

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 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 (via teleconference), and Mr. Morales, Chairperson. Absent--none.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Campbell; Chief of Police Bret Fisher; Janelle Mendoff, Community and Economic Development Administrator; Tricia Springer, City Solicitor; Fire Chief A.J. Sweitzer; Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley; ten persons in the audience; and three members of the news media.

The minutes of the December 18, 2023, and January 2, 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 communication from Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the reappointment of Robert Hoffman to the City of Lebanon Authority for a five-year term, effective January 1, 2024. Mayor Capello reported that initially Mr. Hoffman was appointed by former Mayor Betty Eiceman and served on the City of Lebanon Authority for ten years. In 2011, Mayor Capello appointed Mr. Hoffman to fill the unexpired term of the late David Etter. In total, Mr. Hoffman has served on the City of Lebanon Authority for nearly 25 years.

Mr. Potash introduced Resolution No. 1, as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF LEBANON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NORTH CORNWALL TOWNSHIP FOR THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES WITHIN NORTH CORNWALL TOWNSHIP.

WHEREAS, North Cornwall Township and the City of Lebanon (collectively the "Municipalities" and individually a "Municipality") are political subdivisions located within the County of Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, the Municipalities desire to enter into an agreement whereby the City of Lebanon would provide certain fire protection services within designated areas of North Cornwall Township; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 53 Pa. C.S. § 2301 *et seq.*, permits municipalities to enter into agreements to cooperate in the performance of their respective functions, powers or responsibilities; and

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL – JANUARY 22, 2024

WHEREAS, the Municipalities desire to enter into an Agreement for fire protection services to be provided by the City of Lebanon to North Cornwall Township; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act provides that any joint cooperation agreement shall be deemed in force as to any municipality when the same has been adopted by Resolution by all cooperating municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Municipalities desire to each adopt such a Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Lebanon and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, That:

SECTION 1. The caption of and recitals to this Resolution as set forth above are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. This Municipality agrees that the City of Lebanon and North Cornwall Township shall join with each other in accordance with the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Act by entering into an Agreement concerning the provision of fire protection services to North Cornwall Township by the City of Lebanon, which is adopted by reference with the same effect as if it had been set out verbatim in this section and a copy of which shall be attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and shall be filed with the minutes of the meeting at which this Resolution was enacted.

SECTION 3. This Municipality is authorized to enter into the Agreement for Fire Protection Services, an intermunicipal agreement, for the purposes contained therein. This action is to be taken by the officials or employees of the Municipality designated for this purpose, pursuant to general or specific instructions issued by the governing body.

SECTION 4. As required by the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, the following matters are specifically found and determined:

- A. The conditions of the agreement are set forth in the Agreement for Fire Protection Services attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.
- B. The Agreement for Fire Protection Services shall commence upon execution of the agreement by all parties and shall continue for such time as indicated in Section 1 of the Agreement.
- C. The purposes and objectives of the Agreement are to enable the City of Lebanon to provide contracted fire protection services within designated areas of North Cornwall Township in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.
- D. North Cornwall Township’s financial obligation shall be met using the Township’s Emergency Responders Fund and/or General Fund.

E. No new entity or organizational structure is proposed to be formed.

F. No real property is proposed to be acquired in the Agreement.

SECTION 5. In the event any provision, section, sentence, clause, or part of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality, or unconstitutionality shall not affect or impair the remaining provisions, sections, sentences, clauses, or parts of this Resolution, it being the intent of the Council of the City of Lebanon that the remainder of the Resolution shall be and shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force upon execution.

Mayor Capello reported that initially, she discussed this arrangement during the budget workshops. North Cornwall Township will pay the City of Lebanon for services rendered for two box cards in North Cornwall Township in the vicinity of the North Cornwall Commons development. She added that the agreement provides for a minimum annual payment of \$25,000 and the calls will be tallied throughout the year. If the number of calls exceeds the minimum amount, the City of Lebanon will begin to bill North Cornwall Township at the rates set forth in the agreement. Fire Chief Sweitzer reported that the Lebanon Fire Department will not be responding to calls for accidents, automatic fire alarms, and trees down.

Resolution No. 1 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Potash, seconded by Mr. Maguire. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Martin, Mr. Potash, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Mayor Capello reported that Dave and Laurie Funk founded the Chestnut Street Community Center in 2021 to provide a safe and affordable space for not only human service agencies but also faith-based organizations at a financial burden to themselves. She stated that Dave and Laurie are two very humble individuals that represent the true spirit of giving back to the community.

Laurie Funk extended her thanks to Mayor Capello and Council for supporting and helping to revitalize the former First Evangelical Church Educational Building at 611 Chestnut Street. She reported that in August 2021, the Chestnut Street Community Center successfully received a grant through the Community Development Block Grant Program-CV for the installation of an elevator to make all floors at the Chestnut Street Community Center accessible. She added that other renovations at the Center include the installation of a new HVAC system, the installation of a fire protection sprinkler system, the replacement of windows, lights to fit out a worship center, the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 community education space, and a 24/7 space for the Lebanon County Christian Ministries Fresh Start Emergency Shelter. Additional funding was also received from Wellspan, the Lebanon County Christian Ministries, and private donations.

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL – JANUARY 22, 2024

Mrs. Funk reported that renovations are complete and currently the ground floor is used 4-5 times weekly for worship and program by a congregation of more than 70 people; and the first floor is utilized by the Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 for 60 students and 8 staff for English, GED and Citizenship classes. The space being used for the Lebanon County Christian Ministries Fresh Start Program is being cleaned this week.

Mrs. Funk reported that the Lebanon County Coalition for Homelessness will be conducting the HUD Point in Time Count this week. She explained that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development mandates that a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless folks across the country be conducted in communities throughout the United States during this period.

Mrs. Funk announced that the Chestnut Street Community Center will host an Open House on January 29, 2024, from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. for the community.

Chairperson Morales thanked Dave and Laurie Funk for establishing the Chestnut Street Community Center. Prior to this facility, Lebanon County Christian Ministries partnered with local churches to provide shelter where homeless folks could sleep.

In closing, Mr. Funk extended thanks to Mayor Capello, Council, and Community and Economic Development Administrator Janelle Mendoff for their support and assistance throughout this project. Mr. Funk added that it is enjoyable and predictable to work with the various city departments on projects and that is not always his experience in other municipalities.

Councilmember Martin stated that he served on the Zoning Hearing Board when this project first came before the Board and it is great to see the project come to fruition.

Wiley Parker, Three East High Street, Lebanon, addressed Council regarding noise in the city. He stated that this issue was brought before Council when he served and he didn't think it was an issue. He stated that this issue is becoming more of a problem and at his residence on any summer afternoon he can hear thumping music coming from vehicular traffic on Walnut Street.

Mr. Parker also addressed Council regarding synchronization of traffic signals in the city. Specifically, the signals on Ninth Street and Cumberland Street are a problem. He said in the past he was told that the city did not have the technology to address the synchronization issue. He stated that he feels the lack of traffic light synchronization creates a bad aura for the city. Mayor Capello replied that during Mr. Parker's tenure on Council upgrades to the signals were discussed. A few years ago, the City learned about new technology and allocated funds to replace and update the signals. She added that the signals were synchronized in accordance with the permit issued by PennDot in 2023. Further, the Director of Public Works has contacted LTAP for assistance with this ongoing issue.

Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley reported that he spoke to Mike Bates at the City Maintenance Garage who has been involved with the maintenance and operation of traffic signals for a long time. He confirmed that \$140,000 was spent on GPS and wireless timers for

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL – JANUARY 22, 2024

the two loops in the Downtown and Lehman Street. Currently, everything is running in accordance with directives received from PennDot in 2022. He acknowledged that there are areas where traffic backs up. Mr. Yeagley explained that PennDot's goal to manage traffic through the city to allow smaller groups of vehicles to travel through the intersection at one time. He reported that he has contacted the representative at PennDot to review this matter.

Mayor Capello reported that recently artificial intelligence is a topic often discussed. She reported that the City of Lebanon recently entered into a contract with a new company, Vialytics which conducts an assessment of road conditions and storm drains, can track plowing and salting operations, and eventually the condition of street signs. Upon completion of the road assessment, the report will be color coded showing the condition of the streets throughout the city. The company was recommended to the City of Lebanon by the Lebanon County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley reported that Vialytics is a German-based company that has been in business for ten years and the City of Lebanon is one of three municipalities in the United States participating in a pilot program. He explained that when the employees are driving the vehicles, the software takes photos every ten feet and analyzes the road surface. Currently, approximately 70 percent of the city is mapped. Eventually, signage will be inventoried and noted if it needs replaced. Overall, the program will allow the city to do more with less manpower. Mr. Yeagley anticipates to provide more information to Council at a future meeting.

Councilmember Martin asked if this is a separate device mounted on the vehicle which requires no physical entry of information. Mr. Yeagley responded affirmatively and outside of entering notes, there is basically no data entry.

Cornell Wilson, 27 South Sixth Street, Lebanon, asked when the work will be completed to replace the lines and arrows on the street at the intersection of Fifth and Cumberland Street. Mayor Capello replied that there was a utility exploration in that area for a stormwater project. As of last week, the project has been downsized and as soon as the temperatures allow, the lines and arrows will be replaced.

Mr. Wilson also reported that trash cans at 25, 27, and 29 South Sixth Street, Lebanon, are stored in the front of the property even though there is a walkway to the rear of the property. Additionally, one resident is leaving trash lay on the sidewalk. Mayor Capello stated that she will ask the Code Enforcement Inspectors to follow up on the complaint.

Julia McCartney, 418 Steitz Street, Lebanon, stated that she agrees with Mr. Parker regarding the noise in the city. Recently, she was parked on Cumberland Street and the noise from a passing vehicle sounded like gunshots.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk