

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

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 6:31 p.m.

Present--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Potash, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson. Absent—Mr. Maguire.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; City Solicitor Andrew Francos; Janelle Groh, Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor; Eric Sims, Chief of Police; A.J. Sweitzer, Fire Chief; Chad Yeagley, Director of Public Works; 15 persons in the audience; and 1 member of the news media.

The minutes of the April 27, 2026, 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 a budget report for the period January 1-April 30, 2026. Mayor Capello reported that 33 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are more than 34 percent; and expenditures are less than 25 percent. Overall, we are performing better in both categories.

Mayor Capello presented a Certificate of Recognition to Jerry Kalinoski for his 28 years of service on the Planning Commission, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to public service and the betterment of the community.

Kathy Kulbitsky Board Member, Lebanon Community Library, gave an update on the library. She stated that the library's mission is to provide resources to inspire lifelong learning for all. She reported that in 2025:

- 47,791 printed books were borrowed
- 21,904 e-content items were borrowed
- 42,742 children's items were borrowed
- 383 programs were held
- 6,881 patrons attended the programs
- 1,113 volunteer hours were logged
- 92,010 visitors came to the library
- 8,036 sessions on the public computers
- 30,767 public Wi-fi sessions

Ms. Kulbitsky further reported that on June 8, the monthly game night will be held at the library. This event has been a very popular program with patrons. In addition, the Summer Learning Program will begin on June 1.

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Ms. Kulbitsky reported that in 2026, the Lebanon Community Library is celebrating its 100th anniversary. A fundraising gala will be held on October 15 at the Lebanon Country Club with a goal of raising \$100,000.

Mayor Capello noted that several renovations to the library have been completed in past few years. She asked if there are plans for additional renovations. Ms. Kulbitsky replied at some point, the Board would like to update the community room.

Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor Janelle Groh gave a department update, as follows:

- Summer Mini Camps – The City is offering four educational summer mini camps for children ages 6-12. Nature Camp is scheduled for June 29-July 1; Detective for a Day is scheduled for July 8 and July 13; Firefighter for a Day Mini Camp is scheduled for July 22 and July 28; and Recycling Ranger Mini Camp is scheduled for July 28. There is no fee for city residents; the fee for non-residents is \$5.00 per session.
- Tyler Technologie ERP, Permitting and Licensing Updates – Over the past year, the City has made significant progress in the implementation of Tyler Technologies software systems for financial management, permitting, licensing, and citizen services. The City is substantially utilizing Tyler Technologies for financial management; payroll and human resources; accounts payable and receivable; cashiering; online payments; permitting and licensing; and citizen self-service portals.
- Southwest Park Splash Pad Construction Update – Construction continues to move forward. There were delays during the winter months due to harsh weather conditions as well as several supply chain and equipment delivery delays. The project schedule shifted from an anticipated substantial completion date of late May to an estimated substantial completion date of the end of June 2026. Substantial completion does not necessarily mean the splash pad will immediately open to the public at that time. Upon completion of construction, the Public Works crew will require time for operational training, familiarization with the specialized equipment and systems, and final preparation prior to opening.
- Dog Park Update – Construction of the City’s new dog park at Coleman Memorial Park is substantially completed. The City is currently working through several final items prior to opening. The Grand Opening is scheduled for June 6 at 10:00 a.m. Initially, the park will be open exclusively to Lebanon City residents for the first 30 days of operation.
- Downtown Lebanon Five-Year Action Plan and Small Business Support – The City continues to work closely with Downtown Strategies on the development of a comprehensive Downtown Lebanon Five-Year Action Plan. The purpose of the plan is not simply to create ideas that sit on a shelf, but rather to identify realistic, actionable, and achievable strategies that can strengthen Downtown Lebanon and continue building momentum for revitalization efforts. The plan focuses on practical steps to increase downtown vibrancy and activity; support small business

and entrepreneurs; improve the downtown experience for residents and visitors; strengthen economic resilience; encourage investment and redevelopment opportunities; and build a more welcoming and connected downtown environment. Downtown Strategies recently presented the City with a draft of the Five-Year Action Plan and the City anticipates formally announcing and sharing additional details of the plan in the near future.

- Small Business Support Program – In addition to the Downtown Action Plan, the City has partnered with Retail Strategies to provide free, virtual, on-demand training opportunities for locally owned businesses through the Small Business Support Program. This program includes training videos, downloadable resources, discussion forums, and interactive learning opportunities covering business modernization, omni-channel retail strategies; restaurant resilience; property owner training; and holiday trends and outlook. Information on registering is available on the Community and Economic Development page on the city website.
- Downtown Beautification and Maintenance – The City continues to support downtown beautification efforts through partnership with the CLA and seasonal maintenance staff. A seasonal employee is dedicated to maintaining the hanging flower baskets and planters throughout the downtown district. In addition, seasonal summer staff will assist with weed removal and landscaping maintenance, downtown sidewalk sweeping operations; and general downtown beautification and cleanup efforts, including Liberty Park.

Councilmember Wilson asked if staff will be present at the Splash Pad. Mrs. Groh responded that there will be no staff, but there will be a fence around the splash pad with an automatic lock. In addition, there is a button to activate the water features.

Councilmember Wilson asked the time frame for getting a paw pass. Mrs. Groh responded that a pass can be issued the same day, providing the applicant provides all of the required documentation. In addition, Mayor Capello confirmed that the dog park will be open to non-city residents after the initial 30-day period.

Councilmember Wilson asked how small business owners are being informed about the Small Business Support Program. Mayor Capello responded that she has been talking about the program for the past year. In addition, there have been e-blasts, social media posts, meetings and ongoing promotions about the program. Mrs. Groh added that several businesses have already signed up for the platform.

Councilmember Haitos asked when the meeting for the Retail Strategy will be held. Mayor Capello responded that before scheduling a date, she wants to present the plan to the Community of Lebanon Association.

Chris Coyle, *LebTown*, asked what is the anticipated opening date for the splash pad. Mayor Capello responded that she does not want to announce a date as the contractor is still working on the project and it has not been turned over to the city.

Chairperson Martin announced that Council received the following communications:

- a. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Jose Torres to the City of Lebanon Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Jerry Kalinoski, effective May 5, 2026. The term expires on September 28, 2028. Mayor Capello reported that Mr. Torres is retired from the Lebanon VAMC as a Registered Nurse. She added that she served on the Harrisburg Area Community College Advisory Board with Mr. Torres and following his retirement, he expressed interest in serving the community. Initially, he served on the Review Committee for applications received from various businesses and non-profits for a grant made available through American Rescue funds received by the City of Lebanon. In 2025, he was appointed as an alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board and when this vacancy occurred on the Planning Commission, he agreed to serve as the representative of District 1.
- b. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Frederick Heilman to the City of Lebanon Shade Tree Commission for a term effective May 18, 2026, and expiring November 30, 2026. Mayor Capello reported that Mr. Heilman is a lifelong resident of the city and previously served on the Shade Tree Commission. He believes in the importance of urban forestry in keeping Lebanon a more sustainable place. In addition, Mr. Heilman has served on Friends of Coleman Memorial Park, the Quittapahilla Audubon Society, and Friends of Union Canal.
- c. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Glenn Meck to the City of Lebanon Shade Tree Commission for a five-year term, effective May 18, 2026. Mayor Capello reported that Mr. Meck resides on Robin Road and his family planted an “Allee” Chinese Elm tree on the property more than a decade ago. She added that Mr. Meck believes in the importance of urban forestry mission of continuing to preserve and progress the arboriculture of Lebanon City. He retired as Executive Director of the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center and previously served as a horticulture teacher at the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center.

Chairman Martin reported that in preparation of the 250th Anniversary, he was researching records at the Lebanon County Historical Society. He reported that the article he found discussed concerns by law enforcement and officials about potential injuries resulting from the illegal use of fireworks.

Councilmember Wilson asked if the potholes discussed at the past several meetings have been addressed. Mayor Capello reported that the potholes she reported have been addressed.

Becky Woodhouse, 1126 Church Street, Lebanon, reported that Friends of Coleman Memorial Park are sponsoring several events during the summer:

- May 30 — Family movie in the Amphitheater. She reported that there will be activities available beginning at 7:00 p.m., followed by the movie at 8:00 p.m. Movie Night will be held monthly during the summer months.
- June 2 – 9:00 a.m. – Ribbon Cutting for Tree Inventory Project - This is the first step for a Level 2 Arboretum Accreditation for Coleman Memorial Park. Good’s

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Tree Service was contracted for the assessment of the trees at the park and so far has identified and inventoried 794 trees.

- June 12 – 6:00 p.m. – Summer Concert Series – this is the first concert of the monthly Summer Concert Series.

Tyler Duvall, 411 Guilford Street, Lebanon, asked if the bump at the intersection of Fifth and Lehman Streets has been assessed to which Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley responded it has been assessed.

Mr. Duvall asked if Guilford Street will be paved since the City of Lebanon Authority (CoLA) has completed work on the water pipes at Fourth and Guilford Streets. Mr. Yeagley responded that in 2028, Guilford Street will be paved, from Lincoln Avenue to Seventh Street. In the interim, he will contact CoLA regarding restoration of the street as required.

Mr. Duvall asked if the situation with e-bikes has been addressed. He reported that all these bike operators are riding in the street and not obeying the laws. Chief Sims responded that it continues to be on the radar and the police department will be implementing techniques to address the situation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk