

The Town of Laurel
Mayor and Council Meeting
November 16, 2015

A Mayor and Council Meeting was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers of the Laurel Town Hall on Monday, November 16, 2015, 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 Don Phillips. Also in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey, Police Sergeant Adam Hitchens, Alderman Kelly Pettyjohn, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso and Town Manager Jamie Smith.

It was noted Councilpersons Fisher and Kellam were absent.

The Mayor and Council regular session minutes of November 2, 2015 were presented for review and adoption. With there being no questions or comments, President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Kellam absent and Councilpersons Lee and Phillips abstaining as they were not in attendance at the meeting.

The Department Head Reports for the month of October 2015 were presented for review and adoption. Director of Code Enforcement West advised the site work for the new Family Dollar Store should begin in the next few weeks. The new hair salon to be located next to Laurel Hardware should be open December 2nd and the new physical therapy rehab located in the Food Lion Shopping Center is scheduled to open December 7th. Public Works Director Foskey advised the bid opening for USDA Phase II was held last week. GMB is in the process of reviewing all bids then they will be presented to Mayor and Council for consideration and approval. The street repairs to Oak & Front and state maintained streets will be starting in the next couple of weeks. Sergeant Hitchens advised recently two search warrants were completed which resulted in seizure of 23 grams of powdered cocaine. The department is working to target the drugs in the town. He also advised that residents need to keep their vehicles locked as there have been unlocked cars getting burglarized. Alderman Pettyjohn advised she had nothing to add to her report. Finance Manager Introcaso advised septic receiving and the Alderman Court are doing very well. Most other areas remain on target. Town Manager Smith advised she has a finalized version of the Franchise Agreement between the town and Chesapeake Utilities. It will be placed on the December 7th meeting agenda for consideration. With there being no further questions or comments, Councilman PHillips made a motion to accept the reports as presented. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Kellam absent

Mayor Shwed presented for a second and final reading Ordinance 2015-6, which eliminates on street parking on the south bound lane on Central Avenue from Tenth Street, north to 430 feet. Mayor Shwed inquired of Town Manager Smith if any residents have expressed comments or concerns. Town Manager Smith advised no one has contacted her or the town office. With there being no questions or comments, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept Ordinance 2015-6 for a second and final reading. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Kellam absent.

Town Manager Smith presented for consideration the purchase 1.89 acres of land located on Georgetown Road, directly behind our water tower, tax map #2-32/12.00/103.00. She explained the purchase of this land is needed for the construction of a water treatment plant and well as designed in Phase II of the USDA Water and Sewer Extension Project. The funds to cover the cost of the purchase of land are included in the USDA Funding. The total amount for the land is \$152,090.00. After a brief discussion, President of Council Calio made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the land at the stated price. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Kellam absent.

Mayor Shwed advised the town staff and elected officials have received an invitation from New Zion United Methodist Church to attend their Sunday, November 22nd service followed by a fellowship dinner as a show of gratitude and appreciation for all that the staff and elected officials do for the town. Mayor Shwed advised this is short notice and the church is understanding for those that may not be able to attend due to the short notice.

Mayor Shwed complimented the Laurel American Legion for the great job they did with the 3rd Annual Veteran's Day Parade. The Council concurred with Mayor Shwed and offered their thanks for a great parade.

President of Council Calio made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss contractual matters. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Kellam absent.

Regular session recessed at 7:27 p.m.

Regular session reconvened at 8:38 p.m.

Councilwoman Martin made a motion to authorize Town Manager Smith to negotiate as directed by Mayor and Council, the proposed contract as discussed in Closed Session. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Kellam absent.

With there being no further matters to discuss, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was -0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Kellam absent.

Regular session adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager