

**AGENDA
LEBANON CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 2, 2017**

9. NEW BUSINESS:

**9.C – PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT
OF THE PARIS CLIMATE RESOLUTION**

BACKGROUND

Councilors Below, Liot Hill and Welsch have submitted an agenda request pertaining to a proposed resolution in support of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The current administration of the United States has chosen to put our nation on a course of withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement that is supported by every other nation in the world, save two. Since that time, the Governors of at least 13 states and the Mayors of at least 355 U.S. cities have expressed their commitment to honor and uphold the Paris Climate Agreement goals. As Lebanon has already adopted goals consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement as part of our Master Plan, this resolution will publicly indicate our continued support of these goals.

ACTION

The Council is asked to adopt the following Resolution:

***A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT***

WHEREAS, consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that global warming caused by emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (e.g. droughts and floods), adverse impacts on ecosystems, demographic patterns and economic value chains; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire through its Climate Action Plan developed under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Services has called for a statewide reduction of GHG emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon, New Hampshire, has adopted an Energy Chapter to its Master Plan as official City policy that calls for the City to be an innovative leader in energy efficiency and reliance on renewable energy, and compliance with the goal of the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

WHEREAS, responding to climate change provides communities an opportunity to access first mover advantage in the range of products, services and know-how that transitioning to a climate-compatible future brings; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement resulted in a commitment from almost every nation to take action and enact programs to limit global temperature increase to less than 2 degrees Celsius, with an expectation that this goal would be reduced to 1.5 degrees in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF LEBANON:

Indicates its continuing commitment to reducing GHG emissions through its implementation of its Master Plan; and

Joins other US cities and municipalities in the Climate Mayors network and otherwise in adopting and supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement; and

Commits to exploring the potential benefits and costs of adopting policies and programs that promote the long-term goal of GHG emissions reduction while maximizing economic and social co-benefits of such action; and

Stands ready to work with other communities and towns across the state, to provide the leadership and resources at the local level that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect our most vulnerable residents from the impacts of climate change, and reap the benefits of the transition to a clean energy economy.

Included in this Section:

1. Agenda Request from Councilors Clifton Below, Karen Liot Hill, and Sarah Welsch, re: Proposed Resolution in Support of the Paris Climate Agreement

LEBANON CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1. Councilor Name: Clifton Below, Karen Liot Hill, and Sarah Welsch

2. Preferred Date of Council Meeting to Consider Item: August 2 or 16, 2017

Please keep in mind that if this request is for an agenda item and is not urgent in nature, a future date is preferable in order to allow proper time to prepare materials. See Council Rules § A191-7. Agenda, last amended 4-20-2011.

3. Is there a deadline associated with this item, if so, what is it:

No.

4. Name of agenda topic item:

Proposed Resolution in Support of the Paris Climate Agreement

5. Reason for topic item:

The current administration of United of the States has chosen to put our nation on a course of withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement that is supported by every other nation in the world, save two. Since that time, the Governors of at least 13 states and the Mayors of at least 355 US cities have expressed their commitment to honor and uphold the Paris Climate Agreement goals. As Lebanon has already adopted goals consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement as part of our Master Plan, this resolution will publicly indicate our continued support of these goals.

6. Specific questions related to topic item:

What other NH cities have expressed support of the Paris Agreement through the Climate Mayors? At least Nashua and Portsmouth. For a complete list see this website: <http://climatemayors.org/>.

What states have expressed support for the Paris Agreement through their Governors and the US Climate Alliance: Vermont, Massachuesetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York, among others. See: www.usclimatealliance.org.

What is the position of the US Conference of Mayors? At their late June annual meeting a resolution fully supporting the Paris Climate Accord was adopted.

See:

http://legacy.usmayors.org/resolutions/85th_Conference/proposedcommittee.asp?committee=Energy

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