

**AGENDA
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL:** ___ Susan Barto ___ Jenny Benner ___ Carla Nalley ___ Becky Ricketts ___ Mardy Sidebottom ___ Vicki Stanley ___ Amy Stuber ___ City Attorney, John Singler
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** September 23, 2024 Council Minutes
October 21, 2024 Caucus Minutes
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT**
- 6. POLICE REPORT**
- 7. ORDINANCE #10-28-24 - REVISING ORDINANCE RELATING TO BUSINESS LICENSING AND OCCUPATIONAL TAXATION**
- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** November 18, 2024 – Caucus Meeting
November 25, 2024- Council Meeting
- 9. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 10. OPEN FLOOR**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

**CITY OF LYNDON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024**

Mayor Brent Hagan called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Those council members present: Susan Barto, Jenny Benner, Becky Ricketts, Vicki Stanley, Amy Stuber and City Attorney, John Singler. Carla Nalley and Mardy Sidebottom were absent. Several guests were present.

A motion was made by Vickie Stanley, seconded by Susan Barto to approve the September 23, 2024 Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Susan Barto, seconded by Amy Stuber to approve the October 21, 2024 Caucus Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hagan read a new, itemized monthly Budget Bearing report which will be filed for audit. Ending balance for October 1, 2024 was \$3,907,525.33. City Treasurer, Sonya Kaiser, will be at November meeting to answer any questions about the new report that will continue each month. Mayor stated the audit report is set for next month and Mr. Paulmann, CPA, will be here to deliver the report. There was discussion on a few items from report.

Police Chief, Rob Schroeder was given the floor. He introduced Officer Jabbari who was present and mentioned fellow officers Streever, Yoshioka and Gelnett who responded to a recent suicide attempt. With their quick response and courageous acts, the man was saved and is now getting help. Deputy Chief Chris Thomas and Major Brian Tucker were also in attendance. Police reports from September were summarized.

ORDINANCE #10-28-24- 1st Reading – Revising Ordinance Relating to Business Licensing and Occupational Taxation (reducing to .75 from 1%)– Vicki Stanley asked how difficult it would be for payroll companies to change the percentage. A business representative from the audience stated the initial set up was the biggest challenge, changing the percentage should be simple. Ms. Stanley stated she would like to see it go to .50. Mayor Hagan asked council to consider that if ordinance passes, the communication of change may be an issue as it was in the beginning and also the city will not know the amount of refunds with current percentage until March of next year and if percentage changes, there may be more refunds. More discussion was held about businesses not reporting, who gets taxed, how the city finds the businesses that are not reporting. A motion was made by Amy Stuber, seconded by Becky Ricketts to have City Attorney, John Singler, to give a first reading by summary of Ordinance #10-28-24. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Singler gave the first reading. Mayor Hagan stated the occupational tax was the best way to expand city’s revenue for Lyndon to “afford and fund a well-trained police department with good people” and feels reducing tax before producing a full year report results in defunding the police.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next Caucus Meeting is November 18, 2024 and the next Council Meeting is November 25, 2024, both at 6:00pm.

OTHER BUSINESS: Becky Ricketts suggested the city could do a ribbon cutting for the new Popcorn Station in Lyndon. Ms. Ricketts said she would work on organizing it and let council know. Vicki Stanley brought up the Ad Hoc Committee to involve businesses in community conversation regarding when it should be established. Mr. Singler explained they need to organize and define what the purpose is, and he can have a municipal order ready to review and approve. Discussion was held. Positions can be filled once the structure of the committee is approved.

Ms. Stuber asked if the city could donate to another city the police cars Lyndon had plans to surplus. Mayor Hagan stated they could, but they are not street ready for the police because equipment was removed. Discussion held.

Mayor Hagan announced the council has a meet and greet at Holsopple Brewing tomorrow night, October 29th and wanted to make sure other candidates in audience were aware. He confirmed the time, 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

Jenny Benner suggested the City should revisit the current year's budget since the council is looking to lower the occupational tax and believes a finance committee would be helpful. She stated the actual numbers for 2023/2024 that were provided last week at Caucus, a report given to them at a Special Meeting in August and the budget worksheet given to them before budget was approved do not match up. She is concerned why they do not coincide. Mayor Hagan said he will make sure she has the correct worksheet because there was some confusion on which worksheet was the correct one and it was corrected. He suggested waiting until Council meeting when auditor will be present to give report and City Treasurer will be in attendance for questions as well. Discussion was held.


OPEN FLOOR: Cres Bride, owner of R Place Pub and Joe's Older Than Dirt spoke about crime in areas of Louisville associated with businesses and voiced his concerns about the idea of reducing the occupational tax that will result in defunding the police in Lyndon. He asked who on the present council is in support of cutting back the police budget. He asked Ms. Stuber and she stated she is in support of reducing the occupational tax back to what she says was the initial rate of .75. She said she was caught off guard when ordinance showed 1% and claims that was never discussed. She says she supports the police and was the council member who made the motion to accept the police department from Graymoor-Devondale. Mr. Bride asked if the .75 will reduce payroll and officers from the police force and several council members stated "no". Mayor Hagan mentioned several council members called a special meeting that the majority of the council members could not attend. Ms. Stuber stated that was a lie. Much discussion was held.

Ms. Stanley stated there is no intention to defund the police. The Mayor disagreed. Ms. Stuber asked the Police Chief, "Have we given everything you asked for?" The Chief shook his head in agreement. Mr. Bride said he is very happy with the police protection that is currently provided and if funds are not available as a result of lowering occupational tax, the security will change. Vicki Stanley asked Mr. Bride if he has statics that protection will change if there are 2 less officers, cars and other expenses. He said that change to what is currently established would not be a good change and he will return with that data. There was discussion of how "defund" is

defined. Ms. Benner asked how lowering the occupational tax to .75 defunding the police? Mayor Hagan stated the approved budget including the 1% occupational tax is directly related to revenues the city needs for the police department. Ms. Benner said the numbers are not accurate but the budget they did approve properly funds the police and that's not changing. Mayor Hagan debated, she is wanting to lower the budget as she just previously stated but Ms. Benner stated she didn't say where funds would be reduced. The Mayor stated she presented the numbers that showed the police fund would be \$600,000 lower. Mr. Bride stated he is trying to get the truth out to voters. Ms. Stuber said he needs to come to every meeting if he wants the truth because he won't find it from the minutes. There was much debate about the intentions of reducing budget. All council members who were present said they do not want to take away from police budget. Ms. Stuber made a point that the city's budget is \$10.5 million and \$6.5 million of that is going towards the police. Mayor Hagan stated the one-time payment of the capital project is included in that. A business representative in the audience asked how much the police has grown since Lyndon acquired the department. Mayor Hagan stated it grew by 10 officers, 29 total to cover 12,000 residents and 500+ businesses (7,000 employees working in Lyndon). Ms. Stuber added Lyndon PD serves 15,000 people in other cities to which the Mayor added those cities pay for their service. Susan Barto stated everyone has voiced that they are not defunding the police. Ms. Stuber also pointed out that a building committee saved \$550,000 on the headquarters and saved taxpayer's money, she asked if that was defunding? More discussion was held about the one-time payment of the capital project of the Police Headquarters and other rising costs in appropriations on the budget. Further disagreements continued between council members and Mayor Hagan. Becky Ricketts asked to go on record that she believes the Mayor's personality changed when Lyndon acquired the police. She stated, "I don't know who you are." Mayor Hagan responded, "I realized it was necessary and I'm doing all I can to protect the men and women we have on our force." Ms. Ricketts and Ms. Stuber stated they agreed to give them a headquarters. More emotions were expressed.

OPEN FLOOR: Gentlemen in the audience were attending to support the ordinance to reduce the occupational tax.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.



Brent Hagan, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stacey Woodward, City Clerk