

FINAL

**LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CITY OF LEBANON
JOINT PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE
MONDAY OCTOBER 1, 2018
CITY HALL WEST MEETING ROOM
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shaun Mulholland (City Manager), City Councilor Bruce Bronner, Adam Nemeroff (School Board Chair), Wendy Hall (School Board Member), Joanne Roberts (SAU88 Superintendent), Tammy Begin (School Board Member), Assistant Mayor Tim McNamara, City Councilor Karen Liot Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

City Mulholland called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 1, 2017

A MOTION was made by Councilor Hill to approve the minutes of October 1, 2017. Seconded by Assistant Mayor McNamara.

****Vote was unanimous, 8-0.**

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. City Capital Improvement Program 2019-2024

The Capital Improvement plan is available on the City website. Tax rate will remain 2.5%. The targets for 2020 and 2021 will be 3.5% subject to City Council approval and bonds. There was general discussion regarding the tax rate and the fund balance. There are bond payments that will be due in 2020 and 2021. Standards are set by the City Council and the City is ahead of schedule with the long term financial plan.

There was discussion regarding the sewer project, housing, and the impact to area schools. Carter Country Club has proposed a possible housing development. Assistant Mayor McNamara discussed the need for housing to attract certain demographics. There are 29 units going in to West Lebanon. Councilor Hill discussed the Vital Communities breakfast for business leaders which will discuss housing.

There will be some upcoming capital projects in the coming years that might impact buses. Superintendent Roberts asked City Manager Mulholland to clarify the impact of the TIF district on the School District. Councilor Hill and Assistant Mayor McNamara clarified issues regarding the TIF district and the use of increased tax revenue. There was general discussion about the overall budgets for the City and the School District and the benefits of the TIF district to the local economy.

Assistant Mayor McNamara talked about alternatives to tax income and how to reduce costs while still making investments. City Manager Mulholland briefly covered the proposed CIP projects.

B. School District Modernization Plan Update/Other Potential Capital Projects

Superintendent Roberts discussed the School District's modernization plan and capital projects. There have been some changes that have brought the plan to under \$20 million and there will be a separate option for the auditorium. Budget discussions are happening now, and Superintendent Roberts reviewed their budget process and timeline.

Renovations are primarily focused on school safety and school improvements. Superintendent Roberts reviewed the proposed improvements and the needs that will be addressed. There was general discussion regarding the timeline for the bonds and the tax rate impact. Councilor Bonner asked whether separating the improvements would be preferable. Superintendent Roberts said that it was decided not to separate the improvements due to various factors. The group discussed the issues that impact phasing, including increasing construction costs.

The Trane energy efficiency project has received very positive feedback. Superintendent Roberts said that they are hoping to renovate two classrooms a year, upgrading carpet, painting and cabinets. The group discussed the length of the contract and the specific performance that is included.

C. Planned Energy Initiatives (City and School)

The City has a streetlight project which is in the CIP for 2019, pending Council approval. There was general discussion regarding the LED light conversion project. City Manager Mulholland said that the City would keep the School District informed regarding the timeline in case the School District was interested in quoting LED replacement also.

The methane gas project is currently under review which would generate power. The LEAC group is working to launch a RFP energy project to reduce the City's carbon footprint. The City is working to increase efficiency in many of the City properties.

Superintendent Roberts talked about the partnership with Trane which includes solar. The parking lots will be part of the renovation proposal. The group discussed safety in some of the school lots.

D. Projected City and School Tax Impact over the next several years

City Manager Mulholland spoke about the City's tax impact and asked Superintendent Roberts how the School District is projecting tax impact. Superintendent Roberts explained the way that the School District now approaches budgeting, which has improved over past years. There is also increased planning that looks ahead to future needs, including a tech plan and a strategic plan.

Teacher and secretary negotiations will be happening this year. There was general discussion regarding costs and how excess funds are handled. There was discussion regarding out of district placements like Crotched Mountain and the funds that are required for special education needs. Superintendent Roberts spoke highly of the charter school.

E. Update on Housing Projects (Approved and Pending Approval)

City Manager Mulholland updated the group on housing projects that are in process. Rock Ridge has been approved for 150 units. There has been a lot of discussion regarding housing projects but very few have moved forward. On Route 120 there has been some new housing construction. There was general discussion regarding the impact of the sewer projects on new housing. City Manager Mulholland said there is a lot of interest in housing development that is waiting for sewer capacity. It

will be important for the City and the School District to maintain good communication as housing expands since workforce housing will include young families. Assistant Mayor McNamara suggested that the School Board be informed when new housing developments are presented to the Planning Board so that they could provide input early. There was general discussion regarding the School District's capital projects that need to be shared with the Planning Board. Superintendent Roberts will follow up on making FIP plans available to David Brooks in the Planning Office. City Manager Mulholland discussed the statutory requirements for the CIP recommendations. The group discussed how best to plan for capacity for future years.

IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

V. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2018

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Superintendent Roberts at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sailors-Dow
Recording Secretary