

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 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 6:30 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; Captain of Police Eric Sims; City Solicitor G. Edward Schweikert; Fire Chief A.J. Sweitzer; Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley; eight persons in the audience; and 2 members of the news media.

The minutes of the March 24, 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 March 31, 2025. Mayor Capello reported that 25 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 24 percent; and expenditures are at 21 percent. She reported that real estate revenue has started coming in and we are in a good position.

Community and Economic Development Administrator Janelle Groh presented an update on the status of projects highlighting the administration's efforts to enhance public spaces, expand recreational opportunities, and improve the overall quality of life for city residents. Following is a summary of the report:

1. Downtown Streetscape Project
 - Revitalization of Cumberland Street, from 4th to 12th Streets
 - Improvements included new sidewalks with stamped concrete beauty strip; bump-outs; curbing, ADA ramps with warning surfaces
 - Upgraded traffic control systems and utility adjustments
 - Decorative streets lights, new trees, landscaping
 - Ribbon cutting held April 1, 2025
2. Liberty Trail Park (Liberty Street, from Spring Street to Walton Street)
 - Renovations to existing pedestrian-only Liberty Street
 - Improvements include plantings, string lighting, Victorian street lights, benches
 - Contract was awarded to Doug Lamb Construction at a cost of \$546,735
 - Funded through American Rescue Plan Allocation
 - Project completion: End of July 2025 (estimated)
3. Dog Park at Coleman Memorial Park
 - Located at site of former Lauther Memorial Water Complex
 - Dog Park Features: ADA ramp, steps, separate areas for large/small dogs

- Funded by DCNR grant and American Rescue Plan Act
 - Project cost: \$267,000
 - Construction is underway; anticipated completion in Summer 2025
 - Sponsorship opportunities available
4. Pickleball Courts at Coleman Memorial Park
 - Converting two existing tennis courts between the Amphitheater and the Bike Park into four pickleball courts
 - Two separate tennis court locations in Coleman Memorial Park
 - Project funded through \$50,000 DCNR grant and \$30,000 County ARPA grant
 - Contract awarded to Arthur Funk & Sons for \$75,466
 - Construction to begin very soon
 5. Connector Trail
 - Phase 1 recently completed
 - Phase 1 starts at the baseball field parking lot and extends down the hill, past the ballfields to 22nd Street
 - Funded through Penn State REACH grant
 - Final walkthrough needs to be scheduled
 6. Southwest Tennis and Pickleball Courts
 - This is a collaborative project with the Lebanon Valley Community Tennis Association
 - The new layout will include three tennis courts, two pickleball courts, and two youth practice courts
 - Optional upgrades include resurfacing basketball and shuffleboard courts
 - Bids will be open on May 9
 - Funded by American Rescue Plan Act, Local Share Assessment, REACH, Lebanon Valley Tennis Association and the U.S. Tennis Association
 7. Splash Pad at Southwest Park
 - Public input identified splash pad as a priority after the closure of the pool
 - Will be located behind the Optimist Building in concrete area
 - Splash Pad will be fully ADA-accessible and free to use
 - Final design is in progress; bidding preparation started
 - Construction to begin Summer 2025
 - Funded through American Rescue Plan Act
 8. Veterans' Memorial Walkway
 - Located along the Quittapahilla Creek, from 5th Street to 12th Street
 - Improvements include new fencing, bollards, benches, picnic tables, trash bins
 - 16 new trees were planted; 2 trees were donated by Making a Difference of Lebanon
 - Additional upgrades: asphalt improvements, wayfinding sign, pollinator garden
 - Funded by Marcellus Shale Grant and American Rescue Plan Act
 9. Bike Connection and John E. Wengert Memorial Park
 - Bike sharrows and signage added along Chestnut Street to Wengert Park
 - REACH grant of \$20,000 awarded to install bike sharrows, street markings, and signage

- City contributed \$215,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding toward John E. Wengert Memorial Park

10. Playground Equipment

- 6th and Crowell Streets Tot Lot - new equipment installed, fresh mulch has been delivered, and tot lot will be open this week
- East End Playground – new equipment installed and playground area is freshly mulched. The park is open; however, City will be making additional improvements that include interactive play paintings, blacktop enhancements, and basketball court upgrades.
- 3rd and Crowell Streets Tot Lot – final touches are underway, including grass planting and mulching. Tot lot will be open in the near future.
- Northeast Park – With Council approval, the City will apply to the Pa. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a grant to replace aging playground equipment at Northeast Park. Pending grant approval, improvements would most likely occur in 2026.

11. United Way Day of Caring

- Held on Saturday, April 26, 2025
- More than 100 volunteers helped to clean up and mulch city-owned playgrounds.
- Due to weather conditions, not every park/playground was completed; however, the majority of the playgrounds were refreshed and looking great thanks to the efforts of the volunteers.
- Special thanks to Making a Difference of Lebanon, PA for mulching and cleanup efforts at Beautex Park
- Special thanks to Lebanon School District staff and students for their hard work at the parks on Day of Caring.

Regarding the dog park, Councilmember Morales asked if there will be a full-time attendant. Mayor Capello replied it was never the intent to have an attendant. Owners of dogs will be required to register their dog and show proof of vaccination. She added that most parks in other municipalities require registration and do not have an attendant.

Mayor Capello stated that the projects in Janelle's report are great quality of life improvements. She added that the American Rescue Plan Act funding gave a huge boost to bringing these projects to fruition.

Councilmember Maguire asked if there are any highlights of the projects that have been completed. Mrs. Groh replied that the City receives positive feedback on the Streetscape Project and the Connector Trail. She added that some of the projects are not completed quite as fast as we hoped. Mayor Capello stated that the City Hall Renovation Project was the only project completed on schedule. She added that during projects we hit snags and the issues are addressed as they arise.

Councilmember Morales asked if the City of Lebanon is spearheading Phase 2 of the Connector Trail Project to connect to Union Canal Tunnel. Mayor Capello responded that she has met with both North Lebanon Township and West Lebanon Township, as well as talked to

the property owner. It may be easier to go on the West Lebanon Township side, but she needs to start discussions.

Chairperson Martin stated that he has walked the Veterans' Memorial Walkway and the improvements look very nice.

Cornell Wilson, 27 South Sixth Street, Lebanon, extended his thanks for making improvements to the Veterans' Memorial Walkway and the various playgrounds. He added that some of the money donated by Making a Difference of Lebanon PA for the trees along Veterans Memorial Walkway was from the VFW.

Dave Funk, 611 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, stated that he is glad to see the city investing in the parks throughout the city.

Mr. Morales introduced Resolution No. 24, as follows:

AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF LEBANON TO FILE A GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PLAYGROUND AREA AT NORTHEAST PARK.

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon ("Applicant") desires to undertake the following project: Northeast Park – Playground Area Improvements.

WHEREAS, the applicant desires to apply to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for a grant in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) for the purpose of carrying out this project; and

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

SECTION 1. The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby designated as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Lebanon and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

Mayor Capello stated that the City has been working to replace playground equipment and making improvements throughout the city. This grant is for a maximum of \$250,000 and the match is \$37,500. There is funding for the match available in the Capital Reserve Fund or it could potentially be worked into the budget for 2026.

Resolution No. 24 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Maguire. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Morales, Mr. Potash, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson--5; nays--none.

Cindy Schlegel, 571 Guilford Street, Lebanon, thanked Janelle for the presentation. Mrs. Schlegel noted that the Streetscape and City Hall projects are beautiful. She reported that

the sidewalks on the northside of the city need to be addressed. She reported that approximately 60 percent of the homes on the northside are rentals and businesses. She told Council that if the landlords and businesses were made accountable, the City could help homeowners to make repairs to sidewalks.

Mayor Capello reported that during the resurfacing project, property owners were required to make repairs to curbing and sidewalks. The City was able to put property owners and neighbors in touch with each other and they were able to work with the contractor to get a better price. Councilmember Morales stated that the responsibility of making sidewalk repairs is statewide and not unique to the City of Lebanon.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk