REGULAR MEETING - DECEMBER 5, 2024

Mayor Hatley reconvened, beginning the regular meeting of the Lincolnton City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 114 W. Sycamore Street, Lincolnton North Carolina. Council Members were in attendance as follows:

DEMENY JOHNSON TIPTON JETTON

Councilmember Tipton made a motion to approve the *REGULAR AGENDA* as presented. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Demeny made a motion to approve the *CONSENT AGENDA* items as follows:

- Approval of Minutes from October 30, 2024 Special Called meeting
- Lincoln County Tax Department – request for Releases October 16, 2024 – November 15, 2024
- Retirement Recognition – Lee R. Hansen

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ed Hatley opened up the public comment portion of the meeting. Mr. Trent Mason, 207 Mockingbird Land, along with his daughters, signed up to address the council and express their thanks and appreciation for the train and wonderful Christmas parade, holiday festivities and events happening in downtown Lincolnton.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ZTA-6-2024
Zoning Text Amendments to Chapter 153 Unified Development Ordinance

Jean Derby, Planning Director, addressed the council to request several minor but very important and necessary amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Ms. Derby briefly explained what needed to be amended and why, stating that in Section 153.031 Definitions of Specific Terms and Words, a definition for indoor Recreation needed to be added to meet the increasing demand for diverse entertainment businesses in the downtown area. She also asked to modify the term Recreation facilities to, outdoor recreation to make it more consistent. Ms. Derby proposed an amendment to Section 153.113 C-B Central Business District, adding indoor recreation and outdoor recreation to the permitted uses in the Central Business District with some prescribed standards to each, and Section 153.105 R-25 Rural

Residential District, adding Essential Services Class II and Class III back into R-25, as they were omitted during the 160D rewrite but are vital for everyday living needs.

Ms. Derby read the proposed Consistency and Reasonableness statement as follows:

The proposed amendment is consistent with the adopted Lincolnton Land Use Plan in that it is not contrary to the goals and objectives outlined by the Plan and approval of the amendment is reasonable and in the public interest.

Councilmember Demeny made a motion to close the public hearing. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Tipton made a motion to approve the zoning text amendments as presented. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Police Department Accreditation Presentation by a State Representative

Chief of Police Brian Greene and the members of his command staff consisting of Major McAlister, Capt. Dennis Harris, Capt. Tony Potts and Capt. Matt Painter, were formally recognized and presented with the newly obtained accreditation certificate. Jennifer Harris, the departments part-time mentor provided by the state, who assisted the department through the accreditation process, was also in attendance and recognized for her part in helping to accelerate the process by keeping the department on tract. The North Carolina Law Enforcement accreditation chairman, Mr. Bill Hollinshead, presented the Accreditation on behalf of the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. Mr. Hollinshead explained that the Lincolnton Police Department is one of the first agencies accredited under the newly created statewide law enforcement accreditation program for our state.

Chief Greene and his staff presented Jennifer Harris with a token of appreciation for all of the hard work she contributed as they went through the process.

Request for Approval to Submit State Grant Application
Byrne-JAG/Criminal Justice Grant
Community Mental Health Initiative - $75,000 for 2 years

Chief of Police Brian Greene addressed Councilmembers to request permission to submit an application for grant funding, through the state of North Carolina, with the goal being to use the funds to hire a fulltime alternative responder, to focus on the non-police related calls. Chief Greene explained the purpose of the position and the benefit it will be to the department. He informed members that the grant is for $75,000.00 a year for two years for a total of $150,000.00 with no matching funds required. Chief

Green spoke to the intern that is currently working with the department and how this grant will allow someone to fill this role on a long-term basis.

Councilmember Jetton made a motion to approve the request to submit a state grant application. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

Technology and Innovation Director Chris Jones addressed the council members regarding the status of a grant applied for several months ago. Mr. Jones reported that a $110,000.00 reimbursement grant was awarded to the City from the North Carolina Emergency Management. He stated that the cyber security plan that was approved last year by council, was the framework for getting the grant accepted. City Manager Ritchie Haynes recognized and acknowledged Mr. Jones for all of the work he does as a one-person department, publicly thanking him for everything he does.

Consideration of Request to Approve the North Carolina Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for Water and Wastewater Utilities

Mr. Todd Elmore, Water Resources Director, presented a request, asking Council to consider allowing the City to join the North Carolina Water WARN. Mr. Elmore explained that it is a water and wastewater agency response network for mutual aid. He described it was similar to Electricities. Mr. Elmore communicated the significance of being a member of the network and informed that it was recommended by North Carolina Rual Water that the City joint the network. He briefly explained the requirements for joining and that you have the ability to opt out at any time.

Councilmember Mark Johnson made a motion to approve the request to join the Mutual Aid Organization. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

APPOINTMENTS

Re-Appointments:

Mayor Ed Hatley gave an overview of terms of the City's boards and commissions. The following members were eligible to serve a second three-year term:

Recreation Advisory Board	John Gregory Candace Fleming
Planning Board	Monty Tyson

Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to approve the re-appointment of the aforementioned individuals for a second three year term. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Mayor Hatley also asked for a nomination to fill the role of Chair on the ABC Board and the Lincolnton Tourism Development Authority. He recommended Mr. Leon Harmon for the ABC Board and Randall Williams for the Lincolnton Tourism Development Authority.

Councilmember Jetton made a motion to appoint the aforementioned individuals as the Chairperson for their respective boards. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

New Appointments

Based on applications received for vacancies on the various Boards and Commissions, Mayor Hatley opened for floor for nominations.

ABC Board (1 vacancy) Councilmember Roby Jetton recommended Allison Thompson to be appointed to the ABC Board. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Recreation Advisory Commission No applications were received

Historic Properties No application were received

Lincolnton Tourism Development Authority (3 vacancy) Councilmember Jill Tipton nominated Ms. Courtney Browing to be appointed to the LTDA as a representative from the hospitality industry. Members voted 4-0 in favor of that motion.

Due to the possibility of the oversight of an application that was submitted, City Clerk Daphne Ingram recommended that only the hospitality appointment be made at this time, with the two other appointments being made at the January meeting.

Lincolnton Planning Board (1 vacancy) Councilmember Kevin Demeny nominated Mr. Lee Huss to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Consideration of Shared Services Contract between City of Lincolnton and Lincoln County

City Manager Ritchie Haynes explained that the proposed contract was presented and approved by Council last month but, at the request of Lincoln County, has been changed from a multi-year contract to a yearly contract. Mr. Haynes asked council to approve the amended contract as requested by Lincoln County.

Councilmember Tipton made a motion to approve the amended shared services contract. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Payment of DDA for Apple Drop Event/Supplies

City Manager Ritchie Haynes reminded council members of the fact that in the past, the Apple Drop was a City event, but is now organized to the Downtown Development Association (DDA). Because of this, he explained that it is better to transfer the funds allocated for the event to the DDA and allow that organization to make the purchases. Mr. Haynes asked the council for permission to transfer $5,000.00 to the Downtown Development Association. He stated that next year the funds will be in a line item in the General Fund. Mr. Haynes spoke to the success of the event and to the benefit of sponsoring over the past several years.

Councilmember Demeny made a motion to approve the payment to DDA for the Apple Drop. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Manager Report/Activity Update

City Manager Ritchie Haynes reported on the many dates and activities scheduled for the month of December. He reminded members of the Candy Land Christmas Nights, Carriage rides, Santa Village and the new Lincolnton Express Train that will be in operation. He mentioned first Friday recycling and the Employee Christmas luncheon. He also mentioned the Holiday Tour of Homes scheduled for December 13th that coordinated by Jill Eaddy and the Speak Up for Children organization. Mr. Haynes informed that city offices closed in observance of the Christmas holiday on December 24th, 25th and 26th. The Apple drop event is scheduled for New Year's Eve from 5:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Haynes noted that The City Page newsletter was included in the packets and work that city employees were apart of in Old Fort. He also spoke to the Thanksgiving meals sponsored by city hall employees for families in the Lake Lure area. Finance Director Pam McBryde and the finance department was acknowledged for their work with FEMA. He mentioned the Christmas parade and acknowledged everyone that played a part in making it happen. He thanked the Fire Department naming them the train "crew chief", public works employees for putting up the decoration in First Federal Park and the Electric Department for the downtown decorations and for the major damage they repaired caused by a delivery truck over the Thanksgiving Holiday.

In closing, Mr. Haynes mentioned two retirements, Mr. Lee Hansen and Ms. Laura Morris, and a number of promotions within several city departments. He noted the homeless report, the action sheet and the housing report, all provided in the packets.

NEWS MEDIA:

Mayor Ed Hatley opened the floor for questions from the new media. Both Mayor Hatley and Planning Director Jean Derby addressed the question from staff reporter Mike Powell regarding a Target coming to Lincolnton.

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to enter into closed session in accordance with G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(5)(6) regarding personnel and real estate.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon returning to open session, Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to adjourn. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

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DAPHNE INGRAM, CMC	**ED HATLEY**
CITY CLERK	**MAYOR**