

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023

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 Morales presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson.  
Absent--none.

Also present were Mayor Sherry L. Capello; Donna Long Brightbill, City Solicitor; Chief of Police Bret Fisher; Robin L. Getz, Director of Public Works; Janelle Mendoff, Community and Economic Development Administrator; Melissa E. Quinones, Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor; A.J. Sweitzer, Fire Chief; Chad Yeagley, Director of Public Works (incoming); 11 persons in the audience; and 2 members of the news media.

The minutes of the March 27, 2023, City Council meeting were presented by the City Clerk. There being no corrections, deletions or additions, the minutes were approved as presented.

Chairperson Morales announced that Council received a budget report for the period January 1 through April 30, 2023. Mayor Capello reported that 33 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 40 percent; and expenditures are at 22 percent. Overall, performance is better than budgeted in both categories.

Mr. Miller introduced Resolution No. 35, as follows:

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to extend financial assistance to communities in the elimination or prevention of slums or urban blight, or activities which will benefit low- and moderate-income persons, or other urgent community development needs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has estimated the FY 2023 CDBG entitlement grant to be \$694,547.00 and program income in the amount of \$20,000.00 for a total of \$714,547.00.

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon has prepared a Consolidated Plan for 2020-2024 and an Annual Action Plan for the FY 2023 funding year that assesses the housing needs of extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households, homeless families and individuals, and others with special needs; and

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WHEREAS, the Annual Action Plan for FY 2023 was on public display for 30 days and the City held a series of public hearings on said Annual Action Plan and the comments of various agencies, groups and citizens were taken into consideration in the preparation of the final document.

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

SECTION 1. The Annual Action Plan for the FY 2023 Community Development Block Grant Program is hereby in all respects approved and the City Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of said Annual Action Plan with this resolution.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and City Council are cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of community development, affordable housing and emergency homeless activities with federal financial assistance, including those relating to (a) the relocation of site occupants, (b) the prohibition of discrimination because of race, color, age, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin and other assurances as set forth under the certifications.

SECTION 3. The Mayor on behalf of the City of Lebanon is authorized to file an application for financial assistance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which has indicated its willingness to make available a grant to carry out the CDBG Program in the amount of \$694,547.00 and is further authorized to act as an authorized representative of the City of Lebanon to sign any and all documents in regard to these programs.

SECTION 4. The Mayor, on behalf of the City of Lebanon, is hereby authorized to provide assurances and/or certifications as required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, and also any supplemental or revised data which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development may request in connection with the review of this Application.

Mayor Capello reported that compared to FY 2022, the public services allocation increased; the allocation for street improvements is less; the allocation for code enforcement is slightly higher, and the allocation for general administration increased.

Resolution No. 35 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Morales. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson--5; nays--none.

Mr. Wertz introduced Resolution No. 36, 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 2022-2025.

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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, 2022, through December 31, 2025, 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 of Lebanon recently received an arbitration award and the contract for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2025, was prepared in accordance with the award. Mayor Capello provided an overview of the changes in the new contract.

Councilmember Miller asked how many employees are represented by this contract to which Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor Melissa Quinones responded that there are 21 Career Firefighters covered by this contract.

Resolution No. 36 was passed finally on motion of Mr. Wertz, seconded by Mr. Miller. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson--5; nays--none.

Mrs. Haitos introduced Resolution No. 37, 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 THE COLEMAN MEMORIAL PARK PICKLEBALL COURT PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon (“Applicant”) desires to undertake the following project: Coleman Memorial Park – Pickleball Court Project; and

WHEREAS, the applicant desires to apply to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for a grant in the amount of \$51,000 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 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 reported that this application is an 85/15 matching grant. She added that the Coleman Memorial Park Board of Trustees will provide the funding for the required match. The proposed project is to convert the tennis courts next to the pump track to a pickleball court.

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On behalf of the Coleman Memorial Park Board of Trustees, Mr. Morales thanked Mayor Capello and staff for preparing the application for this grant.

Resolution No. 37 was passed finally on motion of Mrs. Haitos, seconded by Mr. Martin. Yeas--Mrs. Haitos, Mr. Martin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wertz, and Mr. Morales, Chairperson--5; nays--none.

Derick Manifor, Esquire, representing Richard Leedy, addressed Council regarding a change of address for property owned by Mr. Leedy at 250 Cherry Street, Lebanon. He stated that for the past year, Mr. Leedy has been attempting to change the address of the property to 801 North Third Avenue; however, he has not received a response from city officials. It is difficult for delivery drivers and potentially emergency personnel to find the property based on the Cherry Street address. Attorney Manifor asked that the city consider this request to change the address to align with reality.

Mayor Capello reported that the U.S. Postal Service puts the responsibility of assigning addresses to the City of Lebanon. She stated that she confirmed that the address of 250 Cherry Street, Lebanon, is in the CAD system so emergency personnel would be able to locate the property during an emergency response. She added that the property does not touch North Third Avenue and tonight is the first time she has heard that Cherry Street is deeded to another property owner.

Kelly Smith explained that the issued began years ago. She explained that there is a recorded right-of-way for property at 250 E. Cherry Street. Mr. Leedy accesses his property through a private driveway at 813 North Third Avenue. She stated that they contacted the Director of Public Works in April 2022, but did not receive a response. The delivery of packages is constantly mixed up because of the confusion with the address.

Director of Public Works Robin Getz stated that she declined the request to change the address because the information provided did not give evidence to substantiate a change. She added that someone changed the address with the Lebanon County Assessment Office.

Attorney Manifor asked what prejudice would the city suffer if it granted Mr. Leedy's request to change the address. Mrs. Getz replied that she is concerned it would set a precedence.

Mayor Capello stated that more research needs to be completed before making a final decision on this request. She added that until tonight she was not aware that Cherry Street was a private road. She told Mr. Manifor that the City will look into this matter and move forward with making a decision.

Councilmember Martin invited the public to attend the Memorial Day parade on May 29, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. to honor those who fought for our country.

Mayor Capello reported that the Lehman Street Resurfacing Project is near completion. Weather permitting, the final overlay will be completed on Wednesday and Thursday.

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Mayor Capello also reported that the Streetscape Project is underway. The removal of trees along Cumberland Street started today. She explained that the contractor will be starting on the southside of Cumberland Street beginning at Fourth Street. The crew will work on a three-block area at one time. She reported that the trash cans are still in place; however, the planters have been moved out of the area during construction. She reported that the CLA has scheduled delivery of the hanging baskets tomorrow.

Mayor Capello announced that the City of Lebanon will sponsor Nature Camp at Stoever's Dam Park during the period June 26-28 for children ages 6-12. The program is free to city residents.

In addition, the City of Lebanon will sponsor Day Camp on June 23 and July 6 for children ages 6-12. The program is free to city residents. The day camps are offered by Minds in Motion out of New Jersey. Details are still being finalized, but more information should be forthcoming on social media and the city website on Tuesday.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk