

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Office of the Mayor – City of Lebanon

Date: September 20, 2017

RE: City of Lebanon Approves Creation of Stormwater Utility

On August 1, 2017, Lebanon City Council adopted Ordinance 17-5503 establishing a utility for stormwater management and creating an enterprise fund and method of funding.

Stormwater runoff is generally defined as rainfall that drains off rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, roads, compacted soil, gravel, and other surfaces that prohibit the infiltration of rainfall into the ground. Stormwater runoff flows untreated into the City's drainage system and eventually into our local creeks, streams, and our drinking water source – the Cumberland River. All developed properties in a community contribute stormwater runoff to the drainage system and, in some cases, to recurring drainage problems (which can contribute to flooding).

This action became necessary as the City of Lebanon is mandated by the Federal Government Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Tennessee to reduce the amount of pollutants in stormwater discharges to protect the quality of the waters in the state. This is an unfunded mandate – meaning the City does not receive any federal or state funds to enable us to meet these regulations.

Stormwater quality management programs are responses to regulations from the EPA connected to the Federal Clean Water Act. These regulations require cities with more than 10,000 people to obtain a permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and to create a comprehensive program to seek out and eliminate, to the maximum extent practical, pollutants carried by stormwater. City of Lebanon's NPDES permit requirements (TNS075426) are currently managed by the City's Engineering and Stormwater Departments under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Management of stormwater runoff has become an increasingly important responsibility for local governments like Lebanon. Stormwater management programs are required by Federal/State agencies to include the following six minimum control measures: public education and outreach, public involvement/participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site storm water runoff control, post-construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping. In addition to these regulations, stormwater programs must undertake various activities including the cleaning of ditches and other stormwater conveyance systems, replacement of aging culverts and drainage structures, and the construction of new culvert systems to increase or improve conveyance capacity.

Adoption of the stormwater utility is also an effort to establish a fair and equitable funding mechanism to operate and maintain the City's stormwater management program and to finance the necessary stormwater repairs, replacements, improvements, and extensions necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Beginning in October, residential properties will be billed at a rate of \$1.50/\$2.50 per month (depending on square feet of imperious area) and non-residential properties (developed industrial and commercial lots) will be billed on a graduated

scale derived from the total impervious surface area on each parcel. See City of Lebanon webpage for details of fee structures and “Frequently Asked Questions” (www.lebanontn.org).

Mayor Bernie Ash along with City Council members understand they must lead the community in efforts to protect one of our greatest natural resources – water. Many times we take for granted our safe and reliable drinking water and the recreational uses at local lakes, rivers, and even small streams. This responsibility requires both manpower and equipment, and since all contribute to these water quality and water quantity issues, it is only fair that all of us contribute to the cost of protection.

The City of Lebanon will strive to meet the obligations per EPA regulations while maintaining the lowest rate structure possible. It should be noted that Lebanon’s rates are well below our neighbors’ rates in Murfreesboro, Smyrna, Nashville, etc.

Questions regarding specific monthly rate amounts may be forwarded to stormwater.rate@lebanontn.org or call 615-444-3647 ext. 2318.

Citizens and business are encouraged to check the City of Lebanon website at www.lebanontn.org for more information and updates regarding the City’s stormwater program.