

**FINAL**

**CITY OF LEBANON  
TASKFORCE ON HOMELESSNESS  
FRIDAY AUGUST 26, 2016  
CITY HALL WEST MEETING ROOM  
10:00 AM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Interim City Manager Paula Maville; Human Services Director Lynne Goodwin; Police Chief Richard Mello; City Councilor Bruce Bronner; Director of Silent Warriors Bev McKinley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** City Councilor Karen Liot Hill; Executive Director of The Upper Valley Haven Sara Kobylenski; Executive Director of Listen Kyle Fisher; Deputy Police Chief Phil Roberts

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Maville called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 10, 2016**

*A MOTION by Bruce Bronner to accept the August 10, 2016 minutes as included in the August 26, 2016 Meeting Agenda packet. Unanimous in favor of accepting the minutes.*

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Report on Status of Needs Assessment (Known Encampment Residents) / Report on Status of Alternative Emergency Housing**

Ms. Goodwin said good progress is being made in finding resolutions for the 15 individuals identified at the encampment. She said of the 15, eight have been placed in homes or have moved on. She said the human services group team has been working on individual solutions first and then will concentrate on alternative emergency shelter arrangements. She said that the group was thinking that emergency housing accommodations could be handled at The Haven.

Ms. Goodwin reported that people have been hearing the message that the encampment is not a legal place to live and people should be directed to the City Human Services Department. She said the human services group team realized it probably will not find solutions for all 15 individuals by the end of August/Labor Day, which had been mentioned as a goal.

Ms. McKinley said there are three or four tents set up on the road that leads to the encampment. She said she believed a No Trespassing sign had been taken down. Chief Mello said he would work with staff from Lebanon's Department of Public Works to investigate that area.

Chief Mello said he has noticed that the panhandlers who stand on Route 12A are starting to live at the encampment. The group discussed the panhandling situation and Chief Mello noted that it is not illegal to panhandle as long as the person is not blocking the street.

Ms. Maville said she had sent an email message to the resident who had attended the June 2016 public hearing and had offered to provide dumpsters to the encampment. She said she had asked him to contact the City's Human Services Department to see about other ways to help.

Councilor Bronner said people could be told that if they want to help the homeless or even the panhandlers to send donations to a specified place (i.e. one of the human service groups) to contribute to a fund. Ms. Maville said she would look into the viability of establishing such a fund.

#### **B. Liability Issues of Encampment**

Ms. Maville said she included a copy of the original ordinance and a legal opinion from the City's attorneys in the August 26, 2016 Task Force on Homelessness Meeting Agenda packet. She asked the group to review these materials and share any suggestions members may have for changes to the language. She said she and Chief Mello had discussed adding affirmative defense language – such as, people would have 30 days to move if they were working with human services groups – but she said they were wary because once it is included in the ordinance, it may add confusion and hinder the City's enforcement of the ordinance.

Chief Mello suggested adding language that the first offense for camping illegally on City property would be a warning. The group agreed this could be a positive addition to the ordinance. Ms. Maville asked if the officers could carry fact sheets about the human services groups and give them to anyone receiving a warning. Ms. McKinley said she would draft the fact sheet.

Chief Mello stated that the trash and debris being left behind when people move out of the encampment is substantial and will need to be addressed. He said a plan needs to be devised to deal with this problem, and acknowledged it will probably fall to the City (most likely the Department of Public Works) to clean up.

#### **IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Maville said the goal of the taskforce is to have the ordinance back to the City Council for its October 5, 2016 meeting. She said she also wants a report with the taskforce's work and recommendations to be presented to the City Council at that meeting. She said the group could work on the report at the next task force meeting, which will be on September 9, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. McKinley said she would have a draft of the fact sheet.

Councilor Bronner suggested that photos of the current state of the encampment be included with the report for the City Council.

#### **V. OTHER BUSINESS - none**

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Maville at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Roux  
Recording Secretary