

The Town of Laurel
Mayor and Council Meeting
November 2, 2015

A Mayor and Council Meeting was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers of the Laurel Town Hall on Monday, November 2, 2015, beginning at 7:32 p.m. The following persons were in attendance: Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Robin Fisher-Cornish, Jonathan Kellam, and Cheryl Martin. Also in attendance was Town Manager Jamie Smith.

It was noted Councilpersons Lee and Phillips were absent.

Mayor Shwed opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m. for the Community Development Block Grant Funding. Mr. Brad Whaley, representing Sussex County Development and Housing Division, advised this year there is approximately two million dollars available between Kent & Sussex Counties for housing rehabilitation and infrastructure needs. Mr. Whaley advised the majority of the funds will be going to housing rehabilitation. In order to receive assistance a home owner must meet certain qualifications, which are: be a resident of Sussex County, and be unable to make necessary improvements. Taxes must be current, the home must be insured and the home owner must sign a non interest bearing lien. There are also income guidelines that must be met based on the size of the household. Mr. Whaley advised the town could obtain funds to demolish a property; however, there is a permanent lien on the property. Mr. Whaley stated funding for rehabilitation of homes in Laurel has reached \$409,000, with a total of 35 household being rehabilitated. Currently there is a waiting list of 25 residents. After a general discussion, Mayor and Council members agreed that due to the number of properties that are on the waiting list, they would like to apply for funds for housing rehabilitation again this year. With there being no further questions or comments, Mayor Shwed closed the public hearing at 7:39 p.m.

Mayor Shwed stated in regards to Ordinance 2015-6, which eliminates on street parking along a portion of Central Avenue from Tenth Street, north to 804 Central Avenue, Mr. Jon Falkowski of Becker Morgan Group, Inc., engineer for the Laurel Elementary School, was in attendance to discuss the purpose for the no parking. Mr. Falkowski explained the new elementary school is proposed to be constructed on the site of the old football field located behind the 1921 Middle School Building. The current entrance off Central Avenue is proposed to still be utilized, however, they would like to delineate, via striping, a longer left turn lane on Central Avenue. In order to be permitted from DelDOT to install the left turn lane, DelDOT requires the through traffic lane must shift to run along the curb, which will not permit on street parking. The existing entrance functions similar, when vehicles are stopped at the current painted stop bar, waiting vehicles pass on the shoulder, if cars are not parked there. Mr. Falkowski advised originally he was requesting a no parking zone approximately 475 feet beginning at the intersection of Tenth Street and running north on Central Avenue. However, Town Manager Smith expressed a concern with one resident that resides on the road, utilizes the on street parking quite often, therefore, he contacted DelDOT to see if they would consider, allowing the "No Parking"

distance to be shortened to allow for two on street parking spaces. DeIDOT has agreed to the area being shorted to 430'. Mr. Falkowski advised the curbing along this area will be replaced and any sidewalk disturbed will be replaced as well. Town Manager Smith advised last week, notices of the proposed ordinance reading, were hand delivered to the residents that would be affected. She advised the residents were told to contact her via phone or email or to attend the meeting if they had any questions, concerns or objections, however, she has not heard from the resident. After a brief discussion, President of Council Calio made a motion to accept for a first reading Ordinance 2015-6, with the ordinance reading as follows for no parking: "The west side of Central Avenue, from Tenth Street, 430 feet north on the south bound lane of Central Avenue." Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Lee and Phillips absent.

The Mayor and Council regular session minutes of October 19, 2015 were presented for review and adoption. With there being no questions or comments, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Lee and Phillips absent

Mayor Shwed presented the Certificate of Assurance for the rehabilitation funding application for Community Development Funds through the Delaware State Housing Authority. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the certificate. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Lee and Phillips absent.

Mayor Shwed presented a resolution recognizing the importance of Fair Housing and supporting the goals of the Fair Housing Laws. Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept Resolution as presented. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Lee and Phillips absent.

Mayor Shwed presented a resolution that resolves that the Town of Laurel will apply for Community Development Funds through the Delaware State Housing Authority for rehabilitation of dwellings within the town. Councilwoman Fisher made a motion to accept the resolution. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Lee and Phillips absent.

Discussion was held on the meeting dates for December 2015, January & February 2016. Town Manager Smith recommended only one meeting be held during each of those months, with the second regular scheduled meeting date being left open should a need arise for a second meeting. The dates of the meetings are as follows: December 7th regular meeting, December 21st left open, January 4th regular meeting, January 18th, left open, February 1st regular meeting, and February 15th left open. Councilman Calio requested that the Department Head Reports be presented at the first meeting, in order to not get behind on the approvals of reports. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the recommended meeting dates. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Lee and Phillips absent.

Councilman Calio stated the homecoming parade and dedication ceremony of the new football stadium was very nice.

Town Manager Smith advised Mayor and Council the town has received the official notice that we are the recipient of \$1,093,560 from Delaware Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund. The interest rate is a 2% rate with 100% principal forgiveness after the completion of the project. The funds will be used for the 6th Street Combined Sewer Green Project.

Town Manager Smith advised Mayor and Council the grand opening for the new Royal Farms Store at Route 24 and U. S. Route will be held on Friday, November 13th at 10:00 a.m.

With there being no further matters to discuss, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Lee and Phillips absent.

Regular session adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager