

New Lebanon Regular Council Meeting, July 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mayor Arriola. The invocation given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Verbal Roll Call of Council Members:

Council Members:

Christopher Sands	Present
Carol Macmann	Present
Gale B. Joy	Present
Lyndon Perkins	Absent
Nicole Adkins	Present
Tammy Loch	Present
Raymond Arriola	Present

Others Present:

Police Captain Chambers
Fire Chief Keyser
Zoning Compliance Officer Davis
Clerk of Council Bicknell
Municipal Manager Madden
Law Director Keener

Approval of the July 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Any corrections or changes?

6 I's and zero no, minutes approved.

Law Directors comments.

Law Director, none.

Old Business, none.

New Business.

Resolution 2023-09: a resolution to allow the Municipal Manager to list and sell surplus fire items or vehicles on GovDeals, 100 Capitol Commerce Blvd, suite 110, Montgomery, Alabama 36117.

Council Comments on this Resolution.

Council Member Adkins asked about what items they plan to list.

Fire Chief answered that most of it is what will replace with grants such as air packs and air pack accessories, masks and mask accessories, old pagers, and potentially the 2002 medic. He also gave an update about the new build of the medic.

Council Member Adkins asked for clarification that these are items that were bought with grant money.

Fire Chief responded a lot of it, not all of it.

Motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-09 by Council Member Macmann, seconded by Council Member Loch.

Roll Call:

Council Member Adkins	yes
Council Member Macmann	yes
Council Member Sands	yes
Vice Mayor Loch	yes
Council Member Joy	yes
Mayor Arriola	yes

6 yes 0 no motion carries.

Public Comments.

Shannon Bemis, 130 Bronwood St, reported that she did a poll on Facebook to ask the community what they would like to see out of the old court building and expressed that community input is important. She asked about details on the decisions around what would be done with the court building and showed concern for the timeline and how long the building would be empty.

Manager Madden reported she's working on an RFP right now for the community center and that the community center will be comprised of a senior space, teen space, a fitness area, and a multipurpose area; in addition, they're looking into moving the Police Station over there and getting a title agency and license bureau.

Shannon Bemis commented that those thoughts aligned with the feedback from the public and asked about what the timeline would look like for the project.

Manager Madden answered spring of next year at the earliest.

Shannon Bemis moved on to reference the center of the streets of Yale and Bronwood and brought concerns about the manhole covers not being covered and sticking up. She noted that she will email about the topic of curbs.

Dave Nickerson, 559 Benbow Cir, relayed that he received a phone call to his place of employment about an employee of the Village telling people that he is being vindictive by planning to run in the election in November for Mayor. He gave a history and background on himself and gave his opinions on the matter.

Council Member Adkins asked if he had proof or if it was hearsay and if it was a council member.

Dave Nickerson responded that he does have proof, and it is not a council member.

Council Member Adkins suggested that he could bring it to the police or to the manager.

Dave Nickerson conveyed that he just wanted to bring it to Council's attention.

Tim Back, 29 E. Main Street, talked about the street sweeper and weeds in the cracks of the sidewalks and stated that the streetsweeper might break off the weeds but would not get the tougher weeds and the roots. He suggested that someone from the service department could take classes and get a license for killing weeds. He also brought up and questioned why Council let Mr. Boggs speak last meeting and not himself when they both spoke from the audience.

Mayor Arriola apologized and acknowledged that it was his mistake.

Tim Back moved on to bring up the old Dairy Queen that was being torn down and relayed that he heard about a Village employee almost running over the previous owner of that building and harassing them about a sign that they were taking.

Manager Madden reported that it was her in that incident and corrected that she never harassed her or told her to drop the sign. She recalled that she pulled up with a police officer because she had gotten two messages about that sign and wanted to make sure the previous owner obtained the sign.

Tim Back brought up the items that the police would be selling and asked how long the Village have had those items.

Manager Madden reported a little over a year.

Tim Back mentioned the work that is being done on Blosser Street and recalled that they should be done by October.

Manager Madden corrected that they have to be finished by the end of October.

Tim Back raised concern with the number of workers he has seen working on the street and the deadline. He moved on to bring up the community center and hopes that it has things for kids specifically bringing up the ones that get into trouble.

Manager Madden responds that there will be a teen space but counters that the ones who will come to the teen space won't be the ones causing trouble.

Tim Back thanked Council for their time.

Melissa Sexton, 180 Parkview Dr, approached Council to give them pictures and notes that she has emailed them to the manager as well. The pictures depict grass in the ditch at Don Rusk Park. She raises concerns that the grass is impeding the flow of the water. She moved on to bring up the playground, the black tubing for drainage at the playground and states that it looks bad. She raised a concern about the playground equipment being broke when it was put in. She tells that she thinks the Village should have work orders. She mentions that there is a sink hole between two houses on her street and they put cones and fencing around it and asked if they'll be back.

Mayor Arriola questioned that it's between houses.

Melissa Sexton clarified that it's between the first two houses at the corner of Parkview and Sizemore.

Manager Madden stated they haven't been back out to fix it due to timing.

Mayor Arriola acknowledged the issues at the playground and suggested that she bring it up with Park Board since she's a member of it now.

Melissa Sexton stated that she does not know what is going on with Park Board and has not received anything in regards to it since she signed on.

Manager Madden responded that she has dropped off packets to her house for the meetings.

Melissa Sexton asked where the discussion happens in regards to the Park Board and raised concern for the meetings only being quarterly and that the next meeting isn't until the end of August.

Manager Madden answered that the discussions happen at the meetings and if the Park Board needs more time to discuss then they can establish that at the meetings. Manager Madden advised that Melissa should call her to discuss it further.

Melissa Sexton thanked Council.

Administrative staff comments.

Police Department, nothing.

Fire Chief, nothing.

Zoning and Compliance, nothing.

Council Member Adkins asked if anyone has checked about the sidewalk on Main Street.

Zoning Officer reported that she spoke with the owner yesterday and he's aware of the situation.

Chief Financial Officer, financial report.

Motion to adopt June 2023 financial report by Council Member Sands, seconded by Council Member Adkins.

Roll Call:

Council Member Macmann	yes
Council Member Sands	yes
Vice Mayor Loch	yes
Council Member Joy	yes
Mayor Arriola	yes
Council Member Adkins	yes

6 yes 0 no motion carries.

Service department, nothing.

Municipal Manager's comments.

Manager Madden reported Stagecoach Days is happening August 4th and 5th that will have bands, food trucks, and a lot of other things – they're working on bingo and trivia for Friday night and Saturday will be a full day of events.

Council Member Joy asked if they're able to schedule more Park Board meetings outside of the normal scope.

Manager Madden answered yes.

Council Member Comments.

Council Member Joy commented on Mr. Nickerson’s background that he gave and thanked him for his military service, and he shared that he’s happy to see so many people willing to get on the ballot.

Council Member Adkins thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone that’s running for Council well.

Mayor Comments.

Mayor Arriola thanked everyone for coming and commented that the community requests a myriad of additions to the town but the only way that he sees that the Village could potentially do them is to raise the income tax that the people would vote on.

Council Member Adkins inquired about other municipalities on a small budget and see how they manage.

Manager Madden responded that a lot of other communities have higher tax rates and a lot of them have some sort of small industry.

Motion to adjourn by Vice Mayor Loch. Seconded by Council Member Adkins.

Roll Call:

Council Member Macmann	yes
Council Member Sands	yes
Vice Mayor Loch	yes
Council Member Joy	yes
Mayor Arriola	yes
Council Member Adkins	yes

6 yes 0 no motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm by Mayor Arriola.

Approved:


Vice Mayor

8/1/23
Date


CFO/Clerk of Council

8/1/23
Date