

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the City of Lebanon, Pa., was held in Dixon Council Chamber of City Hall, Lebanon, Pa., this evening, Chairperson Morales presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson.  
Absent--none.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Acting Chief of Police Bret Fisher; Donna Long Brightbill, City Solicitor; Robin L. Getz, Director of Public Works; Janelle Mendoff, Community and Economic Development Coordinator; Assistant Fire Chief A.J. Sweitzer; Fire Chief Duane Trautman; seven persons in the audience; and three members of the news media.

The minutes of the December 19, 2022, and January 3, 2023, City Council meetings were presented by the City Clerk. There being no corrections, deletions or additions, the minutes were approved as presented.

Chairperson Morales announced that Council received a preliminary budget report for the period January 1-December 31, 2022. Mayor Capello reported that these are very preliminary numbers and the report does not reflect year-end accruals necessary to provide an accurate and comparative statement of finances. She explained that revenues for the last quarter of 2022 but received in the first two months of 2023 will be accrued back to 2022, particularly earned income tax. There are other financial items that the Finance Officer also needs to true up for the report. She added that the process gets complicated but it provides an accurate reflection of revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year. Preliminarily, revenues are at 115 percent and expenditures are at 88 percent. Mayor Capello reiterated that the numbers will definitely change from what is presented in tonight's report.

Chairperson Morales announced that the following communications were received:

- a. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, recommending to the County of Lebanon, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Joseph Morales as the City of Lebanon's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC). Mayor Capello reported that this position is required and the person oversees planning, training, and preparation during non-disaster times and during a disaster, the EMC oversees the Emergency Operations Center. Mayor Capello reported that the responsibilities that are placed on this person can be quite significant depending on the type of disaster and how large the disaster is at the time. She stressed that it is important to select the right person as the Emergency Management Coordinator. She added that to be an effective EMC, a person must be a leader, have the respect of emergency response groups across the county, be capable of rallying support for different community groups, have planning and training abilities, as well as, being able to handle the administrative side of

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things. She added that with Joe’s background with the Lebanon County Department of Emergency Services (DES) and his willingness to volunteer, it was only natural to have him in this position. Mayor Capello told Council that is not advisable to appoint a Fire Chief or Police Chief as the Emergency Management Coordinator because during a disaster they are committed to carrying out their individual duties. Mr. Morales stated that he is retired from the Lebanon County Department of Emergency Services and volunteered to serve as the City’s Emergency Management Coordinator. During his tenure with DES, he served as the County Emergency Management Coordinator for five years. He added that he will be working closely with Mayor Capello and Fire Chief Trautman. Recently, during a water pipe break at an apartment building in the City of Lebanon, Mr. Morales set up and operated a shelter with the help of the Salvation Army for the residents that were displaced. Mayor Capello reported that because Mr. Morales serves on City Council, he cannot receive a stipend for serving as the EMC. She further reported that the position has been vacant for several years and prior to that Richard Kuhnert and Bruce Daub served as the EMC.

- b. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Cheryl Feeman to the Board of Health to fill the unexpired term of Sandra Meluskey, effective January 18, 2023. Mayor Capello reported that Mrs. Feeman is a retired nurse and her background will be extremely helpful to the Board of Health. The term expires January 2026.

Mr. Wertz introduced Resolution No. 31, as follows:

A RESOLUTION AMENDING BILL NO. 5, SESSIONS 2022-2023, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, PA., FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTING THE AMOUNTS FOR LINE ITEMS IN THE CATEGORY A8-INSURANCE AND OTHER BENEFITS.

Be It Resolved by the Council of the City of Lebanon, Pa., and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, That:

SECTION 1. Bill No. 5, Sessions 2022-2023, making appropriations of the City of Lebanon, Pa., for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2023, is hereby amended for the purpose of correcting the amount for line items in the category A8-Insurance and Other Benefits, as follows:

A8-Insurance and Other Benefits

1.0108.483.1000	Police Pension Contribution	\$ 930,351
1.0108.483.2000	Fire Pension Contribution	258,304
1.0108.486.3500	Insurance and Bonding	309,903
1.0108.486.4500	Insurance Consultant	5,000
1.0108.486.9000	Contingencies and Deductibles	60,000
1.0108.487.1960	Medical Benefit – Retirees	1,056,525

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1.0108.487.1962	Life Insurance – Retirees	<u>2,500</u>
	<u>Total Insurance &amp; Other Benefits Expenditures</u>	<u>\$2,622,583</u>

SECTION 2. Any resolution or part of resolution conflicting with the provisions of this resolution is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this resolution.

Mayor Capello reported that the numbers were accurately depicted on the budget that was advertised and presented during November. When the ordinance was prepared, there was an alignment issue and this resolution reflects the correction. She added that the total of the division is accurate in both documents.

Resolution No. 31 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Wertz, seconded by Mr. Martin. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Mr. Miller called up Bill No. 8 on final reading, the title of which is as follows: “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FES FOR THE USE OF VARIOUS AREAS IN CITY HALL, 735 CUMBERLAND STREET, LEBANON”.

Mayor Capello reported that the fees are comparable to the fees that were charged by HACC and the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Bill No. 8 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Morales. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Mr. Wertz called up Bill No. 9 on final reading, the title of which is as follows: “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION 515.13, ‘MONTHLY RENTAL LOTS’, OF ARTICLE 515, ‘MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS’, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING TWO PARKING LOTS”.

Mayor Capello reported that there are two municipal lots where vehicles are parked, but the operators are not being charged and she is proposing to add the lots to the ordinance as monthly rental lots. The lots are located in residential areas and she is proposing a \$25.00 monthly rental fee which is the same rate as rental lots in other residential areas. The first lot is located at 10<sup>th</sup> and Water Streets and is no longer used as a parent pickup for students at the former Northwest Elementary School; the second lot is located at C&L and Gannon Streets. Negotiations during the bridge project resulted in a portion of the lot being reserved for use by the Knights of Columbus.

Bill No. 9 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Wertz, seconded by Mrs. Haitos. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Mr. Morales called up Bill No. 10 on final reading, the title of which is as follows: “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ADOPTION AND EXECUTION OF THE SECOND

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AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY ANNVILLE TOWNSHIP, CITY OF LEBANON, CLEONA BOROUGH AUTHORITY, NORTH CORNWALL TOWNSHIP, NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP, AND SOUTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEBANON AREA REGIONAL POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN”.

Mayor Capello reported that six entities entered into the inter-municipal agreement for the implementation of the stormwater plan; however, DEP did not issue the permit at the same time the inter-municipal agreement was implemented. This amendment will keep the term of the agreement the same as the permit period.

Bill No. 10 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Wertz. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Councilmember Martin reported that Visit Lebanon Valley is sponsoring Java Journey. There are nine coffee shops throughout Lebanon County participating in the Java Journey which runs from January 16 through March 11. More information is available on Visit Lebanon Valley’s website. Mayor Capello added that Visit Lebanon Valley was ordering more mugs because most of the shops sold out. Each year, the sales exceed the expectations and they need to order additional mugs. She reported that each shop has a special featured coffee for Java Journey participants.

Councilmember Martin reported that Community Homes of Lebanon is holding a groundbreaking ceremony on January 26 for a tiny home project which will give people a place to live while they are getting back on their feet. Although the development is not located within the city limits, it will serve many organizations within the city limits.

Craig Gates, 47 Berwyn Park, Lebanon, reported that the Community of Lebanon Association is sponsoring the Annual Cherry Pie Sale at the Farmers Market on February 17 and 18. Pre-orders can be submitted through the Community of Lebanon’s website. He also reminded everyone that the State of the City is scheduled for March 29 at the Hebron Banquet Hall. Craig also told Council that the CLA is working on plans to provide flowers in the downtown during the Streetscape Project.

Council Chairperson Morales extended congratulations to Alisher Aminov on the publication of his book, *The Human Element of Politics*, which is available for purchase on Amazon.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, City Clerk