

## **CALLED MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, LINCOLN, ALABAMA**

August 2, 2023

The City Council of the City of Lincoln, Alabama met in a called meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Watson called the meeting to order and upon roll call the following answered present: Mayor Watson, Councilmembers Sadie Britt, Billy Pearson, Jennie Jones, Brandon Tate and Joey Callahan. Attorneys Mike O'Brien and Bent Owens were also present.

Mr. Matt Schultz requested an audience with the Council to appeal his dismissal. Due to the fact that Mr. Schultz is required to file a Statement of Economic Interests form with the Alabama Ethics Commission, job performance cannot be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Schultz presented a statement to be entered as part of the record of this meeting. Mr. Schultz was sworn in by the City Clerk and due to a speech impediment, his statement was recommended as substitute testimony. Mayor and Council were given time to read his statement and after which Council was given the opportunity to question Mr. Shultz regarding his statement. After discussion, an email was presented by Mr. Schultz which was entered as "City Exhibit 1". After questions regarding the email Mike O'Brien suggested a five-minute recess. Mayor Watson called the meeting back to order. Mayor Watson was sworn in by the City Clerk and gave his testimony. Dave Bechtel, an engineer for the city, was sworn in by the City Clerk for his testimony.

At 12:15 p.m. Councilmember Tate made a motion to go into executive session; second by Callahan. The vote was Pearson – Aye, Britt – Aye, Jones – Aye, Tate – Aye, Callahan – Aye and Mayor Watson – Aye. Mayor Watson stated the Council would reconvene in approximately thirty minutes and to expect action to be taken following the executive session. At 12:43 p.m. Mayor Watson reconvened the meeting. Councilmember Tate made a motion to come out of executive session; second by Callahan. The vote was Pearson – Aye, Britt – Aye, Jones – Aye, Tate – Aye, Callahan – Aye and Mayor Watson – Aye. Councilmember Tate made a motion to reverse the decision of firing Matt Schultz and reinstate him in the Water Department; second by Jones. The vote was Pearson – Nay, Britt – Nay, Jones – Aye, Tate – Aye and Callahan – Nay. Councilmember Callahan made a motion to stand behind the decision to terminate Matt Schultz; second by Pearson. The vote was Pearson – Aye, Britt – Aye, Jones – Nay, Tate – Nay and Callahan – Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Tate made a motion to adjourn; second by Pearson. The vote was Ayes: Britt, Pearson, Jones, Tate and Callahan.

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Carroll L. Watson, Mayor

Attest:

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Laura S. Carmack, City Clerk