

LEBANON EXPRESS

Column: 2013 Year in Review

JANUARY 01, 2014 6:45 PM • [FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK, A COLUMN BY LEBANON MAYOR PAUL AZIZ](#)

I have heard a lot of talk about what a bad year 2013 was, especially with the lack of leadership and numerous debacles on all sides of our federal government.

I am pleased to say I have not heard that kind of talk about the city of Lebanon this past year. The feedback I have received has been very positive on the direction we are moving.

As I finish up my first year as mayor, a lot has happened this year. We started off this year with a new makeup on the city council and we hit the ground running.

The new council is working together very well. Differences are discussed with respect and meetings are productive.

Our city employees have done a great job working through the transition of our city manager retiring, an interim city manager and now a new city manager. We have a dedicated staff who get the job done, and do a great job keeping our city running.

To improve communications, the council approved a city communications policy and social media policy that will help improve communications internally and with the community.

We launched our new city Facebook page including pages for the police department, library and senior center.

We also started video recording all city council meetings and posting them on YouTube. This gives the community an opportunity to see exactly what happened at any given meeting, even if they cannot attend in person.

The community was involved in the selection process of the new city manager. Dana Hlavac was selected and started his job in August as our new city manager.

The city council decided not to raise water rates as scheduled, but to reevaluate rates when we have a better idea of the actual cost of the water treatment plant.

The city asked for citizen feedback on the water and sewer billing process. With that feedback some changes were made including eliminating the door hanger and associated cost.

Our staff has been working on our economic development advertising and material and we are working hard at recruiting businesses that would fit in Lebanon. We have some exciting possibilities that we are currently working on.

This year we had the grand opening of the LBCC Advanced Transportation Training Center and the Samaritan Conference Center, both great new additions to our town.

Work is underway on the new 4 million gallon water reservoir on Fifth Street. Work is expected to be completed in June of 2014. Staff is currently working on plans for the new water treatment plant.

We now have five Lebanon youth serving on the newly formed Lebanon Mayor's Youth Council. They have had their first meeting and they will be getting to work in January.

There are so many positive things going on in town, I could not fit them all here. A couple of ways you can find out more is to read the city manager's monthly report on the city website or check out the city Facebook page.

Thank you all for your support this past year, your feedback is important to me. Remember, if you don't like something the city is doing, contact the city manager, your city council representative, or myself. We are here to serve you.