

LEBANON COMMON COUNCIL – MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

Mayor Matt Gentry; Councilmembers: Keith Campbell, Dick Robertson, Mike Kincaid, Sierra Messenger, John Copeland, Brent Wheat, Morris Jones.

Also present: Legal Counsel Rob Schein and Clerk-Treasurer Tonya Thayer

Mayor Gentry calls the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Everyone is led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call conducted by Clerk-Treasurer Tonya Thayer – All present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 11-28-2022 AND 12-12-2022

Motion by Councilmember Kincaid to approve said minutes, 2nd by Councilmember Jones. Motion carries by a unanimous vote.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY - FIRE CHIEF CHUCK BATTS – Welcomes all family and friends of the firefighters. Batts introduces Deputy Chief Robert Wirey and talks about all of the accomplishments of Wirey, he will complete 32 years of service this Thursday, he has given his heart and soul to the profession of firefighting. Robert was already a Deputy Chief when I was appointed to fire chief, he put aside his desires and dreams and selflessly helped me become a successful fire chief. Robert is the type of guy you can call on at any hour of the night and never receive a question why. Lebanon Fire would not be a successful fire department without Robert Wirey. A few weeks ago it was -40 degrees Chief Wirey was out all night, he didn't have to be out that night, he chose to be out that night, making sure all the needs of our community were met and all of the needs of the firefighters that we serve were met as well. Late last year Chief Wirey met with me to discuss his impending retirement and asked if could go back to his rank of

Battalion Chief on the B shift, that's where his heart was and that was the rank he came from when he became Deputy Chief and again this was another selfless act of Robert, he knew we were going to transition Lieutenant Jason Hendricks to the Deputy Chief role and this would give him opportunity to help mentor Chief Hendricks in this role and lend his leadership once again to the administration of the Lebanon Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Robert Wirey comes forward to be sworn in by Mayor Gentry as the Battalion Chief. Battalion Chief Robert Wirey says it's been a short 32 years and has flown by. It's been a privilege to work as a Lebanon Firefighter and I'm humbled to go back and retire the way I'm retiring, not everybody gets that opportunity, thank you!

Lieutenant Jason Hendricks comes forward to be sworn in by Mayor Gentry as the Deputy Chief. Chief Batts says Jason embodies everything that is good about the fire service, honesty, integrity and a strong work ethic, a high aptitude for department operations and a dedication to physical fitness. Whenever I describe or talk about Jason to someone that doesn't know him, I always say the same thing Jason is one of the best men I know. I have made no secret about when my tenure is over as Fire Chief I would like Jason Hendricks to assume the role, he will no doubt lead LFD to new heights. Hendricks thanks his family especially his wife, Chief Batts and Mayor Gentry. I do want to give a special thank you to Chief Wirey, he has held this position for 10 years before me and has gained a wealth of knowledge and luckily enough for me he's willing to share a lot of that information with me and make this transition easier, I couldn't do this without him either, thank you and I'm really looking forward to representing the Lebanon Fire Department.

Chief Chuck Batts introduces 5 lateral transfer firefighters, in August 2022 Mayor Gentry and I received a letter from these 5 firefighters through the Boone County Professional Firefighters Union Local 5195, they requested a merger into the City of Lebanon Fire Department. We had already planned on adding 6 firefighters in 2023 to put a second engine in service permanently it was only logical to hire these 5 firefighters as they have honorably served within the City of Lebanon.

James (Jimmy) French comes forward to be sworn in by Mayor Gentry. Firefighter French thanks everyone.

Brandon Jamison comes forward to be sworn in by Mayor Gentry. Firefighter Jamison thanks everyone.

Martin Padgett comes forward to be sworn in by Mayor Gentry. Firefighter Padgett thanks everyone.

Andre Rodriguez comes forward to be sworn in by Mayor Gentry. Firefighter Rodriguez thanks everyone.

Zach Wallace comes forward to be sworn in by Mayor Gentry. Firefighter Wallace thanks everyone.

ELECTION OF 2023 OFFICERS – Councilmember Wheat nominates Mike Kincaid for City Council President, Councilmember Jones seconds the nomination.

Motion by Councilmember Wheat to elect Mike Kincaid to Council President, 2nd by Councilmember Copeland. Motion carries by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2023-01 RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, INDIANA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE DECLARATORY RESOLUTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PATTERSON STREET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA AND THE ORDER OF THE PLAN COMMISSION. Attorney Rob Schein explains this Resolution is a technical and procedural statutory resolution, Patterson Street as you may recall in 2018 went through the process to set up a TIF in that area, so between 2018 and 2022 the developer demolished the building on that site, so this is a procedural issue to reset the base tax allocation area. This has gone through the Lebanon Redevelopment Commission and the Plan Commission and now before the Council. In essence, we are taking the parcel that's already in there, we're taking

it out and then we're putting it back in. Ben Bontrager, Director of Planning & Zoning explains the spec building 40,000 – 50,000 square feet building, they have a couple of leads that they are working on. Attorney Rob Schein reads the Resolution.

Mayor Gentry asks for Public Comment – no one comes forward.

Motion by Councilmember Robertson to approve Resolution 2023-01, 2nd by Councilmember Campbell. Motion carries by a unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT LETTER APPROVAL – STONE EATER BIKE PARK – READI GRANT – Engineer Kevin Krulik states he is here tonight to ask for your support in executing a letter of financial commitment in association with the Regional Economic Acceleration Development Initiative or READI Grant. Krulik explains the financial match. Council and Krulik along with Mayor Gentry have lengthy discussions.

COUNCILMEMBER WHEAT brings up the audio/visual for the Council Chambers, as there is a hum going through the public access channel. LePage states the cameras were updated a few years ago, but the audio has never been updated and it is starting to fail. IT Department did step up with a new laptop for the video room. Audio Designers has been contacted by Matt Hutton for a quote.

CLAIMS

Motion by Councilmember Wheat to approve the claims, 2nd by Councilmember Messenger. Motion carries by a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilmember Robertson, 2nd by Councilmember Wheat. Motion carries by a unanimous vote.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2023, at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonya Thayer, Clerk-Treasurer