

**CITY OF LYNDON
CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all council members and many citizens present. Mayor Hagan noted the special meeting for action on budget and tax rate was not properly noticed per statute, lacking a 24-hour notice on the meeting location door. However, the tax hearing was properly advertised in the Courier Journal. Attorney John Singler opened the public hearing on the property tax rate, explaining the proposed rate remains \$0.13 per \$100, unchanged from last year, but would generate over a 4% increase, requiring a hearing. No public comments were made, and the hearing closed. The mayor noted a second reading to set the rate is scheduled for next week.

Mayor Hagan asked the council for discussion on budget proposal with amendments from last week. Councilmember Benner began by asking for the budget worksheet to be gone over line by line. She asked why the newest draft was again different from the one they had been provided the previous week. Citing interest income line item had been reduced from \$90,000 to \$75,000. The mayor cited the fact that the returns from the investment pool are not constant and he would rather propose less revenue on all lines and inflate some of the appropriation line items so they aren't consistently called to make amendments. Discussion about proposed salaries continued with the mayor explaining positions that had been unfilled and how much each position would earn if they were fully staffed. Line items concerning retirement system contributions, grounds maintenance, payroll tax expense were also mentioned within the general government category.

The capital projects category and line item concerning funds to Robsion park had been increased from the last meeting from \$500,000 to \$2million due to an email after that meeting from Ms. Benner that was quoted by the mayor. Ms. Ricketts stated that the budget process is different from years past when former mayor Barto used to let them sit around a table and be fed dinner to discuss the budget and it was more effective. Ms. Sidebottom interjected and stated that Ms. Barto just handed them the budget, talked about a few points of interest and the council just agreed and moved forward.

More discussion proceeded into the police category. Salary was again mentioned and the mayor stated the numbers reflected the standard cost of living increase and the Lyndon department was falling behind other local departments with our pay rate. Hazardous duty retirement system contribution was heavily discussed which goes in hand with proposed salaries as the contribution is a direct result of their pay. Councilmember Stuber requested the need to hire a CPA that does not have deficiencies and Councilmember Ricketts stated she sent in email to Treasurer with list from the Society of CPAs.

Several other topics were discussed. Mayor gave update on Police Headquarters opening, Councilmember Stanley expressed her desire to move forward with another committee for Lyndon parks. Councilmember Ricketts recognized two of the three volunteers in the audience who are appointed to Ethics Commission Board. More discussion was held regarding the renewal of Lyndon's Certified City of Ethics and requirements. Also, Councilmember Yates thanked

Mayor for fine job with summer festival and Chief Schroeder for the interaction with fairgoers. Ricketts also thanked event planner Diana Polsgrove.

Lyndon Resident Erlene Grise-Owens echoed acknowledgment of people involved in summer festival and expressed her support in budgeting more for park improvements. She also recognized the protocol for the 24-hour requirement for special meeting and supports those council members who felt the proposed budget draft was given to them on short notice. Mayor explained the council had those notes taken at the last special meeting when budget was discussed. Ms. Grise-Owens inquired about Councilmember Benner's proposal to terminate contracts with most other cities. Mayor Hagan stated he does not support that because it is revenue for the city. Ms. Grise-Owens asked to meet with the Mayor and stated that council proposals should be pursued.

Calvin Shaak, resident of Lyndon and appointed member of Ethics Commission Board, asked for a few documents to be prepared for meetings. Karen Tuell, another Lyndon resident, brought concerns of overgrowth at Romara Place and stated she is interested in organizing group to help maintain the parks. Discussion held.

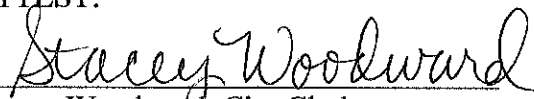
Councilmember Stanley brought up the recycling center on Whipps Mill and informed council she has been calling the person in charge. Mayor announced a few maintenance improvements Metro has made to AB Sawyer park.

Councilmember Stuber inquired about police staffing shift changes and noticed several officer taking breaks in parks. Chief Schroeder explained their shift changes and stated they should take breaks for their well-being, interact with citizens and sometimes they unite to discuss daily matters.

Councilmember Sidebottom made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barto to adjourn meeting at 7:35pm.


Brent Hagan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Stacey Woodward, City Clerk