



LEBANON BOROUGH COMMON COUNCIL
Wednesday December 18, 2025
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 James Pittinger.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Please join me in a moment of silence for 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 Burton, Councilman Berger, Councilman Crawford, Councilman Kirchofer, Councilwoman Porcello and Councilwoman Baldinger

Absent:

Also, Present: Administrator/Clerk Karen M Romano RMC,
Borough Attorney Joesph Novak Esq.

RESOLUTION #139-2025:

Councilman Crawford made a motion to approve Resolution 139-2025 the Consent Agenda. With a second by Councilwoman Porcello.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #139-2025
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
3. HC Commissioners

Introduced and adopted: December 18, 2025

Ayes: Burton, Berger, Crawford, Kirchofer, Porcello, Baldinger

Nays:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Richard J. Burton, 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Lebanon Council at a meeting duly held on the 18th day of December 2025; that this Resolution has not been amended or repealed; and that it remains in full force and effect as of the date I have subscribed my signature.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: December 18, 2025

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/ Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Council President Burton, Councilman Berger, Councilman Crawford Councilman Kirchofer, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilwoman Baldinger

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION 1:

Councilman Berger made a motion to open the public session. Councilman Crawford seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was opened.

There being no further public comment Council President Burton made a motion to close the public session. With a second by Councilman Crawford the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Crawford made a motion to approve the November Regular and Executive minutes. With a seconded by Councilwoman Porcello.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Council President Burton, Councilman Berger, Councilman Crawford Councilman Kirchofer, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilwoman Baldinger

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #140-2025:

Council President Burton made a motion to approve Resolution 140-2025. With a second by Councilman Berger.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #140-2025

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-58 provides for budget appropriation transfers during the last two months of the fiscal year and the first 3 months of the succeeding year (excluding appropriations for Contingent Expenses, Deferred Charges, Reserve for Uncollected Taxes, Capital Improvement Fund, and Interest and Debt Redemption Charges); and

WHEREAS, a need has arisen to expend amounts in excess of the original amounts in appropriation reserves therefore;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be, and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers:

Account	Account Number	Decrease /Debit	Increase /Credit
General Admin-Other Exp.	01-201-20-100-200		\$2,500.00
Computerized Data Process	01-201-20-140-200	\$1,000.00	
Legal Services-Other Exp.	01-201-20-155-200	\$5,000.00	
Employee Group Ins	01-201-23-220-200	\$2,000.00	
Public Works Other Exp	01-201-26-280-200		\$15,000.00
Storm Water Management	01-201-26-280-300	\$5,000.00	
Buildings & Grounds-OE	01-201-26-310-200	\$8,000.00	
Shade Tree- Other Exp	01-201-26-313-020		\$3,500.00
TOTAL		\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00

Introduced and adopted: December 18, 2025

Ayes: Burton, Berger, Crawford, Kirchofer, Porcello, Baldinger

Nays:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Richard Burton, Borough Council President

ATTEST:

Karen Romano
Borough Clerk

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Borough Council at a meeting held on December 18, 2025.

Karen Romano
Borough Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Council President Burton, Councilman Berger, Councilman Crawford, Councilman Kirchofer, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilwoman Baldinger

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #141-2025:

Council President Burton made a motion to approve Resolution 141-2025. With a second by Councilman Crawford.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION # 141-2025

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE
CLOSING OF STREETS NEW YEARS 5K RACE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Lebanon close the following streets on January 1, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM:

MYRTLE AND MAIN ST TO BLOSSOM HILL ROAD
TO CORPORATE DRIVE SOUTH

Introduced and adopted: December 18, 2025

Ayes: Burton, Berger, Crawford, Kirchofer, Porcello, Baldinger

Nays:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Richard J. Burton, 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 18th day of December 2025; 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: December 18, 2025

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Council President Burton, Councilman Berger, Councilman Crawford, Councilman Kirchofer, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilwoman Baldinger

NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

RESOLUTION #142-2025:

Council President Burton made a motion to approve Resolution 140-2025. With a second by Councilman Berger.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #142-2025

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the CFO is hereby authorized to make the following payment for redemption of tax sale a certificate.

Block	Lot	Qual	Cert #	Name/Address	Amount
	4	1.03	Qfarm 25-00002	Ridgeback Ventures LLC	
		\$27,145.08			
				PO BOX 503 Mount Freedom, NJ 07970	

Introduced and adopted: December 18, 2025

Ayes: Burton, Berger, Crawford, Kirchofer, Porcello, Baldinger

Nays:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Richard Burton, Borough Council President

Karen Romano
Borough Clerk

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Borough Council at a meeting held on December 18, 2025.

Karen Romano
Borough Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Council President Burton, Councilman Berger, Councilman Crawford, Councilman Kirchofer, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilwoman Baldinger

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #143-2025:

Council President Burton made a motion to approve Resolution 140-2025. With a second by Councilman Berger.

**BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #143—2025

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Lebanon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the CFO is hereby authorized to make the following payment for redemption of tax sale a certificate. (also return Premium)

Block	Lot	Qual	Cert #	Name/Address	Amount
	4	1.04	Qfarm 25-00003	Trystone Capital Assets	
		\$26,459.67			
				PO BOX 1030	
				Brick, NJ 08723	
					Premium \$ 2,500.00

Introduced and adopted: December 18, 2025

Ayes: Burton , Berger, Crawford, Kirchofer, Porcello, Baldinger

Nays:

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Karen Romano
Borough Clerk

Richard Burton, Borough Council President

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Borough Council at a meeting held on December 18, 2025.

Karen Romano
Borough Clerk

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Council President Burton, Councilman Berger, Councilman Crawford, Councilman Kirchofer, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilwoman Baldinger

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

RESOLUTION #144-2025:

Council President Burton made a motion to approve Resolution 140-2025. With a second by Councilman Berger.

BOROUGH OF LEBANON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #144-2025

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF A DISPUTE
BETWEEN THE TOWN OF CLINTON AND THE BOROUGH OF LEBANON,
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton (“Town”) and the Borough of Lebanon (“Borough”), both located in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, have been engaged in a dispute concerning Town of Clinton v. Borough of Lebanon, OAL Docket. No: PUC 05575-2021 S (“Petition”) (“the Dispute”); and

WHEREAS, representatives of the Town and the Borough have engaged in discussions in an effort to resolve the Dispute without further administrative or judicial proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Town and the Borough have negotiated a proposed settlement agreement (“Settlement Agreement”), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Lebanon have reviewed the terms of the Settlement Agreement and find it to be fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Borough and its residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 18th day of December. 2025 by the Borough Council of the Borough of Lebanon, as follows:

1. The Settlement Agreement between the Town of Clinton and the Borough of Lebanon, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby approved.
2. The Council President and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Borough and to take all necessary and appropriate actions to effectuate its terms.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Introduced and adopted:

Ayes: Burton, Berger, Crawford, Kirchofer, Porcello, Baldinger

Absent:

LEBANON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ATTEST: Karen M. Romano, RMC, CMR

Richard J. Burton, Council President

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 18th day of December, 2025; 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: December 18, 2025

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

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Council President Burton, Councilman Berger, Councilman Crawford, Councilman Kirchofer, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilwoman Baldinger

NO:

Abstain:

Absent:

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES: Councilman Berger made a motion to approve the Bill list for December 2025. Council President Burton seconded the motion.

The Motion was passed by the following vote:

YES: Council President Burton, Councilman Berger, Councilman Crawford, Councilman Kirchofer, Councilwoman Porcello, and Councilwoman Baldinger

NO:
Abstain:
Absent:

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION 2:

Councilman Berger made a motion to open the public session. Councilman Crawford seconded the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was opened.

Maryann Durange asked how the Christmas trees got to the park. Administrator, Romano explained the Christmas trees are chipped by the Fire Department. The State banned burning Christmas trees about five years ago.

There being no further public comment Council President Burton made a motion to close the public session. With a second by Councilman Crawford the motion with the unanimous approval of Council the floor was closed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Recreation: Councilwoman Porcello stated the Tree Lighting and Santa visit went well. Letters to Santa were collected and will be answered. Recreation is also conducting a find the snowman contest.

Mayor Pittinger reminded everyone of the New Years Day 5K race.

Lantern: Councilman Crawford said the Lantern should be deliver by January 5th

MISCELLANEOUS:

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNING BODY
December 18, 2025**

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- Met with the Engineers to review 2026 Green Acres Grant
- Met with the Engineers to review 2026 NJDCA Grant
- Met with the KDP regarding park renovation
- Preconstruction meeting with Dutchman, KDP, and MRC playground installation.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- Met with Bob on two flashing Stop signs on Cherry St

REGISTRAR

- Reports

LICENSING

- Reviewed all Food Licenses

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Met with Stormwater Solutions regarding 2026 Budget

CROSSING GUARDS

- Filled in for absent Crossing Guards

SENIOR CLUB: Business meeting, meeting and refreshments were served

RECREATION: Meeting: 11-24-2025

5K RUN/2K WALK

5K run/2K walk will be on January 1st, 2026. The website is up, and registration is open.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING/SANTA VIST

Everyone had a wonderful time at the Christmas Tree lighting and visit with Santa on Sunday, December 7th

ENVIRONMENTAL/SHADE TREE

- Meeting Canceled

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

- No meeting

WELCOME BAGS

New Residents:– 3 Welcome bags delivered

ADJOURN:

Councilman Berger moved, and Council President Burton seconded a motion to adjourn, there being no further business to come before Council. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm by unanimous vote.

Karen M. Romano, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk

LBCC
2-19-2025

LBCB
2-19-2025

