



**WELCOMING LEBANON TASK FORCE
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 - 5:30 PM
MEETING ROOM 1, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE**

1. Call to Order

The August 24, 2026, Welcoming Lebanon Task Force Meeting is hereby called to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. August 3, 2026

3. Old Business

A. Continue Discussion of Public Input Recommendations

4. New Business: None

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public who wish to attend remotely may do so by going to [LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/live) where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupt virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs additional accommodation, please contact the ADA coordinator at City Hall by calling 603-448-4220 at least 72 hours in advance so that the City can make any necessary arrangements.

DRAFT

**WELCOMING LEBANON TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL ROOM 2
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
August 3, 2026
5:30 PM**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lucas Mendelsohn

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Hosmer, City Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER – Assistant Mayor Wilkie called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. PREAMBLE – Read by City Manager Hosmer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 14, 2026

*Mr. Montas MOVED to approve the Minutes as written
Seconded by Ms. Dearborn*

**The MOTION was approved (5-0)*

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Continue Discussion of Public Input Recommendations

Assistant Mayor Wilkie opened the meeting by saying that the focus of today's meeting is to take a look at their Draft again and incorporate any changes that they might still want to make, before seeking feedback from vulnerable residents. Both Mr. Montas and Ms. Dearborn had provided direct feedback to Assistant Mayor Wilkie, prior to today's meeting, so they started with this feedback. They discussed the verbiage nuances and changes and reached agreement on this document, which was incorporated during today's meeting.

Ms. Winter offered the suggestion that they make it clear that while we can ask or urge for certain actions by federal authorities, we cannot compel them to notify us of their actions in advance. The City of Lebanon cannot ensure that this will happen, and we do not want any resident to think that the City can do so and thereby possibly give a false sense of security. They will continue to work on actual wording as this process progresses, realizing that the City Council will decide on the final wording.

No vote is needed today because this is not final, but rather the interim document they will be sharing with residents.

Ms. Dearborn said all Task Force members need to align what they will be saying to residents, so that they are consistent. Assistant Mayor Wilkie said that for his part, he wants to ask people how they feel about the language in this document, if they have any changes or concerns with the language, and whether they feel it is valuable or useful. These can be their consistent talking points and then beyond this, the goal would be to remain open to residents sharing their ideas and feedback. We are proposing to maintain the spirit of Lebanon being a welcoming city.

Lebanon Police Chief Roberts commented on lines 69 & 70 which reference partnering “with local, regional, and national organizations to monitor the impacts of state and federal policies on vulnerable community members... and cautioned having wording like this included, if they do not have the framework in place to support this. This next draft will be adjusted to reflect that they *will engage in dialog with community organizations who are monitoring the impacts*...rather than “monitor the impacts”.

They were reminded that this document will be presented to City Council for final approval in September, and to this end, they will continue to encourage substantive input and evolve the wording accordingly.

Assistant Mayor Wilkie will send their current updated Draft to City Manager Hosmer, to disseminate it to all Welcoming Lebanon Task Force members.

5. NEW BUSINESS: None

6. OTHER BUSINESS None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Assistant Mayor Wilkie adjourned the meeting at 6:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary

*****NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT THE FINAL RESOLUTION; ALL LANGUAGE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING PUBLIC INPUT AND TASK FORCE DISCUSSION, AND THE FOLLOWING CLAUSES ARE PROVIDED ONLY AS EXAMPLE LANGUAGE. WE CONTINUE TO WELCOME INPUT TO ADD TO, CHANGE/CLARIFY, OR DELETE THIS LANGUAGE.*****

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF LEBANON'S COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVENESS, EQUITY, AND COMMUNITY TRUST

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon recognizes the inherent dignity and equality of all people regardless of race, skin color, national or ethnic origin, cultural group, language, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, age, religious or political opinion or activity, economic status, nationality, immigration status, or housing status, BIPOC residents, Indigenous peoples, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and others who have historically faced exclusion and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon is a welcoming community with a diverse population of new and longtime residents and business owners, who contribute to the social, cultural, and economic life of the city; and

WHEREAS, newcomers have long contributed to the strength and vitality of Lebanon and the State of New Hampshire, supporting the workforce, economy, schools, and civic life; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted a Resolution for Inclusiveness in June 2018, expressing its commitment to preserving public trust and promoting community identity, civic pride, and quality of life for all Lebanon residents; and

WHEREAS, Lebanon voters passed the Welcoming Lebanon Ordinance by citizen initiative in 2020, which took effect as City Code Chapter 185 in January 2021; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire enacted HB 511 and SB 62 in 2025, which took effect January 1, 2026 as RSA 106-Q and 106-R, and which prohibit municipalities from limiting cooperation between law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, recognizing its legal obligations under state law, was ~~compelled-coerced (under threat of a 25% annual state funding fine)~~ to repeal City Code Chapter 185, Welcoming Lebanon, effective December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of the Welcoming Lebanon Ordinance does not diminish the City's commitment to its values of inclusiveness, equity, and community trust; and

WHEREAS, fear, uncertainty, and the perception of unclear and/or unchecked federal enforcement activity can undermine public safety, discourage cooperation with public safety and emergency responders, disrupt student education, deter residents from accessing critical public services, deter those considering making Lebanon their place of residence from doing so, and erode trust in government institutions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes and respects the role of federal authorities in enforcing federal law, but affirms that community public safety is best served through transparency, accountability, and trust between residents and those exercising state and local community law enforcement authority; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has an obligation to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of all residents and to speak clearly when conditions arise that threaten community stability, even where direct regulatory authority is limited; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon affirms its responsibility to express moral leadership and advocate for the humane treatment of all individuals, regardless of immigration status, even in the face of restrictive state policies; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this resolution is intended or shall be construed as a directive to any agency, officer, or employee of the City of Lebanon, and the City Council acknowledges that under current New Hampshire law it cannot prohibit or impede any law enforcement agency from cooperating with federal authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lebanon City Council reaffirms its commitment to the dignity and equal treatment of all people in Lebanon, and expresses, as a matter of civic values and community identity, that it does not affirmatively encourage the use of local law enforcement resources for the purpose of federal civil immigration enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council ~~urges-expects that~~ federal immigration authorities operating within Lebanon ~~will to~~ conduct any enforcement activities in a manner that prioritizes transparency, clear identification, and de-escalation, and that minimizes unnecessary fear or disruption to the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City shall strive to provide residents with public information regarding available community resources related to their rights, and appropriate points of contact for public safety concerns, in coordination with trusted local and state organizations where appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council calls upon New Hampshire's congressional delegation and state leadership to seek greater transparency, oversight, and

67 accountability regarding federal immigration enforcement practices impacting New
68 Hampshire communities and the nation as a whole; and

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council encourages the City of Lebanon to engage
70 in dialogue with community organizations who are monitoring the impacts of state and
71 federal policies on vulnerable community members, and to support legal and legislative
72 efforts to challenge or overturn discriminatory policies where appropriate; and

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is adopted as an expression of the Lebanon
74 City Council's concern for public safety and community well-being, and does not purport to
75 regulate or restrict federal authority, but rather to formally communicate the City's position
76 and concern over potential local impacts; and

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that while the City of Lebanon will comply with state law, it
78 affirms its commitment to do so without surrendering its moral and ethical obligation to
79 protect human rights, and without participating in or facilitating any acts of hate, fear, or
80 exclusion; and

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager's Office is requested to share this
82 resolution with all City departments and to make it publicly available on the City website.

83 *****ALL LANGUAGE PRESENTED HERE IS DRAFT ONLY, SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

84 **SUBSTANTIVE INPUT IS STILL WELCOMED AT THIS STAGE.*****

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2 **CHANGE PENDING PUBLIC INPUT AND TASK FORCE DISCUSSION, AND THE**
3 **FOLLOWING CLAUSES ARE PROVIDED ONLY AS EXAMPLE LANGUAGE. WE CONTINUE**
4 **TO WELCOME INPUT TO ADD TO, CHANGE/CLARIFY, OR DELETE THIS LANGUAGE.*****

5 A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF LEBANON'S COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVENESS,
6 EQUITY, AND COMMUNITY TRUST

7 WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon recognizes the inherent dignity and equality of all people
8 regardless of race, skin color, national or ethnic origin, cultural group, language, gender
9 identity or expression, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, age, religious or
10 political opinion or activity, economic status, nationality, immigration status, or housing
11 status; ~~BIPOC residents, Indigenous peoples, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals,~~
12 ~~and others who have historically faced exclusion and discrimination;~~ and

Commented [1]: (Grammar issue -- doesn't work in series following "regardless of". Moved to next para.

13 WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon is a welcoming community with a diverse population of
14 new and longtime residents and business owners, ~~including BIPOC residents, Indigenous~~
15 ~~peoples, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and others who have historically faced~~
16 ~~exclusion and discrimination,~~ who contribute to the social, cultural, and economic life of
17 the city; and

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18 WHEREAS, newcomers have long contributed to the strength and vitality of Lebanon and
19 the State of New Hampshire, supporting the workforce, economy, schools, and civic life;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the City Council adopted a Resolution for Inclusiveness in June 2018,
22 expressing its commitment to preserving public trust and promoting community identity,
23 civic pride, and quality of life for all Lebanon residents; and

24 WHEREAS, Lebanon voters passed the Welcoming Lebanon Ordinance by citizen initiative
25 in 2020, which took effect as City Code Chapter 185 in January 2021; and

26 WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire enacted HB 511 and SB 62 in 2025, which took
27 effect January 1, 2026 as RSA 106-Q and 106-R, and which prohibit municipalities from
28 limiting cooperation between law enforcement agencies and federal immigration
29 authorities; and

30 WHEREAS, the City Council, recognizing its legal obligations under state law, ~~and was~~
31 ~~compelled/coerced (under threat of a 25% annual state funding fine), to repeal~~ City
32 Code Chapter 185, Welcoming Lebanon, effective December 31, 2025; and

33 WHEREAS, the repeal of the Welcoming Lebanon Ordinance does not diminish the City's
34 commitment to its values of inclusiveness, equity, and community trust; and

35 WHEREAS, fear, uncertainty, and the perception of unclear, ~~discriminatory~~, and/or ~~illegal~~
36 ~~unchecked federal law~~ enforcement activity can undermine public safety, discourage
37 cooperation with public safety and emergency responders, disrupt student education,
38 deter residents from accessing critical public services, deter those considering making
39 Lebanon their place of residence ~~or employment~~ from doing so, and erode trust in
40 government institutions; and

41 WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes and respects the role of federal authorities in
42 enforcing federal law, ~~and but~~ affirms that community public safety is best served through
43 transparency, accountability, and trust between residents and those exercising state and
44 local ~~community~~ law enforcement authority ~~and protecting community members from~~
45 ~~illegal behaviors by law enforcement officers at any level~~; and

46 WHEREAS, the City Council has an obligation to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare
47 of all residents and to speak clearly when conditions arise that threaten community
48 stability, even where direct regulatory authority is limited; and

49 WHEREAS, the City of Lebanon affirms its responsibility to ~~demonstrate~~~~express~~ moral
50 leadership and advocate for the humane ~~and antidiscriminatory~~ treatment of all individuals
51 ~~in the implementation and enforcement of guidelines, policies, and laws that affect~~
52 ~~Lebanon community members, regardless of immigration status, even in the face of~~
53 ~~restrictive state policies~~; and

54 WHEREAS, nothing in this resolution is intended or shall be construed as a directive to any
55 agency, officer, or employee of the City of Lebanon, ~~and the City Council acknowledges~~
56 ~~that under current New Hampshire law it cannot prohibit or impede any law enforcement~~
57 ~~agency from cooperating with federal authorities~~;

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lebanon City Council reaffirms its
59 commitment to the dignity and ~~equitable~~~~equal~~ treatment of all people in Lebanon, ~~and~~
60 ~~expresses~~, ~~aiming to honor and address cultural, language, educational, mental health~~
61 ~~and other barriers to accessing resources and/or understanding guidelines, policies, and~~
62 ~~laws~~.

63 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lebanon City Council expresses~~, as a matter of civic
64 values and community identity, that it does not affirmatively encourage the use of local law
65 enforcement resources for the purpose of federal civil immigration enforcement; and

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council ~~urges~~~~expects that~~ federal immigration
67 authorities operating within Lebanon ~~will~~~~to~~ conduct any enforcement activities in a
68 manner that prioritizes transparency, clear identification, and de-escalation, and that
69 minimizes unnecessary fear or disruption to the public; and

Commented [2]: Or add a separate WHEREAS stating that the City Council expects that Lebanon law enforcement will protect community members from discriminatory and/or illegal law enforcement behaviors at any level?

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City shall strive to provide residents with public
71 information ~~regarding available community resources~~ related to their rights, ~~resources~~,
72 and appropriate points of contact for public safety concerns, in coordination with trusted
73 local and state organizations where appropriate; and

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council calls upon New Hampshire's
75 congressional delegation and state leadership to seek greater transparency, oversight, and
76 accountability regarding federal immigration enforcement practices impacting New
77 Hampshire communities and the nation as a whole; and

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79 in dialogue with community organizations who are monitoring the impacts of ~~local~~, state,
80 and federal policies on vulnerable community members, and to support legal and
81 legislative efforts to challenge or overturn discriminatory policies where appropriate; and

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