

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson. Absent—Mr. Miller.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Donna Long Brightbill, City Solicitor; Chief of Police Bret Fisher; Robin L. Getz, Director of Public Works; Fire Chief A.J. Sweitzer; five persons in the audience; and three members of the news media.

The minutes of the August 28, 2023, 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 budget report for the period January 1 through August 31, 2023. Mayor Capello reported that 67 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 86 percent; and expenditures are at 49 percent. Overall, performance is better than budgeted in both categories.

Chairperson Morales announced that Council received the following communications:

- a. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the reappointment of Dorothy Perez to the City of Lebanon Design Review Board for a five-year term, effective retroactively to July 22, 2023. Mayor Capello reported that Ms. Perez serves on the Board as the representative of the artists community. She further stated that the sketches on the historical Bridge over Norfolk Southern were done by Ms. Perez. Mayor Capello explained that Ms. Perez's reappointment was not included on the August agenda because the City did not receive confirmation from Ms. Perez in time to be placed on the agenda.
- b. Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor Melissa Quinones, transmitting notice of the 2024 minimum municipal pension plan contribution (Police-\$947,755; Fire-\$423,613; Non-Uniformed-\$0). Mayor Capello explained that this represents the minimum contribution to ensure the pension plans are sufficiently funded. The calculation is based on an actuarial valuation that is completed every two years; the last actuarial valuation was completed as of January 1, 2023. Mayor Capello further explained that for 2022, the rate of return was negative 16 percent for the fire pension fund. As of the last Board meeting, the rate of return for the fire pension fund was 9.35 percent. Mayor Capello further explained that the fire pension computation is based on market value while the police pension computation is based on a smoothing method over a five-year period. By the time the actuarial report was received and the Fire Pension Board voted to switch to a smoothing method, it was too late for the

smoothing method to be used for this minimum municipal obligation computation. Chris Coyle, LebTown, asked the reason for the negative return. Mayor Capello responded that the trend is on a national level. She added that the funds are invested in a variety of investments and the Board determines the split between equities and fixed income. There are money managers investing the funds in the portfolio. Mayor Capello noted that the police pension plan also had a negative return. Craig Gates stated that in 2022, the S&P Index was negative 18.1 percent.

Mr. Miller introduced Bill No. 12, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA.

WHEREAS, various ordinances of a general and permanent nature have been passed which should be included in the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lebanon, Pennsylvania:

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, That:

SECTION 1. The editing, arrangement and numbering or renumbering of the following ordinances and parts of ordinances are hereby approved as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, so as to conform to the classification and number system of the codified ordinances to wit:

Ordinance No.	Date	Subject	C.O. Section
3-2022,23	8-22-2022	Amending Article 153, “Bureau of Fire: Career and Volunteer Divisions”, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lebanon, PA.	Article 153
6-2022, 23	12-19-2022	Providing for the tax levy of the City of Lebanon, PA for the year 2023	Article 331
7-2022 ,23	12-19-2022	Amending Article 331, “Property Tax and Residence Tax”, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lebanon, PA, for the purpose of directing the Tax Collector to waive additional charges for real estate taxes in certain situations in accordance with Act 57 of 2022	Article 331
9-2022, 23	1-23-2023	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	Article 515

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

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

Mayor Capello explained that in the past, the codification was completed every two years. The codification is now done annually partly because the Codified Ordinances are posted online and we want to provide the most current version. Mayor Capello reviewed the ordinances that are included in this Supplement to the Codified Ordinances.

Bill No. 12 was introduced and will be passed finally at the monthly meeting of Council on September 25, 2023. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson--4; nays-none.

Councilmember Martin asked if the update to the traffic signals has been completed. Mayor Capello responded that the parts were purchased and the city staff installed them. She acknowledged that the timing of the signals is off and we will continue to review records to make sure the provisions of the permit are being maximized.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk