

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

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. Maguire, Mr. Martin, Mr. Potash, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson. Absent--none.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Chief of Police Bret Fisher; City Solicitor Michael Miller; Melissa E. Quinones, Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor; Fire Chief A.J. Sweitzer; Chad Yeagley, Director of Public Works; five persons in the audience; and two members of the news media.

The minutes of the November 14 and 25, 2024, 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 budget report for the period January 1 through November 30, 2024. Mayor Capello reported that 92 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 99 percent; and expenditures are at 84 percent. She reported that we are performing better than budget in both categories.

Chairperson Morales announced that the following communications were received:

- a. Barbacane Thornton and Company, transmitting the audit of the City of Lebanon Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023. Mayor Capello reported that there were no findings during the audit and no deficiencies in internal controls that the auditors consider to be material weaknesses were identified.
- b. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the reappointment of Melissa Quinones, Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor as a Delegate and the appointment of Finance Officer Melissa Weihrauch as an alternate delegate to the Lebanon County Tax Collection Committee for a one-year term, effective January 1, 2025. Mayor Capello reported the Tax Collection Committee is comprised of a representative from each of the school districts in the county; and the municipalities within each school district have a shared representative. She added that the City of Lebanon and West Lebanon Township share a representative; and historically, West Lebanon Township defers to the City of Lebanon for the appointment. Councilmember Maguire asked if there is a formal agreement with West Lebanon Township regarding representation to which Mayor Capello replied there is no written agreement.
- c. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Rebecca Woodhouse to fill the vacant position on the City of Lebanon Planning Commission, effective December 9, 2024. Said term expires September 14, 2028. Mayor

Capello reported the city is divided into five planning regions. We are required to have a representative from each region and there are two at large members. James Fick previously served on the Planning Commission as a representative for Area 4. When Mr. Fick resigned from the Planning Commission, Mrs. Woodhouse expressed interest in serving and resided in Area 4. Mayor Capello reported that Mrs. Woodhouse is a partner with Level Eleven; is a developer and consultant for web design, photography, and arts; was co-publisher of *The Table* for five years; serves as a mentor with Mentor a Mother; and serves as Treasurer for the Lebanon County Commission on Women. Councilmember Maguire asked if all positions on the Planning Commission are filled. Mayor Capello replied that there is still a vacancy for a member representing the southwest section of the city.

Mr. Morales called up Bill No. 6 on final reading, the title of which is as follows: “AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE TAX LEVY OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, PA., FOR THE YEAR 2025”.

Mayor Capello reported that the tax rate will remain at 4.581 mills; the average tax bill is \$475.00; and city taxes have not been increased for ten consecutive years. Bill No. 6 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Potash. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Martin, Mr. Potash, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson--5; nays--none.

Mr. Maguire introduced Bill No. 7, the title of which is as follows: “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1382, ‘STORMWATER MANAGEMENT’, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCWS OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING NEW STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS”.

Mayor Capello reported that in 2013 an amendment was prepared based on comments by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the NPDES permit submitted by the City. The amendment was subsequently adopted in 2014. In 2018, there was a requirement to update the 2022 regulations. The City Engineer has been working on this re-write which addresses stormwater plans to be recorded, updated water quality and volume regulations, and added conditions for non-stormwater discharges. Mayor Capello told Council that she anticipates the ordinance will need to be updated in one to two years when the Department of Environmental Protection issues a new permit for the City.

Chairperson Morales asked if there has been any discussion at the state level to lessen the requirement. He added that it seems like the regulations are continuously being updated and it is a constant state of reaction for the municipality. He stated in the past, the City purchased a second street sweeper only to find out it was not a means of remediation. Mayor Capello clarified that the purchase of the street sweeper was a necessary replacement/upgrade of equipment because there are always two street sweepers in operation. If the Mayor and Council want to continue to have the same street sweeping operations, it will be necessary to replace equipment because of maintenance. Mayor Capello explained that it is accurate to say that when there was first discussion about the NPDES permit, DEP originally said 89 percent of the sediment taken off the streets would count toward the Pollutant Reduction Plan. Subsequently, DEP changed its interpretation after reading a “white paper” and the percentage was reduced to

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL – DECEMBER 16, 2024

13 percent. With the change in interpretation, the City of Lebanon was not able to meet the requirements and joined with five other municipalities within Lebanon County to create a stormwater consortium in order to meet the requirements. She added that with the change in presidency, she is not sure if there will be changes to the requirements. Chairperson Morales asked if all members of the consortium are doing their part to which Mayor Capello replied yes.

Bill No. 7 was introduced and will be considered on final reading at the Council meeting of January 27, 2025, on motion of Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Morales. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Potash, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson--4; nays--none; abstentions--Mr. Maguire--1.

Mayor Capello reported that the New Year's Eve Bologna Drop will be held on December 31, 2024, beginning at 10:00 p.m. D.J. Jim Payne will be providing the music. She thanked E&E Metal for making the disco ball and the year plate; Seltzers Smokehouse Meats for providing the bologna; Arther Funk & Son for providing the lift and hoist; the Community of Lebanon Association for providing the stage; and Eckert Seaman for the monetary contribution. The bologna from the event will be donated to the Lebanon Rescue Mission. In addition to a monetary contribution, Visit Lebanon Valley provided coloring sheets with bologna characters for a coloring contest for kids.

Craig Gates, 47 Berwyn Park, Lebanon, on behalf of the Community of Lebanon Association, extended his thanks to the Lebanon Police Department for their assistance with the Holiday Carriage Rides held earlier this month.

Chairperson Morales announced that the Re-Organization Meeting will be held on January 6, 2025, at 4:45 p.m.

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

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk