

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 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 6:30 p.m.

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

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Jeffrey Campbell, Deputy Fire Chief; City Solicitor Andrew Francos; Eric Sims, Chief of Police; A.J. Sweitzer, Fire Chief; Chad Yeagley, Director of Public Works; 10 persons in the audience; and 2 members of the news media.

The minutes of the February 23, 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-February 28, 2026. Mayor Capello reported that 17 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 15 percent; and expenditures are at 12 percent. She reported that everything was on track as of the end of February. Councilmember Maguire asked when the invoices for the 2026 real estate taxes were mailed to which Mayor Capello replied that invoices were mailed in the beginning of March.

Sheena Stoner, Paloma School, 130 Walton Street, Lebanon, presented an overview of the Paloma School. Ms. Stoner reported that the school is located in the former St. James Lutheran Church building on Chestnut Street. The school's mission is to partner with families to provide quality bilingual education rooted in a Charlotte Mason philosophy and Christ-centered atmosphere. The school began in 2018 with 18 students; currently there are 86 students enrolled in grades K-12. The school is a bilingual school, with 47 percent of the students having a Spanish speaking heritage. She added that most students are first generation immigrants. The goal is for the students to use their language skills to help others. The school hosts a community garden and also partners with Kenbrook Bible Camp and On Fire Ministries to help accomplish this goal. The majority of the students reside in the Lebanon School District and walk or bike to school daily.

Councilmember Wilson asked how parents can apply to enroll their child in the school. Ms. Stoner replied that there is tuition; however, substantial scholarships are available for those who qualify. Information on applying is available on the school's website.

Ms. Stoner reported that the classrooms are blended with an average class size of 12 students.

Councilmember Maguire asked if families must have a profession of faith to attend the school to which Ms. Stoner replied they do not.

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Chairperson Martin announced that Council received a communication from Barbacane Thornton and Company, transmitting the audit of the City of Lebanon Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2024. Mayor Capello reported that there were no findings; however there was a recommendation to complete reconciliations on a more timely basis. Mayor Capello added that staff had already identified that as an area for improvement and implemented procedures to complete reconciliations on a more frequent basis. She added that the city engaged the firm of Diana Reed and Associates to assist with the reconciliations.

Mr. Potash introduced Resolution No. 2, as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF VARIOUS RECORDS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION.

WHEREAS, by virtue of Resolution No. 36, Sessions 2008-2009, passed finally by City Council on April 27, 2009, the City of Lebanon declared its intent to follow the procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Retention and Disposition Schedule for Records of Pennsylvania Municipalities issued on December 16, 2008; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Act 428 of 1968, each individual act of disposition shall be approved by resolution of the governing body of the municipality.

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 disposition of the following records in the Department of Administration is hereby approved:

- Building Rentals (Southwest Park and Stoever's Dam) – 2022 and prior
- Camping Permits – 2022 and prior
- Certificates of Insurance, 2022 and prior
- City Permits (Special Events) – 2022 and prior
- Daily Balancing Reports, 2022 and prior
- Ethics Forms, 2019 and prior
- Insurance Claims – 2019 and prior
- Insurance Policies – 2019 and prior
- Insurance Renewal Packets – 2018 and prior
- Legal/Public Notices – 2015 and prior
- Mechanical Device Licenses – 2022 and prior
- Open Records – 2023 and prior
- Pavilion Rentals (Coleman Memorial Park and Stoever's Dam) – 2022 and prior
- Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes – 2019 and prior

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

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Mayor Capello reported that the City of Lebanon follows the State Retention and Disposition Schedule for Records.

Resolution No. 2 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Potash, seconded by Mr. Maguire. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Potash, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Mr. Maguire introduced Resolution No. 3, 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 GREEN LIGHT-GO PROGRAM GRANT AND REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF 12TH AND MAPLE STREETS, LEBANON.

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon has applied to PennDot for a Green Light-Go grant for improvements to the traffic signal at the intersection of 12th and Maple Streets, Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost of the project is Four Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$463,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the estimated amount of the grant is Three Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$368,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the City's estimated share of the project is Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000.00).

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 is a 80/20 match grant; PennDot's share is \$365,000 and the City's share is \$95,000. The grant will be used for the modernization of the signalized intersection at 12th and Maple Streets. The project includes the addition of new signal heads with arrows. Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley added that with the new construction in that area, safety concerns such as crosswalks will be addressed.

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Resolution No. 3 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Martin. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Potash, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Councilmember Maguire called up Bill No. 1 on final reading, the title of which is as follows: “AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA”. Bill No. 1 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Potash. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Potash, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Mayor Capello reported that at a minimum of every two years, the ordinances from the previous session are codified into the reference book. She added that the codified ordinances are available on the City of Lebanon’s website as well as in the City Clerk’s Office.

Bill No. 1 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Potash. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Potash, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson--5; nays--none.

Lisa Shucker, 309 North 22nd Street, Lebanon, stated that she began emailing the Mayor’s Office in September 2025 and every month thereafter for an update on the status of the Dog Park. Mayor Capello responded that in January, Ms. Shucker reached out to Mayor Capello personally and it was confirmed that she was mailing Director of Community and Economic Development Janelle Groh; however, Mrs. Groh was on maternity leave and she apologized and indicated that Ms. Shucker should have received an out of office response.

Mayor Capello reported that the goal was to open the Dog Park in Spring 2026. We had a lot of snow this winter. After the snow melted, Mayor Capello went out to assess the condition of the park and it’s just not ready. In particular, there are issues in the small dog area with the ruts and there are patchy areas of dead grass. We need to give it time for the grass to come in. She added that there has been discussion about the need to re-roll it to correct the issues. She further reported that the City has reached out to the designer and was advised that the dog park is similar to the construction of a new ballfield which sometimes takes two years before being ready for opening. Mayor Capello stated that the City invested approximately \$500,000 in the dog park and she doesn’t want to open the park too soon and have it turn into a mud park. Mayor Capello stated that until we have a better idea on the grass, she cannot give a definite time frame for the opening. She has also been made aware that there are soggy areas in the park that need to be addressed.

Ms. Shucker asked who will do the analysis of the work that needs to be done at the dog park to which Mayor Capello replied that the Highway Crew, as well as the design consultant who is a landscape architect, have been working to address the issues. The regular monitoring of the dog park will be done by the Highway Crew.

Ms. Shucker stated she noticed that Councilmember Maguire is wearing a “Life” sticker and asked what that means. Councilmember Maguire replied that he is a member of the community and he has a personal conviction about life and that all human beings are created in

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the image and likeness of God. As part of his personal devotion to God, he wears the badge as a reminder to end abortion in this country and around the world. He added that he prays daily that unborn children will be protected and women in difficult pregnancies have the support they need to choose life for themselves and their unborn child.

Ms. Shucker asked if there is a written decorum addressing this issue. Chairperson Martin replied that elected officials are individuals and do their best to represent the voters. Mayor Capello added that a disclaimer was added to the city website that it is Councilman Maguire's personal view and not that of Council.

City Solicitor Francos reminded Council that this is the time for public comment and it is not a Q&A session.

Councilmember Wilson reported that the Recycling Attendant is doing a great job and is very helpful when folks visit the Recycling Center on Lehman Street.

Councilmember Wilson reminded everyone of upcoming events at Coleman Memorial Park to include a 5K Run, Food Trucks, Happy Gilmore, and Movie Night on April 4; Pickleball Tournaments on May 2 and August 29, 2026; and a diverse group of concerts throughout the summer.

Joseph Morales, 102 Paddle Place, Lebanon, stated that he worked with Councilmember Maguire for the past two years on Lebanon City Council. He added that he respects Mr. Maguire's right to wear the badge.

Laurie Funk, 609 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, reported that she is part of the Governor's Commission on Women. She reported that the Commission is conducting an online survey on the state of women and the results will be presented on April 17, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Chestnut Street Community Center.

Craig Gates, 47 Berwyn Park, Lebanon, reported that the Community of Lebanon Association is sponsoring the State of the City on March 25, 2026.

Matt Moyer, 555 East High Street, Lebanon, expressed his concerns on the agreements the Lebanon County District Attorney and Sheriff entered into with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). He added that in his opinion it is a disservice to bring these people to Lebanon.

Richard Evans, 330 East Beech Street, Lebanon, asked when the potholes throughout the City of Lebanon will be repaired. Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley responded that the patch plant opened last week and potholes on Reinoehl Street have already been repaired.

Mr. Evans reported that water lines are being repaired on Beech Street and he suggested requiring the Authority to repair the entire road rather than patching. Mr. Yeagley responded that the paving of Weidman and Guilford Streets are currently scheduled for paving following work by the utility companies. He added that Beech Street is on the list; however, due to budget constraints

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there is a limit on the amount of paving that can be completed each year. Mr. Evans asked if there is any possibility of getting the inlet replaced on Beech Street. Mr. Yeagley responded that if there is an issue with the inlet, Mr. Evans needs to make him aware of the issue.

Mr. Evans reported that the inlaid in the sidewalk on the northwest corner of Fifth and Willow Streets is out and could be a tripping hazard. Mr. Yeagley responded that he will follow up on this issue.

Mr. Evans reported that there is a truck parked at the bus stop at Fourth and Lehman Streets. Chief Sims encouraged Mr. Evans to contact the Lebanon Police Department when he sees those types of violations during his travels. Mayor Capello added that he can also contact the DES non-emergency line to report those types of issues after hours.

Councilmember Wilson asked if there is a list of streets scheduled for paving during 2026 posted. Mayor Capello responded that the streets are assessed every year. She confirmed that some streets will be paved and some will have the potholes filled.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk