

The Town of Laurel
Mayor and Council Meeting
January 22, 2019

A Mayor and Council Meeting was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers of the Laurel Town Hall Tuesday, January 22, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance: Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Randy Lee, Cheryl Martin, and Jonathan Kellam. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey, Sergeant Hitchens, Alderman Kelly Pettyjohn, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Councilman Jeff Hill and Councilwoman Robin Fisher-Cornish were absent.

The Public Hearing Minutes of December 3, 2018 were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept the public hearing minutes for December 3, 2018. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0, with Councilwoman Martin abstaining, Councilman Hill absent, and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

The Mayor and Council Regular and Closed Session Minutes of December 3, 2018 were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept the meeting minutes and closed session minutes for December 3, 2018. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0, with Councilwoman Martin abstaining, Councilman Hill absent, and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

The Department Head Reports for the month of November and December 2018 were presented for review and adoption. Director of Code Enforcement West advised he had no changes or additions to his report. Public Works Director Foskey stated he had no changes or additions to his report. Mayor Shwed complimented Public Works Director Foskey and department for a great job of snow removal. Councilman Kellam also thanked Public Works Director Foskey and department for a great job of snow removal. Mayor Shwed acknowledged the intake for the Septage Receiving Station in the month of November 2018. Sergeant Hitchens advised Chief Wright is not in attendance but could answer any questions. Mayor Shwed acknowledged an arrest was made regarding the homicide at Carvel Gardens this past year. Councilman Kellam advised police officers are doing an excellent job at the basketball games. Alderman Pettyjohn advised she had no changes or additions to her report. Mayor Shwed inquired if the court is advertising for a Court Liaison Officer position. Alderman Pettyjohn advised yes, we are looking for a part-time Court Liaison Officer. Finance Manager Introcaso advised she had no changes or additions to her report. Finance Manager Introcaso advised there was one vacant seat downstairs in the office due to Linda Thomas retiring and Susan Carmine was recently hired to fill the position. Councilwoman Martin inquired why the trash was not being collected on the scheduled trash days. Finance Manager advised the trash schedule was altered due to the holidays and the snowy weather. If residents aren't receiving trash pick-up on their selected days call the Town Hall Office and we'll contact the trash company. Mayor Shwed stated we have realized \$4,974 in regards to building permits and signs show the town is not moving fast enough. President of Council Calio inquired why the government expenditures were up. Finance Manager Introcaso advised yes, they're up.

Town Manager Smith advised the MS4 has been on her report for several months. She explained the mapping of the stormwater lines have been completed by GMB and funding was received. Town Manager Smith advised she has received two annexation requests and the Plan of Services are in the process of being completed. Town Manager Smith advised we are waiting on the town's engineer to sign off on the Plan of Services. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the Department Head Reports for the months of November and December 2018. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill absent and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Town Manager Smith gave a brief update pertaining the 2019 Municipal Election. Town Manager Smith advised the filing deadline for a candidate application is February 21, 2019 and the last day to register to vote is on February 28, 2019. Town Manager Smith advised the Officer of Mayor, Ward 1 Council Seat, Ward 4 Council Seat, and At-Large Council Seat are the open positions for election.

Mayor Shwed presented the Appointment of Board of Election. Mayor Shwed appointed the following individuals: Inspector Geraldine Horsey, Judge Pam McCumbers, Judge Kathy Wooten, Clerk Vatina Hooper, and Clerk Alexis Oliphant. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the Appointment of Board of Election. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilwoman Hill absent and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Town Manager Smith reminded the next scheduled Mayor and Council Meeting is February 19, 2019. Town Manager Smith advised the town will host a SCAT Meeting on March 6, 2019 at the Laurel Fire Department Hall.

Mayor Shwed advised the Mayor and Council and town officials are invited to Mt. Pisgah A.F.M.E to celebrate their 20 years of African American Heritage on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 4:45 p.m.

Town Manager Smith advised she received a letter that highlighted different concerns. Town Manager Smith advised the letter commented on the trash behind the No.1 Chinese restaurant. Town Manager Smith advised Director of Code Enforcement West has sent letters out to the property owner. She explained Public Works will pick up the trash and then we will bill the owner. Town Manager Smith advised the letter mentioned the alley way behind No.1 Chinese lacks proper drainage. Town Manager Smith advised the alley way is private property and isn't a deeded an alley. Town Manager Smith advised the town met with the Library Board with the town's engineer regarding their basement leaking water. Town Manager Smith explained the Library Board was suggested to perform pressure testing with a fee, which has never been performed. The letter proposed concerns with Delaware Avenue in regards to water drainage. Town Manager Smith explained we are looking to complete portions of Delaware Avenue to help with the water drainage and we have received a \$200,000 price quote. Town Manager Smith

advised the letter commented about cars and trash located at the Coffee Shop parking lot. Town Manager Smith advised vehicles are tagged legally and trash is cleaned up. Town Manager Smith advised the letter mentioned businesses were not notified of a robbery. Town Manager Smith advised it was an ongoing investigation and business checks are conducted by the officers. Councilwoman Martin inquired how do we prevent littering of trash behind the library. A brief discussion took place pertaining littering of trash and Mayor Shwed proposed Town Manager Smith to write a letter to the Laurel Public Library regarding the water drainage and the trash littering and to schedule a meeting with Mr. Dean Ishmert regarding his tenants.

Councilman Lee thanked the public works department for a great job of snow removal.

Councilman Kellam thanked the town staff for their hard work.

President of Council Calio advised he filed to re-elect as At-Large Councilman and he sees the town going in the right direction.

Mayor Shwed advised he filed to re-elect office as Mayor. Mayor Shwed read a brief letter he wrote pertaining his decision to file for re-election as Mayor.

With there being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary