

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the City of Lebanon, Pa., was held in Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, Lebanon, Pa., this evening, Chairperson Morales presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present--Mr. Bost, Mr. Carey, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson.
Absent--none.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Chief of Police Todd Breiner; Donna Long Brightbill, City Solicitor; Robin L. Getz, Director of Public Works; Janelle Mendoff, Community and Economic Development Administrator; Melissa E. Quinones, Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor; six persons in the audience; and one member of the news media.

The minutes of the November 22, 2021, City Council meeting 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, 2021. Mayor Capello reported that 92 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 113 percent; and expenditures are at 81 percent. Overall, the performance is better than budgeted.

Chairperson Morales announced that Council received a communication from Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the reappointment of Robin Getz and Helen Westphal as delegate and alternate delegate, respectively, to the Lebanon County Tax Collection Committee for a one-year term, effective January 1, 2022. Mayor Capello explained that the Tax Collection Committee was formed to collect earned income taxes after the debacle with the Earned Income Tax Bureau. Previously, only school districts were represented on the EIT Board. When the Tax Collection Committee was formed, the local municipalities asked to have a seat at the table. In order to be fair, the local municipalities were permitted to have one seat per school district. The City of Lebanon and West Lebanon Township share a seat on the Tax Collection Committee and West Lebanon Township has always deferred to the Lebanon City for a representative.

Mr. Bost introduced Resolution No. 45, as follows:

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LEBANON AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO, FOR THE YEARS 2022-2024.

Be It Resolved by the Council of the City of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, That:

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL – DECEMBER 13, 2021

SECTION 1. The agreement between the City of Lebanon and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024, be and it is hereby ratified.

SECTION 2. A copy of said agreement is attached to and hereby made part of this agreement.

Mayor Capello explained that contracts were negotiated with the three unions representing fire, police, and non-uniformed employees and, to date, this is the only contract that has been finalized. This contract represents non-uniformed employees including Public Safety Inspectors, Crossing Guards and Public Works employees. In summary, the contract is for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024, and includes a three percent increase in base salary each year; the deductibles for health insurance increased; the premium share for health coverage increased by \$5.00 per pay for single and \$10 per pay for multiple each year of the contract; the spousal penalty increased \$5.00 per pay for each year of the contract; the co-pay for prescriptions increased each year of the contract; the opt-out benefit increased for employees who choose to opt-out of the health insurance plan; call time was increased by \$5.00 in 2022 and 2023; the City will provide a seniority list twice a year, or 14 days after a new employee is hired; and the yearly allowance for steel-tip boots or shoes was increased.

Resolution No. 45 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Morales. Yeas--Mr. Bost, Mr. Carey, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson--5; nays--none.

Mr. Carey called up Bill No. 15 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 2022".

Mayor Capello reported that real estate taxes are the second largest revenue source for the City of Lebanon. For a home assessed at \$103,000, the annual city real estate tax is \$473.00.

Bill No. 15 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Bost. Yeas--Mr. Bost, Mr. Carey, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson--5; nays--none.

Mayor Capello reported that in March 2021, the American Rescue Plan was signed into effect. The Plan provided funding to address COVID relief including different areas of impact. She reported that the City of Lebanon will receive a total of \$16.6 million, with 50 percent paid in May 2021; the remainder will be released in May 2022. The funds must be obligated no later than May 2024. She reported that a portion of the funding can be used to stabilize the general fund. She added that the majority of the first allocation will be used for stormwater improvements and other projects such as a Streetscape in Downtown Lebanon. In addition, she is proposing to use \$1 million to assist non-profit organization through an application process. She added that there is a large list of criteria for non-profits and the City of Lebanon would like to support projects that will have a long-term effect on the community. The application will be posted on the city website and social media. She stressed that preference will be given to those serving the most vulnerable populations, long-term impact on residents, and sustainable activity that will provide services to the citizens for a long time.

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL – DECEMBER 13, 2021

Councilmember Bost asked how membership on the committee reviewing the applications will be formed. Mayor Capello replied that the Committee will consist of staff that has taken training and the Council Chairperson, and perhaps the Vice Council Chairperson. She announced that January 31 is the deadline to apply for the grant.

Chris Coyle, LebTown, asked if any of the American Rescue funds have been spent to date to which Mayor Capello replied that some of the funds were used for Covid improvements at the new City Hall.

Mayor Capello stated that stormwater improvements will be made at the intersections of Sixth and Cumberland Streets; Fourth and Lehman Streets; Fifth and Cumberland Streets; at the start of the concrete channel at Peach Street, near Fourth Street; and the Liberty Park project, which includes improvements to Liberty Alley, from Walton Street to Spring Street. In addition, the Streetscape Project for Downtown Lebanon will be completed using the funding.

Alisher Aminov, 300 South Lincoln Avenue, Lebanon, asked if there is a deadline for payment. Community Development Administrator Janelle Mendoff replied that all funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

Vice Chairperson Carey reminded folks to check the website, www.lebanonpa.org for information about snow operations. He added that the website has links for other information as well.

Mr. Carey reported that there are many happenings for the community in Downtown Lebanon: Santa is at the Lebanon Farmers Market, Downtown Lebanon has the lead for the New Year's Eve Bologna Drop, and the Lebanon Fire Department is heading the "Keep the Wreath Red" campaign.

On behalf of Mayor Capello and Council, Chairperson Morales presented plaques to Councilmember Bost for his service to the citizens of the City of Lebanon as a member of Lebanon City Council from October 2020-2022 and to Vice Chair Wayne Carey for his leadership and dedicated service to the citizens of the City of Lebanon as a member of Lebanon City Council from 2014-2022. Mr. Morales noted that Mr. Carey served as Council Chairperson from 2018-2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk