

Lebanon Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Town Hall, Lebanon, Virginia
Tuesday, October 14, 2025
6:00 P.M.

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

Staff Members Present: Andrew R. Shortt, Town Manager
Kevin D. Tiller, Town Attorney
Richard Eric Deskins, Chief of Police
Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council

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

II. Prayer: Robert Gragg Pastor Lebanon Baptist Church

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Edit for items not on the agenda:

Mayor Dodi requested to add under New Business to discuss the 2026 Professional Stage, Audio, Lighting and Productions Bids. Ms. Fields requested to add Community Thanksgiving Dinner discussion.

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

V. Edit and approve minutes from the 09/08/25 council meeting, 09/16/25 reconvened council meeting:

Upon motion made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Ms. Fields, the minutes of the 09/08/25 council meeting, 09/16/25 reconvened council meeting were unanimously approved. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

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

Mr. Shortt presented an A/P Preliminary Report Part B. Mr. Gilmer requested to remove invoice #55256 to Front Row Music in the amount of \$2,850.00 for Beats & Eats Event. He requested to send that invoice to the Chamber of Commerce Angie Carpenter.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the accounts payable for the month of September including the A/P Preliminary Report Part B with removing the Front Row Music invoice in the amount of \$2,850.00 was unanimously approved. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

VII. Public Request

Jennifer Cooper, Co-Founder/Executive Director of Cats Lives Are Worth Saving (CLAWS). She stated that they created this new non-profit to help manage the community cat population of Lebanon. She stated that since moving to Lebanon they became aware of cat colonies and caregivers plus the growing population of free-foaming and abandoned cats which made her aware of the need to help get the cat population under control. She stated that ruffly Lebanon has 80 know cats which live in 9 colonies. She stated that caregivers are paying out of pocket for spay/neuter, vaccines, emergency care plus food. She stated that due to the rising cost of pet care we will see the cat population grow due to the fact people cannot afford to have their pets spayed or neutered. Ms. Cooper stated that their organization will partner with local veterinarians and rescue organizations to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and vaccinations events. She stated that their goal is simple to help the residents that support these cat colonies in Town, manage the outdoor cat population humanly and responsibly plus the long term goal is to serve all of Russell County so that no caregiver has to operate without help and all cat owners can have access to free or slightly scaled spay/neuter. She stated that all they ask of the Town is partnership, open communication, cooperation on public property where cat colonies are present and support from public education about humane management. She stated that together she feels we can create a compassion cost effective approach that reflects the values of this community.

Kaiser Williams, who works for Green Valley Towing Service, stated that they would like to move their storage facility to Cleveland Road on the property of Jason Lampkin. He stated that Mr. Lampkin had to work tonight so therefore Mr. Williams came to speak with the Town Council in his place. He questioned if there was anything they needed to do in order to proceed with a storage lot for repossessed vehicles. He stated that the vehicles are stored there no more than 20 days before the banks get them. He stated that they would not have any junk vehicles parked at the facility. Mr. Shortt advised that in order to place a storage lot on this property, the property needed to be rezoned from a R-2 General Dwelling District to a C-1 Commercial District.

VIII. New Business

Professional Stage, Audio, Lighting and Productions Bids

Mayor Dodi presented the quotes for the 2026 Professional Stage, Audio, Lighting and Productions bids. They are as follows:

SRO Productions	\$28,500.00
Front Row Music	\$35,350.00

Upon motion made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Gilmer, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve the quote from SRO Production for the 2026 Professional Stage, Audio, Lighting and Production as presented. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

Mr. Gilmer requested Mayor Dodi to speak with SRO Production to see if they are willing to lock in this quote for two to three years.

Parade Theme and Parade Marshall

Upon motion made by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Kegley, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve Henson O'Quinn as Parade Marshall for the Christmas Parade. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

Upon motion made by Ms. Fields, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve the 2026 Christmas Parade Theme as Shining Bright: A Christmas of Hope. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

Discuss Support for service in honor of Charlie Kirk at LHS

Ms. Fields stated that Jacqueline Campbell contacted her requesting the Town Council's support for an event at Lebanon High School to honor Charlie Kirk November 25, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. She stated that Ms. Campbell has contacted the High School and several local ministers. She stated that Ms. Campbell felt the need to have something to honor the life of Charlie Kirk, the theme for the rally is "An Awakening, A Night of Praise and Worshiping in Honor of Charlie Kirk".

Upon motion made by Ms. Fields, seconded by Mr. Kegley, the Town Council unanimously voted to support the service in honor of Charlie Kirk at Lebanon High School on November 25, 2025. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Ms. Fields stated that the Town has always supported the Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Lebanon High School. She stated that Cheyenne Gardner spoke with her concerning the pay for the LHS Cafeteria staff that work at the event. The Town Council discussed the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Mr. Shortt stated that it is much cleaner if the High School pays their employees rather than the Town with the Town reimbursing the cost.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Ms. Jackson, the Town Council unanimously voted to authorize the Town Manager to approve to Lebanon High School up to the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

Pickleball Expansion

Mr. Shortt presented an estimated quote for the Pickleball Expansion for the amount of \$246,094.00 according to what Nathan Brown had previously designed. Mr. Lambert requested a Finance Meeting to discuss the Pickleball Expansion proposal. The Town Council agreed to schedule a joint meeting for the Finance Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee for November 10th at 5:30 P.M.

Auto Auction

Mr. Shortt stated that the Town only has a couple of vehicles to declare as surplus which is the 2007 Chevrolet Pickup and the 2014 Ford Police Sport Utility vehicles. The Town Council discussed the auction.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Gilmer, the Town Council unanimously voted to declare the 2007 Chevrolet Pickup and the 2014 Ford Police Sport Utility as surplus items and for the Town Manager to arrange for them to be sold at public auction. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

Updates

Mr. Shortt stated that Arnold Day, with Worldwide Equipment, sent him a quote for the aluminum wheels for the amount of \$250.00. Mr. Leonard requested Mr. Shortt verify that amount for the aluminum wheels.

Mr. Shortt stated that the flagpole to place at the ASAA Tank has been purchased but just waiting for the engineer to give the specs to design the footer for the pad. He stated that the ATV has been purchased and currently being used.

Mr. Shortt stated that he spoke with Keith Steffey concerning the Lebanon Manor Sign and the Water Plant Sign, Mr. Steffey is working on ordering the materials for the rock work as the Sign Shop prepares the signs.

Mr. Shortt advised that the Town Employees have installed ruffly 300' to 400' of water line on Gay Avenue as of today. He stated that the real estate and personal property taxes should be ready to be sent to Southern Software by the end of this week.

Mr. Shortt advised that the Small Business Incentive Grant that the Town has budgeted \$100,000.00. The Russell County IDA has approved two of those grants, the first one is Blooms and Brews for the amount of \$30,000.00 and Bradley Witt for a sporting goods store for the amount of \$10,000.00.

Mr. Shortt stated that he checked a couple of grants that the Town can apply for to place a sidewalk on Pioneer Drive which is Well Spring Tourism and VDOT Safe Routes to School as options. He advised that he spoke with VDOT representative Jeff Buchanan that even though the Town has another project the sidewalk on Technology Park Drive going on, the Town is eligible

to apply for the Pioneer Drive Sidewalk project. He stated that the bad news is that the earliest you can apply is April 2026, which will be awarded for the fiscal year 2027-2028. The Town Council discussed the Pioneer Drive sidewalk project. The Town Council agreed for The Lane Group to conduct a Project Cost Study for the Pioneer Drive Sidewalk project.

Mr. Shortt stated that the water loss report in the Town Council packet which states the water loss at 47% he feels is incorrect. He stated that this was the first time for Daniel O'Quinn or Steven Sweet to provide the report therefore he feels they may have miscalculated. Mr. Leonard requested for Mr. Shortt to follow-up his findings in the Town Managers report on Friday for the Town Council.

Mr. Gilmer questioned what the next step for the AEP Lighting project and West Main Street Enhancement project is. Mr. Shortt stated that the light poles have been ordered but the expected arrival time is around sixteen to eighteen weeks out. He stated that Mr. Porter will request the removal of the old light poles before installing the new ones. Mr. Gilmer questioned if the Town Employees plan to start the earthwork while the schools are out for Christmas. Mr. Shortt stated that he is waiting for Nathan Brown to finish with some surveying, then they plan to get together to move forward with the wall project. Mr. Shortt stated that the East Main Street project is waiting on the same information from Nathan Brown.

X. Chief of Police Report

Chief Deskins presented the monthly Police Report. Chief Deskins stated that the Town received an award from National Guard for Patriotic Employer Award for their support for Sergeant Lane. Chief Deskins presented a quote to purchase a mobile radar sign from Traffic Logix for the amount of \$3,508.00 to help solve the speeding issue in the Pruner Addition. The Town Council discussed different options such as VDOT or other grants to cover the purchase of the mobile radar sign which Mr. Shortt and Chief Deskins will research all avenues.

Upon motion made by Mr. Gilmer, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve the purchase of the radar sign from Traffic Logix for the amount of \$3,508.00 as presented. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

XI. Town Attorney Report

Mr. Tiller advised that he had items to speak with them in closed session.

XII. Mr. Lambert advised that Fire Chief McCoy was not able to attend the Town Council meeting tonight, but he advised him that the Fire Department had two free tickets for fireman to attend a Fire Officer Development Program in Florida. He stated that Chief McCoy wished to send two firemen to this program, everything is paid for except the flights. He stated that Chief McCoy has requested the Town to pay for the flights, which may be around \$1500.00 per person.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Gilmer, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve for the Town to pay for two tickets for the Lebanon Firemen to attend the Fire Officer Development program in Florida up to the amount of \$1,500.00 per person. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

XIII. Enter closed session: 7:14 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)(5)(7) for the purpose of personnel, prospective business or industry and legal. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye, Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.
- B. Upon motion made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Ms. Fields, the Town Council unanimously voted to return to regular session. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.
- C. 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. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye; Mr. Tiller, Aye; Mr. Shortt, Aye.

XIV. Adjourn closed session: 9:02 P.M.

XV. Upon motion made by Ms. Fields, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the Town Council unanimously voted to promote Steven Sweet as the Water Treatment Plant Supervisor at the salary discussed. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

Mayor Dodi advised that he had been notified that the 49 Winchesters are available for the Town of Lebanon's 2026 July 4th event for the amount of \$75,000.00. Mayor Dodi proposed to take the Corporate Sponsors donations to help pay for this cost which most years is around \$55,000.00. The Town Council discussed that since this is America's 250-year anniversary they feel this would be a great event

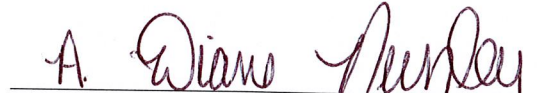
Upon motion made by Mr. Kegley, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve for Mayor Dodi to proceed discussion to book the 49 Winchesters for the Town of Lebanon's 2026 July 4th event. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Gilmer, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Kegley, Aye; Ms. Fields, Aye.

Mr. Gilmer requested the JS Easterly Trail Equipment be updated. Mr. Gilmer requested that Mr. Shortt have some recommendation to update the trail equipment for the November Council meeting.

XVI. Adjourn: 9:10 P.M.

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