

CITY OF LEBANON
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED that the City Council of the City of Lebanon, Missouri, met in Work Session on April 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 401 South Jefferson.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum

Upon roll call, the following Officers were present: Gib Adkins, Mike Evans, Sheila Mitchell, Dan Mizell, Chuck Jordan, Bob Garner, Jared Carr, Randy Wall. Absent: Jeff Mutchler.

A quorum was declared.

Directly after roll call, Councilmen Jeff Mutchler joined the meeting.

Staff members and others in attendance: City Administrator Troy Schulte, Interim City Administrator Ben DeClue, Police Chief Jerry Harrison, Human Resource Director Kathy Milliken, Tourism Director Rebecca Rupard, Downtown Business District Executive Director Sarah Stewart, Communications Manager Derek Gean, and City Clerk Lacey Brackett.

DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

Lodging Tax

Tourism Director Rebecca Rupard provided a comparison of lodging tax rates across various locations. She noted the Council had expressed interest in placing the tax back on the ballot but had not yet discussed the proposed rate or how the additional revenue would be used. Rupard suggested possible uses such as advertising and conducting studies to reach target audiences. She also clarified that their tourism grant would not increase based on the lodging tax revenue. Rupard added she may be able to collaborate with Downtown, as lodging tax is paid by visitors.

Councilman Garner inquired about studies on overnight stays near Bennett Springs. Councilman Jordan noted that holiday weekends are generally fully booked.

Councilman Mizell expressed concern that residents may be experiencing tax fatigue and suggested possibly tabling the lodging tax due to the upcoming transportation and capital improvement taxes.

Councilman Adkins shared his support for the tax, noting it has never been tested on the ballot and emphasizing that it is paid by visitors, not Lebanon residents.

A brief discussion followed. The City Clerk advised the transportation tax is planned for the April 2026 ballot and the capital improvement tax for November 2027. Councilman Wall recommended proceeding and placing the lodging tax on the August 2025 ballot, proposing an increase from 2.5% to 4%. Mayor Carr asked Rupard to present options at the next meeting showing what a 4% rate would look like.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

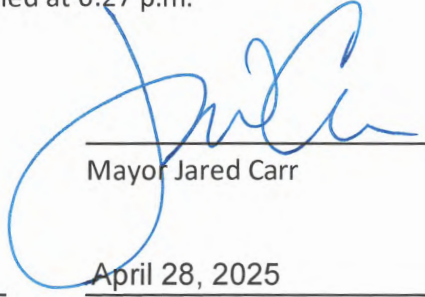
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carr declared the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

ATTEST:


City Clerk Lacey Brackett


Mayor Jared Carr

April 28, 2025

Minutes Approved