

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 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—Mr. Maguire, Mr. Morales, Mr. Potash (via teleconference), and Mr. Martin, Chairperson. Absent—Mrs. Haitos.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Campbell; Chief of Police Bret Fisher; Community and Economic Development Coordinator Janelle Groh; Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor Melissa Quinones; City Solicitor Theresa Davis; Fire Chief A.J. Sweitzer; Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley; 12 persons in the audience; and 1 member of the news media.

The minutes of the January 27, 2025, City Council meeting were presented by the City Clerk. There being no corrections, deletions or additions, the minutes were approved as presented.

Chairperson Martin announced that Council received a budget report for the period January 1 through January 31, 2025. Mayor Capello reported that eight percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at four percent; and expenditures are at eight percent. Mayor Capello reported that the bills for real estate taxes will be mailed in the beginning of March and she expects revenues will lag until the March report.

Chairperson Martin announced that the following communications were received:

- a. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Patrol Officer Travis Pidcock to the City of Lebanon Police Pension Fund Board to fill the unexpired term of Sgt. Steve Bord, effective January 23, 2025. Mayor Capello reported that Sgt. Steve Bord retired with 38 years of experience and Officer Pidcock volunteered to fill the remainder of Sgt. Bord's term on the City of Lebanon Police Pension Board. Officer Pidcock served with another police department prior to joining the Lebanon Police Department two years ago. She added that he is part of the bike patrol, is CISM certified, and overall, he has been a great addition to the department.
- b. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the reappointment of Sallie Neuin, Lebanon County Treasurer, to the City of Lebanon Land Bank for a five-year term, effective February 9, 2025. Mayor Capello reported that the Land Bank was created in 2017 and was initially comprised of three members from the Lebanon County Redevelopment Authority; one representative from the Lebanon County Treasurer's Office; one representative from the real estate/appraisal industry; and one resident who maintained an active membership with a civic organization. Mrs. Neuin has

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served as the representative from the Lebanon County Treasurer's Office and has agreed to serve an additional term.

Councilmember Morales extended thanks to the folks serving on Boards. He encouraged anyone interested in serving on a Board to contact Mayor Capello. Chairperson Martin added that the City is always looking for candidates to serve on the various Boards and serving on a Board is a great way to get involved in local government.

Mayor Capello reported that following Bill Thomas' remarks at the February 20 Pre-Council meeting, information about applying for the Homestead Exclusion was posted on the City of Lebanon's website and social media. The information posted was based on the advice from the City Solicitor in 2024 when Mr. Thomas made the same request. She added that we understand Mr. Thomas' passion to help community members.

Mayor Capello provided an update on several projects, as follows:

- Dog Park at Coleman Memorial Park – the contract was awarded to Columbia Excavating, LLC, in the amount of \$267,000.00. It is anticipated the Dog Park will be open by the end of June.
- Installation of New Playground Equipment – the Department of Public Works began removing playground equipment at the Third and Crowell Streets Tot Lot, East End Playground, and the Sixth and Crowell Streets Tot Lot in preparation for the installation of new equipment.
- Pickleball Court at Coleman Memorial Park – the advertisement for bids was announced on February 26 and the deadline to submit bids is March 21.
- Veterans' Memorial Walkway – the improvements to Veterans' Memorial Walkway began in 2024 and will be completed in 2025. She reported that staff is removing the old wood from the park benches, trash receptacles, and picnic tables. The installation of new amenities along the Veterans' Memorial Walkway will begin on March 11. Veterans' Memorial Walkway is a pedestrian walkway/bike path and will be highlighted with the construction of the new spur that takes folks from the LVRT Eighth Street Trailhead on the streets to Liberty Trail Park; then to Veterans Memorial Walkway; and finally, to John E. Wengert Memorial Park.
- Work on the connector trail at Coleman Memorial Park is underway.
- The splash pad at Southwest Park should be completed by the end of the summer.

Chairperson Martin announced that the monthly Council meetings are held on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. with a Pre-Council meeting held the preceding Thursday at 4:45 p.m. He added that the dates are posted on the calendar on the city website, [www.lebanonpa.org](http://www.lebanonpa.org).

Cornell Wilson, 27 South Sixth Street, Lebanon, thanked Mayor Capello for the improvements to the tot lots and playgrounds. He reported that the numerous potholes on Quince Street, between Fifth and Sixth Streets and Cumberland and Chestnut Streets need to be addressed. Mayor Capello thanked Cornell for the donation of \$1,000 by Making a Difference for the planting of a tree along Veterans' Memorial Walkway.

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Craig Gates, 47 Berwyn Park, Lebanon, announced that the Community of Lebanon Association is sponsoring the State of the City on March 26, 2025, at Hebron Banquet Hall. Interested persons can register on the CLA's website, [www.lebanoncla.com](http://www.lebanoncla.com).

Dave Funk, 609 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, asked how the Liberty Alley improvements and the Veterans Memorial Walkway connect. Mayor Capello explained that this phase is Veterans Memorial Walkway, located between 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets; south on 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Chestnut Street to the John E. Wengert Memorial Park. A study was performed to connect the Eighth Street Rail Trail head coming into town and that connection will be via streets and sidewalks and will have street markings and signs marking the trail. To date, the work for that phase of the project has not begun.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk