

**LENOIR CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Gibbons presiding. Councilmembers present were Beal, Perdue, Perkins, Rohr, Stevens, Thomas and Willis. Also in attendance were City Manager Hildebran, City Attorney Blair and City Clerk Cannon.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was opened by a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Gibbons.

**UPDATE; CITY COUNCIL, STAFF &
FAMILY MEMBERS:**

- B. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons asked everyone to keep Shirley Cannon, City Clerk, and her husband Rex in their thoughts and prayers as Rex continues to recover from recent surgery.

Mayor Gibbons also asked everyone to continue to remember Janet Conway, Todd Perdue's mother, and Lisa Rohr, spouse of Councilman Rohr, as they continue to recover from their recent illnesses.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION; MERLIN
AND JUDY PERRY:**

- C. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons honored Merlin and Judy Perry for their work in Caldwell County Pathways by presenting a proclamation naming the Big Loop portion of the Lenoir Greenway as the "Perry Trail".

A copy of the proclamation is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. (Refer to pages 79-80).

Mayor Pro-Tem Willis unveiled the sign that will be placed on this section of the Greenway and a map was also displayed outlining the Big Loop section.

Mayor Gibbons stated Mr. Perry, a founding member of Caldwell County Pathways, has been involved in nearly every sidewalk, bicycle plan, greenway or pathway in Caldwell County for over twenty-years. He further commended Mr. Perry for all the great things he and Judy have done for the community over the years.

Former County Commissioner Ron Beane also congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Perry for this well-deserved honor and stated the world needs more people like the Perry's because their integrity, commitment and purpose makes the world a better place.

Mr. Rick Rash, Caldwell County Pathways, congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Perry and presented them with a plaque displaying a picture of them riding their

bikes on the Greenway. He also recognized members of Caldwell County Pathways that were in the audience.

Mr. Perry thanked Tony Deal, Rich Rash, and three former County Commissioners for their help in Pathways obtaining their 501(c)(3) non-profit status when Pathways was formed several years ago. Mr. Perry also encouraged everyone to keep giving and thanked City Council, the City of Lenoir, the citizens and Caldwell County for this honor and recognition.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION; LENOIR
FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

- D. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons recognized the Lenoir Fire Department who was honored as this year's "Main Street Champions" at the recent North Carolina Main Street conference held in Clayton, North Carolina.

Fire Chief Ken Hair stated this was a great honor for the Fire Department and thanked the nominating committee for the recognition. Chief Hair shared that Chief Kenny Nelson, Scott Brawley, Cody McCarraher and he attended the event on behalf of the Fire Department.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION; FINANCE
DEPARTMENT:**

- E. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons congratulated Donna Bean, Finance Director, and the Finance Department Staff for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the City's most recent comprehensive annual financial report.

Mayor Gibbons commended Director Bean and Staff for all of their hard work in achieving this award. The City of Lenoir has received this award for over thirty years.

II. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

**REZONING REQUEST; SOUTHEAST CORNER
OF ELIZABETH ST. & VALMEAD ST.:**

- A. A public hearing was held to consider a rezoning request for property located at the southeast corner of Elizabeth Street and Valmead Street, west of Valmead Elementary School, NCPIN#284-074-7741 to be rezoned from R-9 (Multi-Family Residential) to I-2 (Heavy Industrial) in order to house a Caldwell County EMS Base. The Planning Board and City Staff recommends approval of the Rezoning and adoption of the following Consistency Statement: The proposed zoning map amendment is consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan because it facilitates the provision of public service facilities to support future growth in an area that is already served by existing infrastructure. The proposed amendment is reasonable and in the public interest because it allows for construction of an EMS base in an industrially-zoned property, while maintaining requirements for adequate buffering and setbacks

to surrounding residential properties.

Mayor Gibbons opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding the rezoning request.

Jenny Wheelock, Planning Director, came forward and said the property, a vacant lot, was recently purchased by Caldwell County and the request was to re-zone the property to accommodate an EMS base. Ms. Wheelock explained typically they would not choose to extend heavy industrial districts, but this property was contiguous and meets good planning principals.

There being no further public participation, Mayor Gibbons closed the public hearing and asked Council for action.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Rohr, Council voted 7 to 0 to approve the rezoning request for property located at the southeast corner of Elizabeth Street and Valmead Street, west of Valmead Elementary School, NCPIN#284-074-7741 to be rezoned from R-9 (Multi-Family Residential) to I-2 (Heavy Industrial) in order to house a Caldwell County EMS Base and the Consistency Statement as described above and as recommended by Planning Staff and the Planning Board.

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Upon a recommendation by City Manager Hildebran, the following Consent Agenda items were submitted for approval:

1. Minutes: Approval of minutes of the City Council Meeting of Tuesday, March 6, 2018 as submitted.
2. Minutes: Approval of minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Tuesday, February 27, 2018 as submitted.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Perdue, Council voted 7 to 0 to approve the above listed items on the Consent Agenda as recommended by City Manager Hildebran.

IV. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

V. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

FY2018 ACTION PLAN & UNIFOUR HOME CONSORTIUM PLAN:

- A. Rick Oxford, Plan Administrator, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, held the first of two public meetings to receive public comments regarding the proposed FY2018 Action Plan of the City of Lenoir and the Unifour HOME Consortium as part of the five-year Consolidated Plan. This plan, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD), outlines goals and action plans of the City of Lenoir and the Unifour HOME Consortium and its use of

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds for fiscal year 2018, beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019. The City of Lenoir serves as the Lead Entity for the Unifour Consortium.

Mr. Oxford stated he has not received notification from HUD regarding funding for the upcoming year, but he anticipates receiving \$980,000 in HOME funds and \$132,000 for the CDBG. However, he stated this figure may be reduced based on the number of applications they received. He noted \$106,000 of the CDBG funds will go toward improvements on the Greenway and pointed out this money may be used for crosswalks, signage, construction, design, or survey engineering. Last year, the HOME program received \$749,000 plus \$230,000 from Program Income of which \$467,000 was spent on down payment assistance, \$112,000 on CHDO's, \$335,000 on Multi-Family Housing and \$74,000 in Administration costs.

Mr. Oxford stated the program assisted around 3,000 first-time homebuyers last year throughout the four county-wide area and about one-fourth of those applications were in Caldwell County. Mr. Oxford reported the second public meeting would be held following notification of the amount of funding to be awarded by HUD.

Mayor Gibbons thanked him for the good report.

VI. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

A. Items of Information

PLANNING

BOARD: 1. The Planning Board will meet on Monday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

BANQUET: 2. The annual Employee Recognition Banquet will be held on Monday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the J. E. Broyhill Civic Center.

COMMITTEE OF THE

WHOLE: 3. The Committee of the Whole will meet on Tuesday, March 27 at City Hall, Third Floor, former Council Chambers.

FOOTHILLS REGIONAL AIRPORT

AUTHORITY: 4. The Foothills Regional Airport Authority will meet on Wednesday, April 4 at noon.

HOLIDAY

CLOSING: 5. City offices will be closed on Friday, March 30 in observance of Good Friday.

B. ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

LENOIR BICYCLE

PLAN: 1. City Staff recommends approval of the Lenoir Bicycle Plan which is funded through a matching grant from the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and is

intended to be a companion plan to the Lenoir Pedestrian Plan that was funded through the same grant program and adopted in 2014. Note: As the City Council considers the potential feasibility for modifying one-way streets into two-way streets downtown, some proposed routes may change.

A copy of the draft plan is available on the City's website at www.cityoflenoir.com.

Planning Director Wheelock came forward and said the Planning Board endorsed the Plan at their last meeting and requested Council adopt the Plan as submitted. Ms. Wheelock explained adoption of the plan would assist the City with grant applications.

Director Wheelock referred to the top twelve recommendations from public input and reported the majority were to connect the proposed bicycle lanes to the Greenway. Ms. Wheelock mentioned Staff was currently reviewing areas where the bicycle plan can be implemented at a lower cost.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Willis, Council voted 7 to 0 to adopt the Lenoir Bicycle Plan as presented and as recommended by Planning Staff and the Planning Board.

VII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

VIII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAYOR

BOARD RE-APPOINTMENTS:

- A. Mayor Gibbons presented the following list of individuals for consideration of re-appointment to serve on the City's Authorities/Boards/Commissions. Notifications of these re-appointments was announce at the February 20 City Council meeting.

Planning Board

Tim Scobie 4-year term

Lenoir Tourism Development Authority

Dana Clark and Glenda Wilson 4-year terms

Lenoir Business Advisory Board

Terese Almquist 2-year term

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Scott Barnett and Erik Rabinowitz 2-year terms

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Willis, Council voted 7 to 0 to approve the above list of Board re-appointments as presented and as recommended by Mayor Gibbons.

UPCOMING

EVENTS: B. Mayor Gibbons shared the Google Gravity Games are scheduled for Saturday, April 28 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in downtown Lenoir. Parks and Recreation's Annual Easter

Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 24 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Mulberry Recreation Center. Also, the City of Lenoir will be promoting #LitterFreeLenoirNC by having a contest to encourage residents and businesses to keep Lenoir, NC litter free on Monday, April 16. Additional information is available on the City's website at www.cityoflenoir.com.

IX. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILMEMBERS

UPDATE; NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONGRESSIONAL CITY CONFERENCE:

- A. Mayor Pro-Tem Willis stated City Manager Scott Hildebran and he recently attended the National League of Congressional Cities Conference in Washington, DC, where they had the opportunity to lobby with representatives of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, Senator Richard Burr and Congressman Mark Meadows. Mr. Willis shared there is going to be a big push for 5G Communication Technology in the next couple of years and they also heard a lot about streamlining the process for federal government and grant applications.

Mr. Willis expressed his appreciation for the City allowing him to attend this event.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- A. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk

Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor



CITY MANAGER
SCOTT E. HILDEBRAN

CITY OF LENOIR
NORTH CAROLINA

MAYOR
JOSEPH L. GIBBONS

CITY COUNCIL
J. T. BEAL
T. H. PERDUE
J. I. PERKINS
T. J. ROHR
D. F. STEVENS
C. D. THOMAS
B. K. WILLIS

CITY OF LENOIR
PROCLAMATION

HONORING MERLIN AND JUDY PERRY

WHEREAS, Merlin and Judy Perry, residents of the City of Lenoir, have been very active in service to the community and Caldwell County for many years; and

WHEREAS, Merlin and Judy Perry in particular have been dedicated stewards for safe walking and biking trails in Caldwell County; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Merlin and Judy Perry were among a group of citizens that participated in a visioning process for bikeways, pathways, and multi-purpose trails in Caldwell County, convened under then County Commissioner Ron Beane, which resulted in the creation of a Master Plan for pathways in Caldwell County; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the County Commissioners appointed a 21-member committee called Caldwell County Pathways, with **Merlin Perry** as a founding member and the organization's first chair; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 2001, Merlin Perry has been an active member of the Caldwell County Pathways Board, with his wife **Judy Perry** serving by his side in various key positions, facilitating trail projects for 17 years; and

WHEREAS, from 2005-2013, Merlin Perry served on the Lenoir City Council, where as an elected official, he continued his ardent support for trail development and active transportation in Caldwell County, serving as the City's representative on the MPO; and

WHEREAS, Merlin Perry has continued to serve in advisory capacity to the Lenoir City Council as a member of the Lenoir Planning Board since January 2015; and

WHEREAS, Merlin Perry has participated in virtually every planning effort that related to sidewalks, bikeways, pathways, and greenways in Caldwell County for the past 20 years, including the Collettsville Trail, Lenoir Pedestrian Plan, the Lenoir Bicycle Plan, the Pathways Master Plan, and the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Lenoir to Morganton Master Plan, as well as being a board member of Friends of Wilsons Creek and the NC Rail Trails Board; and



WHEREAS, Merlin Perry was instrumental in the successful “rail-banking” of a 3.9 mile corridor of discontinued rail right-of-way in 2016, successfully navigating the complex, 4 year process of establishing an interim trail use for the property through the Surface Transportation Board in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, though his work with Caldwell County Pathways, **Merlin Perry** has raised money, obtained easements, and advocated for approximately 10 miles of completed greenway projects in Caldwell County, including projects in Lenoir, Hudson, and Happy Valley; and

WHEREAS, Merlin’s wife **Judy Perry** has actively participated in and supported Merlin in his steadfast dedication to the development of trails in Caldwell County, as well as being an active trail user herself; and

WHEREAS, Merlin and Judy Perry can often be seen biking on the Lenoir Greenway off of Powell Road, which is located in close proximity to their home; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Joseph L. Gibbons, in my official capacity as Mayor of the City of Lenoir, and on behalf of the Lenoir City Council, and all the citizens, do proudly proclaim that the “Big Loop” of the Lenoir Greenway on Powell Road be officially named as

“The Perry Trail”

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Perry’s devotion to the community and their dedication, hard work, and perseverance to the development of bikeways, pathways, and multi-purpose trails in Lenoir and Caldwell County.

This the 20th day of March, 2018.

SEAL

Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor