



# LEBANON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2026 at 12:00 PM

Library Community Meeting Room  
55 Academy Street, Lebanon, Oregon

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*We provide services that foster a resilient, safe, and growing community,  
strengthened by our community connections*

**Mayor: Kenneth Jackola**

**Council President Michelle Steinhebel | Councilor Dominic Conti | Vacant**

**Councilor Jeremy Salvage | Councilor David McClain | Councilor Dave Workman**

## CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.

## ROLL CALL

### PRESENT

Mayor Kenneth Jackola  
Councilor - Ward 2 Dave Workman  
Councilor - Ward 3 Jeremy Salvage  
Council President - Ward 3 Michelle Steinhebel

### ABSENT

Councilor - Ward 1 Dominic Conti  
Councilor - Ward 2 David McClain

### STAFF

City Manager Ron Whitlatch  
Chief of Police Frank Stevenson  
Finance Director Brandon Neish  
HR Director Angela Solesbee  
City Attorney Tre' Kennedy  
City Recorder Julie Fisher

Sean Tate, Tate Public Affairs

## CONSENT CALENDAR

*The following item(s) are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be a separate discussion of these items unless a Councilor so requests. In this case, the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.*

- 1. AGENDA:** Lebanon City Council Agenda – January 28, 2026
- 2. EASEMENT:** Private Access Easement to 3rd Street

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda by Councilor - Ward 2 Workman, Seconded by Council President - Ward 3 Steinhebel.

Voting Yea: Councilor - Ward 2 Workman, Councilor - Ward 3 Salvage, Council President - Ward 3 Steinhebel

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*None*

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### 3. Interviews and Appointment for City Council Ward 1 Position

The City Council conducted interviews to fill the vacant City Council position. Two candidates, Shyla Malloy and Marcellus Angellford, were interviewed. Each candidate was asked the same set of questions and given the opportunity to provide responses and closing remarks.

Council members discussed the qualifications of both candidates following the interviews. Council noted that both candidates demonstrated a strong commitment to the community, relevant experience, and thoughtful perspectives on issues facing the City. Councilmembers expressed appreciation for the candidates' preparation and willingness to serve and noted that the decision was a difficult one due to the strengths of both applicants.

After deliberation, a motion was made and seconded to appoint Marcellus Angellford to fill the vacant City Council position for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Motion made by Councilor - Ward 2 Workman, Seconded by Councilor - Ward 3 Salvage.  
Voting Yea: Councilor - Ward 2 Workman, Councilor - Ward 3 Salvage, Council President - Ward 3 Steinhebel

### 4. Direction to Proceed with Municipal Jail and Local Option Levy Process

The City Manager presented a staff overview regarding the potential reopening of the Municipal Jail, which Council identified as a priority during its recent goal-setting session. Staff reviewed the history of the Municipal Jail, noting that it opened in 2009 to provide local accountability for misdemeanor offenses but was closed in 2023 due to staffing challenges and non-compliance with updated Oregon jail standards. Since closure, offenders are generally cited and released, limiting accountability and deterrence.

Staff explained that reopening the jail would require full compliance with Oregon law and insurance requirements, including adequate staffing, training, medical and mental health services, and other mandated standards. Council discussed how reopening the jail could improve efficiency and deterrence by reducing repeated contacts with the same individuals and allowing patrol officers to focus on proactive policing rather than jail operations.

The City Manager outlined that if Council chose to pursue a Local Option Levy to fund jail operations, the effort must be council-led. Under Oregon law, staff may provide factual, neutral information but may not advocate for the levy. Councilmembers discussed the importance of Council commitment, political considerations, and the need to weigh the levy against other long-term City funding priorities.

Staff presented preliminary financial information, explaining that operating the jail would require approximately \$1.7 million over five years, supported by a proposed five-year Local Option Levy estimated at approximately \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For an average home valued at approximately \$385,000, the estimated cost would be about \$385 per year. Staff also discussed property tax compression under Measures 5 and 50, existing bond obligations, and noted that the City's current general obligation bond is scheduled to expire in FY 2027, which would reduce tax burden for residents.

Council discussed election timing options for placing the levy on the ballot. Staff reviewed statutory deadlines and costs associated with a November 2026 election versus a May 2027 special election, noting that a May election would potentially require the City to bear the full cost of the election, estimated between \$50,000 and \$100,000, and would likely have lower

voter turnout. Several Councilmembers expressed a preference for a November 2026 election to maximize participation and minimize additional costs.

Staff also discussed the potential use of a campaign consultant to conduct polling, assess community support, and assist with neutral public outreach. Council discussed polling as a key decision point to determine whether to proceed with placing a levy on the ballot, recognizing that insufficient public support would warrant reconsideration.

Council members emphasized the importance of full Council participation and commitment if the levy were to move forward, noting that success would require active involvement by all Councilmembers. Given that several Councilmembers were absent, Council agreed it was important to defer any formal direction until the full Council could consider the matter.

Motion: To table consideration of directing staff to proceed with placing a Municipal Jail Local Option Levy on the ballot until February 11, 2026, regular City Council meeting.

Motion made by Council President - Ward 3 Steinhebel, Seconded by Councilor - Ward 2 Workman.

Voting Yea: Councilor - Ward 2 Workman, Councilor - Ward 3 Salvage, Council President - Ward 3 Steinhebel

Staff was directed to provide absent Councilmembers with materials from the presentation, including prior PowerPoint presentations and factual data, in advance of the February meeting.

#### **ITEMS FROM COUNCIL**

Mayor Jackola asked if a Councilmember is absent, that they contact the Mayor, City Manager and City Recorder. A memo will be added to the February 11, 2026 meeting with the request.

#### **PUBLIC/PRESS COMMENTS**

*An opportunity for citizens and the press to comment on items of city business.*

None

**NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING(S)** February 11, 2026 Regular Meeting at 6 PM.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 PM.