

**REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 7, 2007**

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, June 7, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Huitt called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Council members were in attendance:

**HOUSER    CLONINGER    HEAVNER    HOVIS**

Councilman Cloninger made the motion unanimously approved to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** as follows:

- Approved Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Budget Work Session – April 25, 2007
  - May 3, 2006 - Regular Session & Closed Session
- Calls to Public Hearing for the July 2007 meeting:

**(O-02-07)**

Consideration of adoption of the FIS (Flood Insurance Study), Associated FIRMs (Flood Insurance Rate Maps) for Lincoln County and amendments to the City’s Code of Ordinances – Chapter 4 – Buildings; Construction and Related Activities - Article V. Flood Damage Prevention, Sections 4-76 through Section 4-115. The FIS and FIRMs will become effective on August 16, 2007, which coincides with the deadline for the City of Lincoln to adopt revised floodplain management measures as a condition of continued community eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Budget Amendment **(BA-02-07)** – 2006-2007 Fiscal Year End
- Budget Amendment **(BA-03-07)** - City / Hall Fire Capital Project Ordinance

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2007 – 2008 PROPOSED BUDGET - TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON THE PROPOSED 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.**

**(O-01-07)**

Mayor Huitt opened the Public Hearing. Jeff Emory, City Manager reviewed the proposed changes to the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget. He noted the following changes; Adding \$ 46,000 for funding to the Lincoln Economic Development Association. A two percent water and sewer increase and electric

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increase will be proposed. Two additional firefighters in exchange of the tax reimbursement to the Boger City Volunteer Fire Department.. Jeff said based a letter he received from the Fire Chief of the Boger City Volunteer Fire Department agreeing to two additional men, upon Council approval an addendum to the current contract with the BCVFD would need to be drafted by the City Attorney reflecting the agreed upon changes. Jeff also reminded Council that if approved the City would realize a cost savings of\$ 15,000.

The City Manager said the total proposed budget amount for fiscal year 2007-08 is \$ 24,161,105.00. He thanked City Council for their continued support and direction during the budget preparation process.

Councilman Houser commented that the City has for the past ten years absorbed most of the electrical increases that have been passed onto the City by Electricities. He does not feel the two percent increase proposed for this year's budget is unreasonable in light of the total sixteen percent the City has absorbed over the last ten years.

With no other questions, Councilman Houser made the motion unanimously approved to close the Public Hearing.

Councilman Houser made the motion unanimously approved to adopt the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget as presented by the City Manager.

*(A copy of the Budget Ordinance will appear at the end of this document becoming a part of these official minutes.)*

### **PRESENTATION FROM THE LINCOLNTON STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

The City Clerk reported that Jill Eaddy, Student Advisory Council Advisor, called to ask that the above mentioned presentation be delayed to a future City Council meeting at which time the newly appointed SAC members could discuss the beautification of the intersection of the ABC Store and the proposed Student Memorial Project. Powerpoint projects were completed by the SAC concerning these projects and will be presented at a later date.

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**PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE RAILROAD CROSSING ON ACADEMY STREET:**

**(C-11-07)**

Jeff Emory, City Manager presented this item to Council. Councilman Houser made the motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with NCDOT for railroad crossing improvements at Academy Street. Councilman Cloninger seconded the motion. The total cost for this project is estimated to be \$ 150,000.00 The City's portion, or ten percent, should not exceed \$ 15,000, with the funds being paid from the Powell Bill Fund.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**CITY APPOINTEE FOR LINCOLN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (NOTE: MAYOR HUITT'S THREE-YEAR TERM WILL EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2007):** **(APPT-03-07)**

Councilman made the motion unanimously approved to appoint Larry Mac Hovis to serve on the Lincoln Economic Development Commission. Councilman Hovis term would begin June 30, 2007 and expire June 30, 2009, in accordance with LEDA by-laws.

**APPOINTMENT TO THE LINCOLNTON PLANNING BOARD – (NOTE: ROBERT HAMILTON WILL COMPLETE HIS SECOND THREE-YEAR TERM JULY 2007. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY POLICY HE IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RE-APPOINTMENT AT THIS TIME)** **(APPT-04-07)**

Councilman Houser made the motion unanimously approved to appoint Mrs. Renee Coulter , 215 Newbold Street, to serve on the Lincolnton Planning Board. Mrs. Coulter will begin serving her first term August 2007, through August 2010. The City Clerk was directed to send the proper notification and administer the Oath of Office prior to Mrs. Coulter's first meeting.

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**APPOINTMENT TO THE LINCOLNTON PLANNING BOARD –**  
**(NOTE: SUZANNE PEELER WILL COMPLETE HER FIRST**  
**THREE-YEAR TERM IN JULY 2007. IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
**CITY POLICY SHE IS ELIGIBLE FOR RE-APPOINTMENT IF**  
**COUNCIL SO DESIRES): (APPT-05-07)**

Councilman Cloninger made the motion unanimously approved to re-appoint Mrs. Suzanne Peeler to serve a second term on the Lincolnton Planning Board. Mrs. Peeler was in attendance for this meeting and agreed to accept the re-appointment.

**CITY OF LINCOLNTON – 2007 – 2008 SALARY SCHEDULE /**  
**SCHEDULE OF BUDGETED POSITIONS:**

**(R-07-06)**

Jeff Emory, City Manager recommended approval of a resolution by which adopts the salary schedule for the City, with a 156 full time positions, and a 2.5% cost of living increase for employees. The resolution read as follows: WHEREAS, the proposed 2007-2008 fiscal year budget has been prepared by the City Manager and presented to the Mayor and City Council; and WHEREAS, the proposed 2007-2008 fiscal year budget included a recommended salary schedule and schedule of budgeted positions; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Lincolnton adopts the “Salary Schedule”, and “Schedule of Budgeted Positions”, as attached to this resolution, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008.

Adopted this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 2007.

Councilman Hovis made the motion unanimously approved to adopt the resolution as recommended.

**REQUEST TO RETAIN THE UNEXPENDED FUNDS FROM 2007-**  
**2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR REDEVELOPMENT VENTURE**  
**FUND:**

Stephen Starnes, Chair of DDA, requested that City Council once again consider carrying over the unexpended from the Business & Community Development Central Business District Enhancements line item, to support its re-development venture fund, also known as a revolving fund. The total amount remaining in the line item is \$ 18,835.00. Mr. Starnes concluded asking Council to consider carrying this amount over into the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

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City Manager Jeff Emory told Council that last year a total of \$ 15,000 was approved by City Council to be carried over to the revolving fund. Jeff recommended that Council consider carrying over only \$ 15,000 again this year.

Councilman Heavner made the motion to carry over \$ 15,000 as recommended by the City Manager. The motion passed by a three to one vote. Councilmen Houser, Cloninger and Heavner voted yes and Councilman Hovis voted no.

### **ORDER OF COLLECTION FOR 2007-2008 TAXES:**

Jeff Emory, City Manager recommended approval of the order of collections for Lincoln County to once again collect the City's taxes. This is a standard procedure that is done each year, and the Lincoln County Tax Department requests that Council consideration adoption or approval by their June meeting.

Councilman Houser made the motion unanimously approved to adopt the Order of Collection for Lincoln County to collect the City's taxes for fiscal year 2007-2008.

### **UPDATE ON STATUS OF MARCIA H. CLONINGER RAIL/TRAIL EXPANSION:**

Steve Gurley, Planning Director provided Council with an update on progress of the rail-trail since our May meeting. He said: Norfolk Southern has agreed to allow the City to purchase the right-of-way along Phase III, based on a survey we had completed on the right-of-way of the property along Phase III. The City should be able to enter into a contract in the near future. A metes and bounds description will be necessary to submit to Norfolk Southern and should cost the City around \$ 400.00 to complete.

Steve said the price we are offering is \$ 35,000 for three parcels based on the values established in the corridor property appraisal prepared by Austin Smith and Associates in May 2006. He said the Planning Department will send out letters to property owners along the corridor of Phase III who now have property up to the center line of the old rail corridor. We plan to take the monies available in this year's budget and the upcoming fiscal years budget to purchase as much of the right-of-way north as possible. He will provide City Council with another update at our July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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Jeff concluded saying that by adoption of the upcoming budget tonight the City has committed \$ 100,000 to right-of-way acquisition, for the upcoming Phase III of the rail-trail expansion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one spoke during the public comment portion of this meeting.

**NEWS MEDIA:**

There were no questions from the News Media.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Cloninger made the motion unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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**DONNA C. FLOWERS, CMC  
CITY CLERK**

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**BOBBY G. HUITT  
MAYOR**