

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 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 6:39 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 (via teleconference); 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 3 members of the news media.

The minutes of the March 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-March 31, 2026. Mayor Capello reported that 25 percent of the fiscal year is completed; revenues are at 23 percent; and expenditures are at 18 percent. She reported that real estate taxes are the second highest source of revenue and the bills for real estate taxes were sent in the beginning of March. Keeping that in mind, she reported that overall, we are performing better than budget.

Chairperson Martin announced that Council received the following communications:

- a. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Eric Ellis, 643 Maple Street, Lebanon, to fill the vacant position on the City of Lebanon Planning Commission for a term effective April 20, 2026, and expiring July 26, 2029. Mayor Capello explained that for purposes of Planning Commission appointments, the city is divided into five regions. The Commission is an advisory board and is comprised of a representative from each of the five regions established by ordinance and two at large members. She added that Mr. Ellis is a business development specialist residing in District 2 and he expressed interest in serving the community. She was looking for a resident from District 2 to fill the vacancy created when a long-time member of Commission chose to not be reappointed. Councilmember Maguire asked what would happen if the city was unable to fill a position for a specific district. Mayor Capello explained that the *Pa. Municipalities Planning Code* requires municipalities to have a Planning Commission, so we would do our best to fill the position(s). She further explained that the law does not require a municipality to have different regions.
- b. Mayor Sherry L. Capello, informing Council of the appointment of Finance Officer Chele Gible and Director of Administration-Assistant to the Mayor Janelle Groh, to the Lebanon County Tax Collection Committee as delegate and alternate delegate, respectively, to fill the unexpired terms of Melissa Quinones and Melissa Weihrauch, effective April 21, 2026. The terms expire on January 1, 2027. Mayor Capello

explained that the Tax Collection Committee oversees the collection and distribution of earned income taxes for all school districts and municipalities in Lebanon County. Previously, only one representative from each school district served on the Board and the local municipalities had no representation. Subsequent to the EIT debacle, the Tax Collection Committee was formed and is comprised of a representative from each school district and one representative from the municipalities within each school district. West Lebanon Township and the City of Lebanon share a representative, and historically, West Lebanon Township has deferred to the City of Lebanon for the appointment.

Mrs. Haitos introduced Resolution No. 4, as follows:

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND COMCAST OF THE SOUTH, INC.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, and the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission and Pennsylvania law, the City of Lebanon (hereinafter the “City”) is authorized to grant franchises to construct, operate and maintain a cable system utilizing public rights-of-way and properties within the City’s jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Comcast of the South, Inc. (“Comcast”) currently holds a cable franchise from the City which expires on May 16, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Comcast has requested that the City renew Comcast’s franchise to maintain, construct, operate, and maintain its Cable System over, under and along the aforesaid rights-of-ways for use by the City’s residents; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Public Rights-of-Way used by Comcast are public properties acquired and maintained by the City on behalf of the citizens of the City, and the right to use said rights-of-way is a valuable property right; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to protect and manage the aforesaid rights-of-way, establish standards of Subscriber service, maintain a technologically advanced Cable System, receive Franchise Fees for Comcast’s use of the City’s public rights-of-ways as provided by federal law, obtain the use of an educational and governmental channel, establish certain reporting requirements, obtain certain community services, provide legal protections for the City, and meet the current and future cable-related needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that this Agreement and the process for consideration of this Agreement complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that the public interest would be served by renewing Comcast’s franchise according to the terms and conditions contained herein;

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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. Lebanon City Council does hereby approve the cable franchise agreement negotiated with Comcast, including all of the terms and conditions contained therein, and does hereby authorize the execution of such agreement.

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

Mayor Capello explained that this resolution authorizes the execution of a contract between the City of Lebanon and Comcast of the South to provide cable tv services for a period of 10 years. She reviewed the Executive Summary of the agreement which included franchise fees, customer service standards, right-of-way protection, reporting requirements, cable system requirements and service area, educational and governmental channel, services to community facilities, liquidated damages for violations, length of franchise term, and competitive equity provision.

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

Councilmember Wilson asked if there has been any conversation with Verizon to which Mayor Capello replied that we are currently negotiating with Verizon for a cable television franchise agreement.

Councilmember Martin asked if there are fines levied when a utility company erects a new pole, but another utility company does not move its line to the new pole. Solicitor Francos replied that he does not have an answer, but will research the matter. Mayor Capello added that Section 3.8(f) of the agreement addresses the time period to move utilities to a new pole.

Councilmember Wilson asked if there has been any discussion about utilizing the community channel for emergencies and/or updates. Mayor Capello responded that she is researching that possibility.

Darryl Cox, 492 North Sixth Street, Lebanon, asked if Comcast has agreed to a fee. Mayor Capello replied the fee will remain at five percent of gross revenue which is the maximum percentage that can be levied. She added that the City of Lebanon engaged Cohen Law to perform an audit of the payments the City was receiving from Comcast and everything was found to be in order.

Mike DiNovo, 106 East Chestnut Street, Lebanon, addressed Council regarding motorized bikes traveling on sidewalks and streets and creating dangerous situations for other motorists and pedestrians. He stated that it is becoming more apparent as time passes.

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Mr. DiNovo also addressed Council about motorists speeding on Chestnut Street between First and Second Avenues. He added that vehicles are parked on both sides of Chestnut Street in the block and he asked if the police department could monitor the traffic. In addition, he reported that in the evenings it sounds like Walnut and Cumberland Streets are a race track as loud motorcycles and vehicles travel through the city. Mr. DiNova asked if the police department could monitor the speed and noise on these busy streets.

Chief Sims extended his thanks to Mr. DiNovo for addressing these concerns. He reported that e-bikes and skateboards on sidewalks are a common complaint. Without elaborating, he reported that the police department is working on a plan to address these concerns. Chief Sims added that the police department can address the speeding on Chestnut Street.

Darryl Cox, 492 North Sixth Street, Lebanon addressed Council regarding several issues, as follows:

- a. Guilford Street, from Lincoln Avenue to Seventh Street – He reported that the City of Lebanon Authority (CoLA) has completed work on Guilford Street. He added that the street continues to deteriorate and CoLA did a terrible job patching the areas that were disturbed.
- b. Lehman Street and Fifth Street – He reported that the dip in the intersection continues to get worse. Mayor Capello replied that the City will assess that intersection.
- c. 466 New Street – He reported that the property is deplorable.
- d. 471 North Fifth Street – He reported that the property is condemned but the yard is overgrown.
- e. Trash Cans – He reported that this is an ongoing problem. Trash cans continue to be stored in the front of properties and many are overflowing. Mayor Capello reported that some of the haulers purchased larger trucks and claim that they cannot get into the alleys to pick up trash. She added that the Code Enforcement Inspectors are sending notices, when applicable.
- f. Sixth and Crowell Streets Tot Lot – He reported that the alley leading to Guilford Street is in poor condition and almost impassable at times.
- g. Motorized Scooters and Bikes – He reported that the use of motorized scooters and bikes is at an all-time high and this issue needs to be addressed before someone is injured.
- h. Noise – He asked if there is noise ordinance. Mayor Capello reported that the City of Lebanon’s ordinance does not go by decibel level. Rather, if the noise level is deemed to be a serious inconvenience, it is considered a violation.

Regarding trash, Councilmember Wilson asked what is the next step after a person receives a warning or notice of violation. Mayor Capello explained that if there is non-compliance, a re-occurrence fine would be levied.

Councilmember Wilson asked when the crosswalks at the former Spang Crest Nursing home will be repainted. Director of Public Works Chad Yeagley replied that with the onset of warmer weather, this work will be scheduled.

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Chairperson Martin asked if the issue with trash is better or worse than past years. Mayor Capello responded that this is an ongoing challenge. It is consistently the highest number of that type of complaint and seems to be tenant based. Unfortunately, the City has found that the best way to resolve the issue is to penalize the landlord. She added that a Buyer Notification Certificate will not be issued until the new property owners are made aware of the fees owed for the property.

Richard Evans, 330 East Beech Street, Lebanon, thanked officials for addressing the property in the 600 block of East Lehman Street. Regarding the earlier discussion about trash cans, Mr. Evans stated that it is impossible for residents on Beech Street to place trash cans in the rear of the property.

Matt Driscoll, 439 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, reported that there are potholes on Cherry Street and Union Street that need to be repaired. He also asked if there is any update on the Dog Park.

Mayor Capello responded that the City encountered a series of problems with the Dog Park. We continue to evaluate the site area as flat terrain and drainage is an issue. She further reported that a contractor assessed the site and is installing a drain tile system. She is hoping to cordon off that area and potentially open in late May.

Mr. Driscoll reported that vehicles are parking too close to the crosswalk in the vicinity of Chestnut Street, Fifth Street, Fourth Street, and Walnut Street, especially on street sweeper days.

Chief Sims reminded folks to contact the Lebanon Police Department on the non-emergency line (717-272-2054) to report issues when they observe them. If available, an officer can be dispatched to address the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

CHERYL J. GIBSON, Clerk