

Lebanon Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Town Hall, Lebanon, Virginia
Tuesday, October 11, 2022
5:00 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: Andrew R. Shortt, 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. Enter closed session: 5:00 P.M.

A. Upon motion made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted to go into closed session under Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) (7) for the purpose to discuss personnel and legal issues. 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 Ms. Jackson, 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. Shortt, Aye; Mr. Tiller, Aye.

III. Adjourn closed session: 6:00 P.M.

IV. Prayer: Shawn Street

V. Pledge of Allegiance

VI. 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.

VII. Edit and approve amended minutes from the 09/12/22 regular council meeting.

Upon motion made by Mr. Fields, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the amended minutes from the 09/12/22 regular 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.

VIII. Approve accounts payable and capital assets for the month of September:

Mr. Shortt presented a couple of additions to add to the accounts payable.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the accounts payable for the month of September with additions as presented 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.

IX. Public Hearing to Consider:

Town of Lebanon abandoning Puckett Street

A. Mayor Dodi opened the Public Hearing: 6:07 P.M.

B. Mr. Keith Viers advised that the request to abandon Puckett Street is to help with the development of the Main Street Vilas project. He advised that Puckett Street connects to the back of the property that they are developing. He presented the Town Council a plat showing the need to abandon Puckett Street. Mr. Viers stated that the setbacks for the units on Main Street will be pushed back close to Puckett Street as it exists. Mr. Viers requested the Town Council consider abandoning that section of Puckett Street. He advised that they will be developing an entrance to the back for the residence of the area but the road will not be Town maintained. He stated that the East end of Puckett Street will still be a Town street.

C. Mr. Rose, Town Citizen, stated that his mother owns the home on Puckett Street. He stated his concerns for any service such as trash pickup, mail, package delivery and snow removal because it is a one lane road with no room to turn. He questioned why block the road with the dumpster. He advised also that the residence living in the Russell Builders

area will have no place to turn. He questioned who will provide maintenance for Puckett Street. Mr. Rose stated that he didn't understand why they would need to abandon Puckett Street, maybe just move the road back some. He stated that he was concerned about property value, maintenance, visitors and large vehicles. Mr. Rose stated that Mr. Viers stated that this is a rough plan therefore before he could support it or the Town Council support this request, he would hope Mr. Viers would need to present a more definite plan.

- D. Mr. Viers stated that the engineers are looking to add turn space. He stated that they will provide maintenance and snow removal for the road. He advised that he hopes to have more detailed information for the Town Council that will show a better footprint. The Town Council discussed with Mr. Viers moving the dumpster up the hill to give more space for the traffic.
- E. Mayor Dodi requested Mr. Viers come back to another Town Council meeting and present a more definite plan of the Main Street Vilas project.

X. Mayor Dodi closed the public hearing, 6:29 P.M.

XI. The Town Council returned to regular session, 6:29 P.M.

Mayor Dodi stated that no action was taken concerning abandoning Puckett Street at this time.

XII. Public Request:

Barry Abromovage with the American Red Cross along with Jess Powers Emergency Manager for Russell County plus for Salvation Army and American Red Cross, and Sharon Dixon Disaster Program Manager for the Red Cross of Southwest Virginia. Mr. Abromovage advised that they are here tonight to recognize the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department for their efforts during a fire on Pioneer Drive that occurred on April 7, 2019. He stated that during the fire the Fire Department entered into a fully engulfed apartment building and resecured one residence. He stated that to be able to perform such a task it takes a lot of training, drills, experience and confidence that no one in the Fire Department would be harmed. The American Red Cross presented a plaque to the Lebanon Fire Department to recognize them for their bravery during a fire on April 7, 2019, on Pioneer Drive. John McCoy Fire Chief thanked all the Volunteer Fire Fighters for always showing up when they are called upon, plus Barry for always helping with displaced family and Jess Powers for always responding to any call. Mayor Dodi advised that this is not an isolated event with the Lebanon Fire Department because they are always committed to taking care of the Town citizens as well as the County. Mr. Dodi stated that he is proud that the Red Cross recognized them and advised that the Town Council is proud of them also.

Jess Powers advised that the Lebanon Fire Department members are all volunteers. He stated that if you look at the number of hours of required training plus the hours, they commit of their time to protect the residents. He expressed his appreciation for the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Lambert stated that the Lebanon Fire Department spend countless hours to serve the Town and the County plus it is recognized that they are helping the State. He stated that he is honored to be a member of the Lebanon Fire Department. He stated that there have been instances where they have been questioned on their integrity of the department and other issues, but he stated that

the majority of the Lebanon Town Council fully supports the Lebanon Fire Department. He expressed his love and appreciation for each member of the department.

XIII. Public Request

Randy Burke expressed his appreciation for the Town supporting Maro Mero. He stated that Maro Mero received over 500 texts from students in Russell County after speaking at the schools. Mr. Burke shared some text from students that Maro Mero received. Ms. Stanley expressed her appreciation for Maro Mero sharing his story with the Russell County students. She stated that Maro Mero made such an impact on the students that so many of them brought their parents back for him to share his story with them. Mr. Burke advised that his wife rented one of the rooms at the community center to have a retirement party for him, but she requested an additional hour or so to decorate and was charged an extra \$30. The Town Council agreed to refund the additional \$30 that Mr. Burke was charged. Mr. Burke stated that someone requested for him to find out how much the Town had in the bank five years ago and balance this year. Mr. Gilmer advised that Ms. Nunley would provide the bank information that Mr. Burke the requested.

XIV. New Business

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Mr. Gilmer advised that there should be funding coming down the pipeline from the infrastructure bill. He stated that they started with water and sewer projects, now that maybe \$90 billion has been released for electric vehicle charging stations. He requested that Mr. Shortt along with Shane Farmer pursue any available funding for the Town concerning electric vehicle charging stations. Mr. Shortt stated that the surrounding area Towns are not providing electric vehicle charging stations mostly businesses that provide this service.

Christmas Parade Theme and Parade Marshal

Mayor Dodi advised that the Town of Lebanon Christmas Parade will be December 5, 2022, starting at 6:00 P.M. Ms. Jackson presented some different Christmas Parade themes. The Town Council agreed for the 2022 Christmas Parade theme to be Christmas Past and Present. Mr. Gilmer requested for the parade to promote items from the past like antique cars, horse and buggy or other ideas. Mayor Dodi advised for the Town Council to forward any ideas for the parade to Ms. Jackson.

Upon motion made by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Gilmer, the Town Council unanimously voted to appoint Doyle Fields as Parade Marshal for the 2022 Christmas Parade. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Abstain; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

Cedar Fest Discussion

Mayor Dodi requested the Town Council text him any suggestions they have for artists for Cedar Fest, July 4th and the Beach Party.

XV. Recess: 7:05 P.M.

XVI. Adjourn: 7:19 P.M.

XVII. Town Managers Report

Ready Set Go Grant-VDOT

Mr. Shortt advised that the Ready Set Go Grant is a VDOT program for populations under 50,000 in non-metropolitan areas. He stated that these funds are for an alternative transportation project therefore he applied for sidewalk on Technology Park Road. He advised that he is trying to get survey done to see the amount of usage from Gardenside Citizens, Gymnastics, Beartown CrossFit and the soccer association.

Committee Meetings needed this month

Mr. Shortt requested the Town Council set meeting date for the Street Committee, Water and Wastewater Committee. He stated that the need for the Street Committee was due to Worldwide Equipment request to discuss the rotation program. The Town Council agreed to set the committee meeting for October 17, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.

Eddie Shelton-VRSA

Mr. Shortt advised that Eddie Shelton with VRSA plans to be in Lebanon November 16, 2022, to inspect the playground equipment.

Broadband update

Mr. Shortt advised that Point Broadband have started aerial and underground construction which should be completed by December 31, 2022. They have permits for all AEP poles, but they are having difficulty getting permits from Verizon. Mr. Shortt advised that the Town should make some type of public announcement concerning the Point Broadband project to the public. Mr. Leonard advised that Aaron Morrison with Quanta Services, subcontractor for Point Broadband planned to attend the meeting tonight to introduce himself therefore if anyone had any complaints with construction related issues, he will provide a contact list for citizens to call.

Fire Report Study and LEO's Study Update

Mr. Shortt advised that this time the Fire Study should be conducted by the fire study board not just one individual. He stated that he hopes to have more updated information soon.

Street Sweeper Hopper

Mr. Shortt advised that when the order was placed Mr. Hughes was advised that the order would be three weeks out before receiving it.

Mr. Shortt stated that the bid conference was today with Cumberland Plateau, The Lane Group and interested contractors for the Russell Theater Restoration Project Equipment and Furnishings. Mr. Shortt advised that the sealed bids are due October 25, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Shortt presented the quotes for Nathan Brown concerning the Veterans Park landscape and the Old Mill bridge due to Mr. Brown being out of town. Mayor Dodi stated that he hoped the Town Council would move forward with the Veterans Park bid.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve the bid from Davis Bros Nursery in the amount of \$12,950 for the Veterans Park landscape project as presented. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

Mr. Shortt presented the Old Mill Bridge options and their associated cost estimates. Mayor Dodi questioned if there was enough room to expand the sidewalk temporarily so citizens could park at the Old Mill Park and walk to the restaurant. Mr. Gilmer requested that once construction was completed for the Street Department to look at marking the road on Russell Street for the pedestrian traffic. Mr. Gilmer requested Mr. Shortt check on the sidewalk being ground level with the road and check on the sidewalk being raised above the road level.

Mr. Shortt presented quotes from Bo Bise to purchase the police radios.

Mr. Gilmer stated that he would like to look at cameras at all the Town facilities. He advised that the Town may need to request for proposal for cameras. The Town Council discussed getting cameras for each of the Town facilities. Mr. Gilmer requested with reorganization coming up for Mr. Shortt to check the bid dates for paving contract, markings contract, HVAC contract and IT contract.

XVIII. Chief of Police Report

Chief Deskins presented the monthly police report.

XIX. Town Attorney Report

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

XX. Committee Reports and Recommendations

Mr. Leonard questioned Mr. Short concerning the Town of Lebanon Meals and Lodging tax if this was the new updated standard operating procedures. Mr. Tiller advised that he prepared the standard operating procedures regarding past due meals and lodging tax.

XXI. Old Business

Mr. Gilmer requested an update concerning the Russell Theater pavilion. Mr. Shortt advised that the Town employees broke ground today starting on the parking area. Mr. Gilmer requested an update regarding the basketball court. Mr. Shortt advised that Mr. Meade is working to prepare an updated quote due to the increase price of concrete but the previous estimate for asphalt should be around the same price. Mr. Shortt stated that Mr. Farmer thinks they can use the extra basketball goals at the recreation facility for the outside basketball court. Mr. Lambert advised that he was concerned with someone mistreating them like lowering them which may cause them to break. Mr. Lambert suggested for Mr. Shortt to purchase new basketball goals for the outside basketball court.

Mr. Gilmer advised that he would like to propose a second round of tax relief for the Town of Lebanon citizens immediately. He stated that on the financial side the Town budgeted \$100,000 in loss of revenue from the budget meetings to provide that relief. He stated that once all the criteria were met to qualify the total amount was only around \$46,000.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Fields, the Town Council unanimously voted to refund a second round of 25 percent of the real estate tax paid for the year 2021 on residential property owned by town residents be awarded to the property owners on December 31, 2021. This refund is limited to residential properties owned by town residents, and does not include rental property, commercial property, or vacant land. Only persons whose real estate taxes were not delinquent on May 1, 2022, and who owed no delinquent charges, fees and were in compliance with all town ordinances are eligible for this refund. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

XXII. Enter closed session: 8:03 P.M.

A. Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Gilmer, the Town Council unanimously voted to go into closed session under Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) (7) for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal issues. 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 Ms. Jackson, 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. Shortt, Aye; Mr. Tiller, Aye.

XXIII. Adjourn closed session: 10:43 P.M.

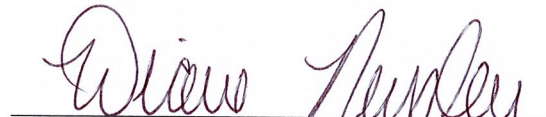
XXIV. Upon motion made by Mr. Fields, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted to adjust the Police Department salaries as described in closed session. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

XXV. Upon motion made by Mr. Fields, seconded by Mr. Gilmer, the Town Council unanimously voted to promote Matthew Hurd as sergeant at the described salary. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

XXVI. Adjourn: 10:48 P.M.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted to adjourn to reconvene October 25, 2022, at 5:00 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