

Lebanon Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Town Hall, Lebanon, Virginia  
Monday, August 16, 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  
Kevin D. Tiller, Town Attorney  
A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council  
Richard Eric Deskins, Chief of Police

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:

Upon motion made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Gilmer, the agenda 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 07/12/21 regular council meeting, 07/20/21 reconvened council meeting.

Ms. Jackson advised that in the Sanitation Committee minutes dated July 19, 2021, she was listed as Chairwoman of the Sanitation Committee correction should be Bradley Lambert as Chairman. Mr. Leonard advised that in the July 12, 2021, Regular Council Meeting minutes on page 4 should be correct to the ARPA Committee Meeting for Tuesday July 20, 2021, instead of June 20, 2021.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the minutes from the 07/12/21 regular council meeting, 07/20/21 reconvened council meeting 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.

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

Mr. Gilmer advised that the hanging baskets, street signs, Christmas Decorations and poles for downtown signs should be reimbursed by the Downtown Revitalization Streetscape funds.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Fields, the accounts payable for the month of July 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. Recognition

### Kiser Trucking Company-Greg & Melissa Kiser

Mayor Dodi express his appreciation to Greg and Melissa Kiser with Kiser Trucking Company and their families for the Big Rig Showdown in Town of Lebanon. Mayor Dodi presented a plaque from the Town of Lebanon to Kiser Trucking Company and Greg and Melissa Kiser to express the Town's thanks for having the Big Rig Showdown in the Town of Lebanon.

## VIII. Public Request

### Josh Burgess –Nuisance Issue

Josh Burgess, business owner of the formerly Quick Superette, stated that he owns and operates the Handy's Market in Cleveland Virginia. Mr. Burgess stated that he received a nuisance letter regarding his property on Main Street the former Quick Superette which hurt him because he is trying to improve this property. He advised that he works full time for Norfolk Southern Railroad, a family man plus manages his business in Cleveland, Virginia. Mayor Dodi advised that the Town is not trying to cause problems for him, but the Council has received numerous complaints from citizens regarding his property. Mayor Dodi advised that the Town has a Nuisance Ordinance in place, therefore he was not the only property owner that had received letters from the Town regarding nuisance issues. Mr. Burgess presented a plan to complete the renovation of the building, gas tanks and parking lot. Mr. Burgess advised that he has two trailers in the parking lot which he is using for storage of materials and parts. Mr. Burgess assured the Town Council once the project was completed that it would be a great asset to the Town of Lebanon.

Doro Martin advised the Town Council that her friend from Delaware contacted her about six months ago requesting she help with a Vet Fest here in Virginia. The event will at the Russell County Fair Grounds which will consist of a 5K Run/Walk, 12K Ruck, Tug-of War, Sack Race, Egg Race, Pie Eating Contest, Cornhole, Car and Bike Show plus a Motorcycle/Car Ride to the Breaks with a meal included. The purpose of this event is to raise money to help prevent Soldier Suicide. Ms. Martin stated that Soldier Suicide is very near to her heart because she lost a close Military friend to suicide. She advised that a lot of Military Men/Women feel they have to appear strong, therefore most will not seek the mental help they need. She requested the Town help by advertising and attending the Vet Fest Event. Ms. Martin requested the Town advertise by placing a banner, that she would provide, in the Town.

IX. Bid Opening

Lohr Wall

Mayor Dodi opened the sealed bids for the Lohr Wall Project

Cleco Construction	\$118,650.00
Ken Construction	\$220,210.00

Mr. Gilmer advised that the Lohr Wall Project bid is much higher than he anticipated, therefore he felt the Town Council needed to discuss the Downtown Lighting Project before awarding this bid. Mr. Leonard advised that the Town Council needs to review the funds left in streetscapes with the Downtown Revitalization funds and discuss the Downtown Lighting Project using the Urban Maintenance Funds before making a decision regarding the Lohr Wall Project.

Mayor Dodi opened the sealed bids for the J. S. Easterly Park Bathrooms

Ken Construction	\$76,212.00
Steffey Construction	\$47,160.00

Mr. Leonard advised that normally due to increase cost of building materials at this time he would not vote for any building project, but this bid amount is close to the quoted price from six to eight months ago, therefore he feels comfortable to vote for this bathroom project.

Upon motion made by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the Town Council unanimously voted to award the bid for the J.S. Easterly Park Bathrooms to Steffey Construction using the ARPA funds. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

Mayor Dodi opened the sealed bids for the Russell Theater Façade

Ken Construction	\$211,955.00
Steffey Construction	\$224,758.00

Mr. Farmer advised that the monies left in the Downtown Revitalization Funds for the Russell Theater Façade is \$178,017.71.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted to award the bid for the Russell Theater Façade to Ken Construction. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

X. Recess: 6:50 P.M.

XI. Resume: 7:06 P.M.

XII. New Business

ARPA Committee

Mr. Gilmer advised that with the guidance regarding the Coronavirus State and Local Physical Recovery Funds the ARPA Committee was able to calculate using the provided formula the loss of revenue for the Town of Lebanon for the year 2020 is calculated at \$568,530.92 which is considered an eligible use of the ARPA funds.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted to reimburse the Town of Lebanon General Fund account using ARPA Funds for 2020 loss revenue in the amount of \$568,530.92. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted based upon recommendation from the ARPA Committee to allocate to the Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority for the Southwest Regional Housing Development Corporation Elderly Housing Lebanon project the amount of \$100,000. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

#### Town Appointment to Russell County IDA

Mayor Dodi expressed his appreciation for Mr. Gilmer's service on the Russell County IDA which will expire in September 2021. Mr. Gilmer has requested to not be reappointed to serve on the Russell County IDA, therefore Mayor Dodi requested if any of the Town Council Members would like to be appointed to the Russell County IDA to serve in Mr. Gilmer's position. Ms. Jackson, Mr. Lambert and Mr. Leonard all advised they would like to serve on the Russell County IDA. Mayor Dodi advised that someone filling Mr. Gilmer's position on the Russell County IDA would be discussed at the meeting tomorrow evening.

#### Town of Lebanon Web Cam

Mr. Gilmer advised that he had been approached about placing a Web Cam in the Downtown area for the Town's website. Mr. Gilmer requested Mr. Blankenship meet with Jacob Musick to discuss placing a Web Cam in the Downtown area.

#### Match Farmers Market Bake Sale Total (Kids Food Bucks)

Ms. Nunley advised that Tammy Lasley requested that the Farmers Market was planning a Bake Sale this Wednesday to raise money for Russell County Health Coalition for Kid's Food Buck Program. Ms. Lasley requested the Town Council match the dollar amount of what was raised. Mr. Gilmer requested to take the funds from the Farmers Market account to match the bake sale amount.

Upon motion made by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Fields, the Town Council unanimously voted to match the money raised from the Farmers Market Bake Sale but if they do not raise at least \$250 make the donation from the Farmers Market account for that amount to the Russell County Health Coalition for the Kid's Buck program. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

### Discuss Downtown Historic Lighting Expansion

Mayor Dodi advised that the Historic Lighting ends at the Family Drug, therefore the Town was looking at extending the Historic Lighting to the Town Hall. He advised that Jim Porter with AEP presented an estimate for this project, previously the Town was planning to use Downtown Revitalization Funds, but the request was denied. The only amount left in the Downtown Revitalization grant funds for streetscapes is \$22,259.00. The Town Council discussed this project. The Town Council agreed to have a Street Committee Meeting to walk the project area to discuss the Downtown Lighting project with property owners that would be affected by the new streetlights.

### Cedar Fest 2022 Discussion

Mayor Dodi advised Ms. Jackson that she might schedule a Parks & Recreation Committee meeting to discuss Artists for Cedar Fest 2022. Mayor Dodi advised that he had spoken with Kent Martin with SRO Productions. Mr. Martin advised that the annual meeting with Entertainment Groups will be in October, he requested the list before this meeting. The Town Council agreed to schedule a Joint Meeting with the Street Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee for Monday, August 30, 2021, at 5:00 P.M.

## XIII. Town Managers Report

### Richardson-Wayland Quote

Mr. Blankenship presented a quote from Richardson-Wayland to paint the Main Street & Cleveland Road Mast Arm/Pole for the amount of \$14,541.34. The Town Council discussed this project. Mayor Dodi requested Mr. Leonard speak with Mr. Hughes to discuss the Town Employees providing the labor which can be charged to Urban Maintenance.

### Comprehensive Analysis study letter and Resolution

Mr. Blankenship presented a Comprehensive Analysis study letter of the Fire System for the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Blankenship advised that if the Town Council would like to proceed with the Comprehensive Analysis study using the Virginia Department of Fire Program, they needed to approve the Resolution requesting a Comprehensive Analysis Study.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve the presented letter and Resolution requesting a Comprehensive Analysis Study on the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department by the Virginia Department of Fire Program. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

## XIV. Chief of Police Report

Chief Deskins presented an updated monthly report. Chief Deskins advised that Officer Riggs and Officer Jackson completed their one-year probation service. Chief Deskins requested to speak with the council in closed session.

XV. Town Attorney Report

Mr. Tiller requested to speak with the Town Council in closed session.

XVI. Enter closed session: 7:45 P.M.

A. Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted to go into closed session under Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1)(7) for the purpose of personnel administration and legal. 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. Leonard, seconded by Ms. Stanley, 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; Chief Deskins, Aye.

XVII. Adjourn closed session: 10:08 P.M.

XVIII. Upon motion made by Mr. Fields, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve to adjust the salaries as described in closed session for Tyler Hart and Chris Kiser effective July 1, 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. Leonard requested Mr. Blankenship revisit the Auto Repair Businesses regarding the nuisance issues. He requested Mr. Blankenship identify areas of nuisance issues, what is needed to be in compliance and have each facility send a letter to the Town Council addressing how these issues will be corrected.

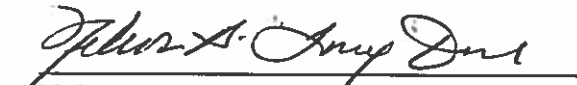
Mr. Gilmer advised that John Michael McCoy messaged him regarding the wrecked Fire Truck. Mr. McCoy requested the Town Council authorize three quotes to repair the Fire Truck. The Town Council agreed for Mr. Lambert to reach out to obtain three quotes for the Fire Truck.

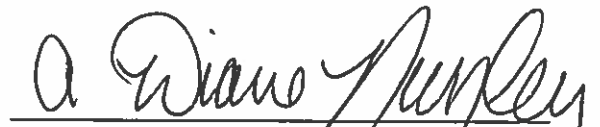
Mr. Gilmer requested Mr. Blankenship speak with The Lane Group for a status regarding the PER's completion. Mr. Blankenship advised that the mapping PER is complete. Mr. Blankenship advised the other PER for the Water Plant should be near completion plus he has scheduled a meeting with The Lane Group for Thursday to discuss all of the PER's.

Mr. Leonard advised that after notices was mailed to all past due Business Licenses several has been paid.

XIX. Adjourn: 10:20 P.M.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Fields, the Town Council unanimously voted to adjourn to reconvene Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 4:30 P.M. 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