REGULAR MEETING - November 6, 2025

The Lincolnton City Council met in Regular Session on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 114 West Sycamore Street, Lincolnton, NC.

The following council members were present and accounted for:

DEMENY JOHNSON TIPTON JETTON

Mayor Ed Hatley called the November 6th Lincolnton City Council meeting to order, asking all in attendance to rise for a moment of silence, after which he led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Hatley spoke to several changes on the agenda, explaining that Troop 75 would be attending next months meeting. He also informed that the presentation of the Eagle Scout Project listed under Special Presentation would take place next month, and he announced the withdrawal of the Public Hearing (CZ-6-2025).

With no other changes, Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Motion to approve the CONSENT AGENDA was made by Councilmember Mark Johnson. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bryson Brooks, a resident at 342 Highland Drive and the owner of Pronto Towing, addressed Council to voice his concern with the city police departments towing rotation list and the imbalance, he feels, it has created. He explained to Council the current process and spoke to the frustration he is experiencing as well as the negative perception it displays. He stated that he was not only fighting for his business, but he was fighting for fairness for everyone, the citizens and the small business owners who serve this community. He reminded members that monopolistic practices are illegal and suggested that they not allow it to happen.

Mr. Jedi Lykins, a resident of 610 Grier Street, addressed Council voiced his complaints on the voting practices of the governing board, unanimously approving every proposal except two. He expressed his concern with members continuing to “rubber stamp” everything that come before them. Stating his intention to run for office in the next election, Mr. Lykins spoke to his desire to work with the governing board to help better serve the community and the City of Lincolnton, inviting them to reach out to him as his door is always open.

INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE

Mayor Ed Hatley recognized Police Chief Brain Greene, who took the opportunity to present Colton Castell with his Intermediate Certificate. Chief Greene spoke to what is required to earn the certificate, stating that it is one of the two professional certifications recognized by Training and Standards.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT – 35TH CONSECUTIVE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICER ASSOCIATION AWARD (GFOA)

City Manager Ritchie Haynes recognized Finance Director Pamela McBryde and her staff (finance department) for receiving the Government Finance Officer Association award for the 35th consecutive year. Mr. Haynes read a brief statement explaining the history of the award, and purpose of the award. Mr. Haynes informed that the certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Finance Director Pamela McBryde introduced the members of her department, voicing her appreciation for each of them.

PUBLIC HEARING

CZ-5-2025
Application from Shawna Moore requesting a conditional district rezoning from General Business (GB) District to Planned Business-Conditional District (PB-CD) for the purpose of operating a Tattoo Studio in an existing building. The subject property is 1.096 acres in size and located at 1271 Rocky Hill Lane

Mayor Ed Hatley opened the public hearing, recognizing Planning Director Jean Derby. Ms. Dery presented a request for a rezoning for a property currently in General Business. She provided information in reference to the size and location of the property, as well as information about the surrounding properties and previous uses of the property. Ms. Derby informed members that the applicant wishes to open a tattoo studio in the building. She provided an aerial view, as well as street views of the property. She also provided photographs of the building, and information as it pertains to the Land Use Map, stating that an amendment to the Land Use Map would not be necessary.

Ms. Derby noted that Planning Board voted 7-0 in favor of approving the request, and they also recommended the following actions for approval:

- Approve the rezoning of the property from General Business to Planned Business (CD)
- Approve the statement of consistency and reasonableness for approval of the rezoning request.

The applicant, Shawna Moore, was in attendance and provided governing board members with a printed copy of request presentation. Ms. Moore addressed council, presenting the history of her business and an overview of her request. She offered to answer any questions. Councilmembers asked a number of questions related to the studio operations and what services would be offered.

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

Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to approve the Planning Boards recommendation. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

REGULAR AGENDA

Request for Approval and Commitment to 50/50 Local Match for the North Carolina League of Municipalities Risk Management Services Safety Grant

Battalion Chief Brent McConnell address Council on behalf of the Fire Department and Assistant Chief Brent Smith, to request the Councils endorsement and commitment of the required 50/50 matching funds for an application to the League of Municipalities Risk Management Services Safety Grant Program. He explained that the grant is an opportunity to improve employee safety and alleviate risk within the organization, which directly benefits our staff and reduces potential long-term liability costs.

Chief McConnell informed that the grant funds will be used to purchase ROLLNRACK Hose Management System. He explained that with the 50/50 match, NCLM RMS Grant funds will cover $5,000.00 and the City will commit to $5,000.00. City Manager Ritchie Haynes confirmed that the matching funds are already budgeted for.

Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve the request. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

BA-11-25
Budget Amendment to be made to the Annual Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026

Finance Director Pamela McBryde addressed council to request permission to add $667,508.00 to the budget. Ms. McBryde briefly provided details regarding the funds, explaining why board approval is needed.

Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Consideration of a Rate Study for Electric Rates

Business Services Director David Ramsey addressed Council to request permission to participate in an electric rate study. Mr. Ramsey stated they he, nor the City Manager, are aware of this being done at the City in the past. He explained the purpose of the study, noting that it will be very similar to what was done last year with the water and sewer rate study. Mr. Ramsey expressed the importance of making sure that due diligence is done, and that the city's rates are in line with other cities our size. Mr. Ramsey informed that the study will be conducted by Electrcities for a total cost $23,900.00. Mr. Ramsey offered to answer questions regarding the request.

There was some discussion and clarification on the topic with City Manager Ritchie Haynes providing additional information. Mr. Haynes emphasized the purpose of the study and how it will benefit the city in responding to questions that generated among board members. He explained that it will be a study of not only the rates but the complete electric system.

Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to

Consideration of Request for Amendment to Fee Schedule

Consideration of Request to Approve / Implement A System Development Fee

OTHER BUSINESS

REGULAR MEETING - November 6, 2025

City Manager's Update / Activity Report

City Attorney's Update / Activity Report

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to go into closed session in accordance with G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) – to consider the qualification, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or condition of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer, was made by Councilmember Roby Jetton. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

With no action taken in closed session, the meeting was adjourned immediately following the closed session. Councilmember Roby Jetton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Members voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Daphne Ingram, City Clerk	**Ed Hatley, Mayor**