



Minutes for the Lebanon City Council Meeting
July 21, 2020
7:00 p.m. 50 S. Broadway, Lebanon, Ohio

Council of the City of Lebanon met in a work session meeting in the Council Chambers at the City Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 21, 2020 with the following members present: Mayor Brewer, Mr. Mathews, Vice Mayor Messer, Mrs. Monroe, Mr. Shafer, Mr. Shope and Ms. Wyatt. Present from the City Staff was Manager Scott Brunka, Attorney Mark Yurick, Clerk/Auditor Dan Burke, and Fire Chief Steve Johnson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Previous Business

Ordinance 2020-075— Authorizing a temporary moratorium, not to exceed six months on the issuance of permits for storage units and self-storage establishments in the City of Lebanon was read in title only by Mr. Yurick. Mr. Brunka stated that this Ordinance will allow the City Administration to study design standards similar to what is typical in commercially zoned locations. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-075 was made by Ms. Wyatt, seconded by Mr. Shafer. Roll call vote was approved unanimously.

New Business

Ordinance 2020-077-Approving an agreement with Graybach LLC in the amount of \$6,220,800 to construct a new Fire Station 41 was read in title only by Mr. Yurick. Mr. Brunka stated that the City received 11 bids for this project and Graybach was the low bidder and has excellent references. The construction bids came in under the budget project estimate. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-077 was made by Mr. Mathews, seconded by Ms. Wyatt. Roll call vote was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2020-078 – Approving a resolution denouncing all forms of racism, prejudice, and discrimination was read in title only by Mr. Yurick. Mr. Brunka stated that this Resolution is a product of the prior meeting. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-078 was made by Mr. Mathews, seconded by Vice Mayor Messer.

Sara McMurray Oates is a fifth generation resident and business owner. She helped organize a peaceful protest on June 3 at the corner of Broadway and Miller Roads. Sara received negative comments when planning the protest including inappropriate comments when she called the City for help getting the permit. The call eventually reached Mr. Brunka and she thanked Scott for his prompt assistance. Hundreds of participants held a peaceful protest to support the black and brown residents of this community. Sara wants City Council to pass a Resolution declaring Lebanon as an anti-racist community and actively work to make Lebanon a place that is safe and welcoming for all residents.

Raye Kimberlin suggested a few changes to the draft Resolution that City Council is considering this evening. Although Raye initially requested prompt approval of the Resolution she is now requesting that City Council take a little longer to consider public comments and suggested changes. Raye would like the Resolution to include specific references to people of color and also the protected groups from the City's E.E.O.C. policies.

Laura Fabik is a Lebanon resident since 1999 and she supports Raye Kimberlin's suggested language changes. Laura has four adopted black children and she has observed neighbors going indoors when her

children go out to play. As her children grew older they were assumed to be troublemakers because of their skin color, harassed on their school buses, and told they were lucky to have white parents. She thinks the proposed language in the Resolution is a little soft.

Olivia Forester is a Lebanon resident and she displayed a photo of her four year old black son. She has studied a lot of sociology and psychology sources regarding African American societal issues and the related problems. Olivia read a statement about spreading love.

Angela Sparks is a Lebanon resident and she is adding her support to Raye and Lora's comments. She asked City Council to take a little more time to reconsider the Resolution language.

Pastor Karen Schaffer also supported the previous speakers and she asked City Council to denounce racism and add language to the Resolution that takes action.

David Donovan is a Lebanon resident who has known Raye Kimberlin for many years. David has a biracial grandson and he would be horrified if his grandson was treated like Raye's son on the sidewalks in Lebanon. He thanked City Council for taking this Resolution seriously and asked them to be specific.

Renee Forester is a Lebanon resident and she also thanked City Council for taking this Resolution seriously. She reminded everyone that the Black Lives Matter movement began after the death of Trayvon Martin and she doesn't want her nephew to experience similar violence.

Ms. Wyatt thought that the draft Resolution was going to be posted on the website before tonight's meeting so residents could review and comment. Only those visitors who attended the previous meeting were aware of the draft Resolution. Mr. Mathews asked for clarification about some of the new terminology that is being suggested. Mayor Brewer suggested taking this draft to a work session for one more review. Some of the changes were suggested in the past 24 hours and taking those to a work session sounds like the best approach. Mr. Yurick agreed with that suggestion and stated that City Council could make floor amendments this evening but that is not the norm and when it occurs the changes are typically minor.

Mrs. Monroe supports adding the terms "environmental" and "spatial" because it is a reminder of all the types of racism that can occur. She also supports the new references to "people of color" because that is the purpose of this Resolution. Mrs. Monroe also supports the "living, working, and visiting" language and the suggestion that Pastor Schaffer made this evening about resolving to take specific action.

Mr. Shope reminded everyone that this is a Resolution and not a specific plan for action. He is concerned about the "environmental" and "spatial" terms because they are open for interpretation and mean different things to different people. Mr. Shope supports most of the other language changes and hopes that the Resolution leads to building equitable and amicable relationships in Lebanon.

Mayor Brewer asked Mr. Yurick if City Council can email him their ideas to modify the Resolution. Mr. Yurick agreed and asked City Council to copy one another as they email information so everyone is aware of the changes that are being proposed.

Mrs. Monroe is pleased to hear that Mr. Shope agrees with most of Raye's proposed changes. She asked if anyone else on City Council had comments that they wanted to discuss tonight. Ms. Wyatt asked about posting the Resolution for the public to see before the work session and after a brief discussion Mr. Brunka stated that he would post a copy of the Resolution when the Agenda is distributed to City Council.

Vice Mayor Messer made a motion to postpone Resolution 2020-078, seconded by Ms. Wyatt. Roll call vote was approved unanimously. Resolution 2020-078 will be discussed at the August 4, 2020 work session.

Resolution 2020-079 – Amending the 2021 City Council Goals and Objectives to include promoting opportunity and engagement within the Community was read in title only by Mr. Yurick. Mr. Brunka stated that a new goal has been added to “promote equitable opportunity and engagement in the provision of City services, programs and policies within the community.” A motion to adopt Resolution 2020-079 was made by Ms. Wyatt, seconded by Mrs. Monroe. Roll call vote was approved unanimously.

General Discussion Topics

Mrs. Monroe appreciates when community members speak at the meetings and she thanked everyone for drawing attention to the magnitude of this issue, it is important to hear these stories. Mr. Mathews agreed with Mrs. Monroe. He also thanked Fire Chief Johnson for attending the meeting tonight; the Chamber of Commerce for coordinating a successful third Friday event; and the Income Tax office for managing an extended tax season. Vice Mayor Messer thanked the visitors and stated that he is looking forward to getting this Resolution right. Mr. Shope thanked all of the visitors, appreciated their stories, and wished they were here under different circumstances. Ms. Wyatt hopes that the visitors will continue to attend the meetings and thanked Mr. Brunka for the progress on Monroe Road. Mr. Shafer appreciates that this area also has a history of being instrumental in the success of the Underground Railroad. He thanked all of the visitors and he supports the efforts that they have taken to publicize this problem. Mayor Brewer thought that the conversation tonight was excellent and she appreciates everyone’s efforts to validate this process and develop a Resolution that everyone can embrace. Mayor Brewer reminded everyone about the Lebanon Neighborhood Bridges program and stated that they recently did a great job procuring an air conditioning unit for an elderly resident. Please keep an eye on your neighbors during these hot days.

There being no further business to come before this Council a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Mathews, seconded by Vice Mayor Messer. Roll call vote was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Passed:

August 25, 2020

Mayor J. Brewer

Mayor

Amil Brunka

Clerk