925 S. Main Street
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

TEL: 541.258.4900
www.lebanonoregon.gov

MEMORANDUM

Administration

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council

Date: October 27, 2026

From: Ron Whitlatch, City Manager

Subject: **Administration Update – October 2026**

- Due to increased operating costs, LINX Transit has not been operating on Saturdays throughout the summer. This is being done to avoid overrunning the projected funding from the biennium Federal and State Grants used to operate LINX Transit. We will likely re-evaluate Saturday Service again in early 2027.

- In conjunction with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Biosolids Improvements Project, we have submitted our formal application to the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program with Oregon DEQ. We will receive proposals in early November for the CM/GC Contractor.

- Staff has met with Oregon DEQ to determine next steps of environmental review for the Champion Mill Site. Maul Foster has completed two additional site studies: a Beneficial Water Use Determination and a Contaminated Media Management Plan. Staff is reviewing both documents and, upon completion, will send them to DEQ for review and next steps. Once we have additional information, we will hold a work session with the City Council to determine our next steps.

- We are continuing to work with our outside legal counsel for claims against the Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). The claim will be filed with the Federal District Court in the coming weeks. An amended complaint has been filed. This is likely to be a lengthy (and slow) process, and we will provide more information as it becomes available. Albany and Millersburg have now joined the lawsuit and will share in attorney fees with Lebanon and Sweet Home.

- Staff is currently working with Linn County to develop a plan and fund a new bridge into Woods Trailer Park. The bridge has been posted at a 3 ton load limit, meaning emergency vehicles cannot access the area. The bridge is the only access for multiple residences. Once the right-of-way is acquired, Linn County will fund the replacement, and the City will administer the construction project. This is a high priority due to the lack of emergency access. We will provide updates as we navigate the project.

- Staff continues to work with Sean Tate (Tate Public Affairs), who is helping the City navigate legislative affairs and advocate for funding for various projects and policy reforms. We are currently preparing for the 2027 Legislative Session. Sean is

developing an Emergency Preparedness App for the City. This ties into our Strategic Plan Goal pertaining to Emergency Management.

- Staff, along with the Council of Oregon Governments, have submitted the application for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Library Children's Room Expansion. We won't know whether we were successful until late fall.

- Holding regular Department Director Meetings (every two weeks) to keep moving priorities forward.

- We continue to meet with Susan Patterson from the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments regularly to identify grant opportunities that could benefit the City. We are exploring funding opportunities to support wastewater plant projects, water service line replacements, street projects, and other initiatives that benefit the City.

- The System Development Charges Citizens Advisory Committee met on October 22nd to continue the process of updating the City's Wastewater and Storm Drainage System Development Charges. The Committee will bring recommendations in January, along with a work session to discuss the methodology and proposed fee structure.

- The City and Western University have submitted jointly on a Regional Infrastructure Grant. The scope of this grant includes construction of the new roadway and utilities up to the railroad right-of-way. City match funding will come from the Transportation System Development Charge Fund and is currently appropriated for this fiscal year.

- The City Attorney is currently drafting a lease agreement with the Lebanon Museum Foundation for use of the Old Library Building. I will send a letter to the School District (they have been informed verbally) stating the City's intent to terminate the current lease on June 30, 2027.

- City staff and Consor Homes are currently working on a development agreement related to the subdivision approved several months ago off Stoltz Hill Road. The agreement will clearly outline the responsibilities of both parties regarding infrastructure construction, System Development Charge (SDC) credits, and the timing of improvements. The City's responsibilities will include extending Twelfth Street to connect with Stoltz Hill Road and constructing a traffic signal at the intersection of Airport Road and Twelfth Street. Because this is a planned development that could be constructed in phases over the next ten years, the agreement will help ensure that responsibilities, financial obligations, and project timelines are clearly established and understood by both parties.