

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the City of Lebanon, Pa., was held in Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 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, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson. Absent--Mr. Wertz.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Chief of Police Todd Breiner; Donna Long Brightbill, City Solicitor; Robin L. Getz, Director of Public Works; Janelle Mendoff, Director of Community and Economic Development; Melissa E. Quinones, Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor; A.J. Sweitzer, Assistant Fire Chief; Duane Trautman, Fire Chief; 21 persons in the audience; and 2 members of the news media.

The minutes of the August 22, 2022, City Council meeting 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 final budget report for the period January 1-December 31, 2021; and a budget report for the period January 1 through August 31, 2022. Regarding the 2021 end of year budget report, Mayor Capello reported that revenues were at 119 percent and expenditures were at 91 percent. She reported that the year was ended \$165,868 to the positive. Regarding the 2022 budget report through August 31, Mayor Capello reported that 67 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 84 percent; and expenditures are at 49 percent. Overall, we are performing better than budget in both categories.

Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor Melissa Quinones, transmitting notice of the 2023 minimum municipal pension plan contributions (Police-\$930,351; Fire-\$258,304; Non-Uniformed-\$0). Mayor Capello explained that this is a report of the minimum amount required to be paid into the pension funds. In comparison to the 2022 minimum municipal pension plan contributions, the contributions are slightly less. She added that the pension plan for the non-uniformed employees has been fully funded since prior to her taking office.

Mr. Morales called up Bill No. 4 on final reading, the title of which is as follows: AMENDING SUBSECTION 107.03, "GENERAL RULES", OF ARTICLE 107, "COUNCIL", OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ADDRESS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Chairperson Morales explained that Bill No. 4 amends the Rules of Council to require that individuals sign in and provide their address at meetings.

Bill No. 4 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Miller. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

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Councilmember Martin stated it was a busy day in the city and he extended thanks to the first responders.

Chris Coyle, LebTown, asked if a ladder truck is out of service for repairs to a radiator. Fire Chief Trautman explained that both ladder trucks are out of service for repairs. Mr. Coyle asked how much the City is paying to rent a ladder truck from the Borough of Catasauqua to which Mayor Capello responded the daily fee is \$200. She added that we are hoping to keep the number of days to a minimum; however, the fire department cannot operate without a ladder truck. Catasauqua was trying to sell its ladder truck and was amenable to a request to rent it to the City of Lebanon for a few weeks until the City of Lebanon's ladder trucks are back in service.

Norman Tobias, 424 Weidman Street, Lebanon, suggested that the yellow lines be repainted at the fire hydrants. Mr. Tobias asked if there are regulations addressing ball playing in the streets to which Police Chief Breiner responded it is not permitted. Mr. Tobias also asked if there are any Neighborhood Crime Watch groups to which Chief Breiner replied there are not. Mr. Tobias also asked how to report a strange obnoxious smell in the neighborhood. Chief Breiner responded that Mr. Tobias should call the police department and if they cannot determine the source of the smell, they will contact the fire department to investigate.

Lynn Nafzinger, 1131 Hauck Street, Lebanon, addressed Council about a neighbor who is feeding feral cats. She has contacted PAWS and the Lebanon County Humane Society; however, both organizations told her there is no funding to address the issue of feral cats.

Mayor Capello reported that previously, the City of Lebanon paid the Lebanon County Humane Society to operate a program to address feral cats. However, the Humane Society is no longer able to provide that service. Mayor Capello has met with PAWS of PA and they will be starting a program in the near future. Mayor Capello explained that the cats must continue to be fed for humane purposes; however, they are captured, neutered and returned back to the neighborhood. They will not be able to reproduce and eventually the colony will die out.

Joy Deck, 918 Reber Street, Lebanon, stated that she lives next to the person who is feeding the cats. In addition, there is a resident on Colebrook Road that built a cat house for the feral cats. Mayor Capello responded that she does not believe a permit is required to build a house for the cats; however, she will ask the Code Enforcement Inspectors to follow up to ensure the owner is complying with the requirements for sanitary conditions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, City Clerk