

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting
January 16, 2024

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held at Laurel Town Hall in the Mayor & Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Cheryl Martin via ZOOM, Jonathan Kellam via ZOOM, and Donald Holden. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West via ZOOM, Public Works James Foskey via ZOOM, Chief Dan Wright, Judge Ruffin via ZOOM, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Councilman Carlos Oliveras and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish were absent.

The Mayor & Council Regular Session and Closed Session Minutes of December 18, 2023, were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept the regular and closed session minutes of December 18, 2023. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Oliveras and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

The December 2023 Department Head Reports were presented for review.

- Director of Code Enforcement West stated he had no additions to his report.
- Public Works Director Foskey stated he had no additions to his report.
- Chief Wright stated he had no additions to his report.
- Judge Ruffin had a disconnection eruption at 7:08 p.m. Mayor Shwed stated Judge Ruffin's report appeared as normal.
- Town Manager Smith stated she had no additions.

President of Council made a motion to accept the December Department Head Reports as presented. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Oliveras and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Mayor Shwed presented the acceptance of FY 2022 Audit. Mayor Shwed stated Mr. Brandon Tull from Lank, Johnson, & Tull presented the FY 2022 Audit last month for Mayor & Council's review where they elected to review the audit and to accept the audit in January. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept the FY 2022 Audit as presented. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Oliveras and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Town Manager Smith presented the Development Updates.

- **Marino Development & Whaley Property:** They're both working together on receiving their state agency permits and also on their water/sewer infrastructure.
- **Rigbie:** Owner presented an amended Preliminary Site Plan to P&Z for review and they will be presenting their amendments proposals to P&Z next month.

- **Oak Street:** LRC is moving forward with design for Final Site Plan Approval.
- **Laurel Glen Apartments:** They're finalizing funding for project.
- **County Seat Highway Rt. 13 & Rt. 9:** Developers will be presenting their Preliminary Site Plan next month to P&Z.
- **Laurel Self Storage Sheds, Discount Land Road:** They will be adding two more units with the help of the town engineering.
- **No #1 Chinese:** They opened their doors.

Councilwoman Martin thanked the town staff, the police department, and the fire department/EMS for all their hard work.

Councilman Kellam thanked the town staff for their hard work.

Mrs. Nancy Hewitt, resident of 714 West Street advised she and her husband moved to the town in 2017 from North Carolina. She stated she is here tonight to present three requests to help with the morale and living for residents on West Street.

- (1.) Would like the Mayor & Council to approve in their budget for all fire personnel to receive pagers for emergencies to reduce the alarm noise.*
- (2.) Requesting to install a flashing 25 mph speed sign just like the one installed on Central Avenue that could be placed right after the convenient store on 6th Street facing north.*
- (3.) Requesting the town to purchase Christmas lights and to install on West Street just like Central Avenue to help with the morale on the street.*

Town Manager Smith advised she could answer Mrs. Hewitts questions after the meeting if she had time.

President of Council Calio made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss personnel matters. Councilman Holden seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Oliveras and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Regular Session Recessed at 7:31 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

With there being no further business, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Holden seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Oliveras and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Regular Session Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary