

Lebanon Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Town Hall, Lebanon, Virginia  
Monday, February 8, 2021  
6:00 P.M.

Council Members Present: Nelson A. "Tony" Dodi, Mayor  
DeAnna C. Jackson, Vice- Mayor  
A. Doyle Fields, Council Member  
Scott J. Gilmer, Council Member  
Mary J. Stanley, Council Member  
M. Elijah Leonard, Council Member  
W. Bradley Lambert, Council Member

Staff Members Present: Kevin L. Blankenship, Town Manager  
A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council  
Richard Eric Deskins, Chief of Police  
Kevin D. Tiller, Town Attorney

I. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dodi.

II. Prayer: Mr. Blankenship

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Edit for items not on the agenda:

Mr. Lambert requested to add discussion for lighting at the Ball Park.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the agenda with amended item was unanimously approved. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

V. Edit and approve minutes from the 01/11/21 regular council meeting, 01/28/21 reconvened council meeting.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the minutes from the 01/11/21 regular council meeting, 01/28/21 reconvened council meeting was unanimously approved. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

VI. Approve accounts payable and capital assets for the month of January:

Mr. Gilmer presented a list of items to add to the accounts payable.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the accounts payable for the month of January with amended items was unanimously approved. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

VII. Public Hearing to consider:

An Application submitted by Conley Greg Fields for a Conditional Use Permit to place a Double Wide Mobile Home on the property that is adjacent to 396 Fields Avenue.

Planning Commission Members Present:

Donnie Ramey, Chairman  
Tim Coleman, Vice-Chairman  
R. D. Snead, Member  
DeAnna Jackson, Member  
Leonard Kegley, Member  
Kevin L. Blankenship, Member

Planning Commission Members Absent

J. S. Easterly, Jr., Clerk

- A. The Town Council recessed from regular session, 6:04 P.M.
- B. Mr. Ramey, Chairman, opened the public hearing: 6:04 P.M.
- C. Mayor Dodi requested if there was Planning Commission Members that needed to be excused from voting due to potential conflict of interest regarding Mr. Fields application. Three members were excused: Tim Coleman, R.D. Snead and Kevin Blankenship. Mr. Coleman advised that it would be a conflict of interest for Mr. Snead, due to him being a Planning Commission Member, to speak on behalf of Mr. Fields regarding this application.
- D. Mr. Fields requested that he had a potential buyer that would like to place a Doublewide Mobile Home on the 6-acre tract that is adjacent to 396 Fields Avenue.
- E. Mr. Johnnie Poole stated that he and his wife Sara own land that is adjacent to this property. He stated that they are concerned about an increase in traffic on the existing one-lane road. Mr. Poole advised that there is already a substantial amount of traffic on the road plus with the previous Town's approval for Mr. Fields to sell four more house seats which would add to the existing problem. He stated that no one knows the weight limit for the bridge therefore he feels the Doublewide Mobile Home would be too much weight for the bridge. He feels the mobile home could affect the value of their property.
- F. Mr. Tim Coleman stated that earlier today he was traveling on the road and had to back up three times due to traffic on Fields Avenue. He advised that if the Town approved this permit that it could possibly enable more people in the future requesting to add mobile homes within the Town.
- G. Nick Compton spoke on behalf of Tina Hill, his sister-in-law, he advised that Ms. Hill's biggest concern was the one-lane bridge.

- H. Mr. Snead advised that he understood all the questions each citizen had concerning the conditional use permit. He stated if approved the mobile home would have the same restrictions as the previous permit approval, which must be placed on permanent foundation, wheels must be removed and front porch installed.
- I. Mr. Ramey advised that after speaking with some Town Citizens he was concerned about the one-lane bridge leading to the property.
- J. Mr. Fields advised that he had spoken with a couple of contractors to get pricing concerning repairing the two bridges. He stated if his permit doesn't get approval for the doublewide mobile home that he may build an apartment complex on the property which would be allowed in a R-2 General Dwelling District.
- K. Mr. Ramey requested a motion regarding the request to approve a conditional use permit. The request failed for a lack of a motion.

VIII. Mr. Ramey closed the public hearing, 6:27 P.M.

IX. The Town Council returned to regular session, 6:27 P.M.

X. Mr. Ramey recommended on behalf of the Planning Commission the Conditional Use Permit failed for a lack of a motion.

XI. Public Request

Lebanon Little League-Travis Lambert

Mr. Lambert requested that the Little League field is in need of some maintenance before their season starts. He stated the dugouts need pressure washing, lighting for outfield, and edging on the field. He spoke with Southwest Virginia Community College about their team using the field, but the field lighting didn't meet their standards, they need 50-foot candles infield and 30 foot candles outfield. Mr. Brad Lambert advised that Justin Adams with Triple A provided the edging work on the field last year.

Mr. Gilmer requested for Lebanon Little League to have use of the field until their season ends which should be Memorial Day weekend and then coordinate with Mr. Farmer, Parks & Recreation Director, concerning the Little League All Star games.

Mr. Lambert advised that little league has a building located at Glade Hollow and they would like to move the building to the Lebanon field for storage. Mayor Dodi requested to be sure the building is placed in a safe location.

Virginia Highlands USSSA-Jonathan Shelton

Mr. Lambert advised that Mr. Shelton was not able to make tonight's Council Meeting but if they reconvened, he would get him on the agenda.

Aerial Photography-Greg Cromer

Mr. Cromer presented aerial photos of the Town of Lebanon. He advised that if any member is interested just give him a call.

XII. New Business

Community Center Activities Discussion

Ms. Stanley advised that she had spoken with Shane Farmer to brainstorm ideas for the Town of Lebanon. One idea was to invite different food trucks possibly weekly or every other week as more people are using the pool and ballfield. Mr. Farmer would advertise. Ms. Stanley suggested the Town plan an Easter Egg Hunt and coordinate with the Lebanon Lions Club to provide a July 4<sup>th</sup> event. If possible, she requested planning the Forks in the Road event plus the yard sale is a huge request of citizens. Ms. Stanley advised that she had spoken with Amber Amburgey concerning the brochures for the 2021 events.

Mayor Dodi discussed the days that Sawyer Brown was available for the Cedar Fest Event. The Town council agreed to plan for the Cedar Fest Event on the football field for June 12 and June 13. The Town Council agreed to plan for the Beach Party Event for August 14. The Council agreed to proceed with Amber Amburgey for the 2021 Brochures.

The Town Council discussed reopening the Lebanon Community Center. The council agreed for Mr. Farmer to reach out to Sean Mitchell with the Health Department for a better understanding of what the guidelines are concerning the Community Center.

XIII. Recess: 7:39 P.M.

XIV. Resume: 7:50 P.M.

XV. Town Managers Report

Mr. Blankenship discussed the Tobacco Free Policy. Mayor Dodi requested to discuss the Tobacco Free Policy in closed session.

XVI. Enter closed session: 7:58 P.M.

- A. Upon motion made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the Town Council unanimously voted to go into closed session under Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for the purpose of legal to discuss policy. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.
- B. Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted to return to regular session. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.
- C. A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council, presented the Roll Call Vote:

Virginia Code, 1950, Section 2.2-3712(D)

Do you certify that to the best of your knowledge, (1) the Town Council in its' closed session; only discussed public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this Chapter and (2) that only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Town Council. Any member of the Town Council who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of clauses (1) and (2), shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in their judgment, has taken place.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mayor Dodi, Aye; Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Blankenship, Aye; Mr. Tiller, Aye; Mr. Deskins, Aye.

XVII. Adjourn closed session: 9:14 P.M.

XVIII. Town Managers Report

Mr. Blankenship advised that Robbie Meade and Billy Hughes was preparing quotes for different projects throughout the Town. He plans to have cost estimates prepared so they can be included in the budget for each department. Mr. Gilmer stated that he had requested at the January 5, 2021 meeting for Mr. Blankenship to prepare a list of some State Street projects for tonight's meetings. Mr. Gilmer stated the importance for State Street quotes being prepared and approved early due to the Urban Maintenance Funds needing to be exhausted by June 30, 2021. Mr. Leonard advised to make sure the Town counts all the State Street projects and employee's wages to help preserve the general fund. Ms. Stanley requested within what time period they should have the quotes. Mr. Blankenship advised that he hoped to have a complete list soon.

Mr. Blankenship presented a COVID-19 and Infectious Disease Prevention Plan Policy provided by VRSA. He stated that he is waiting to complete the contingency plan when he meets with all the supervisors.

Mr. Blankenship presented an invoice from Gentry Locke Attorneys concerning the Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation Tax dispute case. The Town pays 38% of the bill from Gentry Locke Attorney, the county pays the remaining balance.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted for the Town of Lebanon to pay \$1,614.75 which is 38 % of the invoice to Russell County Board of Supervisors from Gentry Locke Attorneys concerning the Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation Tax dispute case. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

XIX. Town Chief of Police Report

Chief Deskins discussed the Police report. He advised that the designated COVID Police vehicle was fully equipped with COVID related equipment. Chief Deskins stated that the Police Department has prepared a policy that if they receive any COVID related issue the officer must take the COVID Police vehicle. Chief Deskins presented a Duty to Intervene policy to help

protect officers. All members must recognize and act upon the duty to intervene to prevent or stop any member from conducting any act that is unethical, or that violates law or policy either by verbal and/or physical.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve the Duty to Intervene policy as presented pending upon legal approval. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

XX. Town Attorney Report

Mr. Tiller advised that Tanner Couch paid his balance in full. He stated that he had filed suit against three different properties for nuisance violation.

XXI. Recess: 9:54 P.M.

XXII. Resume: 10:04 P.M.

XXIV. Mr. Lambert discussed the present cost for the lighting at the Lebanon Ball Field, he advised that by changing the bulbs to LED Bulbs would save a great deal in the monthly power bill. Mr. Lambert presented two quotes from Musco Sports Lighting, LLC, the SportsCluster option 1 includes using the existing poles at a quote of \$117,650.00 the Light-Structure System option 2 consists of installing new poles at a quote of \$180,298.00. The warranty program from Musco Sports Lighting, LLC. includes materials and onsite labor which would eliminate 100% of your maintenance costs for the life of the warranty 25 years with Light-Structure System or 10 years with SportsCluster system. Mr. Lambert presented two quotes from Appalachian Power, the first quote includes material and labor but would not include new poles for the amount of \$68,730.00. The second quote consists of materials only for the amount of \$38,179.00. Appalachian Power warranty is only for the lights for a 10-year period.

Mr. Gilmer stated that he would like to fix the lighting at the Little League Field. He stated his desire to budget for either replacing or repairing the Little League Field lighting in the next fiscal year. Mr. Gilmer stated other financial needs the Town has such as the façade at the Russell Theater, plus not be able to project the expense the Town will encounter from the Lebanon Community Center for the next fiscal year. Mr. Leonard stated his concern coming July 1, 2021 the bond payment is due for the new Fire Truck and other financial needs of the Town. The other council expressed their concerns of other projects that are financially out weighing this project for the Town at this time.

XXV. Committee Reports

Mr. Gilmer discussed opening the Lebanon Community Center. Mr. Gilmer requested Mr. Blankenship assist Mr. Farmer in preparing the budget for the Parks and Recreation.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Gilmer, the Town Council unanimously voted to reopen the Lebanon Community Center February 16, 2021, and the Town Hall front lobby office February 10, 2021. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye

Mr. Gilmer expressed his thoughts concerning the CD's at First Bank & Trust Company that are up for renewal in March. He requested to move the funds from the LGIP accounts into First Bank & Trust Company providing they will honor the .50% rate with larger balance for the General Fund account.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Fields, the Town Council unanimously voted to renew the three \$1,000,000.00 CD's at First Bank & Trust Company at a rate of .75% for a six-month period. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

Mr. Gilmer recommended moving more employees over to work on State Street projects. Mr. Gilmer expressed his desire to help Emmanuel Baptist church with the water issue on their property. Mr. Gilmer recommended providing a ditch for the church and on the Town's right of way provide the drop inlet that the Street Supervisor proposed. The Town council discussed the issues with Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Mr. Gilmer requested for Mr. Blankenship to have on next month's agenda the three PER to bring the Town Council up to date with an explanation of what they consist and where they are as of the date. Mr. Blankenship advised the first PER was for mapping of all water and sewer lines. The other PER for the Water Plant consists of evaluation of the plants to see what upgrades the plant needs. The PER for the WasteWater Plant is the identify deficiencies and needs within the existing wastewater treatment facility and pump stations.

Mr. Gilmer requested for the Town Council to go into closed session for a personnel issue.

XXVI. Enter closed session: 11:09 P.M.

- A. Upon motion made by Ms. Stanley, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the Town Council unanimously voted to go into closed session under Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of personnel. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.
- B. Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted to return to regular session. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.
- C. A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council, presented the Roll Call Vote:

Virginia Code, 1950, Section 2.2-3712(D)

Do you certify that to the best of your knowledge, (1) the Town Council in its' closed session; only discussed public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this Chapter and (2) that only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Town Council. Any member of the Town Council who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of clauses (1) and

(2), shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in their judgment, has taken place.


The roll call vote was as follows: Mayor Dodi, Aye; Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Blankenship, Aye; Mr. Tiller, Aye.

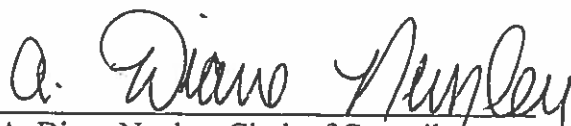
XXVII. Adjourn closed session: 11:20 P.M.

XXVIII. Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted to provide a fifty-dollar monthly phone stipend to Diane Nunley Clerk of Council. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

XXIX. Adjourn: 11:25 P.M.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted to adjourn. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

  
Nelson A. "Tony" Dodi, Mayor

  
A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council

Minutes recorded by: A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council  
Minutes prepared by: A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council