

**CITY OF SOUTH LEBANON  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**April 2, 2026**

**6:00 P.M.**

1. Mayor Burke opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with a Prayer and the Pledge.

2. ATTENDANCE

Linda Allen – Present

Sharon Carmack – Present

Brenda Combs – Present

Lisa Fedor – Present

Maryan Harrison – Present

David Smith – Present

3. GUESTS

No guests were present at the meeting.

4. Mayor Burke opened the floor to the public. No members of the public spoke during this time, and the floor was subsequently closed.

5. Mayor Burke noted that the agenda had been revised to add an executive session and requested approval of the revised agenda.

A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Allen, seconded by Combs, all yeas.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

Regular Meeting – March 5, 2026

Regular Meeting – March 19, 2026

A motion to adopt the minutes of March 5, 2026 and March 19, 2026 was made by Allen, seconded by Smith, all yeas.

**NEW BUSINESS**

7. **ORDINANCE 2026-02** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2025-27 FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF SOUTH LEBANON, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Law Director Kirby explained that this is an annual update of the city's code. He noted that the publisher updates any new legislation each year, and while he didn't see anything significantly different in his cursory review, there are likely differences as laws change. Councilmember Allen recalled discussing this in previous meetings and confirmed this was a routine annual update.

A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Fedor, seconded by Combs, all yeas. A motion to adopt by title only, Ordinance 2026-02, was made by Fedor, seconded by Carmack, all yeas.

#### 8. AMEND RULES OF COUNCIL

Mayor Burke presented changes to the council rules regarding scheduling workshop meetings and the order of proceedings for council meetings. Councilmember Allen noted she had researched whether this could be done through council rules rather than ordinance or resolution, confirming it was permissible under the charter. Councilmember Smith asked who would determine when workshop meetings are deemed necessary, with Mayor Burke indicating it would likely be herself, though Law Director Kirby clarified it could be brought to council's attention by the Mayor or any committee member.

A motion to amend Section B(2) of the Rules of Council for the purpose of scheduling Council Workshop meetings and Section E(2) revising the Order of Proceedings was made by Allen , seconded by Combs, all yeas.

#### 9. ACCEPTANCE OF INVOICES

A motion to accept the invoice list of payments totaling (\$168,225.82) was made by Combs, seconded by Carmack, all yeas.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **COMMUNICATION ITEMS**

#### 10. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS

##### Mayor Burke

- a. Mayor Burke reported on another busy week working with staff on various projects to bring issues to council quickly. She emphasized surrounding herself with capable staff rather than "yes people" and working as a team. She noted that more progress had been made in her two years as Mayor than in the past ten years, according to former City Administrator Jerry Haddix.

- b. She thanked staff for their hard work and wished everyone celebrating Easter and Passover well, calling Easter "the most sacred event that ever took place in human history."

Director of Finance Tina Williams

- a. Director of Finance Williams announced extended tax hours for residents: Thursday, April 9th until 6:30 PM (instead of the normal 4:30 PM closure) and Saturday, April 11th from 8 AM to noon to accommodate those who cannot make regular work hours.

Administrator Chris Hacker

City Administrator Hacker provided several updates:

- a. River corridor sanitary sewer project clearing has been completed and construction is underway.
- b. Zoar Road will close beginning April 8th for up to four weeks, with detours utilizing routes 22, 3, and 48.
- c. Water tower rehabilitation and painting bid documents are being finalized with Choice One Engineering, with grant funding available later this summer.
- d. Baseball and softball fields are ready, with Kings Youth Sports utilizing all four fields this year.
- e. The River Dogs will return for another year along the river.
- f. He thanked employees and council members who attended the REDS opening day event with Skyline chili.

Law Director Chase Kirby

- a. Law Director Kirby thanked Sergeant Adams for setting him up with Axon, a body camera and dashcam footage management system that will make prosecution and discovery requests more efficient.
- b. He reported looking into a potential child predator ordinance that Mayor Burke brought to his attention, which would prohibit individuals with qualifying sex offenses from loitering in public areas dealing with minor children. He noted the need to research constitutional issues and existing state law to avoid conflicts, promising to update council as the research progresses.

Sgt. Corey Adams

- a. Nothing to report.

Councilmember David Smith

Councilmember Smith asked for updates on several ongoing issues:

- a. Corwin Nixon Boulevard property maintenance - City Administrator Hacker indicated no new information but confirmed it's being worked on.
- b. Truck parking at the back end of the River's Crossing property - Hacker clarified this hadn't been relayed to the landowner yet as they're focusing first on the Verizon utility drilling issue.
- c. Trees falling behind police station blocking the creek - Hacker noted public works is focused on catch basin cleaning but it's on their radar.
- d. Gravel and mud on Mason Morrow Millgrove Road - Hacker reported using the city's street broom to clean beyond the gravel pit entrance, noting difficulty determining which of five operations is responsible.
- e. Zoar Road signage during closure - Hacker confirmed eight signs and posts have been ordered for proper spacing.
- f. Fence repairs on Route 48 - Mayor Burke clarified parts have been ordered, with Hacker explaining they received brackets but are waiting for the remaining lateral pieces.
- g. Cars parked blocking stop signs, specifically mentioning a crooked sign at McKinley and High Street.
- h. Smith also inquired about capital budget items for 99 High Street Public Works Office and the administration building security/lobby/tax office work.

City Administrator Hacker explained the 99 High Street expenses include carpet cleaning, air duct cleaning, internet service, new workstations, restroom repairs, and adding a break room. The administrative building improvements involve facility security and creating a tax lobby area similar to the utilities office setup.

Director of Finance Williams elaborated on the security concerns, explaining staff safety issues when working alone, particularly in corner offices where someone could enter unnoticed. She mentioned considering both lobby corralling and individual office key access systems, noting they had already completed architectural drawings with the same firm that did the previous remodel.

Smith requested to review the existing architectural plans and expressed concerns about the structural challenges of installing doors in the thick walls with support beams.

Councilmember Lisa Fedor

- a. Councilmember Fedor announced cleanup day on April 18th from 9 AM to noon, noting no hazmat but tires are acceptable this year. She thanked Sergeant Adams for creating an event calendar and City Administrator Hacker for volunteering to sing the national anthem at the Fourth of July festival.

Councilmember Sharon Carmack

- a. Nothing to report.

Councilmember Maryan Harrison

- a. Councilmember Harrison expressed support for community and employee safety and security.

Councilmember Linda Allen

- a. Councilmember Allen raised important legal concerns about truck routes on Zoar Road, recalling a previous lawsuit the city lost when trying to establish truck route restrictions as a statutory village. She emphasized the need to research the previous court ruling and understand current legal capabilities as a charter city before implementing new restrictions. She noted the legal ramifications of disadvantaging businesses and potential liability issues.
- b. Regarding the child predator ordinance, Councilmember Allen recalled previous limitations as a statutory village, noting that as a charter city, they now have more leeway within certain guidelines while staying compliant with state law.

Councilmember Brenda Combs

- a. Nothing additional to report.

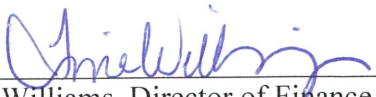
11. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 121.22(G)(3) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE FOR CONFERENCE WITH THE CITY LAW DIRECTOR CONCERNING DISPUTES INVOLVING THE PUBLIC BODY THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF PENDING COURT ACTION, REBEKAH LANTZ V. CITY OF SOUTH.

A motion to enter executive session at 6:35 p.m. was made by Allen, seconded by Combs, all yeas.

A motion to exit out of executive session at 6:48 p.m. was made by Allen, seconded by Combs, all yeas.

Mayor Burke stated that there was no action taken.

12. Mayor Burke asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. A motion was made by Allen seconded by Combs, all yeas.

  
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Tina Williams, Director of Finance

  
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Linda S. Burke, Mayor

For an audio copy of the April 2, 2026, City of South Lebanon Council Regular Meeting, please contact the Director of Finance at [twilliams@southlebanonohio.org](mailto:twilliams@southlebanonohio.org).