

The Town of Laurel
Mayor and Council Meeting
January 4, 2016

A Mayor and Council Meeting was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers of the Laurel Town Hall on Monday, January 4, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance: Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Robin Fisher-Cornish, Jonathan Kellam, Randy Lee, Cheryl Martin, and Don Phillips. Also in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey, Police Chief Jamie Wilson, Police Sergeant Adam Hitchens, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso and Town Manager Jamie Smith.

Mayor Shwed stated the Town of Laurel would like to take time to honor and recognize Captain Ricky Richardson for his service to the town. Captain Richardson has given 27 years of his life to the Laurel Police Department. During his service to the town he has done an outstanding job. He is well respected in the community and executed his position with integrity, built friendships and relationships within the community. Mayor Shwed stated on behalf of the citizens of the town, he would like to wish Captain Richardson well with his retirement. Chief Wilson stated when he walked through the police doors on his first day as an officer for the town, Captain Richardson was there for him and has been there every day since. They have had great times, happy times, sad times and they have watched each other's children grow. Chief Wilson thanked Captain Richardson for his service to the town and his friendship. Chief Wilson along with Sergeant Hitchens presented Captain Richardson with a plaque, a retirement badge and a shadow box. Officer John Ryall presented Captain Richardson with a poem. Captain Richardson thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to protect and serve Laurel for 27 years. It has meant a lot to him to be able to serve the town. He thanked his officers for making him look good and for letting him command them.

The Mayor and Council Regular and Closed Session minutes of November 16, 2015, were presented for review and adoption. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Kellam absent.

The Department Head Reports for the month of December 2015 were presented for review and adoption. Director of Code Enforcement West advised he has completed the final inspection for the new salon located next Laurel Hardware. Site work has begun at the new Family Dollar Store. Public Works Director Foskey advised Terra Firma has completed the reconstruction and repaving project at Oak & Front Streets along with the state patches on Central Avenue and Market Street. Sergeant Hitchens advised he had nothing to add to his report. Town Manager Smith advised Alderman Pettyjohn is not in attendance this evening, as she has not received her final numbers from the state for her report, but will present the December report at the February meeting. Finance Manager Introcaso advised the Alderman Court and Septic Receiving accounts are doing very well, all others are within their budget. Town Manager Smith advised the town has gone to settlement on the land we are purchasing for the installation of a water treatment plant for Phase II of the USDA Water and Sewer Extension Project. The cost of the land is reimbursable through the USDA funding. Town Manager Smith advised a grant extension until

April 2016 has been given by the USDA for the Rural Business Grant. Mayor Shwed inquired when the Comprehensive Plan Update would begin. Town Manager Smith advised it will begin within the next few weeks. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the reports as presented. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Phillips absent.

President of Council Calio and Chair of the Annexation Committee, presented the Annexation Report for the property owned by Lawrence Elliott, 10561 Georgetown Road, tax map #2-32/12.15/4. It was explained the Annexation Committee has reviewed the annexation. Services are currently provided by the town, Delmarva Power, Sussex County EMS, Laurel Fire Department, and a Plan of Service was approved by the State Planning Office. It is the Annexation Committee's recommendation to move forward with the annexation of the property. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept the report. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Phillips absent.

Mayor Shwed presented Resolution 2016-1. The resolution establishes a public hearing date of February 1, 2016 for the Mayor and Council to publicly hear and consider the annexation of property contiguous to the easterly town limits, owned by Lawrence Elliott, located at 10561 Georgetown Road, tax map #2-32/12.15/4 and to consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and Map by zoning the referenced property as a Residential R-1 Property. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept Resolution 2016-1. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Phillips absent.

Councilman Lee stated it is good to see construction taking place at the new Family Dollar Store and the new salon is a very nice place and addition to the town.

Councilwoman Fisher stated Captain Richardson will be missed by the community. He was a police officer and respected by all. No matter what he did, he did it in a fair manner. If more officers would take the fortitude and action as he did, the communities would be better.

Councilwoman Martin thanked the town staff for the wonderful job they are doing.

Mayor Shwed advised he attended the grand opening for Beauty for Ashes, the new hair salon located next to Laurel Hardware, and the Body Shop, located next to the bowling alley. Both businesses are great additions to the town.

It was noted Councilman Phillips arrived at this time, 7:38 p.m.

President of Council Calio made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss Personnel and Contractual Matters. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Regular session recessed at 7:40 p.m.

Regular session reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

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With there being no further matters to discuss, Councilwoman Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Regular session adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager