REGULAR MEETING – December 4, 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

Note: Councilmember Roby Jetton was not feeling well and therefore not in attendance

Mayor Ed Hatley called the November 6th Lincolnton City Council meeting to order, pausing for a moment of silence, then allowing Scout Troop #75 to lead the pledge of allegiance.

Following the meeting agenda**,** Councilmember Jill Tipton requested to add discussion regarding leaf pickup. **Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.**

Councilmember Mark Johnson made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Battalion Chief Brent McConnell introduced Gage Jones with Troop #75, who presented his Eagle Scout project to Council. Chief McConnell gave some background on what has taken place over the past several months and spoke to all of the hard work that has gone into project.

Gage, presented his flag disposal boxes to the governing board, explaining why he chose this project, stating that it will be an easy way for individual to dispose of flags in a respectful manner. He feels that this is one way to give back to the community.

Gage informed that if approved, one box will be at City Hall, while the other will be housed at Fire Station II on McAlister Road. **Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve the request. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were two (2) individuals that participated in the public comment portion of the meeting. Mr. Alan Hoyle and Mr. Trent Mason, both signed up to speak and express

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their thoughts on various issues. They each were given three (3) minutes to address members on the governing board.

Mr. Hoyle began by making mention of and thanked Demeny Enterprises, who donated funds to cover the cost of American Flags at the Forest Lawn Cemetery. He also thanked the Scouts for the flag disposal boxes, which will help individuals dispose of flags appropriately. Mr. Hoyle expressed his concern regarding churches being bad environments due to the lack of truth being preached. He acknowledged the remembrance of Pearl Harbor by the City and reminded individuals not ignore the signs

Mr. Trent Mason spoke to the success of a number of events that occurred in the City such as Apple Festival and Halloween Bash. Mr. Mason, thanked Mr. Brent Turner and his staff for their efforts to repair a light in his neighborhood. He announced the soccer season ending and the success his girls experienced. Mr. Mason acknowledged the downtown decorations, the Christmas parade, Santa's Village, and all of the different groups that come together and make it happen.

PUBLIC HEARING

ZTA-5-2025
Zoning Text Amendments to Chapter 153 Unified Development Ordinance

Planning Director Jean Derby presented a request to amend Chapter 153 of the Unified Development Ordinance. Ms. Derby reviewed the application from CBD East Main, LLC, requesting an amendment to several sections of the Unified Development Ordinance, to allow Hemp/Cannabis Dispensary as a permitted use with prescribed standards. She provided the governing body with the proposed amendments from the applicant, the current language for Smoke Shop for reference and the proposed new Ordinance language, for their review. Ms. Derby informed board members of staff recommendation for to it be a permitted use in the Central Business District, with a 1,200 ft. distance restriction, and that it also be allowed in the General Business district were smoke shops are allowed, with a distance of 1,000 ft. She concluded by reviewing the three different options they had regarding this request. There were questions and discussion about the difference a Hemp/Cannabis Dispensary and a Smoke Shop and the distances in the recommendations. Ms. Derby addressed both questions.

The applicant, Mr. Monte Tyson, was in attendance and addressed Council regarding his request. He provided a background on how the business was established and briefly spoke about the success of the business. He provided a brief presentation and also explained the difference between what he offers and other shops.

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There were two individuals that spoke, both in favor of the request. Mr. John Dancoff with LEDA, as well as Mr. Dennis William with Williams Design Architects and also the owner of the proposed new business location from the shop.

Prior to taking action to close the public hearing, Ms. Derby informed Council of staff's wishes to change their recommendation to a thousand feet. Ms. Derby explained that, after consultation with City Attorney John Friguglietti, this distance would eliminate the appearance of creating any type of monopoly.

Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to close the public hearing. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Mayor Ed Hatley recommended approval of ZTA with a 1,200 ft regulation. Members voted 1-2. ***Councilmember Kevin Demeny requested to amend to a thousand (1000ft) feet. The city clerk and the city attorney asked that action be taken in two separate motions).***

As recommended by Mayor Ed Hatley, Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion approval with 1,200 ft. regulation. Members voted 1-2 with Councilmember Tipton voting for and Councilmembers Demeny and Johnson voting against. Motion fail.

Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to approve the amendment for 1,000 ft. distance. Members voted 2-1 with Councilmember Demeny and Councilmember Johnson voting for and Councilmember Tipton voting against. Motion approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

Request to Consider a 50/50 Matching Grant from the North Carolina Forest Service

Battalion Chief Brent McConnell appeared before Council to request approval to use funds from the Fire Departments operational budget to match the 50/50 grant applied for with the North Carolina Forest Service. Mr. McConnell explained that this is an annual grant that the Fire Service offers. He informed that if received, funds from the grant will be used to replace outdated/out of service communications equipment for the firefighters.

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Mr. McConnell went on to say that the quote received for the requested equipment is roughly $10,000.00, with the grant funding up to $5,000.00. Leaving the remaining $5,000.00 to be paid out of the Fire department s budget.

Councilmember Mark Johnson made a motion to approve the 50/50 grant. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

BA-12-25

Approval of Budget Amendment to the Annual Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026

Finance Director Pamela McBryde addressed the governing board asking for permission to add a little over one million to the City's budget. Ms. McBryde gave a breakdown of source of the additional revenue, stating that the bulk of the money is from a PFAS settlement from 3M ($960,222).

Ms. McBryde asked permission to add the funds to capital for the Water Treatment Plant, to purchase a new generator. She stated that the residual will go to the Water Treatment Plant. Ms. McBryde noted that she would be presenting another request in January of a little over $168.000.00, regarding more funds from the PFAS settlement.

Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Request to Approve Contract for Flock License Plate Reader (LPR) Cameras

Chief Brian Green requested approval for a contract with Flock Safety for their License Plate Reader (LPR) Cameras. He provided a short presentation, which contained detailed information about Flock Safety and how it works. Chief Green spoke to how this will benefit the department and all of the positive advantages this will give them going forward being a part of the network with the other surrounding agencies that are already using the equipment.

Some discussion was generated, with City Manager Ritchie Haynes expressing his thoughts and confirming that funds are available to cover the cost. Mr. Haynes also reminded members of the two Tsunami license plate readers that will most likely be eliminated, resulting in cost savings there.

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Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve the Flock License Plate Reader as presented by Chief Greene. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Consideration of Request to Approve Municipal Bridge Inspection Agreement – 2025

City Manager Ritchie Haynes presented a request to approve a Municipal Bridge Inspection Agreement. Mr. Haynes explained this is a 10-year agreement and longstanding practice between the city and the state. He identified the six bridges maintained by the City, He stated that some work had been done on the Jerry Crump Road bridge and informed that the North Flint Street will more than likely need to be replaced in the near future.

Mr. Haynes briefly reviewed the process once the report is received back from the state. He explained why being a part of the program is beneficial. He also informed that inspection are completed every two years, with the next one being due 2026.

Councilmember Mark Johnson made a motion to approve the Municipal Bridge Inspection Agreement. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Re-Appointments – Boards and Commissions 2025 Expiring Terms

Mayor Ed Hatley recognized City Clerk Daphne Ingram to address the governing board regarding the action needed. Ms. Ingram provided members with a list of individuals eligible for re-appointment to their respective boards. Eligible re-appointments as follows:

Mary Frances White	Housing Authority Board
Leon Harmon	ABC Board
Steve Lackey	Planning Board
Trent Mason	Planning Board
John Waters	Planning Board

Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve those five (listed above) for their second three-year term. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Consideration of New Board Appointments

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City Clerk Daphne Ingram explained that the Housing Authority Board had two vacancies, the Recreation Board had one vacancy. She presented applications of those wishing to be appointed for a first three-year term.

Councilmember Mark Johnson made a motion to nominate David Johnson (to fill the) vacancy for the Recreation Commission. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.
Mayor Ed Hatley recommended appointing Mr. Frank Keenan to the Housing Authority Board and directed City Clerk Daphne Ingram to contact Mr. Jeff Emory regarding filling the additional vacancy on the Housing Authority Board. There was a consensus among the governing board members to move forward in this manner.

Consideration of Resolution adopting the 2026 Calendar for Lincolnton City Council Meeting Dates and Times in Accordance with the Opens Meetings Law and NCGS 143-33

A resolution adopting the 2026 calendar of meeting date for the City Council was presented for approval as follows:

WHEREAS, Chapter 143-318.12 of the General Statutes of North Carolina requires that if a public body has established, by ordinance, resolution, or otherwise, a schedule of regular meetings, it shall cause a current copy of that schedule, showing the time and place of the regular meeting to be kept on file with the city clerk of the governing board and each other public body that is part of a city government; and

WHEREAS, if a public body has a Website and has established a schedule of regular meetings, the public body shall post the schedule of regular meetings to the Website; and

WHEREAS, one of the methods of giving such public notice is to advertise in a newspaper with a circulation in and around the City of Lincolnton; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to notify all citizens and residents of the City of Lincolnton of their regular meeting date and time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lincolnton that the regular meeting of the City Council shall be held the on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Lincolnton City Hall, located at 114 W. Sycamore Street, on the following dates unless otherwise posted:

January 8	**May 7**	**September 3**
February 5	**June 4**	**October 1**
March 5	**June 25**	**November 5**
April 2	**August 6**	**December 2**

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All of these being held in 2026. The City Council, meeting in Regular Session on December 4, 2025, established these dates and times and ordered this resolution be published one time in the Lincoln Times-News at least fifteen days prior to the January 8, 2026 meeting. The City Council further ordered a copy of this resolution be posted on the bulletin boards on the first and second floors of the City Hall, located at 114 W. Sycamore Street. The purpose of this advertisement and the posting of this notice acknowledges the requirement as described in Chapter 143-318.12 of the General Statues of North Carolina

Councilmember Jill Tipton made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2026 as presented. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Centralina Regional Council Appointment Approval

Mayor Ed Hatley opened the floor to receive nominations for an appointment to the Centralina Regional Council of Governments. There were no nominations and no volunteers. City Clerk Daphne Ingram was directed to contact them and inform that no appointment was made.

Mayor Ed Hatley did announce that he and Councilmember Jill Tipton have agreed to switch their appointments with Mayor Hatley serving on the Library Board and Councilmember Tipton serving on the Cultural Center Board. All other appointments will remain the same.

Consideration of Request from City Attorney to Form a Citizen Advisory Committee

City Attorney John Friguglietti expressed his desire to form a Citizen Advisory Committee. Mr. Friguglietti explained his reasons for wanting to create this board as well as the purpose of the board. He presented draft copies of the necessary documents needed to establish the board, which contained some of the basic guidelines and requirements of the individuals wishing to serve. The resolution to establish was presented as follows:

WHEREAS, the Lincolnton City Council recognizes the importance of structured community input in the various issues that affect city residents; and

WHEREAS, the Lincolnton City Council seeks to ensure public engagement, board representation, and transparency in matters affecting citizens that must be addressed daily; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of this board will provide a formal mechanism for public input, feedback and recommendations to the City of Lincolnton.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LINCOLNTON CITY COUNCIL:

1. The Lincolnton Citizen Advisory Committee (hereinafter "the Advisory Committee) is hereby established as an advisory board to the Lincolnton City Council.

2. The Advisory Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Lincolnton City Council and shall advise on matters affecting citizens that are addressed daily.

3. The committee shall consist of _____ voting members, appointed by City Council. Members shall be residents of the City of Lincolnton, and shall represent diverse geographic areas and demographics within the City. The Lincolnton City Council may appoint one council member to serve as a non-voting liaison to the committee.

4. Terms of Office
    a. Members shall serve staggered three-year terms; initial appointments shall be staggered to ensure continuity.
    b. Members may be reappointed for an additional term; terms are capped after 2 consecutive years, the members must wait a year before re-applying for reappointment.
    c. Any vacancies shall be fill for the remainder of an unexpired term.
5. The Committee shall annually elect from its membership a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Officers shall serve one-year terms and may be re-elected.
6. The Committee shall meet quarterly at a minimum. All meetings shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance open Meetings Law.
7. The Committee shall have advisory powers only and shall **not** have authority to:
    a. Direct city employees
    b. Approve or authorize expenditures
    c. Enter into contracts on behalf of the city
    d. Exercise administrative authority over city facilities or programs
8. The Committee shall operate in accordance with the Rules and Procedures attached hereto and incorporated herein.
9. The Committee shall remain in effect until such time as the Lincolnton City Council determines that its work in complete. The Committee will dissolve by resolution.

Mr. Friguglietti asked for permission to allow this board to function for one year, after which members can evaluate and determine if they would like it to continue. He expressed his willingness to take the lead. There being no questions, **Councilmember Kevin Demeny made a motion to approve the Resolution to establish a Citizen Advisory Committee. Members voted 3-0 in favor of that motion .**

As an addition to the regular agenda, there was some discussion regarding leaf pick-up and the current process being followed. Councilmember Jill Tipton had concerns as to how efficient we were in light of several calls she had received from residents. City Manager Ritchie Haynes spoke to the issue, explaining the challenges that are dealt

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with during this season, and the difficulties they have with this service. Mr. Haynes talked about the amount of time and the number of staff it takes to make one full sweep of the city.

Mr. Haynes assured board members that he personally drove around to each of the areas and felt that good progress was being made in regards to leaf collection as a whole. He expressed his desire to purchase an additional leaf truck in the future, which will provide even more efficiency.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager's Update / Activity Report

City Manager Ritchie Haynes reviewed his manager's update and activity report. Mr. Haynes gave a few reminders. He announced several upcoming events and meetings, the Christmas holiday closing dates on December 24th, 25th, and 26th and the Apple Drop event on December 31st. Mr. Haynes announced new employees, several promotions, as well as trainings and certifications earned.

Mr. Haynes provided members with a copy of the homeless report, relayed a message of thanks from the Veterans, and shared a huge thank you for those who helped with the Christmas parade. He mentioned Santa's Village opening. He also mentioned two letters received. One from the Scouts recognizing city employee, David Dellinger, who took a week of his vacation time to work at a scout camp. And the other from First United Methodist Church, expressing their thanks for the City installing a stop sign (E. Sycamore St. and Academy St.). Lastly, Mr. Haynes directed Councils attention to the spreadsheet at the back of his report, which was a breakdown of the funds that the City is being required to pay due to being a part of the State Health Plan.

City Attorney's Update / Activity Report

City Attorney John Friguglietti provided an update on pending litigation. Mr. Friguglietti stated that there were not a lot of changes for pending litigation but did have one new one. He spoke to the progress of the Deland property and the upcoming December 8th deadline and the December 9th hearing.

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NEWS MEDIA

Mayor Ed Hatley opened the floor for questions from any new media present. Mr. Mike Powell with Lincoln Times News, was in attendance and asked for clarification on an appointment made and how to submit an application for the CAC.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to go into closed session in accordance with G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)(5)(6) was made by Councilmember Kevin Demeny. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Coming out of closed session, Councilmember Mark Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Members voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

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

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