FINAL

LEBANON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 12, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Lebanon High School
Remote Via Microsoft Teams: LebanonNH.gov/Live

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Tim McNamara, Assistant Mayor Clifton Below, Erling Heistad, Karen Liot Hill, Christian Simon, George Sykes, Douglas Whittlesey, Devin Wilkie, and Karen Zook
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
STAFF PRESENT:	City Manager Shaun Mulholland, Deputy City Manager David Brooks,

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor McNamara called the meeting to order At 7:00 PM.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Simon led the Council in the Pledge.

- City Manager-Mulholland announced the meeting criteria for the public.

3. **SPECIAL MEETING**
   A. Discussion of Proposed 2025 Municipal Budget

   • City of Lebanon 2025 Proposed Operating Budget available at **LebanonNH.gov/Budget**

Council Discussions:

Mayor McNamara stated that the purpose of this meeting is for the Council to have a comprehensive discussion on the budget. The public was invited due to the high volume of interest from them. However, today's meeting is not for public comment. The intent tonight is to allow the public to hear the in-depth discussion and various thoughts of Council members, that the public can listen to.

Next Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 6:00PM, will be a public hearing on the budget and again will be held at Lebanon High School, and during that meeting, the City Council will vote on a budget.

Mayor McNamara summarized key factors impacting the budget, starting with the fact that this Council has taken steps over several years to have the tax increase be less than the CPI rate. The tax rate in 2023 and 2024 has grown faster than the CPI.

Decades ago, the City of Lebanon was found to be in violation of the Clean Water Act with combined sanitary and storm sewage which caused raw sewage to be directly discharged in waterways, including the Mascoma River during storm events. These combined sewers were outlawed in the 1970s. At that time, the Federal government was offering 90% funding and the State of New Hampshire, an additional 5% grant funding, which would have covered 95% of the cost of the separation of these combined sewers. At that time, the City of Lebanon failed to act on the requirement to separate its sewer system and did not take advantage of the funding to complete the separation projects.

Subsequently, the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an administrative order, requiring the City of Lebanon to complete the separation work. This order was issued on June 6, 2000, following an initial order issued on June 2, 1996.

The separation work began in 2007, and the last project was completed in 2021, fourteen years later. The total cost was approximately $71,000,000 (seventy-one million dollars), which the City of Lebanon had to fund by issuing debt. The last sewer bond payment will not be paid until approximately eighteen years from now. This debt load continues to constrain the financial resources to provide services to the community.

Some of the work that has been delayed due to the cost of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), that consumed the City's debt capacity, have become critical.

As required by the State of New Hampshire, the City of Lebanon will conduct a reevaluation of all properties, residential and commercial, in 2025. Historically these are done at five-year intervals. The purpose of these reevaluations is to ensure that the assessments are maintained within a range of 90% to 110% of market value. Post-Covid there has been a rapid increase of market values, due to housing shortages, which has pushed the City's assessments below the market values, well below the State's criteria, and is currently at 73%. By state law, the City is required to reevaluate properties to bring the ratio in line with the requirement, ideally at 100%.

The City of Lebanon was notified this fall, that the health insurance rates for City staff would increase by 18.4%, the highest increase the City has seen since at least 2006. The City will proactively conduct a health insurance study in 2025, to explore alternative solutions in the healthcare marketplace, to try to reduce this.

The City changed to a high deductible plan in 2019, and that has saved the City considerable money.

The City of Lebanon has negotiated payment in lieu of taxes (aka "pilot agreements") with both Dartmouth Health and Alice Peck Day. These 20-year agreements are both in effect. The New Hampshire Supreme Court recently ruled in the New London Hospital case that charitable institutions, such as these hospitals, are completely exempt from property taxes. They are under no obligation to enter into pilot agreements, however, the pilot agreements we have with both Dartmouth Health and Alice Peck Day were in effect prior to the Supreme Court's decision, and therefore they remain binding on them.

In addition to these pilot payments, both entities (DH and APD) have agreed to fund related community health projects, including the community paramedicine program, community nurse program, 1.75 firefighter positions, and the cost of the comprehensive annual physicals for firefighters.

New Hampshire has one tax rate, and the same rate is charged to all properties in this municipality. Some other states have both a residential property tax rate and a commercial property tax rate, and an industrial property tax rate. This is not an option for Lebanon, as New Hampshire is not a "home rule" state, and so the City is strictly limited on what we can do, by state law.

Additionally, the City of Lebanon has several "urban compacts" which means that those state roadways that travel through these urban compacts, while owned by the State, are required to be maintained by the City. Capital projects in these areas are funded by the State for 80%, with the City being responsible for the remaining 20%. These include things such as bridges, roundabouts, roadways, pre-construction, and intersections.

Lebanon is a growing city and the demand for services continues to grow. The current population is approximately 16,000, whereas the daytime population is more than double that.

Mayor McNamara stated that in closing, the City Council will continue to work through the budget process tonight, and attempt to minimize the impact of property taxes, while simultaneously maintaining public services.

The Mayor would like this Council to provide direction for City staff during tonight's meeting as to what the Council is looking for from them, for a final budget number on December 18th.

He stressed that they cannot give everything to everyone, and that there will be some sacrifices. He has run numbers and has ideas, but wants to hear from the Council, to see where they are headed.

Assistant Mayor Below, stated that he thinks the City needs to get the tax rate down into single digits, and how far down they can go should be something to work through tonight. The City Manager's office ran scenarios at various tax rate increases, so Mr. Below would like to see these numbers reviewed and discussed during this meeting.

Council Karen Liot Hill spoke next and stated that she is streaming the video for this meeting on her Facebook site if they want to see tonight's meeting. She thanked citizens for providing their input to City Council.

She stated that the State of New Hampshire does not fund public schools fairly and requires schools, cities and town to support these services. So, 60% of our property taxes go towards school funding.

She reiterated the information that Mayor McNamara shared about the CSO.

She questioned actions by prior Councils, including giving a $5,000,000 windfall back to the taxpayers as a property tax cut the following year. Also, the Airport previously was a regional airport and therefore was maintained with funding from other towns, but a prior Council chose to have the City of Lebanon Airport, and related expenses become the sole responsibility of the City of Lebanon.

The reason the Police and Fire Departments are so busy is due to growth as well as the increased daytime population. Our Fire Department is the busiest in the State.

A 12% tax increase is just a maintenance budget. Ms. Hill wants to minimize the impact on people, on the most vulnerable people in our City and keep in mind who will be impacted by any cuts they make, and she wants to be sure this Council's decisions are good for now and the long haul.

Mayor McNamara has been reviewing the different budget scenarios Council Below spoke of. A tax increase in the range of 8%-8.5% would result in a $900,000 (8.5%) budget cut. Anything less than this would result in dramatic cuts in services. He thinks this is feasible without dramatic cuts in services.

Councilor Sykes has been asked what the City is doing to create revenue and share the burden. He said that they have proposed a room tax on the hotels in the City. This money would come back to the City of Lebanon and would be earmarked for public safety services. Four State representatives presented this to the State Legislature, and this bill has been defeated each time. They will continue to look at ways to increase revenue streams. They will continue to promote this type of bill, to help share the tax burden.

An audience member spoke up and ask for them to talk about the budget, rather than historical issues. The Mayor and Council shared some key points of the City's history as it sets the stage and better informs the public about how and why the City of Lebanon has the current budget situation.

Councilor Liot Hill stated that the City also uses the services of a grant writer. The City of Lebanon works with Rebecca Owens, and she has helped secure substantial funds to offset expenses. This is a *process* with the budget, and it is important to know how we got here. She understands the frustrations but noted that the issues are nuanced.

Councilor Whittlesey shared several line items that totaled approximately $123,000. He revisited his list of cuts and shared more specifics.

Mayor McNamara stated considering several substantial cuts including 1 full time (FT) Public Works position ($225,000), Human Services position to revert back to PT ($50,000), Systems Librarian FT open position ($130,000), 2 open Patrol positions in the Police Department, totaling $279,830 (savings of approximately $122,000 if only 1 FT filled), Advance Transit 10% cut ($30,000), other outside agencies thru Human Services 10% reduction ($33,000), and 2 versus 3 Plant Development Electrical Inspectors, 1 FT open position from an inspector that is retiring ($130,000 if left unfilled). He thinks a logical place to start is not adding additional positions and leaving some PT and FT positions unfilled at this point in time.

Mayor McNamara will be advocating for 2 additional full-time firefighters rather than 4. This scenario above would result in an approximate $735,000 budget reduction.

The City has a downtown TIF District fund and believes that the City could pull approximately $200,000 from this fund. The amount currently in this fund is approximately $935,000. This addition would get the City to an 8.5% tax increase for 2025.

Councilor Skyes said that he too was concerned about tax increases, but he does not want tax cuts to go down on the backs of people who are least able to bear them. For example, any reduction in Advance Transit would impact those most vulnerable in our community. This must be part of their discussion.

Councilor Wilkie thinks there are several good options, but he too would be concerned about any cuts to Advance Transit as it would translate into a cut in service hours, which would negatively impact people being able to maintain their jobs, since they could not get to and from work. He is also opposed to cutting Human Services, and again, any cuts impact those who can least afford it. He is in support of not filling vacant positions for now.

Mayor McNamara stated that he is not proposing any cuts to Parks and Recreation and the reason is that it is a very small budget and has a disproportionate positive impact on our citizens. Also, there is a potential for some increased revenues, which they will continue to look for wherever they can find .

Councilor Whittlesey pointed out that it is important for them to also look at recent budget years and review what was actually spent versus what was budgeted for. For example, the heating assistance line was underspent. A reduction in this line item would have no negative impact.

Councilor Liot Hill supports not filling any vacant positions and asked if there is a consensus for the vacant positions not being filled.

Councilor Wilkie reiterated that he is opposed to any cuts in Human Services. This aside, the unfilled positions total $415,000 and he agrees with Councilor Liot Hill on not filling these currently. He wants to revisit the open library position next year.

Assistant Mayor Below asked what figure was being used for the open library position; it is $135,350. The library offered that $5,000 could be cut from electricity usage. He also inquired about the two new building inspectors.

Mayor McNamara said that both new inspectors are ICC certified building inspectors. Assistant Mayor Below was in support of not filling the 3rd electrical inspector position.

Mayor McNamara also noted that Hanover has 2 full-time inspectors, not a dedicated electrical inspector. They too have a substantial amount of construction going on.

Deputy City Manager Brooks was asked about inspections such as the big project at the hospital and whether it is possible to contract for additional outside help and paid for thru permit fees. Mr. Brooks knows it is possible but stated that it has not happened often in the past 15 to 20 years, but again, it is possible if necessary.

Mayor McNamara asked for feedback on his suggestion for the TIF District funds being utilized. Assistant Mayor Below agreed that it does make sense and while they cannot do it immediately, he does think some draw-down of $100,000-$200,000 is feasible. He also wants to review any development opportunities.

Mayor McNamara has looked at this carefully and feels that a drawdown of $200,000 does not put this fund in jeopardy and would allow some taxpayer relief.

Councilor Whittlesey suggested that they revisit the TIF District fund each year, rather than allowing the TIF District to make their own decisions, so that the council remains up to date each year, to see if any of this funding is needed. He suggested possible suspension (not discontinuing) of funding for now.

Councilor Liot Hill said that the Economic Development Commission is literally in the process now of evaluating some potential options for the back parking lots in Downtown Lebanon. The Spencer Street redevelopment is on hold now but will happen. She agreed it makes sense to use some funds from the TIF District in the 2025 budget to supports this.

Councilor Whittlesey stated it would be suspended, not discontinued.

City Manager Mulholland said you cannot "suspend" TIF District funds, but you can transfer funds to the general fund, and the Council has the authority to do this. They can make a resolution of the budget to transfer of the money and this can be addressed on December 18th. There will also be a TIF Districts reevaluation in the fall, once they review the status of current projects. TIF takes the entire portion of the tax rate, City, School, and County??. TIF is intended for new projects. It is not designed for accruing money, so there is no need to keep putting money into this fund, if there are no new projects.

Councilor Liot Hill stated if they give back these funds, the funds should be given back to the entity the funds were set aside for.

Assistant Mayor Below would like to see the City add 3 or 4 firefighters, just one more position per shift. As a point of reference, 16 would put Lebanon in line with national standards. These roles are medically driven, rather than by fires.

Councilor Wilkie agrees to use the TIF District funds and use that money as part of the tax base. He also thinks we need a minimum of 8 firefighters, and at the very least 4.

Councilor Heistad thanked the public for coming to this meeting and sending their emails. He thinks it is helpful for the public to see the process the Council goes through. He stated that the senior community has grown and has impacted the increased need for medical emergency help.

Councilor Sykes agreed on not filling currently unfilled positions. He also shared some constituents' concerns and commented that citizens are very much in support of additional firefighter staffing.

Councilor Simon noted that police officers also help as first responders and help with medical emergencies. He stated it is also important to keep the Police Department fully staffed. He noted several line items that can be removed or delayed, starting with road repavement of $560,000. He suggests this be delayed. Solar phase 1 buyout reduction is zero for 2025. TIF District he thinks could be dissolved completely and the full funds released.

Assistant Mayor Below inquired if the Slayton Hill proposed roundabout can be delayed and reevaluated. Councilor Liot Hill agreed. Councilor Simon agreed.

Councilor Simon suggested the City move the Human Services offices to the emergency shelter location on Mechanic Street, since there is capacity there during the daytime and particularly in warmer months. He thinks it will save the City $16,000 annually.

Mayor McNamara interjected that he wants to be able to give the City Manager and his staff some concrete direction to work with between now and next Wednesday. After hearing from a majority of Councilors he still feels like 8.5% (approximate cut in the budget of $900,000) is reasonable and asked how the Council felt about this.

Councilor Wilkie had run the tally from this meeting discussion and the packet.

An unknown member of the public suggested that Quail Hollow hire their own nurses.

Starting with Council Wilkie, examples (using the reductions consideration packet) were given as to where the budget could be reduced as follows:
Snow removal item, cemetery, inspector , regional associations, firefighters, overtime, systems, and another $130, 000 from the electrical inspection role, and adding TIF of $200,000 for an approximate total expense reduction of $791,000.

Assistant Mayor Below suggested they remain in the Regional Planning Commission and leave that line item (dues) in the budget. Councilor Sykes agreed and has seen benefits from being a member of this commission. For example, the City was able to get some solid recommendation on a matter a commission was working on, and this resulted in substantial funds paid to the City. This is one example of the benefits of being a member of this commission. Mayor McNamara agreed as well and said it would be very short sited to drop out of this.

Vital Communities ($4,600 annual cost) brings people together with other communities to help each other, and has a big impact on finding regional solutions for local communities, such as housing, transportation, childcare issues, etc.

Mayor McNamara has reservations of cutting any of the plowing budget as he feels it is a public safety issue. There is a line item for the maintenance of sidewalks and bike paths, for $100,000

Councilor Liot Hill was reluctant to remove the budget item for sidewalk/bike path maintenance because from her experience, once this type of thing is removed, it is hard to get restored. She cited an example of paving. She does not want to zero out the paving budget. Kicking the can down the road is more expensive than maintaining it.

Councilor Wilkie was also concerned about removing sidewalk maintenance, because a reduction of sidewalks maintenance affects the more vulnerable people of our community that use these for their transportation since many do not have vehicles and many use wheelchairs.

Councilor Wilkie suggested the Energy and Facilities Manager could possibly be reduced to part time with an exclusive focus on energy.

Councilor Liot Hill said they had heard testimony from the Lebanon Energy Advisory Commission and learned that this position and the funds generates more than offsets the costs of this role (reference LEAC November 21, 2024 meeting notes).

Councilor Wilkie and Councilor Liot Hill were agreeable to not spending funds on guardrails, at least temporarily. Mayor McNamara said that work is already underway on Old Pine Tree Cemetery Road. City Manager Mulholland said that if they cut the $80,000 for guardrails, they cannot do the whole road. When roads are repaved, the profile of the road is changed and so to meet the safety requirements, the guardrails have to be raised up at the same time.

Councilor Wilkie shared an updated spreadsheet, reflecting the various changes in the line-items discussed so far. He then added line-item cuts suggested by Councilor Whittlesey.

City Manager Mulholland answered questions about the 1.75 firefighters' equation reflected as a $257,000 budget line item and he, along with Fire Chief James Wheatley provided details about the agreement with Alice Peck Day. The first agreement was assuming the City was going to get the Safer Grant, which the City did not get. Alice Peck Day had agreed to act in good faith to be able to work out an agreement with the City. They want to have an ambulance service on site at APD, for the interfacility transports. After new negotiations, the current agreement includes $101,000 for a social worker, the costs of the annual physicals for the firefighters, and it also includes a $100,000 provision for the FD to balance bill, for when the firefighters transport out of APD and don't get fully compensated. The total agreement equates to approximately $257,000. The City is now getting the revenue equivalent of 1.75 firefighters, payable for seven years. When the City of Lebanon negotiated this agreement with Alice Peck Day, they were and are under the understanding that the City will use this for adding 1.75 firefighters, to continue to offer the level of service.

Dartmouth Health Medical Center also has negotiated an agreement with the City and Fire Department to fund community nurses and community paramedics. That has been in place for three years and DHMC has agreed to pay for an additional three years.

Councilor Simon proposed numerous cuts including delaying any work on some roadways on the outskirts of town (no roads stated) and letting them go back to dirt, thereby reducing the paving budget, reducing part time wages from the City Manager's office totaling $71,390, a reduction of $100,000 from Legal Services, as well as a $150,000 reduction in paving.

Mayor McNamara reiterated that delaying road maintenance will cost much more down the road. Councilor Liot Hill said that this cut does not impact people in need, and so even though the costs will be higher in the future, she reluctantly agreed to this cut of $150,000. Councilor Wilkie agreed to this paving cut as well, though he does not think it is a good idea, and he would like to revisit this in 2025.

Councilor Sykes stated it is clear to him that the City has continued to underinvest in maintaining our roads/highways. The only way he would support this one-time cut of $150,000 for the 2025 budget year, is if there is a consensus among the councilors to revisit this in 2025. He also asked if this cost could be bonded so the work can be done in 2025. The roads will continue to deteriorate, and this causes many problems.

Next, they reviewed all the line items under the "Considerations/Rejected" columns which included:

Advance Transit **$30,000**

Councilor Liot Hill inquired into the possibility of charging riders a fee.

Councilor Wilkie said that based on studies, fees for advance transit will cost more than keeping the fare free service. Because of the infrastructure and the loss of grants, and the decrease in ridership, it would likely cost more than it would save.

Assistant Mayor Below stated that the $30,000 cut would actually result in a much larger cut of $120,000 due to the 3x matching of federal funds that would be lost.

Soldiers Memorial Building and Dana House **$22,000 and $6,600 respectively**

Audience member from the public said the City has a binding agreement for the Soldiers Memorial Building

Assistant Director of Human Services from FT to PT	**$50,000**
Human Services relocation to the homeless shelter	**$16,000**
Direct Assistance (e.g. heating, housing, etc.)	**$27,000**

Councilor Sykes stated that the City of Lebanon has statutory and constitutional requirements to provide for the needy and this is the department that does this. He is against cutting from Human Services.

City Manager Mulholland stated that this move would cost more than any real savings. Phones, electricity, etc., would increase the costs, and eliminate any perceived savings in 2025.

Lynn Goodwin, Director Human Resources, was asked to speak and stated that there should be no cuts in direct assistance as they cannot predict what the need is. This would result in her needing to come back and ask for additional funding during 2025.

Having the Assistant HR role full-time (previously this role was 29 hours weekly) has freed some time up for Ms. Goodwin to successfully pursue additional revenue via grants and funding. She has been able to secure a $10,000 grant from Grafton County, just yesterday, she submitted a grant request for $50,000 towards shelter operations, she secured another $5,000 in reimbursements from Tri County Cap, and she has been working the last year with a coalition of providers to bring some sort of transitional housing to Lebanon, for people with serious mental illness and criminal justice involvement. The Grafton County Commissioners just gave $300,000 to start a program January 1, 2025, for hotel assistance, which has the potential to reduce costs for the City of Lebanon.

In terms of moving the Human Services offices, heating and cleaning expenses would continue at the new location. There would be no privacy for the people coming there to get help, nor are there any private rooms. Additionally, the City of Lebanon would have to move large pieces of equipment, and install land lines at the new location, and for the four months that the shelter is in operation, the challenges would increase exponentially.

Councilor Whittlesey explained his logic behind suggesting a cut in Human Services and proposed a level budget in line with the 2023 budget.

Council Simon stated he would rescind his request to move Human Services to the homeless shelter at 160 Mechanic Street. He still wants to address comments by many constituents, about the number of properties the City of Lebanon owns and wants them utilized to the fullest extent possible. Also, he wants to see consideration for selling some of these properties.

Assistant City Clerk - This position has been filled.

Fireworks budgeted	**$13,000**

Councilor Wilkie supports rejecting this line item.
Councilor Below wants this moved from under Consideration to Rejected. While it is nice to have, it is not a critical service.

Maintenance and Portable toilets **$11,000**

Councilor Wilkie feels strongly this should not be eliminated from the budget.

Library Items, there are several line items. It was agreed that these will all need to be considered.

David Brooks, Deputy City Manager, clarified the electrical inspector role and provided additional perspective. While it is estimated that the savings would be $134,000 if the 3rd position is not filled, he pointed out that the City would then need to hire out for this position, which would reduce the anticipated revenue that comes in. This needs to be factored in.

Councilor Sykes said that he is against hiring outside expertise for code enforcement. In the past, DHMC tried that and from his perspective, City staff had to come back in and do the work anyway. From a fire and safety and homeowner protection point of view, he said it is prudent to fill this role from within.

Mr. Mulholland, City Manager, said his goal tonight is simply to talk, and they will answer any current questions but will have further discussions next week.

Councilor Wilkie asked for the public to please write him via email over the next 4-5 days. He and Councilor Liot Hill agreed the City would get out a communication on the City website with the consensus that is building with this Council.

Following up on a request from Councilor Below, Councilor Liot Hill ask to see a scenario with a total of 4 firefighters. Earlier this week, City Manager Mulholland sent an email to this Council with the different scenarios for the number of firefighter positions and the impact on the budget.

Mayor McNamara asked about the $200,000 proposed from TIF District Funds and wants it added to the budget line items. This would have a positive offset of the property taxes that are proposed in the fall of 2025. It was agreed to put in for $300,000 for now.

City Manager Mulholland cautioned against exceeding approximately 36% of the TIF Funds. If this fund is ever dissolved, exceeding the amount that comes back to the City of Lebanon would create a hole in the future. This percentage reflects the percentage that the City of Lebanon actually gets back. The exact percentage needs to be confirmed.

City Clerk Office Staff Reduction **$71,390**

City Manager Mulholland will provide them information next week.

Legal Services **$100,000**

Councilor Simon requested this cut.
Councilor Below suggested they reduce this to $50,000. This is the number that will be considered.

Cyber Services Hardware **$47,600**

Councilor Whittlesey asked if this proposed expenditure could be delayed until 2026. To date, this has only spent down $67,000 on a budget of $294,000. Also thereby extending the life of the hardware by six to twelve months.

Councilor Wilkie agreed that this could be under Considerations.

Postage (ancillary) $15,000

Finance Director Vicki Lee stated this consists of three categories:

Print mail for water bills and tax bills
Postage to mail the above
Regular City postage

This entire postage budget gets used and this $15,000 will remain unchanged in the 2025 budget.

Assistant Mayor Below suggested they review the other items on this list.

Energy & Facilities Manager (cut to part time) $88,370

Mayor McNamara thinks this should be considered. Councilor Simon concurred. Councilor Sykes disagreed and thought that Lebanon Energy Advisory Commission (LEAC) members have excellent ideas, and this Manager helps these ideas come to fruition. The volunteers do not have the expertise or capacity to implement most. This is being kept under Considerations.

Plowing $115,560

All cuts to plowing were rejected

Sidewalk Maintenance $50,000

Assistant Mayor Below suggested that sidewalk maintenance be $50,000 and Pavement maintenance (see below) be $100,000.

Guardrail $80,000

Mr. Jay Cairelli, Director of Public Works said this $80,000 was for Old Pine Tree Cemetery Road. If they cut either the paving budget or the guardrails budget, they cannot complete Old Pine Tree Cemetery Road. Both will stay under Considerations for now.

Human Services Assistant Director $49,690
Human Services Outside Agency $32,700

These cuts were rejected by at least five (5) Council members.

Regional Assn. – UVLSRPC & VC $30,687

Cuts are rejected

Fireworks **$13,000**

This will stay under Considerations until the public hearing and input on December 18, 2024.

Library **$7,500**

This amount will be left under Consideration.

Pavement **$100,000**

This amount will be left under Consideration.

Police Officers (2) **$279,830**

City Manager Mulholland reminded all that the Police Department actually needs a minimum of 3 positions, and that as Lebanon continues to grow, crime is getting more sophisticated, and so the need for public safety is growing too.

One of these positions will be moved to Consideration, and the other under Accepted.

It was agreed that this Council has sufficient information for now. They again encouraged hearing from the Public.

City Manager Mulholland suggested that the City Council look at this budget for more than one year into the future, since decisions made now will continue to have an impact on subsequent years. Cuts now could further exasperate future budgets.

4. ADJOURNMENT:
Councilor Heistad MOVED for adjournment.
Seconded by Councilor Wilkie

****The Vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (9-0)***

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary