CITY OF SOUTH LEBANON
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 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	Lisa Fedor – Present
Sharon Carmack – Absent	Maryan Harrison – Present
Brenda Combs – Present	David Smith – Present

3. GUESTS

   No guests were present at this meeting.

4. Floor open to the public

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

5. **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 121.22(G)(1) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE FOR CONFERENCE WITH THE CITY LAW DIRECTOR TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, DISMISSAL, DISCIPLINE, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, OR COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE.**

   Motion to enter executive session at 6:03 p.m. was made by Allen, seconded by Combs, all yeas.

   Motion to exit executive session at 6:20 p.m. was made by Allen, seconded by Harrison, all yeas.

   Mayor Burke stated that there was no action taken.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

   Regular Meeting – October 1, 2026

   A motion to approve the minutes of October 1, 2026, was made by Combs, seconded by Fedor, A roll call was taken with the following result: Ayes: Combs, Fedor, Harrison, Smith Recused: Allen.

NEW BUSINESS

7. **ORDINANCE 2026-13, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2025-28 AND SETTING THE COMPENSATION OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, CHRISTOPHER HACKER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Councilmember Smith questioned whether the ordinance qualified as an emergency. He noted that emergency measures are intended for the public peace, health, and safety of the community, and he recommended a regular reading. He said he did not believe anyone's pay should be increased by emergency ordinance.

Law Director Kirby stated that compensation of staff was outside his purview. He said council has broad discretion in deciding what is pressing enough to waive the two-reading requirement, and that he would not stand in the way of that decision.

Councilmember Allen stated that in her 13.5 years of experience she had seen emergency ordinances pass that should not have. She did not consider this one of them.

Councilmember Allen asked about the timeline if the ordinance was not passed as an emergency. She noted that two readings are required and that an ordinance then takes 30 days to take effect. Director of Finance Williams clarified that the ordinance could still be passed as an emergency after the second reading, at the next meeting on November 5, so that it would take effect for the first eligible pay period.

Councilmember Fedor asked whether the matter should have been addressed months earlier, referencing the administrator's probationary review. Director of Finance Williams responded that the copy of the ordinance provided to Council showed an original date of July 20.

A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Allen, seconded by Harrison. A roll call was taken with the following result: Ayes: Allen, Fedor, Harrison Nays: Combs, Smith.
Motion failed as two-thirds vote was required.

The ordinance was entered into the record as a first reading. Mayor Burke also referenced an amendment to the compensation figure, will be adjusted for the second reading.

8. **ORDINANCE 2026-18, 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.**

There was no discussion.

A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Smith, seconded by Fedor, all yeas. A motion to adopt by title only, Ordinance 2026-18, was made by Combs, seconded by Smith, all yeas.

9. **RESOLUTION 2026-34, A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE SOUTH LEBANON MUNICIPAL BUILDING TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ZONING REGULATIONS SECTION 15.7.7 RELATED TO THE ZONING MAP AMENDMENT OF 8.3213 ACRES**

OF PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG STATE ROUTE 48 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15.7.13 AND PUBLISHING NOTICE OF THE SAME, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilmember Smith asked whether a map showing how the property would be divided could be displayed. City Administrator Hacker stated that he had not brought a map or the Planning Commission materials, because the resolution only set the public hearing and the rezoning would be presented to Council after the hearing. He described the site as the lot located behind Mike's Car Wash. The total purchase is just under 24 acres, and only a portion of it is proposed for rezoning. Councilmember Smith noted that the lots were lettered A, B, and C and asked that the map be sent to Council when available. No other questions were raised.

A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Smith, seconded by Fedor, all yeas. A motion to adopt by title only, Resolution 2026-34, was made by Combs, seconded by Smith, all yeas.

10. A motion to authorize the Director of Finance to send an Amended Certificate to the Warren County Auditor for fiscal year 2026 was made by Fedor, seconded by Combs, all yeas.

11. A motion to accept the invoice list of payments totaling ($54,108.65) was made by Combs, seconded by Harrison. A roll call was taken with the following result: Ayes: Combs, Fedor, Harrison, Smith Recused: Allen.

12. A motion to accept the law director's invoice ($809.50) was made by Fedor, seconded by Combs, all yeas.

13. A motion to accept September financial statements was made by Combs, seconded by Harrison. A roll call was taken with the following result: Ayes: Combs, Fedor, Harrison, Smith Recused: Allen.

OLD BUSINESS

14. None

COMMUNICATION ITEMS

15. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS

Mayor Burke

a. Mayor Burke reported that the previous weeks had been very busy, with numerous projects underway. She encouraged members of Council to observe Mayor's Court, held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. She noted that early voting was underway and encouraged residents to vote before or on Election Day, November 3. She asked whether the Warren County Municipal League meeting on the 21st had been confirmed, and it was noted that nothing firm had been communicated. She thanked city

staff and the public works staff for their work and stated that the department heads would report on current projects.

Director of Finance Tina Williams

a. Director of Finance Williams stated that the goal is to present the 2027 budget in December for first and second readings. At the November meeting she would present a capital budget list of items under consideration, since operating expenses largely repeat from year to year. This would allow time for questions or modifications before the December meetings. She also stated that she would ask the Finance Committee to meet at the end of October or beginning of November.

Administrator Chris Hacker

a. City Administrator Hacker reported that the civil service test, valid for any clerical position, was completed on Saturday, October 3. The immediate vacancy to be filled at the end of the year is Clerk of Court. The Civil Service Commission would meet the following Monday at 5:30 PM in Council chambers to review and certify the eligibility list. Interviews and contact with applicants could begin only after that certification.

b. He reported that paving on Columbia Road, from Kings Mill to Mason-Morrow-Millgrove, though outside city limits, would affect local travel. The paving window had been amended to run from Monday, October 19 through November 9. A single lane would remain open with flagging, and there would be no full closure.

c. City Administrator Hacker also reported that public works had completed crack filling around the city and installed the leaf box on the truck. The first leaf pickup pass would begin the following week, with the schedule posted on the city's website and Facebook page. A second pass could occur sooner than forecast depending on the weather.

d. He relayed a request from Hamilton Township Police Chief Short to mount a Flock camera on a city-owned pole at the roundabout at the cartridge factory, aimed at traffic entering and exiting Hamilton Township. The request carried no cost to the city. Chief Short had been informed that a zoning permit application would be required. City Administrator Hacker noted that the city had made a similar request of Hamilton Township for one of its freestanding poles located in the township, which the township's zoning office approved. He stated that he told the chief the city would follow up after the meeting, assuming there were no significant objections. No objections were raised.

e. Finally, City Administrator Hacker reported that the city was now responsible for snow and ice removal on State Route 48 within the corporation limits, as a result of its status as a city. Because the city's existing equipment was not suited to that route, ODOT agreed to sell the city one of its retired trucks. The truck is an 8-ton single-axle unit with a V-box salt spreader and an 80-gallon brine tank. The arrangement provides time to plan a replacement strategy through the capital budget. He noted that the city already had two employees with CDLs and expressed confidence that State Route 48 could be kept clear this winter. In response to a question from Councilmember Smith, he stated that the purchase price was $4,000.

Law Director Chase Kirby

a. Law Director Kirby offered a refresher on the Rules of Council, stating that his remarks were not directed at anyone present. He explained that under Ohio law, city council meetings are limited public forums. The city may therefore impose reasonable, content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions on speech, but may not limit speech based on its viewpoint. He noted that the Rules of Council allow speakers three minutes, and that large groups may select representatives to speak on their behalf. The rules also require decorum, and he cited obscenities, personal attacks, defamation, and disruption as examples of conduct outside that standard. He stated that his role is to advise the city and identify rule violations, and that the chair's role is to admonish those who are out of order. Persistent disruption of an official meeting is a misdemeanor offense. He emphasized that spirited debate is welcome in Council meetings and that he had not experienced any problems in his tenure.

Sgt. Corey Adams

a. Nothing to report.

Councilmember David Smith

a. Councilmember Smith asked whether signs showing leaf pickup dates by area could be placed in the community. He also asked what had happened to the signs announcing street sweeping schedules, which had not been posted for about a year. City Administrator Hacker responded that an electronic message board could be redeployed to leaf pickup zones once its current uses ended. One board was promoting pedestrian and cyclist safety near the bike trail construction project, and the other was advertising Saturday's tire cleanup day. He stated that no in-ground signs were available and that they could not be produced on a short turnaround. He said the schedule had been posted on Facebook and the city's website. He agreed to look into whether the street sweeping no-parking signs had previously been handled by staff or the contractor and apologized for any lapse in service. Councilmember Smith suggested that both sets of signs be obtained for future use.

Councilmember Lisa Fedor

a. Councilmember Fedor thanked Sergeant Adams for National Night Out, which she described as a great event. She said volunteers were welcome to help her hand out candy on the steps during trick-or-treat, scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. She reported that the events committee would meet the following day and then decorate. Upcoming events include Veterans Day, the tree lighting, and the horse parade.

Councilmember Sharon Carmack

a. Absent.

Councilmember Maryan Harrison

a. Councilmember Harrison thanked Sergeant Adams and staff for National Night Out. She stated that it was successful and reached many families.

Councilmember Linda Allen

a. Nothing to report.

Councilmember Brenda Combs

a. Councilmember Combs thanked Sergeant Adams for arranging a ride-along, which she found informative and recommended to other members of Council. She also thanked staff for National Night Out.

16. Mayor Burke asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. A motion was made by Combs, seconded by Fedor, all yeas.

Tina Williams, Director of Finance/Clerk

Linda S. Burke, Mayor

For an audio copy of the October 15, 2026, City of South Lebanon Council Regular Meeting, please contact the Director of Finance at twilliams@southlebanonohio.org.