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MEMORANDUM

Administration

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council
From: Ron Whitlatch, City Manager
Subject: **Administration Update – August 2026**

Date: August 31, 2026

- We have submitted the draft Wetland Delineation Report for several parcels off of West Oak Street to the Division of State Lands for concurrence. This is in conjunction with a potential Industrial Economic Development, in which the company is looking to expand on the West Coast. Lebanon is one of two sites being considered in Oregon.
- 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 assess this in the fall to determine if adequate funding will be available to bring back the Saturday Service.
- 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 have also submitted the Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure Construction Manager/General Contractor Services to DEQ for review. Once they have reviewed the RFP, we will begin advertising for proposals.
- Staff has met with Oregon DEQ to determine next steps of environmental review for the Champion Mill Site. Staff will be meeting with the property owners in early September to discuss the findings of the latest round of environmental testing. Once we have additional information, we will hold a work session with the City Council to determine our next steps.
- The informational flier for the upcoming Municipal Jail Levy measure has been sent to all City public-facing facilities for distribution to citizens who would like additional information regarding the levy. We also have a webpage dedicated to the levy which provides this information and will be updated as needed. We will likely be hosting an “open house” at the Police Department later this summer, in conjunction with another event, for citizens who would like to tour the Police Department and Jail.
- 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 will be filed in early March. 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 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.
- We have been made aware that Congresswoman Bynum will be recommending our Wastewater Project for \$2.0 million in funding. This will be a lengthy process, as it must go through Congress and be appropriated before Lebanon receives the funds. I will continue to share information as it becomes available. No new information this month.
- The City of Lebanon and Western U Oregon have submitted a joint application for a Connect Oregon Grant. On August 26th, Western University officials, Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker, and I testified before the Connect Oregon Region 2 Review Committee in support of the project. The next step is a statewide review of all projects and final scoring.
- Staff, along with the Council of Oregon Governments, is currently drafting the application for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Library Children's Room Expansion. The application and all supporting materials are due at the end of September.
- 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 twice a month to identify grant opportunities that could benefit the City. We are currently exploring funding opportunities to support wastewater plant projects, water service line replacements, street projects, and other initiatives benefiting the City.
- The System Development Charges Citizens Advisory Committee will meet again in late September to continue the process of updating the City's Wastewater and Storm Drainage System Development Charges.
- The City and Western University are working jointly on a Regional Infrastructure Grant that is due in mid-September. The scope of this grant will include construction of the new roadway and utilities up to the railroad right-of-way. City match funding for this grant will come from the Transportation System Development Charge Fund and is currently appropriated for this fiscal year.