

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025

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. Morales, Mr. Potash (via teleconference), and Mr. Martin, Chairperson. Absent—Mr. Maguire.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Campbell; Chief of Police Bret Fisher; City Solicitor G. Edward Schweikert; Fire Chief A.J. Sweitzer; Chad Yeagley, Director of Public Works; 16 persons in the audience; and 2 members of the news media.

The minutes of the December 16, 2024, and January 6, 2025, City Council meetings were presented by the City Clerk. There being no corrections, deletions or additions, the minutes were approved as presented.

Chairperson Martin announced that the following communications were received:

- a. Pa. Auditor General Timothy DeFoor, transmitting the audit report of the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for the period January 1 through December 31, 2023. Mayor Capello reported that the auditor did not find any deficiencies in internal controls, no instances of non-compliance and no matters which are required to be included by government standards. However, the auditor noted that two projects were completed without obtaining a project number from PennDot. She added that the total of the projects was \$38,588.31 and that amount has been budgeted in 2025 for return to the Liquid Fuel Tax Fund. Mayor Capello told Council that all of the staff overseeing the Liquid Fuel Tax Fund will be trained and counseled that anytime milling is done and there is one inch or more of overlay, a project number must be obtained from PennDot prior to the start of the project.
- b. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the reappointment of Betty J. Eiceman to the City of Lebanon Authority for a five-year term, effective January 1, 2025. Mayor Capello reported that Mrs. Eiceman has served on the Authority since 2002. Mayor Capello explained that although the City of Lebanon Authority is a separate entity, it is a city authority and in accordance with the *Home Rule Charter*, members are appointed by the Mayor. The City of Lebanon Authority is comprised of five residents of the city. Mayor Capello commended Mrs. Eiceman for her commitment not only as a previous Mayor but her many roles, including this one.
- c. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Richard A. Wertz to the City of Lebanon Shade Tree Commission to fill the unexpired term of Jane Yocum, effective January 8, 2025. The term will expire on November 30, 2028. Mayor Capello explained that the Shade Tree Commission develops policy regarding the care and protection of shade trees. She added that shade trees are located in the

grassy strip between the sidewalk and curb. A permit is required to plant, prune or remove a shade tree.

- d. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Career Firefighter Allen Firestine to the Paid Firemen’s Pension Fund Board to fill the unexpired term of Anthony Ficco, III, effective January 20, 2025. Mayor Capello explained that the Paid Firemen’s Pension Fund Board is comprised of the Mayor, who serves as Chair per Code; two Career Firefighters; and two residents of the City of Lebanon. The Board authorizes distributions from the plan, certifies the amount, the kind of benefit payable, and ensures audits are performed. She added that Mr. Ficco requested to resign from the Board and the I.A.F.F. Local 1952 elected Career Firefighter Firestine to serve the remainder of Mr. Ficco’s term.

Chairperson Martin noted that these are all volunteer positions and he thanked those folks willing to serve.

Mr. Martin called up Bill No. 7 on final reading, the title of which is as follows: “AMENDING ARTICLE 1382, ‘STORMWATER MANAGEMENT’ OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING NEW STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS”.

Mayor Capello reported that Bill No. 7 has been amended since introduction to reflect minor changes recommended by City Engineer Steve Sherk. Mr. Sherk stated that he was also responsible for updating the stormwater ordinance for the other municipalities and during that process, he felt there were some changes needed to the initial ordinance presented to Council.

Following are the changes to Bill No. 7 since its introduction on December 16, 2024:

- Section 3.05.5 was deleted
- Section 308.D - the phrase “except that rain gardens with a maximum water depth of 12 inches shall not require perimeter fencing” was added to the second sentence.
- Section 308(O) – the sentence “Detention basins not intended for infiltration or managed release shall be designed to completely dewater within twenty-four (24) hours following the end of the design rainfall” was inserted.
- Section 310 – The formatting/numbering of Section 310(C) to 310(G) was corrected.
- Section 406, “Construction Inspections”, was inserted into Article IV, “Stormwater Management Site Plans”. The content of this section was previously included under Article V, “Inspections”, Section 501, “General Requirements”. The contents of this section have not changed other than the section title changing from “General Requirements” to “Construction Inspections”.
- The title of Article V was changed from “Inspections” to “Operation and Maintenance”.
- Section 501, “Ownership and Maintenance Responsibilities” (formerly Section 409); Section 502, “Ownership and Maintenance Agreement” (formerly Section

410); and Section 503, “Maintenance of Existing Stormwater Management Facilities” (formerly Section 411) were moved from Article IV, “Stormwater Management Site Plans” to Article V, “Operation and Maintenance”. The content of the foregoing sections did not change.

- Under Article IV, “Stormwater Management Site Plans”, Sections 407, 408, 409, and 410 were previously listed as Section 406, 407, 408, and 412. The content of these sections did not change. However, the section numbers changed due to the other changes noted above.
- Under Article V, “Operation and Maintenance”, Section 504 was previously listed as Section 502. The content of this section did not change. However, the section number changed due to the other changes noted above.

Bill No. 7 was passed finally, as amended, on motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mrs. Haitos. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Morales, Mr. Potash, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson—4; nays—none.

David Funk, Chairman, Coleman Memorial Park Board of Trustees, presented the Board’s annual report for the year 2024. On behalf of the Board, he extended appreciation for the support from the City of Lebanon and its staff. The following activities were held at the park during 2024:

- A 5K Run and Easter Egg Hunt
- Music in the Park celebrated its 33rd Anniversary. Music in the Park hosts 13 weekly performances during the summer and has groups scheduled through 2026.
- Spinstock Festival – June
- 38th Baseball Hitting Contest – August. Dave extended his thanks to Brian Davenport for keeping the baseball fields in excellent condition. The tournaments attract folks from all around the United States.
- Summer Concert Series sponsored by Friends of Coleman Memorial Park
- Harvest Festival – October – sponsored by Friends of Coleman Memorial Park with assistance from Making a Difference
- Christkindl Market – December - sponsored by Friends of Coleman Memorial Park with assistance from Making a Difference
- Sweep the Streets Basketball Tournaments – June and August
- Community of Lebanon Association Music and Brew Fest – September
- Pa. Interscholastic Mountain Bike Race - September
- Disc Golf Tournaments
- Envirothon – April

Mr. Funk reported that the City of Lebanon paved a portion of Bashore Drive and replaced a furnace at the Exit House in the park. He also extended thanks to the County of Lebanon for its support of the park. He reported that a grant for pickleball courts has been received and the dog park is in final design. Mr. Funk reported that the connector trail to Union Canal is currently under construction and when the project is fully completed, it will connect two 100-acre parks within walking distance.

Mr. Funk stated that there were several changes to the Board membership during 2024. Both David Schnoke and Robert Sentz resigned. New Board members appointed include Jay Green, Cornell Wilson, Chris Smith, and Cindy Rauch.

Chairperson Martin extended his appreciation to the Board members for attending the meeting. He added that in his opinion, Coleman Memorial Park is a hidden jewel. He personally traveled to various parks along the east coast and Coleman Memorial Park has a different feel that many parks do not have.

Chairperson Martin asked what the structure is between the Board and the City of Lebanon. Councilmember Morales reported that Coleman Memorial Park was deeded to the City in 1936 and the bylaws state that the Board be appointed by the Court of Common Pleas. The park is owned by the City of Lebanon and managed by the Board of Trustees. Mayor Capello added that the area where the swimming pool was formerly located was not part of the deed and that parcel was purchased by the City of Lebanon; hence, the reason the City was able to charge admission to the pool.

Mayor Capello reported that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) oversees the Community Development Block Grant Program and is requiring that a community needs survey be conducted. The five areas of the survey include: housing, public service, public improvements, economic development, and community facilities. She added that the survey can be completed online and printed copies are also available. The deadline for submitting the survey is March 15. The results of the survey will help to determine the allocation of funding available to the City of Lebanon.

Cornell Wilson, 27 South Sixth Street, Lebanon, thanked Mr. Funk for the presentation. He reported that the Coleman Memorial Park Board of Trustees also partnered with Level Eleven for branding and the design of a new website for Coleman Memorial Park. Mr. Wilson also reported that a campaign is underway to raise funds for the purchase of park benches to be placed throughout the park. He also thanked those who donated to the first annual appeal.

Mr. Wilson announced that upcoming events at the park include a 5K Run/Walk on April 19 and a Safety Festival with fire, police, EMT's, and healthcare representatives on June 28.

Mr. Wilson extended his appreciation to the City of Lebanon for the improvements made along the Veterans' Memorial Walkway. The improvements include planting of trees, new railing, and new benches. Mayor Capello reported that project should be finished in Spring 2025.

Laurie Funk, 609 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, on behalf of the Coalition to End Homelessness, extended thanks for the use of City Hall in conjunction with the Point in Time (PIT) count recently held in the middle of a Code Blue. She reported that nine individuals were found during the count. Over 60 volunteers and 20 agencies were represented in the PIT count. Mayor Capello extended appreciation for the job the coalition does.

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Bill Thomas, 354 North Ninth Street, Lebanon, distributed a list of properties in the city that are eligible for the homestead exclusion. His list was focused on homes assessed at \$60,000 or less. Mr. Thomas requested that the list be posted in the lobby as there are 148 families that could benefit from the program. He stated that he would also like to request that the application be posted on the city website. Mayor Capello reported that this is a county program and the city posted information on the website when the program was open. Chairperson Martin thanked Mr. Thomas for bringing awareness of the program to the community.

Craig Gates, 47 Berwyn Park, Lebanon, reminded folks of the CLA's Cherry Pie promotion scheduled for February 14 and 15 at the Lebanon Farmers Market. The cost of a slice of pie is \$4.00. Mayor Capello added that there is also an opportunity to purchase pie and have it donated to a non-profit such as Lebanon County Christian Ministries, Rescue Mission, and Chestnut Street Community Center.

Mr. Gates also announced that the CLA was awarded a State Local Recovery Grant from the County of Lebanon. The funds will be used to purchase 64 hanging baskets and 24 self-watering planters for Downtown Lebanon. He also extended thanks to the City of Lebanon as they will be assisting with watering the flowers in 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk