LEBANON BOROUGH COMMON COUNCIL
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
7:30 pm

The Regular Meeting of the Lebanon Borough Common Council was called to order by Mayor Pittinger at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in person and virtually.

The meeting was convened in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975; notice was sent to three local newspapers and posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pittinger.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Please join me in a moment of silence for Fire Chief Kevin Saharic and all
US service members and First Responders who have given their lives for our country.

On behalf of a grateful nation, they are truly heroes.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Pittinger, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Burton, Councilman, Berger, Councilwoman Porcello, Councilman Valliere and Councilwoman Durange
Absent:
Also, Present: Administrator/Clerk Karen M Romano RMC,
Borough Attorney Joesph Novak Esq.

Mayor Pittinger appointed Lisa Orr Saharic to the Recreation Committee.

RESOLUTION #77-2026:
Council President Baldinger made a motion to approve Resolution 77-2026 the Consent Agenda. With a second by Councilman Berger.

BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #77-2026

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are routine by the Governing Body of Lebanon Borough and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these matters. If discussion is desired that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

1. Animal Control
2. Fire Dept Report

Introduction and adoption: May 20, 2026

Ayes: Baldinger, Burton, Berger, Porcello, Valliere

Nays:

Absent: Durange

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Marlene G. Baldinger,

Borough Council President

ATTEST:

_____

Karen Romano, RMC

Borough Administrator/ Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Borough Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Council at a meeting duly held on the 20th day of May 2026; that this Resolution has not been amended or repealed; and that it remains in full force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: May 20, 2026

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Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/ Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION #1:
Councilman Valliere made a motion to open the public session. Councilwoman Baldinger seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was opened.

Councilman Burton made a motion to close the public session. Councilman Berger seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was closed.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Councilman Burton made a motion to approve the April 2026, minutes s seconded by Councilman Valliere.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

RESOLUTION #78-2026:
Councilman Valliere made a motion to approve Resolution 78-2026. With a second by Councilman Burton.

BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION 78-2026

LOCAL AID GRANT SUBMITTAL

Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the High Street Road Improvements Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Borough of Lebanon formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor/Council and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as Application ID 00039 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Lebanon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor/Council and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Lebanon and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Introduced and adopted:

Ayes: Baldinger, Berger, Burton, Porcello, Valliere

Nays:

Absent: Durange

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ATTEST:

_____

Karen M. Romano, RMC, CMR

_____

Marlene G. Baldinger Council Preside

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M Romano, Lebanon Borough Administrator/Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Common Council at a meeting duly held on the 20th day of May, 2026; that this resolution has not been amended or repealed; and that it remains in full force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

_____

Date: May 20, 2026

Karen M. Romano, RMC, CMR
Lebanon Borough Administrator/ Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

RESOLUTION #79-2026:
Councilman Burton made a motion to approve Resolution 79-2026. With a second by Councilman Berger.

BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #79-2026

LIQUOR LICENSE

ROCK U LLC

WHEREAS, an application for Plenary Retail Distribution License has been made by Rock U LLC, Trade name being Bourbon Street Wine and Spirits, located at 1216 Route 22 West, Lebanon NJ.; and

WHEREAS, the submitted form is complete, and the appropriate checks are attached;

BE IT RESOLVED that Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 1018-44-002-006 be issued to Rock U LLC, Bourbon Street Liquors Lebanon, New Jersey for a fee of $2,500.00 and to become effective 12:00 a.m. July 1, 2026 and to expire midnight, June 30, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lebanon Borough Common Council to approve the above-named application and authorize the Borough Clerk to sign said application and file it with the NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Introduced and adopted: May 20, 2026:

Ayes: Baldinger, Berger, Burton, Porcello, Valliere

Nays: 0

Absent: Durange

_____

Marlene G. Baldinger, Council President

ATTEST: _____

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Lebanon Borough Administrator/ Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Council at a meeting duly held on the May 20, 2026 force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: May 20, 2026

_____

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

RESOLUTION #80-2026:
Councilman Burton made a motion to approve Resolution 80-2026. With a second by Councilman Berger.

BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #80-2026

LIQUOR LICENSE

COURTYARD MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

WHEREAS, an application for Plenary Retail Consumption License has been made by Courtyard Management Corporation, Trade name being COURTYARD BY MARRIOT, located at 300 Corporate Drive, Lebanon NJ.; and

WHEREAS, the submitted form is complete and the appropriate checks are attached.

BE IT RESOLVED that Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 1018-36-003-001 be issued to Courtyard Management Corporation Lebanon, New Jersey for a fee of $2,500.00 and to become effective 12:00 a.m. July 1, 2026 and to expire midnight, June 30, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lebanon Borough Common Council to approve the above-named application and authorize the Borough Clerk to sign said application and file it with the NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Introduced and adopted: May 20, 2026:

Ayes: Baldinger, Berger, Burton, Porcello, Valliere

Nays: 0

Absent: Durange

_____

Marlene G. Baldinger, Council President

ATTEST: _____

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Lebanon Borough Administrator/ Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Council at a meeting duly held on the May 20, 2026 force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: May 20, 2026

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Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/Cler

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

RESOLUTION #81-2026:
Councilman Burton made a motion to approve Resolution 81-2026. With a second by Councilman Berger.

BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #81-2026

LIQUOR LICENSE
LEBANON PUB LLC.

WHEREAS, an application for Plenary Retail Consumption License has been made by Courtyard Management Corporation, Trade name being LEBANON PUB LLC., located at 69Main Street, Lebanon NJ 08833.; and

WHEREAS, the submitted form is complete, and the appropriate checks are attached.

BE IT RESOLVED that Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 1018-33-001-010 be issued to Lebanon Pub LLC. Lebanon, New Jersey for a fee of $2,500.00 and to become effective 12:00 a.m. July 1, 2026 and to expire midnight, June 30, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lebanon Borough Common Council to approve the above-named application and authorize the Borough Clerk to sign said application and file it with the NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Introduced and adopted: May 20, 2026:

Ayes: Baldinger, Beger, Burton, Porcello, Valliere

Nays: 0

_____

Absent: Durange

Marlene G. Baldinger, Council President

ATTEST: _____

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Lebanon Borough Administrator/ Clerk hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Council at a meeting duly held on the May 20, 2026 force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Date: May 20, 2026

_____

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

STREET OPENINGS:

Councilman Burton made a motion to approve Elizabethtown Gas Company Street Openings for 97 Main Street, 116 Main Street, 5 and 10 Knox Lane, and 68 Brunswick Ave. With a second by Councilman Berger.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

Administrator Karen Romano requested Mayor Pittinger call for a motion to confirm Summer Hours.

Councilman Burton made a motion to approve Summer Hours for the Office Staff closing a half day of Fridays for Memorial Day to Labor Day. The staff will shorten lunches to make up the time. With a second by Councilman Valliere.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES: Councilman Berger made a motion to approve the Bill list for April 2026. Councilman Burton seconded the motion.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

DISCUSSION:

Discuss held regarding the Recreation Somerset Patriots Baseball Game. CFO Colantano stated the 60% discount on the tickets needed to be agreed upon by Council; Attorney Novak stated the invoice should be a contract. Councilwoman Porcello stated that is what was offered to Vice

Chair of Recreation Jenn Fink. Administrator Romano clarified the Borough was only responsible for tickets sold. But she would like to see the flyer changed to cap the tickets to reflect the budget. She suggested 100 tickets. Councilwoman Porcello stated she was sorry for the misunderstanding.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Councilman Valliere made a motion to open the public session. Councilwoman Porcello seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was opened.

There being no further public comment Councilman Burton made a motion to close the public session. Councilman Berger seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was closed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Safety: Councilwoman Baldinger stated she met with the Crossing Guards. Their only issue seemed to be speeding cars. Councilwoman Baldinger asked when the Speed sign on Brunswick would be move to Clark Road. Administrator Romano was waiting for Balaney Contracting to place the project on the schedule.

Infrastructure Committee: Councilman Burton stated the Playground is in the final stretch. The Rubber surface will follow. The Barn and Pavillon are complete. Sidewalks, Curbs, paving and electric will be done simultaneously.

Recreation: Councilwoman Porcello stated the History Talk went well. There was a good crowd and everyone enjoyed listening to Joe Hauck.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Administrator Romano Thanked Council and the office Staff for working with her to change the Yard Sale date, Bulk Pick Up date and Branch Pick Up date to allow what was needed for former Chief Kevin Saharic's Funeral.

Karen asked for Council's support in a tribute to honor Kevin's legacy. She would like to reach out to all the surrounding fire companies, rescue squads and colleagues of Kevins and ask them to contribute stories to a book for his grandchildren.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNING BODY
May 20, 2026

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- 2026 NJSAGE recreation Grant denied
- Dutchman has completed the Barn and Pavilion
- Concrete installed between two buildings
- Playground equipment installation completion June 8th Rubber surface to follow
- Order garbage cans
- Met with Infrastructure committee regarding picnic tables and tables and chairs
- Worked with JCP&L install date June 11th
- Requested the School pay for Garbage cans, picnic tables and table and chairs
- Purchased mulch for around swing set
- Worked with KDP on planting areas
- KDP will follow close the playground and finish sidewalks on May 26th
- KDP will follow JCP&L with Paving
- Councilman Burton and the Garden club planted green giants along lower parking lot

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Wood was removed in the park
- Purchase of Radios for Fire Department

REGISTRAR

- Quarterly report filed with the State

LICENSING

- ABC Licenses went out

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- April Street Sweeping complete

SENIOR CLUB: Senior meeting was April 22, 2026

- **Summary**
  Lisa DeRoze from the garden club along with Kristen Tindall and Deb Labbadia helped the seniors put together a floral arrangement in teacups. The seniors got to take home their floral arrangements. Everyone enjoyed this hands-on activity and had a wonderful time.

RECREATION:
Meeting: No meeting

Lisa Porcello will continue to update the council on the 100th - Year Anniversary events.

History talk will be on Thursday, May 21st at 6:30PM in the council room with light refreshments.

I spoke to Vice Chair Jenn Fink regarding the Somerset Patriots Baseball Game schedule in July for the 100th year celebration. Bill Colantano and I have process questions to address.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SHADE TREE

- Meeting Canceled

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

- Meeting Canceled

WELCOME BAGS:

New Residents:

- Four New Residents

Mayor Pittinger requested to enter into Executive Session

Councilman Berger made a motion to enter into executive session. Councilman Burton seconded the motion.

BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #82-2026

Whereas, the Open Public Meetings Act allows the Mayor and Council to exclude the public from a portion of a meeting in certain circumstances,

Now therefore, **be it Resolved,** by the Council of the Borough of Lebanon, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of the following matter(s):

__ 1. A confidential matter under Federal or State Law or Court Rule.

__ 2. A matter involving information that may jeopardize the Borough's rights to receive funds from the United States Government.

__ 3. A matter constituting an unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy rights.

__ 4. Collective Bargaining Agreement or negotiation of the Agreement.

__ 5. Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property.

__ 6. Tactics and techniques to protect the safety and property of the public, including investigations of violations or potential violations of the law.

__ 7. Litigation ___Tax Court Matters_____ Anticipated Litigation _____

Contract Negotiations: _____

__ 8. Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege:_____.

__x__ 9. Personnel matters involving a specific employee or officer of the Borough: _Policies__.

___10. Deliberations involving a public hearing which may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty or suspension or loss of a license or permit.

The approved Executive Session minutes will be placed on filed in the Borough Clerk's Office and will be available to the public as provided for by Law.

Be it further Resolved, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Introduced and adopted: May 20, 2026

Ayes:
Nays:
Abstain:
Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

_____

By: Marlene G. Baldinger

Council President

CERTIFICATION

I, Karen M. Romano, Lebanon Borough Clerk, hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Lebanon Common Council at a meeting duly held on May 20, 2026; that this Resolution has not been amended or repealed; and that it remains in full force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.

Dated: May 20, 2026

_____

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/ Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

Mayor Potter requested a motion to re-enter the regular May 20, 2026 Council meeting.

Councilman Berger made a motion to re-enter the regular meeting. Councilman Burton seconded the motion.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

Mayor Pittinger requested a motion to grant the Deputy Clerk six addition Bereavement Days.

Councilman Burton made a motion to grant the six additional Bereavement Days to the Deputy Clerk Councilman Berger seconded the motion.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:
YES: Councilwoman Durange, Council President Baldinger, Councilman Berger, Councilman Burton, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilman Valliere
NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

ADJOURN:

Councilman Berger moved, and Councilman Burton seconded a motion to adjourn, there being no further business to come before Council. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm by unanimous vote.

_____
Karen M. Romano,
Administrator/Clerk