

**LENOIR CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Gibbons presiding. Councilmembers present were Jonathan Beal, Kent Greer, Todd Perdue, Ike Perkins, Ralph Prestwood, David Stevens, City Manager Scott Hildebran, City Clerk Shirley Cannon and City Attorney Timothy Rohr.

ABSENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Crissy Thomas.

CITY STAFF: In attendance was Finance Director Donna Bean, Fire Chief Norman Staines, Deputy Fire Chief Kenny Nelson, Police Chief Brent Phelps, Planning Director Hannah Williams, Parks & Recreation Director Phil Harper, Public Services Director Radford Thomas, Public Utilities Operations Manager Jeff Church, Public Works Operations Manager Jon Hogan, Downtown Event Coordinator Matthew Anthony and Communications Director Joshua Harris.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMENDED; CITY

STAFF: B. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons commended City Staff for all of their hard work in taking care of the debris and damage that occurred in our area due to the recent storms. Mayor Gibbons thanked all of the departments and divisions for all of their hard work during this time.

RESOLUTION; MY

FUTURE NC: C. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons read and presented a resolution to Kim Case, Regional Impact Manager, to Support the myFutureNC Attainment Goal that 2 million North Carolinians should have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030.

(A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Refer to page 221.)

Ms. Case thanked City Council for adopting the resolution and joining the community effort to work towards attaining this goal. She shared that House Bill 664 was approved in 2019 to ensure that the state remains economically competitive and ensure that by the year 2030, 2 million 25 to 44 year olds will have completed a high-quality credential or post secondary degree. Ms. Case also reported that North Carolina was voted number one in business for the past two years and stated that education attainment is the way to economic prosperity. She emphasized a qualified work force is needed, but pointed out nearly 2 in 3 prospective students identify cost as a top barrier to enrollment. Currently, the state is 31,000 below where it needs to be.

In addition, Ms. Case stated, as of November 2022, there were 362,170 job openings in North Carolina and 43% of North Carolinians age 35-44 did not earn a family-sustaining wage in 2021. She reviewed the statistics that show for every 100 NC 9th graders, 72 did not earn a degree or credential within 6 years of graduating high school whereas 28 students did earn a degree or credential.

Ms. Case reported the myFutureNC is governed by a cross-sector Board of Directors comprised of NC education sector heads, policymakers, philanthropists, and business leaders. Ms. Case explained in order to achieve their goal, myFuture NC will accelerate action, monitor & report progress, and identify & advocate for policy solutions. The four key transition areas are academic readiness, college & career access, postsecondary completion and labor market alignment.

Ms. Case shared the County profiles/opportunities for growth, which are college & career-ready in math, NC Pre-K enrollment and transition to postsecondary (on-time college enrollment.) Caldwell County's top 3 opportunities for growth include opportunity youth (teen & young adults between the ages of 16-24 who are not enrolled in school or working), math performance, and adult learners ages 25-44 who have some college, but no degree. Ms. Case reported the NC Workforce Credentials is a collaborative effort to identify industry-valued, non-degree credentials that help workers in NC obtain in-demand, family-sustaining wage jobs.

Ms. Case briefly discussed FAFSA (federal financial aid) and explained FAFSA completion is required for Federal pell & state need-based grants and some scholarships. She noted that 88% of high school seniors who complete a FAFSA application attend college compared to 49% of students who do not. Ms. Case reported that the population declined by 1% between 2018-2021, but the number of individuals holding postsecondary degrees or credentials grew 8% in the same period.

The goal for Caldwell County is 10,959 individuals with a stretch goal of 11,149. Ms. Case reviewed a list of education attainment resolution endorsements as of July 18, 2023. The next steps toward local attainment is 1) endorsing the state goal, 2) adopting the local goal; and 3) collaborating with local partners to develop and execute Caldwell County's local educational attainment plan.

Mayor Gibbons thanked Ms. Case for the good report and invited her to come back and update City Council on the results/progress of achieving the projected attainment goal.

**CONGRATULATIONS; HANNAH
& GARRETT WILLIAMS:**

- D. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons congratulated Planning Director Hannah Williams and her husband Garrett upon the birth of their daughter, Maris Rose. Mayor Gibbons wished them all the best.

II. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Minutes: Approval of the minutes/closed session minutes of the Special Called Meeting of the joint City Council and Caldwell County Commission meeting on Tuesday, July 11,

- 2023 to discuss economic development. The meeting was called to order with introductions of those in attendance and a closed session followed to discuss economic development. No action was taken.
- B. Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the City Council Meeting of Tuesday, July 18, 2023 as submitted.
 - C. Resolution, Support myFutureNC: Approval of a resolution to Support the myFuture NC Attainment goal as described above.
 - D. FY2022 Tax Settlement Report, FY2023 Tax Receipt Charge: In accordance with N.C.G.S. §105-321 and 352, Staff request the FY2022 Tax Collector's Settlement Report and the FY2023 Receipt Charge be authenticated by the City Council as submitted.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Perdue, City Council voted 6 to 0 to adopt items A through D on the Consent Agenda as described above and as recommended by City Staff.

- IV. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS**
- V. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**
- VI. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER**
 - A. Items of Information

- AUGUST CALENDAR:**
 - 1. The calendar for the month of August was provided to City Council listing committee meetings and events.
- SUMMER MUSIC EVENT:**
 - 2. The band Soul Watt will perform on the downtown stage on Friday, August 4 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This event was rescheduled from July.
- HARAMBEE FESTIVAL:**
 - 3. The annual Harambee Festival begins on Saturday, August 5 and ends on Friday, August 11. Events are scheduled throughout the week at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center.
- CRUISE-IN:**
 - 4. A Cruise-In is scheduled on Saturday, August 5 beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the downtown area.
- ABC BOARD:**
 - 5. The ABC Board will meet on Thursday, August 20 at 2:00 p.m.
- LENOIR BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD:**
 - 6. The Lenoir Business Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, August 10 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Third Floor.
- CITY/COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE:**
 - 7. The City/County Services Committee will meet on Monday, August 14 at noon.

- B. Items for Council Action

- VII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**
- VIII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILMEMBERS**

UPDATE; ROTARY RAFFLE:

- A. Councilmember Ralph Prestwood informed Council the Rotary Club donated \$691.04 to the Downtown Lenoir Development Alliance.

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons thanked Mr. Prestwood for all that the Rotary clubs do in giving back to the community.

IX. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAYOR

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS,
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:**

- A. Alternate; Board of Adjustment: Mayor Gibbons recommended that Michael Careccia be appointed to serve as an Alternate on the Board of Adjustment to fill a vacant term which expires June 30, 2025. Mr. Careccia currently serves as a member of the Lenoir Planning Board. This appointment was announced at the July 18, 2023 City Council meeting.

LENOIR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORITY: B. Appointment; Lenoir Tourism Development Authority: Mayor Gibbons recommended that Karin Davidson be appointed to serve a four-year term on the Lenoir Tourism Development Authority (LTDA) that expires June 30, 2027. This appointment was announced at the July 18, 2023 City Council meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Stevens, City Council voted 6 to 0 to approve the above listed board appointments (Item A. & B.) for Michael Careccia and Karin Dickson as recommended by Mayor Gibbons.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- A. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 6:30 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
F. KENT GREER
T. H. PERDUE
J. I. PERKINS
R. S. PRESTWOOD
D. F. STEVENS
C. D. THOMAS

*Resolution to Support the myFutureNC
Attainment Goal*

WHEREAS, myFutureNC is a statewide non-profit organization focused on educational attainment and is the result of cross-sector collaboration between North Carolina leaders in education, business and government; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has the goal that 2 million North Carolinians will have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Lenoir City Council is committed to ensuring that 51% of individuals ages 25 - 44 have a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Lenoir City Council agrees that North Carolina faces a gap between the projected needs for citizens with high-quality credentials or postsecondary degrees and the attainment of those high-quality credentials or postsecondary degrees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Lenoir City Council supports and endorses the attainment goal of myFutureNC that 2 million North Carolinians should have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030; and

The Lenoir City Council supports and adopts the local educational attainment goal of 11,159 individuals with a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030 in Caldwell County; and

The Lenoir City Council along with leaders in business, education, state and local government, and community organizations will continue to foster collaboration to achieve the goal by developing an action plan, defining success with measurable outcomes, executing on the action plan, and sharing successful practices with myFutureNC and peer communities.

Adopted this the 1st day of August, 2023.

SEAL


Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk

