

**CITY OF LYNDON
CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all council members and guests were present. Mayor Hagan was out of town. City Attorney, John Singler asked for a motion to appoint council member to conduct meeting. Vicki Stanley made a motion, seconded by Mardy Sidebottom to have Susan Barto to conduct meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Vicki Stanley asked to make a statement regarding the Courier Journal article about the "Sanctuary City" stance. She started with a comment about a Facebook page run by a citizen and claimed members who do not agree with views of administrator are removed. The administrator, who was in attendance, stated he removed Ms. Stanley because of comments she made. Ms. Stanley stated she was only defending herself. She also mentioned the op-ed written by Chief Rob Schroeder which has prompted a response from herself. Ms. Stanley addressed the label given to five council members as the "Angry Five," and expressed that she now refers to them as the "Fiscally Responsible Five." She proceeded to read her prepared statement detailing her reasons for serving as a Lyndon Council member and addressed several points raised in the recent newspaper article. She believes the council holds accountability for police budget decisions, pointed out concerns over inconsistencies within the budget, and emphasized her commitment to fiscal responsibility, including asking critical questions when issues arise. She also clarified that it was not intended for Lyndon to become a sanctuary city as the article suggested, however it was a concern for the police department to enter into a contract with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement that would impact their responsibilities and time for training. She also said she would meet with anyone to answer questions and provide information regarding the source of their concerns.

Ms. Barto requested that the City Clerk summarize the items scheduled for discussion/action on next Monday's agenda. Those items were read. Council member Becky Ricketts asked Mr. Singler if the changes on the 25-26 Budget Ordinance will constitute another first reading. Mr. Singler stated the only time this occurs is if the changes are substantial "material changes" which in this case, he suggests, does not require another first reading. Ms. Ricketts inquired with City Treasurer Sony Kaiser how financials changes from month to month. Ms. Kaiser explained that the changes are driven by incoming revenue, noting that the reports become more precise as updated data is received. Ms. Stanley confirmed that there were no changes to the budget line, and Ms. Kaiser agreed. Council member Amy Stuber asked Ms. Kaiser about the difference in receipts for police uniforms and what reports show was spent. Deputy Chief Chris Thomas explained he will review it but noted a discount may have been applied.

Ms. Ricketts clarified a hand written error on worksheet. She also spoke a concern regarding the variance report that indicates the public safety line item is over budget by \$300,000 and she has asked for a break-down so it can be avoided in the future. Deputy Chief Thomas answered her questions about a possible discrepancy on payroll numbers and the amount on the Monthly Variance Report. He and City Treasurer will review and update.

Council member Jenny Benner requested that an item be added to Monday's agenda, proposing that a bid be issued for playground equipment at Robsion Park. Ms. Stanley also stated she will be presenting a municipal order to establish a Parks and Recreation Committee for improvements at Robsion Park and Romara Place. Ms. Stuber requested an itemized list of vehicles to be available for review of the municipal order for surplus police vehicles.

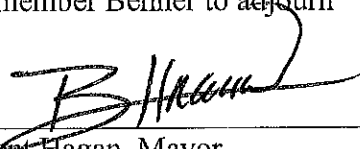
Lyndon resident, Aundrea Selter gave her testimony of a recent experience with Lydon Police and expressed her gratitude for the department, particularly Officer Brooks, whose quick response helped to find her daughter who ran away from home. She also voiced her concerns for reducing police funding and instead suggested reviewing data to evaluate whether there is a need for additional officers.

Earlene Grise Owens, Lyndon resident, thanked Council member Stanely for her statement and asked if it to be a part of the minutes. Ms. Stanley stated she will try and make that happen. Ms. Grise-Owens mentioned a previous request for a city plan so that everyone can have a shared vision of what city is working toward. She also read a statement she and her husband Larry Owens sent to the C.J. in response to Chief Schroeder's op-ed to the article Ms. Stanley referred to earlier in meeting. Ms. Grise-Owens stated the op-ed from Chief Schroeder did not include verifiable evidence and data, that it is just his opinion. She stated he used hyperbole and inaccurate language and his statement does not serve the community. Ms. Grise-Owens focused on the police contracts with other cities and claims Lyndon pays 89.4% of the police budget. She feels the majority of the council is making responsible actions, hopes the Mayor and Chief will focus on the main issues and she will continue to do her part as a community member. She asked for her statement to also be a part of the minutes. An audience member commented Ms. Grise-Owens went over the 3 minutes allowed to speak.

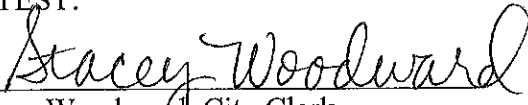
Sharon Morris, a resident of Holly Springs Village, commented that Ms. Grise-Owens statement letter was requested to be part of the minutes but a letter that was brought in the office by a resident to be distrusted to each council member was gathered and destroyed before the meeting. Ms. Morris demanded an explanation for this action. Ms. Stanley stated a person can voice their opinions but it will not be a part of the packet of information to each council member. Ms. Morris directly asked City Attorney whether a resident has the right to submit a letter to council members. Mr. Singler affirmed she may. Ms. Stanley admitted she took the letters and does not have them. Several audience members agreed that it is a lack of transparency and Ms. Morris stated Ms. Stanely does not have the right to make a decision of what the council can read. Ms. Stanely agreed yet stated the council read the letter. Council Member Jim Yates was not able to read the letter before it was taken. Councilmember Amy Stuber asked if the letter could be emailed to council so that they can respond to the resident directly. More discussion was held. Ms. Stanley stated she will get a copy of the letter and distribute it as requested by Ms. Morris.

Christopher Cook, frequent visitor of Lyndon public meetings, quoted Kentucky's state motto "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". He stated he is witnessing the division of the city and suggest council members to avoid making statements on social media groups that cause division as a council. He read a personal issue that happened in another city to express his concern for real issues rather than social media issues.

Councilmember Ricketts made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Benner to adjourn meeting at 6:47pm.


Brent Hagan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Stacey Woodward, City Clerk