LEBANON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

October 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Library Community Meeting Room
55 Academy Street, Lebanon, Oregon

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide services that foster a resilient, safe, and growing community, strengthened by our community connections

Mayor: Kenneth Jackola

Council President Michelle Steinhebel | Councilor Dominic Conti | Councilor Marcellus Angellford

Councilor Jeremy Salvage | Councilor David McClain | Councilor Dave Workman

6:00 PM – CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT
Mayor Kenneth Jackola
Councilor - Ward 1 Dominic Conti
Councilor - Ward 1 Marcellus Angellford
Councilor - Ward 2 David McClain
Councilor - Ward 2 Dave Workman
Councilor - Ward 3 Jeremy Salvage
Council President - Ward 3 Michelle Steinhebel

STAFF
City Manager Ron Whitlatch
City Attorney Tre' Kennedy
Finance Director Brandon Neish
Police Captain Kim Hyde
City Recorder Julie Fisher
IT Admin Assistant Erin Gomez

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following item(s) are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be a separate discussion of these items unless a Councilor so requests. In this case, the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

Motion made by Councilor - Ward 2 Workman, Seconded by Council President - Ward 3 Steinhebel.
Voting Yea: Councilor - Ward 1 Conti, Councilor - Ward 1 Angellford, Councilor - Ward 2 McClain, Councilor - Ward 2 Workman, Councilor - Ward 3 Salvage, Council President - Ward 3 Steinhebel

1. ***AGENDA:*** Lebanon City Council Agenda – October 14, 2026
2. ***COUNCIL MINUTES:*** *September 9, 2026 City Council Meeting*

PRESENTATION / RECOGNITION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizens may address the Council by filling out a testimony/comment card prior to speaking and hand it to the City Recorder. Each citizen is provided up to 5 minutes to provide comments to the Council. The Council may take an additional two minutes to ask clarifying questions. The City Recorder will accept and distribute written comments at a speaker's request. Public comments can also be submitted by email to city.recorder@lebanonoregon.gov prior to ***5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2026****. The City Recorder will distribute comments to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting.*

City Recorder Fisher noted there was a written comment received from Richard Drake regarding traffic concerns on 5th Street between Center and 1st. Staff have already reached out and are addressing the concerns. The written comment will be added to the Council packet materials.

Dr. Elaine Wilder addressed the Council and recognized the passing of Rose Kaler, who died on October 1, 2026. Dr. Wilder spoke about Ms. Kaler's love for the City of Lebanon and her dedication to attending Council meetings and staying involved in the community. A celebration of life was announced for November 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the River Center.

Shelly Nicholas addressed questions and concerns regarding the cost of operating the Lebanon Municipal Jail. She questioned the previously reported estimate of $68 per bed per day and asked what the actual cost would be to reopen the facility, how the City would recruit and staff corrections officer positions, how long reopening would take, and how levy funds would be handled if the facility could not open immediately. She also referenced information regarding Linn County Jail's acceptance of Lebanon cases and local crime statistics. Councilor Workman offered to follow up with her individually to discuss her questions and provide additional information.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

REGULAR SESSION

3. Utility Rates for Vacant Properties Discussion

   Finance Director Brandon Neish presented information regarding potential changes to utility billing for vacant properties. He explained that the City currently continues to charge base water and wastewater rates when a property is vacant, even when there is no water consumption. Staff presented three options for Council consideration: maintaining the existing billing structure, establishing a reduced or vacation rate for vacant properties, or suspending water and wastewater base charges during a vacancy. Staff recommended that storm drainage and city services fees continue to be charged under either of the latter two options because those services continue to benefit the property.

   Council discussed the potential financial impact, estimated by staff at approximately $35,000 to $40,000 in reduced annual revenue if charges were suspended, as well as administrative requirements, property owner responsibility, communication about delinquent accounts, and the practices of neighboring cities. Some Council members favored maintaining the current rates and improving communication with property owners, while others expressed interest in providing a reduced rate or temporary suspension for properties that were not using water or wastewater services. Staff explained that the proposed new utility billing system would provide improved options for communicating with property owners about past-due accounts. The discussion was intended to gather Council feedback before staff brought forward a proposed ordinance. The consensus of the Council was to continue with current practices.

4. **Department Reports:**

   Captain Kim Hyde provided an update on the Police Department, including staffing, investigations, traffic enforcement, community programs, equipment donations, and

technology improvements. The department was fully staffed in sworn positions, with one vacancy remaining in the records division. The department had added a second motor officer, received donations supporting its bicycle, drone, and canine programs, and continued work toward implementing electronic citations. Hyde also reported on community service activities, the Citizens Academy, drug take-back events, and the upcoming Shop with a Cop program.

Hyde reported that over the past five years, calls for service had increased approximately 11%, cases charged had increased 30%, and warrants issued had increased 52%. She noted that violent crime trends had generally declined, while calls for service and certain nuisance crimes continued to fluctuate. The department also provided background on the municipal jail, which opened in 2009 and closed in 2023, and explained that the facility is currently used for temporary holding and processing when needed.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Councilor McClain raised additional questions regarding the Police Department statistics and the relationship between the closure of the municipal jail, citations and releases, failures to appear, and outstanding warrants. Council members discussed whether additional information or a future meeting would be helpful. The Mayor and Councilor Steinhebel noted that the jail had been discussed at numerous previous meetings and that the question of reopening the facility was before voters through the November 2026 ballot measure. Council members emphasized that City staff must remain neutral regarding the measure and provide factual information. The discussion concluded without scheduling another jail-specific meeting, with Council members encouraged to contact staff directly with questions.

The Mayor also recognized Lebanon's upcoming birthday on October 17 and noted that the community would celebrate its 148th birthday. He acknowledged the City's history, growth, and the people who continue to make Lebanon a special place to live.

PUBLIC/PRESS COMMENTS

An opportunity for citizens and the press to comment on items of city business.

Nicole Drake addressed the Council regarding community concerns about the cost of operating the municipal jail. She stated that residents were seeking a clear and consistent answer about the cost per bed per day and expressed frustration that the information being discussed publicly had not provided a straightforward answer. The Mayor acknowledged the concern and indicated that the cost information is made available through the City's website.

Jason Adamson of Ward 2 thanked the Council for holding and recording meetings, making meeting minutes and information available online, and being responsive to residents' questions. He stated that access to this information allowed community members to review different perspectives and make informed decisions.

NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING(S) *November 4, 2026 (Rescheduled from November 11, 2026)*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Sessions are closed to the public due to the highly confidential nature of the subject. It is unlawful to discuss anything outside of the Executive Session. Final action/decisions are to be made in open session.

Councilor President Steinhebel called the Executive Session in Order at 7:15 PM. The City Attorney read the Executive Session Announcement. Mayor Jackola abstained from discussion. There were no formal decisions made during the meeting.

5. Executive Session Announcement - Per ORS 192.660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the Council to negotiate real property transactions.

REGULAR SESSION

Council may reconvene into open session should action be required.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TESTIFYING ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Everyone is welcome to attend City Council meetings. If you cannot attend, written testimony must be received by noon prior to the meeting via email to city.recorder@lebanonoregon.gov. Persons who desire to access the Zoom meeting to give oral testimony regarding a Public Hearing can contact the City Recorder by email at city.recorder@lebanonoregon.gov by noon prior to the meeting so that the City Recorder can provide instructions.

City Council meetings are recorded and available on the City's YouTube page at:

https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofLebanonOR/videos

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the City Recorder at 541.258.4905.