

The Town of Laurel  
Mayor and Council Meeting  
November 19, 2018

A Mayor and Council Meeting was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers of the Laurel Town Hall Monday, November 19, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance: Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Randy Lee, Jeff Hill, Jonathan Kellam, and Robin Fisher-Cornish. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith.

The Mayor and Council Public Hearing Minutes of October 15, 2018 were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Hill made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for October 15, 2018. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilwoman Martin absent.

The Mayor and Council Regular and Closed Session Minutes of October 15, 2018 were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept the meeting minutes and closed session minutes for October 15, 2018. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilwoman Martin absent.

The Department Head Reports for the month of October 2018 were presented for review and adoption. Director of Code Enforcement West stated he had no changes or additions to his report. Mayor Shwed inquired where Burger King stands. Director of Code Enforcement West explained the permit has been issued and he has spoken with the contractor about picking up the permits and licenses. Director of Code Enforcement West advised Mr. Mike Mercer will be starting next Monday. Public Works Director Foskey advised he and Town Manager Smith attended the Water Advisory Council where they received funding for the 7<sup>th</sup> street water main replacement and transite water main replacement Phase 3. Both projects are 100% principal forgiveness. Mayor Shwed stated Alderman Pettyjohn is not in attendance and her report looks to be routine. Finance Manager Introcaso advised she had nothing to add to her report. Town Manager Smith stated the town is the recipient of the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation Grant for \$16,000. The grant application was submitted in September. Town Manager Smith explained the grant will be utilized in Tidewater Park for a walk way that will begin at the Boys & Girls Club. Town Manager Smith advised construction of the walk way will begin in the Spring. Town Manager Smith advised the Parks and Recreation will be holding the "1<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Markets on Broad Creek," on December 7, 2018. Town Manager Smith stated the Christmas Parade will be on December 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Shwed complimented the "1<sup>st</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat," and thanked Town Manager Smith, Operations Manager Oliphant, and the Laurel Police Department. Councilman Hill made a motion to accept the Department Head Reports for the month of October 2018. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilwoman Martin absent.

Mayor Shwed presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Reading of Ordinance 2018-7. Mayor Shwed stated the ordinance proposing that the town annex certain territory contiguous to the present southern limits of the town of Laurel owned by MRJ Rentals, LLC, located south of West 10<sup>th</sup> Street and West of Conrail right of way, tax map #'s 4-32/8.10/89.00 & 4-32/8.14/27.00, amending the

zoning map and zoning ordinance of the Town of Laurel to include said property in a Light Industrial Use (L-I) District. Town Manager Smith advised Mr. Janigan's Attorney Mr. Witsil is in attendance for tonight's meeting. Mr. Witsil thanked Mayor and Council for entertaining the annexation request and thanked Town Manager Smith. Mr. Witsil explained he was here to answer any questions Mayor and Council may have. Mr. Janigan was also in attendance and he gave a brief overview of his business and explained his need for expansion. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Reading of Ordinance 2018-7. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilwoman Martin absent.

**Councilman Lee** stated the request was made by the property owner and we will welcome anybody who wants to be part of our town.

**Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish** advised it is continuous to our comprehensive plan and we are looking for industrial expansion.

**Councilman Hill** the owner came to us to annex into town and it will improve the property.

**Councilman Kellam** concurred with everyone else's statements from Mayor and Council.

**President of Council Calio** concurred with everyone else's statements from Mayor and Council.

**Mayor Shwed** advised he would vote for somebody who wants to be part of the town. He is proud of the operation site.

Mayor Shwed stated Sussex County Councilman John Rieley (Ward 5) is in attendance for tonight's meeting.

Town Manager Smith proposed to hold only one Mayor and Council meetings in the months of December, January, and February. Town Manager Smith proposed to meet on December 3, 2018 and keep December 17, 2018 open if needed. Town Manager Smith proposed to meet on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 and February 19, 2019 and keep the 1<sup>st</sup> meetings of January and February open if needed. Councilman Hill made a motion to accept the proposed Mayor and Council meeting schedule for December, January, and February. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilwoman Martin absent.

Ms. Rivas, resident of Pine Street, explained the Northwest corner on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Willow Street is a safety hazard. Ms. Revis advised you can't see cars driving from the East due to cars parked on the road. Ms. Revis advised she contacted the police, code, and public works about the situation. Town Manager Smith advised cars are to be parking on the permitted area and if not, the police respond. Mayor Shwed advised Town Manager Smith to investigate with Police Chief and Del-Dot about the situation.

Mr. Randy Radish, from Villa's on Broadcreek, LLC, gave a brief presentation regarding the Villas. Mr. Radish explained the Villa's on Broadcreek project began in 2005. In 2008 the houses were not being constructed because a profit wouldn't be generated. In 2017 they utilized the DDD Project and they were granted a DDD grant from the Delaware Housing Authority. Mr.

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Radish advised the houses are smaller and would be sold at \$235,000. If a house is sold at \$235,000 they will be making zero profit and they will be selling them at cost. Mr. Radish stated Soil Conservation and Del-Dot have delayed the project and he is waiting for approval. Mr. Radish inquired if the town would eliminate two fees' regarding the Villa's Project. Mr. Radish questioned if the town would waive their construction public facilities impact fee and the sewer and water connection fees. Mayor Shwed inquired if this company was provided the fee structure. Director of Code Enforcement West advised yes. Mayor Shwed thanked Mr. Radish for the presentation.

Councilman Kellam thanked all the town departments for their great work.

Mayor Shwed advised the Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on November 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Market Square Park. Mayor Shwed congratulated Chris Schyre from the American Legion Post 19 for the Veterans' Day Parade. Mayor Shwed thanked the American Legion Post 19 for donating the American Flag for the 1921 Building. Mayor Shwed stated on November 5, 2018 he swore in a new police officer Brandon Smith. Mayor Shwed advised he wrote two letters for support for the Telamon Corporation. Mayor Shwed wished everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish advised the American Legion Post 19 did a great job on the Veterans' Day Parade.

President of Council made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss contractual matters. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilwoman Martin absent.

Regular Session Recessed at 7:45 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 8:23 p.m.

President of Council Calio made a motion to deny the waiver request from Mr. Radish from the LRC for the costs of the Villa's on Broadcreek discussed in closed session. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilwoman Martin absent.

Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept the Annexation Request from Rehoboth Temple of Praise with documentation from Town Manager Smith as discussed in closed session. Councilman Hill seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilwoman Martin absent.

With there being no further business to discuss, Councilman Kellam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilwoman Martin absent.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 25 p.m.  
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Mayor

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President of Council

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Town Manager

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Recording Secretary