



Mayor Bernie Ash

For Immediate Release

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City to begin Square Parking Lot Improvements

August 5th start date

On August 5th, renovation work begins for the “old courthouse parking lot” on the Lebanon Public Square. During this construction, the Square will be open- public sidewalks and the quad parking areas will not be affected and shoppers will have easy access to the businesses on the Square.

The project includes reconfiguring the traffic flow along South Cumberland into the lot, addressing storm water drainage issues, updating lighting and electrical and adding landscaping and irrigation. The new plan does not take away any parking spaces, in fact, it adds one spot to the total. Plans are available for public view in the lobby of City Hall, 200 N. Castle Heights Ave, at the Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber, 149 Public Square and online at www.lebanontn.org.

The plan compliments the 2015 TDOT Square Safety project and will improve the overall functionality and appearance of the Historic Public Square.

Mayor Ash noted, "Our Square has always been the heart of the city, beginning with the city's founding in 1802. The community has come together to keep the Square's unique vibrancy thriving. Now, this new revitalization component will help spur that vibrancy. With the aesthetic improvements and drainage corrections, we are continuing the revitalization initiative which began in 2007."

During construction, additional parking for the public has been secured by an agreement with the City and First Baptist Church. Parking will be available in the lot for

The Rock, and can be accessed by N. College Street or E. Main Street. More public parking can also be found at the corner of E. Main Street and Stone Street. New directional signage is being installed to assist the public.

“This project is a key piece in the continued revitalization of our Square and I am appreciative of the Mayor and City Council for their support and funding for the renovations”, stated Kim Parks, Historic Lebanon Executive Director.

The construction is expected to take two months, with completion in early October. Stockton Building Corporation was awarded the contract after competitive bids were received by the City.

“As a merchant on the square, I am thrilled about the revitalization of the large parking lot. The aesthetics will match what we are trying to do as business owners and that is to bring beauty, life and energy back to this area. Lebanon is a special place to be and I can’t wait to see what the future holds for our historic downtown.” Joy Pine, Iddy & Oscar’s - Owner

Lebanon’s Public Square has experienced tremendous growth in the past five years. Catalyst private projects including the Capitol Theatre and The Arcade Building spurred investments and public projects for the area. In 2017 Historic Lebanon secured a façade improvement grant from the Tennessee MainStreet program which funded improvements to five square properties. Millions of dollars put into building renovations have resulted in the creation of new businesses, restaurants, new jobs, and new purposes for the historic buildings.

These continued improvements, both private and public, are part of the City’s vision for the historic downtown core.

Camille Burdine, City Councilwomen for Ward 3, explained, “The old courthouse parking lot project has been my top priority since coming into office. The City had a preliminary plan of just repaving but after more discussions with the engineering department and community stake holders, we realized it was more than just a paving job. Storm water drainage issues needed to be addressed as well as beautification with landscaping and lighting.”

Recent surveys identify historic preservation and beautification of Lebanon’s Square as a top community priority. The City moves forward towards this goal with the Square parking lot improvements and a historic preservation zoning overlay approved by the city council in June 2019. These advances along with the hard work of local business owners and property owners will preserve the Public Square and serve as an economic driver for further growth in the area.

