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# MEMORANDUM

## *Administration*

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council  
From: Ron Whitlatch, City Manager  
Subject: **Administration Update – April 2025**

Date: May 5, 2025

- As the Legislative Session has begun, we continue to monitor (and provide testimony when appropriate) Bills moving through the House of Representatives and Senate.
- During the week of April 7<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Jackola, Kelly Hart, Jason Williams, and I were in Washington, D.C. for meetings with Senator Merkley, staff from Senator Wyden's office, Representative Bynum, and staff from Representatives Bonamici, Hoyle, and Dexter's offices. We also met with the National League of Cities and a Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. Most of our discussions centered around the need for infrastructure funding, the drawdown, and regulations impacting small communities. The introductory meetings in Washington, D.C have led to several follow-up meetings with field representatives since we have returned. The overall experience was good exposure for the City of Lebanon, and we will continue to engage with our Federal Legislators to advocate for the City.
- Mayor Jackola, Kelly Hart, and I attended the State of Linn County presentation by Commissioner Sprenger at the Lebanon Chamber Forum Lunch on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff is still exploring solar possibilities. Once we have determined the costs and details, we will likely enter into a design contract with a solar firm. Due to the freeze in Federal Funding, we may need to consider alternative funding sources. We will present more information to the City Council as we receive it.
- The relocation of the City Council Chambers to the Library Community Room is moving forward. The audio/visual aspects are currently being installed, and the Dias is being constructed. We think it will be operational by June of this year.
- Staff is continuing to work with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) to determine the final fine that will be assessed to the City for the permit violations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Staff will provide an update as we learn more throughout the process.
- Staff continues to work with Sean Tate (Tate Public Affairs), who is helping the City navigate legislative affairs and advocate for the City. We currently meet with Sean every other Wednesday.

- A big thanks to Brandon and the Director Team for all the work put into the FY 25/26 Budget. The first budget meeting was held on April 16th. The Budget Presentations will begin on May 6<sup>th</sup> and continue on May 7<sup>th</sup> if needed.
- We are continuing to implement the Five-year Strategic Plan goals for year one. Later this year, we will provide the City Council with an update.
- Holding regular Department Director Meetings (every two weeks) to keep moving priorities forward.
- Continue participating in the Department of Land Conservation and Development's completion of Linn County's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan update. This plan includes updates for all cities in Linn County and will be presented to the City Council for approval in 2025.
- Kelly Hart and I 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 working on funding opportunities to support wastewater plant projects, water service line replacements, street projects, and any other projects that could benefit the city.