

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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, Vice Chairperson Martin 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 (teleconference). Absent--none.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Jeffrey Campbell, Deputy Fire Chief; Chief of Police Bret Fisher; Janelle Groh, Community and Economic Development Administrator; Melissa E. Quinones, Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor; Gedd Schweiker, City Solicitor; A.J. Sweitzer, Fire Chief; Chad Yeagley, Director of Public Works; seven persons in the audience; and two members of the news media.

The minutes of the August 26, 2024, City Council meeting were presented by the City Clerk. There being no corrections, deletions or additions, the minutes were approved as presented.

Vice Chairperson Martin announced that Council received a budget report for the period January 1 through August 31, 2024. Mayor Capello reported that 66 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 85 percent; and expenditures are at 53 percent. She reported that we are performing better than budget in both categories.

Vice Chairperson Martin announced that Council received the following communications:

- a. Pa. Auditor General Timothy Defoor, transmitting the Compliance Audit of the City of Lebanon Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Mayor Capello reported that the results of the audit indicated that in all significant respects, the plan was administered in compliance with applicable regulations, contracts, administrative procedures and local ordinances and policies. She further reported that as of December 31, 2020, the plan had 25 active members, 3 members eligible for vested benefits and 44 retirees receiving pension benefits. As of 1/1/2023, the actuarial value of assets was \$13.56 million and the plan was 136 percent overfunded.
- b. Pa. Auditor General Timothy Defoor, transmitting the Compliance Audit of the City of Lebanon Paid Firemen's Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Mayor Capello reported that the results of the audit indicated that in all significant respects, the plan was administered in compliance with applicable regulations, contracts, administrative procedures and local ordinances and policies. She further reported that as of December 31, 2023, the plan had 19 active members

and 26 retirees receiving pension benefits. As of 1/1/2023, the actuarial value of assets was \$9 million and the plan was 87 percent funded.

- c. Pa. Auditor General Timothy Defoor, transmitting the compliance Audit of the City of Lebanon Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Mayor Capello reported that the results of the audit indicated that in all significant respects, the plan was administered in compliance with applicable regulations, contracts, administrative procedures and local ordinances and policies. She further reported that as of December 31, 2023, the plan had 32 active members, 4 terminated members eligible for vested benefits, and 51 retirees receiving pension benefits. As of 1/1/2023, the actuarial value of assets was \$24 million and the plan was 89 percent funded.
- d. Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor Melissa Quinones, transmitting notice of the 2025 minimum municipal pension plan contributions (Police-\$1,037,812; Fire-\$398,491; and Non-Uniformed-\$0). Mayor Capello reported that in order to ensure the pension plans are sufficiently funded, an actuarial report is completed every two years. In September of each year, municipalities are required to calculate the amount that must be contributed to each plan the following year.

Councilmember Maguire introduced Resolution No. 17, as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO BE DESIGNATED AND DIRECTED TO SIGN ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AS IT RELATES TO THE CORNWALL ROAD AND ORANGE STREET INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon (the “City”), Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, has solicited proposals from qualified transportation planning and engineering firms for the design, permitting and technical administration of the Cornwall Road and Orange Street Intersection Improvements Project (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the City is working to advance the Project in coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Lebanon County Metropolitan Planning Organization (LEBCOMPO), and the Lebanon School District; and

WHEREAS, the project will be funded with federal funds through the Surface Transportation Program; and

WHEREAS, the City must meet certain PennDOT requirements, which include identifying an authorized City representative to execute necessary PennDOT documents associated with the implementation of these funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Council of the City of Lebanon, Pa., and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, That:

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SECTION 1. The Mayor of the City of Lebanon is authorized and directed to sign on its behalf any and all agreements entered into with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation.

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

Mayor Capello reported that part of the Land Development Plan for Lebanon School District's new intermediate school indicated that a traffic signal was warranted. The City negotiated with the Lebanon School District and the Lebanon School District paid for the engineering costs, the Lebanon County MPO assisted the City with obtaining U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's "Surface Transportation Program" (STP), which is flexible funding and is 100 percent reimbursable for construction work. She added that because the City will let the project, the City will be reimbursed for the costs and needs a Reimbursement Agreement with PennDot. The anticipated cost of the project, including inspection and contingencies, is estimated to be \$270,000.

Resolution No. 17 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Potash. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Morales, Mr. Potash, and Vice Chairperson Martin---5; nays--none.

Mrs. Haitos introduced Resolution No. 18, as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO BE DESIGNATED AND DIRECTED TO SIGN ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AS IT RELATES TO THE NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE BRIDGE OVER THE QUITTAPAHILLA CREEK PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Lebanon City Council adopted Resolution No. 25, Sessions 2020-2021, authorizing the proper officials of the City of Lebanon to enter into a Reimbursement Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the North Lincoln Avenue Bridge Over the Quittapahilla Creek Project on January 25, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Reimbursement Agreement was for a period of three years and the project has not been completed; and

WHEREAS, it is required that the agreement be updated with revised costs and exhibits; and

WHEREAS, the City worked to advance the Project in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and the Lebanon County Metropolitan Planning Organization (LEBCOMPO); and

WHEREAS, the project will be funded with federal funds (80 percent), state funds (15 percent) and city funds (5 percent); and

WHEREAS, the City must meet certain PennDOT requirements, which include identifying an authorized City representative to execute necessary PennDOT documents associated with the implementation of the agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Council of the City of Lebanon, Pa., and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, That:

SECTION 1. The Mayor of the City of Lebanon is authorized and directed to sign on its behalf any and all agreements entered into with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation.

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

Mayor Capello reported that this project was started approximately 11 years ago. The project was included on PennDot's 12-year plan. The costs will be shared by the federal government (80 percent); state government (15 percent); and city (5 percent). The revised agreement will include updated costs and exhibits. The new projected cost for this project is \$2,419,500, with the City of Lebanon's share being \$120,975. The anticipated let date is February 2026.

Resolution No. 18 was passed finally on motion of Mrs. Haitos, seconded by Mr. Maguire. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Morales, Mr. Potash, and Vice Chairperson Martin--5; nays--none.

Mr. Morales called up Bill No. 4, the title of which is as follows: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF LEBANON PAID FIREMEN'S PENSION PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING SECTIONS REGARDING NORMAL RETIREMENT, COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FORMER EMPLOYEES, AND DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN".

Mayor Capello reported that this amendment is the result of an arbitration award. A firefighter will be eligible for retirement after the required years of service, regardless of age, confirming that retiring members shall be afforded an opportunity at retirement to elect either the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) or cost-of-living allowance, but not both benefits.

Bill No. 4 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mrs. Haitos. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Morales, Mr. Potash, and Vice Chairperson Martin--; nays--none.

Craig Gates, 44 Berwyn Park, Lebanon, announced that the Community of Lebanon Association's Car and Motorcycle Show will be held on October 6, from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. in front of the Lebanon County Courthouse. Admission is free.

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

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk