

FINAL

**WELCOMING LEBANON TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
May 11, 2026
2:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Devin Wilkie, Assistant Mayor, Lindsay Dearborn, Lucas Mendelsohn, Keiselim (Keyci) Montas, Phillip Roberts, Lebanon Police Chief, Tia Winter

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Hosmer, City Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER – Assistant Mayor Wilkie called the meeting to order at 2:11 PM.

2. PREAMBLE – Read by City Manager Hosmer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. April 30, 2026

*Mr. Montas **MOVED** to approve the Minutes as amended
Seconded by Tia Winter*

The **MOTION was approved (5-0), 1 abstained*

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning for Public Input Session

Vice Mayor Wilkie started the discussion about the Public Input Session and referenced the Draft handout he prepared with the intent of sharing this 2-pager with the public. The document explains the background of what happened and why, questions to consider, and lastly options under consideration (see Agenda Packet). This will be published and made available to the public soon, to be discussed further at the June 8, 2026 meeting. These handouts will also be at the door for people attending the public input session.

Police Chief Roberts commented on the administrative policy suggestions and said that they have numerous policies that are already in effect. These include everything being referenced here. He will get the WLTF a copy of the document, much of which is available already on the City website. Vice Mayor Wilkie will see if there is a way to share a link to this information so that members of the public can review before they comment on this matter.

Vice Mayor Wilkie asked City Manager Hosmer if the City administration has any pertaining to discrimination or anything else related to welcoming Lebanon. City Manager Hosmer confirmed that this is covered in the transparency tab; this is one of the policies that is highlighted with a direct link. It was agreed that this, along with Police policy, would be added to the handout.

Phone calls feedback and emails will both come directly into the City Manager's office (CityManager@lebanonnh.gov). The **subject line in emails should be Welcoming Lebanon Task Force**.

Mr. Montas suggested that in this two-pager, under Options they would include some text about what the process would be for the various options, will it need to be voted on by the City Council, etc?

The Task Force discussed and agreed to a date to hold this Public Input Session; it will be held on Tuesday, July 14th, 5:30-7:30PM at City Hall, City Chambers. They want to have this meeting held early in this process, so that they can utilize the input given by the public.

This meeting will offer the opportunity for people to come and speak and give their thoughts and recommendations. In subsequent WLTF meetings, they will discuss how they will use this information and distill it into a recommendation for the City.

The WLTF will have a brief presentation at this meeting and then open it to the public.

B. Discussion of Task Force Goals and Preferences

In response to some comments, Police Chief Roberts said that they need to be careful that anything this WLTF does needs to fully comply with State law and the Constitution regarding the enforcement of the immigration laws. He added that anytime there is a judicial warrant signed by a judge, then when any law enforcement officer in the State of New Hampshire comes across an individual with an immigration detainer, the office has to by State law detain that person. Lebanon Police Department does not take a role in federal law enforcement (287). But they will continue to follow State laws.

Vice Mayor Wilkie alluded to some information that Ms. Dearborn provided him about Nashua's recent Board of Alderman resolution that was not focused on their local law enforcement but rather effectively a directive without much power to federal immigration, saying that we ask that to the extent you are able, you provide us advance notice so that we can help to protect the safety of our community. And we also ask that you do this in non-discriminatory ways. So, we would be saying that we do care about the safety of our community, and because of this, the governing body wants to make this statement to federal immigration enforcement. While something like this would not in all likelihood carry any hard authority, it would indicate that we are going to comply with these laws, while also asking the federal authorities to adhere to what they profess to be doing, trying to "protect the communities". Mr. Mendelsohn said that this would be a way to show that Lebanon values and supports inclusiveness, equity, and dignity of all residents, that it is important for our community, and that we support the safety and well-being of our community. Also, to ask that federal law enforcement, immigration and customs respect the dignity of our residents and to also consider the safety of all of our residents. It is a thoughtful ask for respect and kindness to all.

Additionally, he commented on a community subcommittee and cited several reasons that these are difficult to maintain.

Ms. Dearborn asked if the DEI Commission could focus on the tasks listed for the proposed resident subcommittee? She added that there are already nine people devoted to this topic. Vice Mayor Wilkie said that could be a possibility and maybe only meet every quarter or as needed. The idea was posed that perhaps they could alter the DEI Commission's quorum regulations for potential ad hoc situations. City Manager Hosmer cited some concerns about this, given the nature and sensitivity of matters that might come before the DEI, including privacy and protections for City employees, quorum rules, public posting, etc. Vice Mayor Wilkie said he could add some considerations to the handout.

Police Chief Roberts added that any disciplinary matters should be handled by the City Manager's office. These matters could be advisory, investigative, etc. Also, they would be dealing with union contracts and language, employee protection, State labor laws, in other words there are a lot of moving parts, requiring specialized knowledge on specific subject matters. It will be a much cleaner process, having the City Manager's office oversee this.

Ms. Winter asked if it would be useful to get a quantitative report, with no details, so that they would then know the number and types of complaints being filed.

City Manager Hosmer said that they are fortunate that former Police Chief Jim Alexander already does a number of investigations for the City and he is thorough. He then turns these over to the City Manager's office. The City Manager typically gets the Human Resources Department Head involved.

Police Chief Roberts said that the framework of what they are discussing now is already on the City's main webpage, outlining how to file a complaint. Similar information also exists on the Police Department's Facebook page. Both cover in person, online, mail, anonymously, etc. He will share that link with this Task Force.

Mr. Mendelsohn said that he wants to become familiar with all of this information. He then posed the idea of the DEI to review the transparency policy and the opportunity for public education and possibly a public education campaign.

C. Discussion of Possible Public Input Handout

See A above

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Schedule as follows:

- Monday, June 8, 2026, 5:15PM to 6:45PM
- Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 5:30 to 7:30PM – Public Input Session
- Monday, July 20, 2026, 5:30 to 7:00PM
- Monday, August 3, 2026, 5:30 to 7:00PM
- Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 5:30 to 7:00PM
- Monday, August 24, 2026, 5:30 to 7:00PM

All meetings to be held at Lebanon City Hall, either in the Council Chambers or another meeting room there.

Vice Mayor Wilkie will get the revised 2-pager Draft to City Manager Hosmer to distribute to this Task Force, to provide them the opportunity to look at it in advance of their June 8, 2026. 5:15PM meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Assistant Mayor Wilkie adjourned the meeting at 3:24PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary