

**LENOIR CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Joe Gibbons presiding. Councilmembers present were Mayor Pro-Tem Crissy Thomas, Jonathan Beal, Todd Perdue, Ike Perkins, Ralph Prestwood, David Stevens and Ben Willis. City Attorney Timothy J. Rohr, City Manager Scott Hildebran, City Clerk Shirley Cannon, Communications Director Joshua Harris and Crystal Smith, Human Resources Manager, were also present.

Others in attendance were Anthony Starr, Sherry Long and Rick Oxford with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments and Cady Davis with the News-Topic.

**ZOOM:** Fire Chief Ken Hair, Police Chief Brent Phelps, Recreation Director Kenny Story, Economic Development Director Kaylynn Horn, Finance Director Donna Bean, Public Works Director Jared Wright, Public Utilities Director Radford Thomas, Planning Director Jenny Wheelock participated via Zoom.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. The meeting was opened by a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance as led by Mayor Gibbons.
- B. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons thanked all of the healthcare workers and those on the frontlines caring for people that have the COVID-19 virus and asked everyone to continue to keep them in their thoughts and prayers. Mayor Gibbons also shared that 26 individuals were currently hospitalized and encouraged everyone to wear a mask, stay as safe as possible, and to consider taking the vaccine.

**RESIGNATION OF COUNCILMEMBER**

**BEN WILLIS:** C. Mayor Gibbons announced that Ben Willis is resigning from City Council following 10 years of dedicated service to the City of Lenoir and its citizens. Mr. Willis has accepted a position as Community Economic Development Director for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG). Councilmember Willis will continue to serve on City Council until January 30, 2022.

Mr. Willis stated the position was a wonderful opportunity for him and his family and he looked forward to working with such a great organization. He remarked it is hard to say good-bye to all of his colleagues.

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons thanked Mr. Willis for being a great Councilmember and for helping the City and Caldwell County grow during his tenure on Council. Mayor Gibbons also stated City Council was happy for him as he begins this new career with the WPCOG.

Mayor Gibbons also read a legal notice announcing the vacancy on Council which will be published in the News-Topic and on the City's website.

Candidates will address City Council at the January 18 meeting regarding their interest and qualifications for serving on Council. Candidates must reside in the City limits of Lenoir to serve on City Council and meet all North Carolina statutory requirements to hold office. City Council will appoint the successful candidate at the February 1 City Council meeting.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION;**

**CITY OF LENOIR:** C. In October 2021, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) was awarded an "Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award" by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the project "Unifour HOME Consortium, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary".

Anthony Starr, Executive Director, WPCOG, Sherry Long, Assistant Executive Director, and Rick Oxford, Housing Project Manager, presented Mayor Gibbons with an award certificate due to the City of Lenoir serving as a project partner. Mr. Starr stated the WPCOG applied for and established the Unifour Consortium HOME Program in 1995 and Lenoir became the lead entity for the 26 surrounding counties in 1996.

Mr. Starr also shared the WPCOG was listed in the top five (5) HOME Consortium programs in the United States. Since its inception, Mr. Starr reported that \$24.7 million has been distributed to the region and 3,000 first time home buyers received down payment assistance. He further shared that 380 senior housing units have been constructed. Mr. Starr thanked the City for its outstanding partnership along with City Staff for all of their assistance and support over the years.

Ms. Long expressed appreciation to the City of Lenoir and the Finance Department for all of their support. Ms. Long especially extended a thank you to Nadine Hood, Accounts Payable Technician, for processing over 4,000 check requests for first time home buyers. Mr. Oxford stated he enjoys working with the City and referred to the great relationship between the City and WPCOG Staff.

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons thanked Mr. Starr, Ms. Long and Mr. Oxford for the recognition and reiterated the City and WPCOG has established a wonderful partnership over the years.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION;**

**VETERANS STAND DOWN EVENT:**

A. Mr. Stanley McCormick, Chairman, Foothills Veterans Stand Down, presented Mayor Gibbons, along with Councilmembers David Stevens, Mayor Pro-Tem Crissy Thomas, and Crystal Smith, Human Resources Manager, with a certificate of appreciation for their assistance and outstanding support during the Foothills Veterans Stand Down event held at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center on Wednesday, November, 10, 2021. Mr. McCormick remarked the event was very successful and well attended by veterans and their families.

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons thanked Mr. McCormick for all the work the organization does for local veterans and for the services they

provide to the veterans and their families.

## **II. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting of Tuesday, December 7, 2021 as submitted.
- B. Minutes: Approval of the closed session minutes of the City Council meeting of Tuesday, December 7, 2021 as reviewed by the City Attorney, City Council and City Manager.
- C. Amendment; Capital Project Budget Ordinance; EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant: Staff requests that City Council approve an amendment in the amount of \$1,217.12 to the Capital Project Budget Ordinance adopted by City Council on May 7, 2019 for the EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Capital Project for a total project budget of \$301,217.12. (A copy of the amendment is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Refer to page 5 & 6.)
- D. Closeout of Capital Project Budget Ordinance; EPA Brownfield Assessment Project: Approval of a Capital Project Budget Ordinance to close out the EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant that City Council adopted on May 7, 2019 in the amount of \$300,000.00. This project was completed as of December 2021 with total expenditures of \$301,217.12. (A copy of this amendment is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Refer to page 7.)

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

## **IV. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS**

## **V. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

## **VI. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER**

- A. Items of Information

### **JANUARY CALENDAR:**

- 1. By consensus of the Council, the calendar for the month of January was approved listing various meetings and events.

### **CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE**

#### **PICKUP:**

- 2. The annual curbside Christmas Tree pickup begins on Monday, January 3 and ends on Friday, January 7.

### **CITY/COUNTY**

#### **SERVICES COMMITTEE:**

- 3. The City/County Services Committee will meet on Monday, January 10 at noon.

### **EDC:**

- 4. The Caldwell County Economic Development Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 11 at 8:00 a.m.

**ABC BOARD:** 5. The ABC Board will meet virtually on Thursday, January 13 at 2:00 p.m.

**LENOIR TOURISM**

**DEV. AUTHORITY:** 6. The Lenoir Tourism Development Authority will meet on Thursday, January 13 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, Third Floor.

**LENOIR BUSINESS ADVISORY**

**BOARD:** 7. The Lenoir Business Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m.

**HOLIDAY CLOSING:**

8. City offices will be closed on Monday, January 17 in of the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

**B. ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**VII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

**VIII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

**IX. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILMEMBERS**

**CEREMONY; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**HOLIDAY:** A. Mayor Pro-Tem Crissy Thomas announced that Reverend Kim Moss, President of the Caldwell County NAACP Unit 5410-B, will be presenting the "Spirit of King Award" award to a community member as part of the virtual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration. This annual award goes to an individual in the community who embodies the spirit of Dr. King's legacy of inclusion of people of all races and cultures, making the community a better place to live for all people.

Ms. Thomas also reported the local NAACP will not be holding a march on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday which will be observed on Monday, January 17, but noted the organization plans to hold a modified virtual event instead.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

A. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk

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Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor

**2021-2022 Fiscal Year  
Budget Amendment Ordinance 2021-2022-2**

Request for amendments to be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 as follows:

Section I. To amend the Capital Project Fund - the appropriations are to be changed as follows:

Item 1: Allocate funds for the final phase of the EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Capital Project.

| Acct. No.      |                                                                         | Increase - Budgeted Amount |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 67-92-3713-906 | Transfer from General Fund EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant              | 1,217.12                   |
|                | Net increase in appropriation to the Capital Project Fund for this item | 1,217.12                   |
|                |                                                                         |                            |
|                |                                                                         | Decrease Balance           |
| 10-20-4511-986 | Transfer to Fairview Bridge (Streets)                                   | 1,217.12                   |
|                | Net decrease in appropriation to the General Fund for these items       | 1,217.12                   |
|                | Total Change in Fund Balance                                            | 0.00                       |

## Capital Project Ordinance for the City of Lenoir

### EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Capital Project – AMENDED 01/04/2022

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council Members of the City of Lenoir, North Carolina that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following capital project ordinance is hereby amended:

**Section 1:** The project to authorize activities for EPA Brownfield Capital Project to include the expenditure of local funds for the clean up of various brownfields utilizing the EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Capital Project. US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant (300,000) and local funding (1217.12) will fund the project

**Section 2:** The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the capital project within the terms of the budget contained herein.

**Section 3:** The following amended amounts are appropriated for the project:

|                    | Current      | Change     | Recommended  |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Total Expenditures | \$300,000.00 | \$1,217.12 | \$301,217.12 |

**Section 4:** The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

|                                                                 |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant | \$300,000.00      |
| Local Funding                                                   | <u>\$1,217.12</u> |
| Total Funding                                                   | \$301,217.12      |

**Section 5:** The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Capital Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the Project Ordinance.

**Section 6:** The Finance Officer is directed to report, on a quarterly basis, on the financial status of each project element in Section 3.

**Section 7:** The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this capital project in every budget submission made to this Board.

**Section 8:** Copies of this capital project ordinance shall be furnished to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk



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  
R. S. PRESTWOOD  
D. F. STEVENS  
C. D. THOMAS  
B. K. WILLIS

**ORDINANCE #2022-1**

**CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE TO CLOSE CAPITAL PROJECT  
FOR THE CITY OF LENOIR**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Lenoir has adopted a Budget Ordinance for fiscal year beginning May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and ending December, 2021, in accordance with the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina, and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to recognize the completion of the following Capital Project and

**WHEREAS**, The City adopted the Capital Project Budget Ordinance for the EPA Brownfield Grant on the 7th day of May, 2019 with a total project budget of \$300,000. Funding for the project was from the US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant and the Western Piedmont Council of Government managed the project. This project was completed as of December of 2021 with total expenditures of \$301,217.12. The overage of 1,217.12 will be covered from the General Fund. The overage was due to the amount of work necessary to complete the project.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA, THAT:**

The Capital Project Budget Ordinance for the EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant to be closed.

Adopted this 4th day of January, 2022.

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk

