MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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 6:33 p.m.

Present--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Potash (via teleconference), Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson. Absent—none.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Campbell; City Solicitor Andrew Francos; Janelle Groh, Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor; Eric Sims, Chief of Police; 14 persons in the audience; and 2 members of the news media.

The minutes of the August 24, 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-August 31, 2026. Mayor Capello reported that 67 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 77 percent; and expenditures are slightly more than 51 percent. Overall, we are performing better than budget in both categories.

Fire Chief Sweitzer gave a department update as of August 31, 2026, as follows:

- 1,294 calls for service
- $2.58 million in fire loss
- 241 training hours
- 161 inspections conducted
- 62 community hours
- Incident activity remains concentrated in the core of the city
- Nationally, the reporting system is changing which will enable departments to better categorize and track emergency types.
- Renovations at Fire Station 1 are underway at an estimated cost of $3 million. The anticipated completion date is February 2027. The apparatus is being housed at Fire Station 2 until renovations are completed.
- Fire Prevention Week will be held in October; however, due to the renovations of Station 1, the annual Open House is being postponed until Spring 2027.
- In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, Chief Sweitzer showed two videos relating to fire safety.

Mayor Capello reported that during Fire Prevention Week, the City will be posting fire safety information on social media.

Councilmember Maguire asked if the new reporting system is mandatory to which Fire Chief Sweitzer responded that it is nationally mandated and will be used to better serve those working in the emergency field.

Michelle Hawk, Executive Director, Lebanon Community Library, gave an update on the activities held at the library in the past year. She reported that the library is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Reviewing the usage in Lebanon City for the past 10 years, she reported that there have been 11,000 cardholders; 90,000 visits to the library every year; and 60,000 items borrowed, with a total value of $1.187 million to city residents.

Mayor Capello asked if the library still needs to raise 50 percent of its annual budget to which Ms. Hawk replied that is correct and the money is raised through donations and fundraising.

Mayor Capello commended Ms. Hawk for her 25 years of service with the library, 16 of which have been as Director.

Mayor Capello reported that in the past several years, the City has done a lot to help our downtown business owners. She added that the City is committed to recruiting new businesses as well as retaining existing businesses. Currently, the City and the Community of Lebanon Association are working with Downtown Retail Strategies to develop a plan to assist business owners and grow the downtown. Mayor Capello showed a video showing the results of a survey and recommendations for moving forward.

Mr. Thomas Cahill, Jr., 800 Cumberland Street, Lebanon, stated that in response to the Downtown Retail Strategies Plan, it is okay; however, consumers do not have money to spend and small businesses can't compete with on-line shopping and big box stores. In addition, the cost of rent makes it nearly impossible for a small business person to open a shop.

Councilmember Wilson asked if any analysis has been done to show if moving city offices brought additional foot traffic to the downtown. Mayor Capello replied that while we do not have formal foot traffic data, relocating city offices to the downtown has contributed to increased activity in the area. City employees patronize the downtown restaurants and businesses and visitors are encouraged to explore local establishments like Wertz Candies and Queen's Natural Market.

Councilmember Wilson asked if the owner of the Farmers Market has communicated with representatives of the City about the numerous vacancies in the market. Mayor Capello responded that she recently had a conversation with the owner and he is committed to the success of the market.

Mayor Capello further reported that the City started producing and posting spotlight videos on businesses that do not owe money to the City and have a valid zoning permit. She added that there are great specialty shops and we need to remind folks that those businesses are here.

Joe Galebach, 752 North Third Avenue, Lebanon, stated that he feels relocating the city offices to this location is good for the city. It is a better facility and a big step up from the previous location. Mr. Galebach also commended Mayor Capello and Council for the Streetscape Project.

Chairperson Martin announced that Council received a communication from Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor Janelle Groh, transmitting notice of the 2027 minimum municipal pension plan contributions (Police-$877,814; Fire-$552,053; Non-Uniformed - $0). Mayor Capello reported that this represents the least amount a municipality must contribute to its employee pension plans each year and it is calculated using actuarial valuations. In order to comply with state law, the minimum municipal obligation must be calculated each year and it is reviewed during the pension audit conducted by the Auditor General's Office. She further reported that last year, the City received state aid in the amount of $933,194.00; thus, requiring $501,056 from the general fund to cover the minimum municipal obligation.

Mr. Wilson introduced Resolution No. 12, as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF LEBANON TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A MAIN STREET MATTERS PROGRAM GRANT FOR FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon ("Applicant") desires to undertake the following project: Façade Improvements in Central Business District; and

WHEREAS, the applicant desires to receive from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development a grant in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000.00) for the purpose of carrying out this project.

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 proper officials of the City of Lebanon are hereby authorized to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for a Main Street Matters Program grant for façade improvements in the Central Business District.

SECTION 2. 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 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

Mayor Capello reported that the City unsuccessfully applied for this grant last year. We are hopeful for this year's submission.

Resolution No. 12 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Maguire. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Potash, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Mr. Potash introduced Resolution No. 13, as follows:

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LEBANON AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO LOCAL 1952, FOR THE YEARS 2026-2029.

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 agreement between the City of Lebanon and the International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO Local 1952, effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029, be and it is hereby ratified.

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

Mayor Capello reported that the City and the Career Firefighters' Union negotiated in good faith, with both parties demonstrating a willingness to compromise and make meaningful concessions. Through mutual respect and a shared commitment to reaching an agreement, a fair and equitable contract was signed that balances the interest of firefighters, the City's fiscal responsibilities, and the needs of the residents.

Resolution No. 13 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Potash, seconded by Mrs. Haitos. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Potash, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Mrs. Haitos called up Bill No. 4 on final reading, the title of which is as follows: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 523, "PEDALCYCLES (BICYCLES) AND PEDALCYCLE (BICYCLE) LICENSING" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, PA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFINING PEDALCYCLE AND PEDALCYCLE WITH ELECTRIC ASSIST".

Chairman Martin announced that Bill No. 4 has been amended since its introduction on August 24, 2026, to add the following language to the beginning of the paragraph of §523.02:

"Except for Lebanon City Police Officers or other authorized law enforcement officers…"

and to add the following language to the beginning of §523.14:

"Except for Lebanon City Police Officers or other authorized law enforcement officers…"

Mayor Capello reported that this ordinance specifically pertains to defining pedalcycles and pedalcycles with electric assist; and that no riding on the sidewalk in the Central Business District is permitted, with the exception of persons with disabilities and law enforcement personnel.

Bill No. 4 was passed finally, as amended, on motion of Mrs. Haitos, seconded by Mr. Martin. Yeas—Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Potash, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Martin, Chairperson—5; nays—none.

Mr. Martin called up Bill No. 5 on final reading, the title of which is as follows: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION 943.01, 'PARK RULES AND REULATIONS ESTABLISHED' OF ARTICLE 943, 'PARKS', OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEBANON FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING THE USE OF VEHICLES IN CITY-OWNED PARKS.

Chairman Martin announced that Bill No. 5 has been amended since its introduction on August 24, 2026, to add the following language to the beginning of the third sentence of subparagraph (g) of §943.01:

"With the exception of use by Lebanon City Police Officers or other authorized law enforcement officers…"

Mayor Capello reported that Bill No. 5 specifically pertains to parks and not permitting any type of motorized pedalcycle on trails in city parks. Both ordinances are based on complaints received from residents and visitors to the parks.

Councilmember Wilson asked if there will be signage posted in the park to which Mayor Capello replied yes.

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

Mr. Thomas Cahill, Jr., 800 Cumberland Street, Lebanon, addressed Council regarding an inspection conducted on July 28, 2026, by a Code Enforcement Officer. He reported that in response to that inspection, he received correspondence from the Code Enforcement Officer advising that the carbon monoxide detectors were in place as required by code and the elevator was operational. Mr. Cahill showed Council photos of a disabled call button for the elevator on the 2nd and 3rd floors. He stated that code requires that carbon monoxide detectors be installed on every floor in every unit near the bedroom. He added that the City of Lebanon has more strict regulations than state code for carbon monoxide detectors. Mr. Cahill reported that the Department of Labor and Industry shut down the elevator; however, it was re-opened the next day. Mr. Cahill also alleged that the kitchen does not comply with the UCC.

Councilmember Wilson reported that he previously spoke to Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley about potholes in the City. He stated the Department of Public Works does not have enough staff to address all the issues. He reported that the potholes on South Gannon Street, from Walnut to Locust Street are growing. Mayor Capello responded that she will follow up with Public Works personnel as she was told the potholes were repaired several weeks ago. She further reported that additional employees for the department will be considered during the preparation of the 2027 budget.

Councilmember Wilson also asked about the repair of the crosswalk at Quentin Road and Hauck Street to which Mayor Capello replied that repairs have been requested.

Craig Gates, 47 Berwyn Park, Lebanon, reported that the CLA Motorcycle and Car Show will be held in Downtown Lebanon on October 11, from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Richard Evans, 330 East Beech Street, Lebanon, extended his thanks for the repair of the potholes on Beech Street and for cleaning the stormwater drain. Mr. Evans reported that there were utility cuts at 537 Lehman Street, 517 Walnut Street, and on Seventh Street earlier this year, but repairs have not been made to date. He also reported that UGI completed repairs on East Lehman Street near Fifth Avenue; however, the street restoration is like driving on a washboard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk