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MEMORANDUM

Administration

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council

Date: October 1, 2026

From: Ron Whitlatch, City Manager

Subject: **Administration Update – September 2026**

- On September 8, 2026, Mayor Jackola, Council President Steinhebel, and I met with Sophia Francia, who is a Field Representative for Senator Merkley. We discussed upcoming Federal Legislation and gave an update on happenings within the City of Lebanon. We try to meet with Sophia two to three times per year to stay current on items that may impact Lebanon and to monitor potential funding opportunities.

- On September 23, 2026, Mayor Jackola, Council President Steinhebel, Shana Olson, and I met with Mickey Harvey, who is a Field Representative for Congresswoman Bynum. We discussed upcoming Federal Legislation and gave an update on happenings within the City of Lebanon. Mickey informed us that they are still waiting for the Federal Appropriations Bill to pass so Lebanon can receive a $2 million congressional appropriation for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. We meet with Mickey two to three times per year to stay current on items that may impact Lebanon and to monitor potential funding opportunities

- 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. DEQ has approved the Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a CM/GC Contractor. The RFP is currently being advertised, and all proposals are due in early November.

- Staff has met with Oregon DEQ to determine next steps of environmental review for the Champion Mill Site. Staff has met 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.

- 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 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 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 mid-October to continue the process of updating the City's Wastewater and Storm Drainage System Development Charges.

- 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.