioned other ideas to gain revenue. He feels the 1% is excessive and ask for an immediate reduction to 0.25%. Mayor Hagan stated the city does not have record of Trilogy paying the tax since it began. Mr. Green confirmed it has been withheld from their checks. Mayor Hagan also reported that 96 out of 424 companies are not reporting the number of their employees. He also clarified and corrected Mr. Green on some of his statements and informed him the city will stand firm on 1% until a full year has been reported, before any reduction is considered. Other business executives/owners followed Mr. Green in voicing their concerns.

Viewpoints were consistent with other businesses from months prior. These views remain: 1% occupation tax is excessive, the city did not communicate the implementation of the tax well enough, companies are contemplating moving out of the city and because of hardships, employees are opting to work from home so they are not taxed. Mayor Hagan explained the rising costs of infrastructure, police services and even the basic essential services provided to residents.

Councilwoman, Jenny Benner commented the consensus of all those who are asking for a reduction are also implying if there is any amount of tax imposed, businesses will leave. She asked Mr. Green if the tax was 0.25 if his business would stay? He stated he understands the need for a tax but the 1% is excessive and he turned down buying a property to build on because of the tax. A representative from Schneider Electric suggested raising business license fees instead of taxing employees. More discussion was held about getting the businesses involved through public hearings.

Councilwoman Amy Stuber asked if the Senate does away with income tax, where would the city get it's revenue. Mayor Hagan mentioned there is a local option sales tax but that would also be a burden. Police services were discussed and their value to businesses through the occupational tax.

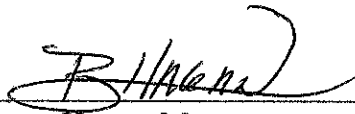
Several council members agree to consider a committee with business owners/executives and requested advice from City Attorney. Mr. Singler instructed them to decide if they want a long-standing or temporary, Ad Hoc committee. The consensus from those who supported the idea was to have an Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. Benner inquired about the streetscape plan Mayor Hagan said he would have available. Mayor passed out plans and briefly went over the main changes. A representative from Land Design and Development should be at council meeting next week to go over in depth. KYTC has approved and can be put out for bid once council approves changes. Councilwoman Mardy Sidebottom asked if businesses along the improvements will be notified. Mayor Hagan said once bid gets awarded and we have a timeline, there will be notification. More discussion was held.

Other topics were discussed. Councilwoman Susan Barto inquired about audit report. Mayor Hagan said the CPA will not be here this month, he is set for November. He also discussed changes to the financial reporting. Councilwoman Vicki Stanley was asked by an owner at Wildt Brothers why their corner is not mowed with other corners of intersections. Mayor said he has spoken with him about this before and the business mow their own corners. Ms. Stuber asked about the Police Headquarter issue with elevator shaft. Mayor Hagan explained to council when construction dug under the area to allow for housing of mechanical equipment, they hit bedrock and ruptured a water source so there is a slight change. He also mentioned there will be an adjustment to cost for the Ormsby Lane project because there is a lack of solid ground and it must be corrected or pavement will wash away. A change order will be on agenda to approve the cost. Paving was discussed.

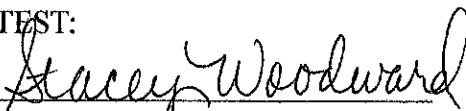
Holly Law who is new to Lyndon asked what part of Ormsby Lane this project affected. Mayor Hagan explained. He also mentioned Witawanga and Etawah is getting repaved and not widened at this time. Councilwoman Becky Ricketts asked about the surplus police cars. The Mayor told her he needs to get GovDeals to list them, hopefully by end of year. Ms. Stuber asked about maintenance hires. Mayor told her he has some potential candidates. Ms. Stuber also wanted to know status of a house on Washburn that is vacant. Mayor explained it has been turned over to Metro after getting notices from Lyndon and Metro is mowing it once a month. Mr. Singler said he will research and find an update.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



Brent Hagan, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stacey Woodward, City Clerk