

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 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 Martin presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Present--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Morales, Mr. Potash, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson. Absent—none.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Community and Economic Development Administrator Janelle Groh; Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor Melissa Quinones; Fire Chief A.J. Sweitzer; Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley; 14 persons in the audience; and 2 members of the news media.

Council observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Raymond “Raymie” Kohr who passed on June 8, 2025. Mr. Kohr was employed by the City of Lebanon as a long-time Crossing Guard at Eighth and Chestnut Streets (Harding Elementary School) and he also worked at Hersheypark for 25 years. In addition to his service as a Crossing Guard for the City of Lebanon, Mr. Kohr was a volunteer firefighter and a long-time fire police officer with the Lebanon Fire Department. Mayor Capello said she remembers his dedication to whatever job he was doing. She recalled that in September 2022, he suffered a fractured bone in his neck after being struck by a vehicle while walking home from a football game. However, he was back on the job within a few weeks. Mayor Capello remembered Raymie as a kind person who will be missed by city staff as well as by the staff, students and parents of the Lebanon School District.

The minutes of the May 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 budget reports for the period January 1 through May 31, 2025. Mayor Capello reported that 42 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 59 percent; and expenditures are almost at 33 percent. She reported that overall, we are performing better than budget in both categories.

Chairperson Martin announced that Council received the following communications:

- a. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Rafael Arvelo Castillo to the City of Lebanon Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of James Faren, effective June 4, 2025. The term expires on July 26, 2026. Mayor Capello reported that the Planning Commission is an advisory board that guides the use, development, and subdivision of lands in the city. The Commission is comprised of 7 members who represent five planning districts. Mr. Castillo is representing District 5 which is the southwest area of the city. Mayor Capello reported that Mr. Castillo is a business professional in the technology and telecommunications profession both in the U.S. and abroad. Currently, he is employed by Sysco as a

Renewal Manager. She further reported that Mr. Castillo holds a marketing degree and MBA from the Technological Institute of San Domingo, Dominican Republic.

- b. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Captain Eric Sims to the Police Pension Fund Board to fill the unexpired term of Chief Bret Fisher, effective June 4, 2025. The term expires on January 5, 2026. Mayor Capello reported that the Police Pension Board is comprised of three residents, three active police members, and the Mayor. Captain Sims is filling the unexpired term of former Chief Bret Fisher.

Mayor Capello reported that the annual fireworks display will be held on July 4 at Coleman Memorial Park. In addition, the Coleman Memorial Park Board of Trustees sponsors the Lebanon Community Band. The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. followed by fireworks at approximately 9:10 p.m. She added that she is anticipating another great show by Fantastic Fireworks of Maryland Line, MD.

Mayor Capello reminded the public that the only type of fireworks permitted in the city are novelty fireworks. All aerial fireworks are prohibited. She added that several years ago a fire that was the result of illegal fireworks being set off caused significant damage to CSR.

Mayor Capello reported that 2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our nation. The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is asking that all municipalities come together for one celebration at the Lebanon Expo Center on July 4, 2026. The celebration will include dress, games, and animals from that era. At the conclusion of the event, there will be a fireworks display. The committee is trying to raise funds for a bigger display in 2026. She emphasized that the fireworks will return to Coleman Memorial Park in 2027.

Councilmember Morales commended the Lebanon Police Department for their recent work in the apprehension of a suspect in a shooting within three hours of the incident.

Councilmember Morales also serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Lebanon and reminded the public that during the heat wave, City Hall serves as a cooling shelter, as well as, the Lebanon Community Library and the Lebanon Valley Family YMCA. He also urged folks to check on elderly neighbors during the extreme temperatures.

Arnold Rowe, 506 Canal Street, Lebanon, addressed Council about his concerns regarding operators of electric bikes darting in and out of traffic. He said he has experienced and also has witnessed numerous near accidents resulting from the reckless driving of operators of electric bikes. He suggested the City issue public safety announcements, warnings, or tickets. He added that the bikes should have lights and reflectors. Chairperson Martin stated that the electric bikes are an inexpensive means of transportation; however, he agrees they are a nuisance.

Mayor Capello reported that complaints about the electric bikes increase during warm weather and no rain. She added that it is too dangerous for the police to chase them; however, there are other ways to deter and address the issue which the city will be doing. She agreed with

## JOURNAL OF COUNCIL – JUNE 23, 2025

Mr. Rowe that it is dangerous when the operators of the electric bikes are darting in and out of traffic.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk