

The Town of Laurel  
Mayor and Council Meeting  
April 5, 2010

A Mayor and Council meeting was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers of the Laurel Town Hall on Monday, April 5, 2010, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance: Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Terry Wright, Council Members Chris Calio, Randy Lee, and William Trujillo. Also in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Paul Frick, Director of Public Works Director Woody Vickers, Police Lieutenant Ricky Richardson, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, and Recording Secretary Jamie Smith

It was noted Councilpersons Fisher and Phillips were absent.

Mr. Steve Goff, representative of the Laurel American Legion Post 19, was in attendance to request permission to hold their annual Youth Fishing Tournament on June 26, 2010, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Mr. Goff requested to use the area along Broad Creek from the Mill Dam to the Rail Road Bridge. Mr. Goff also asked permission to close Willow Street along the dam. It was noted there were no objections from the town staff. President of Council Wright made a motion to grant the request. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Phillips absent.

Mrs. Gerry Royal requested permission to use the bandstand in Market Square Park to hold the graduation ceremony of her daycare Royal Learning Center. It was noted there were no objections from the town staff. Councilman Lee made a motion to grant the request. Councilman Trujillo seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Phillips absent.

A Special Event Request was presented from Laurel Little League to hold their Annual Little League Opening Day Parade. The date of the parade would be Saturday, April 24, 2010, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The parade will be held along Central Avenue from Evergreen Drive to the Laurel Little League Park. Mayor Shwed advised that the Mayor and Council have been invited to participate in the parade. It was noted there were no objections from the town staff to the request. Councilman Lee made a motion to grant the request. Councilman Trujillo seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Phillips absent.

Mrs. Sue Monaco, of the Census Bureau, was in attendance to update Mayor and Council on the status of the 2010 Census. Mrs. Monaco encouraged Mayor and Council to continue to spread the importance of completing and returning the census. The census determines the amount of federal and state funding municipalities may receive. The census forms have been mailed out and if someone has not received a census form they can obtain them online or at the U. S. Postal Office.

The Mayor and Council regular and closed session minutes of March 15, 2010 were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Calio made a motion to accept the minutes as

presented. President of Council Wright seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Phillips absent and Councilman Lee abstaining as he was absent from the March 15, 2010 meeting.

Mayor Shwed presented a second and final reading of Ordinance 2009-4. The ordinance amends the Zoning map and the ordinance of the Town of Laurel by adding a Large Parcel Development (LPD-OD) Overlay and approving a master plan for property located on the northeasterly side of U. S. Route 13, Tax Parcel Numbers 1-32-12.00-111, 111.01, 111.02, & 111.03, 109, 118, 119, known as Village Brooke North Mayor Shwed explained the public hearing and first reading was held on February 17 2009 and the second reading had been tabled. The town has been working with the State Planning Office on resolving some legal issues. Mr. Jeff Clark, Land Planner, advised the plan consists of approximately 400 acres of an LPD, with frontage along U. S. Route 13. The area along U. S. Route 13 will consist of approximately 500,000 square feet of retail space and the balance of the property will consist of residential units, a community center, etc. Operations Manager Smith explained since the first reading the final condition has been updated, to read as follows "Approval is further conditioned upon the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Laurel adopting a 2010 Comprehensive Plan Update which is compatible and not in conflict with the LPD-OD and master plan for Village Brooke North." Councilman Calio made a motion to accept Ordinance 2009-4 for a second and final reading. Councilman Trujillo seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0 with Councilpersons Fisher and Phillips absent. The following reasons were given for the vote:

***Councilman Trujillo** – It falls within the town’s comprehensive plan, they want to be a part of the town and it is a win win situation for the property owner and the town.*

***Councilman Calio** – Concurs with the previous comment.*

***Councilman Lee** –the project is a chance for the town to grow and the property owner wants to be a part of the town.*

***President of Council Wright** – Concurs with the previous statements. She feels the developer has come up with a well thought out plan and the developer is in agreement with the 24 conditions included in the Ordinance.*

***Mayor Shwed** – Concurs with the comments of his colleagues. He is proud to welcome an organization that wants to become part of the town; from what he has seen with the plans, he believes the town is working with a quality organization and there will be a very nice addition to our community that will provide new opportunities for the town.*

Mr. Michael Pouls, developer of Village Brooke North, thanked the Mayor and Council and commented it has been a long haul and there were times he thought the project was doomed, however we all stuck together and had a vision. He would like to be a part of the town’s future development and growth. There are many opportunities and he believes in Laurel

Mayor Shwed presented a resolution that was adopted by the Town of Smyrna. Operations Manager Smith explained the resolution was drafted to ask Kent County Levy Court to reduce the real estate taxes they charge residents that are located within the Town of Smyrna. Their reason for this is that the County offers many services, which are listed in the resolution, to out of town residents, but does not offer those services to residents that are located within a municipality, which offers the same services as the County. Mr. Tony Windsor, Writer for the Star asked as to what services the County has but does not offer to Laurel residents. Operations Manager explained that the County has building permits, inspections, plumbing inspections and Planning and Zoning. Mayor Shwed stated this is something for Mayor and Council to think about and if they are interested in adopting a resolution it can be brought up for discussion.

Councilman Lee stated he is glad to be back.

Mayor Shwed stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2009-4 was a major step forward in trying to move forward in increasing our tax base. He is convinced that a project like this can bring opportunities for economic development and growth that can lead to jobs and more opportunities for the people.

Mayor Shwed complimented the town staff on the continued good job they do daily.

Mr. Pouls stated he feels that Jamie Smith is doing a terrific job and thinks people look at a community and judge by the buildings and elements and they don't always realize the faces of the people that keep a town going.

Councilman Calio made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss contractual matters. Councilman Trujillo seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Phillips absent.

Regular session recessed at 7:46 p.m.

Regular session reconvened 8:12 p.m.

Councilman Trujillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilpersons Fisher and Phillips absent.

Regular session adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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Mayor

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President of Council

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Recording Secretary