

**LENOIR CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Gibbons presiding. Councilmembers present were Mayor Pro-Tem Crissy Thomas, Jonathan Beal, Kent Greer, Ike Perkins, Ralph Prestwood, City Manager Scott Hildebran, City Clerk Shirley Cannon and City Attorney T.J. Rohr.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Todd Perdue and David Stevens.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was opened by a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance as led by Mayor Gibbons.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION;
POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

- B. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons read and presented a proclamation to Police Chief Brent Phelps proclaiming the week of April 9 – 15 as “Public Safety Telecommunicators Week” throughout the City of Lenoir.

Chief Phelps thanked the Telecommunicators for the job they do and stated they are the initial point of contact for citizens during times of crisis. He stated he was proud of them and pointed out they serve behind the scenes and usually do not receive any recognition. Those in attendance at the Council meeting were Rhonda Hollowell, Molly Ford, and Kenny LaCourse.

Mayor Gibbons also expressed appreciation to the Telecommunicators and the Police Department for everything they do daily for the citizens and the community.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION;
FAIR HOUSING MONTH:**

- C. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons read and presented a proclamation to Ms. Lauren Hart, Catawba Valley Realtors Association, proclaiming the month of April 2023 as “Fair Housing Month” throughout the City of Lenoir.

Ms. Hart thanked City Council for the recognition and stated becoming a first time homebuyer is life-changing experience for these individuals.

Mayor Gibbons thanked Ms. Hart for coming and for assisting homebuyers throughout the Unifour area.

II. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Tuesday, February 28, 2023 as submitted.

- B. Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting of Tuesday, March 7, 2023 as submitted.
- C. Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the City council meeting me Tuesday, March 21, 2023 as submitted.
- D. Proclamation; Public Safety Telecommunicators Week: Approval of a proclamation proclaiming the week of April 9 – 15 as “Public Safety Telecommunicators Week” throughout the City of Lenoir as submitted. (A copy of the proclamation is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Refer to page. 99.)
- E. Proclamation; Fair Housing Month: Approval of a proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2023 as “Fair Housing Month” throughout the City of Lenoir. (A copy of the proclamation is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Refer to page 100.)
- F. Authorizing Resolution; Stormwater Planning Grant: Approval of an Authorizing Resolution for the Spring 2023 Department of Water Infrastructure Stormwater Planning Grant authorizing the City Manager and/or Finance Director to execute and file an application on behalf of the Applicant with the State of North Carolina for a loan and/or grant to aid in the study of construction of the project described above and as submitted. (A copy of the authorizing resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Refer to pages 101-102.)

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas, City Council voted 5 to 0 to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda (A-F) as described above and as recommended by City Manager Hildebran.

IV. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OFCITIZENS

V. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

FY2023 ACTION PLAN & UNIFOUR HOME CONSORTIUM PLAN:

- A. Rick Oxford, Plan Administrator, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, held the second of two public meetings to receive public comments regarding the proposed FY2023 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 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds for fiscal year 2023, beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. The City of Lenoir serves as the Lead Entity for the Unifour Consortium.

Mr. Oxford reported this is year 4 of the five-year plan which is comprised of projects for the HOME and CDBG plans. He reviewed funding for the two programs as follows:

HOME Program	\$1,200,690
Program Income	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
Total	\$1,500,690

Mr. Oxford stated they are proposing \$91,010 for Down Payment Assistance for first time home buyers and stated there is still available funding for this program from prior years. He further stated there was an increase in funding of \$420,000 for the CHODO's Program. In addition, there is \$839,500 in available funding for developers of multi-housing projects.

Mr. Oxford clarified the down payment assistance funding is available for the four-county area and stated they provide 20% of the purchase price for qualified first time homebuyers with a zero interest loan, which the applicant pays back when they sell or transfer the property. The maximum amount of assistance is \$30,000 and one-half of the loan is forgiven after a ten-year period. Mr. Oxford remarked that housing inventory is down while interest rates have increased. He briefly discussed there were more multi-housing projects.

Mr. Oxford reported funding for the CBDG program is \$142,691, which is currently being used for projects at The Campus (former LHS facility) including the auditorium, gymnasium, band building, trades/masonry building, and Mack Cook Stadium. Mr. Oxford stated both plans will be submitted to DHUD for approval and funding will be released on July 1, 2023.

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons thanked Mr. Oxford for the good report.

Motion

Upon a motion by Councilmember Beal, Council voted 5 to 0 to adopt the HOME Plan and the Community Development Block Grant Plan as submitted and as presented by Rick Oxford, Plan Administrator.

VI. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITYMANAGER

A. Items of Information

APRIL

CALENDAR:

1. The calendar for the month of April was submitted to Council listing various meetings and events.

HOLIDAY

CLOSING:

2. City offices will be closed on Friday, April 7 in observance of Good Friday.

CITY/COUNTY

SERVICES COMMITTEE:

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

LENOIR BUSINESS

ADV. BOARD:

4. The Lenoir Business Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m., City Hall, Third Floor.

NCDOT'S LITTER

SWEEP:

5. The North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Spring Litter Sweep begins on Saturday, April 15 through Saturday, April 29.

PARKS & RECREATION

ADV. BOARD:

6. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Mulberry Recreation Center.

RESCHEDULED; COMMITTEE

OF THE WHOLE:

7. City Manager Hildebran recommended City Council reschedule the April 25 Committee of the Whole meeting to Thursday, April 20 at 8:30 a.m. due to Council attending the North

Carolina League of Municipalities City Vision Conference which begins on April 25.

Motion

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas, City Council voted 5 to 0 to reschedule the April 25 Committee of the Whole meeting to Thursday, April 20 as recommended by City Manager Hildebran.

BOOTLEGGER 100

BICYCLE RIDE: 8. The 2023 Bootlegger 100 Bicycle Ride event will be held on Saturday, April 22 beginning at 8:00 a.m. in downtown Lenoir. The event begins and ends in downtown Lenoir.

GOOGLE GRAVITY

GAMES: 9. The North Carolina Gravity Games are scheduled on Saturday, April 29 in downtown Lenoir.

VII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

VIII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILMEMBERS

**VOTING DELEGATE;
NCLM CITY VISION:**

- A. City Council may appoint a Councilmember to serve as the City of Lenoir's voting delegate during the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Annual Business meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 27 during the City Vision Conference.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Perkins, Council voted 5 to 0 to designate Mayor Joe Gibbons as the City of Lenoir's voting delegate for the NCLM's Annual Business meeting.

**CLOSED
SESSION:**

- B. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a), (3), and upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas, which unanimously carried, City Council entered into closed session at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 4 to discuss attorney/client privilege.

**OPEN
SESSION:**

- C. Upon a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas, City Council voted 5 to 0 to re-enter into open session.

IX. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAYOR

X. ADJOURNMENT

- A. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk

Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor



PROCLAMATION

In Recognition of

Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

April 9 – 15, 2023



Whereas, the City of Lenoir Police Department Telecommunicators play a vital role in the protection of human life and property in our community; and

Whereas, Telecommunicators have been successfully serving the public safety communication needs of the City of Lenoir throughout the year; and

Whereas, while enduring long hours, abnormal schedules, and handling frequent life and death emergencies, Telecommunicators set high standards in performing their duties in a dedicated, diligent, and compassionate manner; and

Whereas, Telecommunicators provide a critical communication link between the residents and Emergency Responders; and

Whereas, these individuals efficiently coordinate emergency services to ensure the health and safety of our residents, visitors, and travelers in our community, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week; and

Whereas, our Public Safety Communications personnel serve the public daily in countless ways without due recognition by the beneficiaries of their services;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that I, Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor of the City of Lenoir, and on behalf of the Lenoir City Council, do hereby proclaim and declare the week of April 9 – April 15, 2023

“National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week”

in the City of Lenoir, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city and first responders safe.

Witness, my hand and seal this the 4th *day of* April, 2023.

SEAL

Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk



CITY MANAGER
SCOTT E. HILDEBRAN

CITY OF LENOIR
NORTH CAROLINA

MAYOR
JOSEPH L. GIBBONS

CITY COUNCIL
J. T. BEAL
F. K. GREER
T. H. PERDUE
J. I. PERKINS
R. S. PRESTWOOD
D. F. STEVENS
C. D. THOMAS

PROCLAMATION

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

WHEREAS, April 11, 2023 marks the 55th anniversary of the passage of the U.S. Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, which enunciates a national policy of Fair Housing without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex, familial status, and handicap, and encourages fair housing opportunities for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Catawba Valley Association of Realtors is committed to highlighting the Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, by continuing to address discrimination in our community, supporting programs that will educate the public about the right to equal housing opportunities, and planning partnership efforts with other organizations to help assure every American of their right to fair housing.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor of the City of Lenoir, North Carolina, and on behalf of the Lenoir City Council, do hereby resolve that April 2023, being *Fair Housing Month*, begins a year-long commemoration of the U.S. Fair Housing Law in the City of Lenoir and urge all citizens to wholeheartedly recognize this celebration throughout the year.

Adopted this the 4th day of April, 2023.

SEAL


Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk



**CITY OF LENOIR
RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF LENOIR FOR
SPRING 2023 DEPARTMENT OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
STORMWATER PLANNING GRANT**

WHEREAS, The City of Lenoir has need for and intends to construct, plan for, or conduct a study in a project described as the City of Lenoir Stormwater Planning Project, and

WHEREAS, The City of Lenoir intends to request State loan and/or grant assistance for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LENOIR

That the City of Lenoir, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan and/or grant award.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement (if required) a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the City of Lenoir to make a scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the City of Lenoir any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

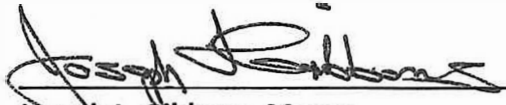
If applying for a regional project, that the **Applicant** will partner and work with other units of local government or utilities in conducting the project.

That Scott Hildebran, City Manager and/or Donna Bean, City Finance Director, the **Authorized Representatives** and successors so titled, are hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the **Applicant** with the State of North Carolina for a loan and/or grant to aid in the study of or construction of the project described above.

That the **Authorized Representative**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, and funding conditions applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 4th day of April 2023 at Lenoir, North Carolina.



Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor

CITY OF LENOIR, NC
CHARTERED
JANUARY 28, 1851

SEAL