

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting
January 17, 2023

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held in the Mayor & Council Chambers at Laurel Town Hall, on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Robin Fisher-Cornish via ZOOM, Cheryl Martin via ZOOM, Jonathan Kellam via ZOOM, and Donald Holden. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey, Judge Ruffin, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, Town Manager Jamie Smith, and Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant. It was noted that Councilman Randy Lee and Chief Dan Wright were absent.

The Mayor & Council Regular Session Minutes of December 19, 2022, were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept the regular session minutes of December 19, 2022. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Kellam and Councilman Lee absent.

The December 2022 Department Head Reports were presented for review.

- Director of Code Enforcement West stated he received plans today for construction of homes near Wexford Village on Howard Street.
- Public Works Director Foskey stated he had no additions to his report.
- Mayor Shwed stated Chief Wright is not in attendance, but his report was submitted for review for Mayor & Council.
- Judge Ruffin stated she had no additions to her report.
- Finance Manager Introcaso stated she had no additions to her report.
- Town Manager Smith stated the annexation pertaining Laurel Self Storage Sheds went through settlement and the town may move forward with 2nd and Final Reading tonight. She stated the town has received a federal grant of \$937,000 to complete Tidewater Park. Town Manager Smith advised she and Chief Wright will be meeting with State Representative Dukes pertaining potential funding for Dunbar.

Councilman Kellam entered the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Councilman Holden made a motion to approve the December 2022 Department Head Reports. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Lee absent.

Mayor Shwed advised he will table the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2022-5 pertaining Chapter 49, Animals, Article III Dangerous Animals, due to not all members of Mayor & Council in attendance.

Mayor Shwed presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2022-4 pertaining Annexation of Laurel Self Storage, 29285 Discount Land Road, Tax Map #232-12.00-63.01. Mayor Shwed stated the town annex certain territory contiguous to the present easterly limits of the Town of Laurel owned by SS-LS-DE represented by Hearthfire Capital, LLC, located at 29285 Discount Land Road, Tax Map No. 2-32/12.00/63.01 and to amend the zoning map and zoning ordinance of the Town of Laurel to include said property in a commercial business use district. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish made a motion to accept the 2nd and Final Reading of Ordinance 2022-4. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Lee and Councilwoman Martin absent.

- *Mayor Shwed stated he will vote for anybody who voluntarily wants to be a part of the town and it's continuous to the towns growth plan.*
- *President of Council Calio concurred with colleague's statements.*
- *Councilman Kellam concurred with colleague's statements.*
- *Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish stated it provides growth for our town, which is a positive thing.*
- *Councilman Holden concurred with colleague's statements.*

Mayor Shwed presented the General Municipal Election Update 2023. Town Manager Smith stated the election will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Laurel Fire Department. The following seats must be decided Mayor, Ward 1, Ward 4, and an At-Large Seat. The At-Large Seat can be either from Ward 1, Ward 2, or Ward 4. The filing deadline for citizens interested in running is Thursday, February 16, 2023. Candidates may file at the Laurel Town Office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The last day to register to vote is Thursday, February 23, 2023 and all registered voters must be registered through the Delaware State Department of Elections. All residents must be a resident of the town for thirty days prior to the election and you must be eighteen years of age to vote. Town Manager Smith stated the election will be held in the fire departments Banquet Room or Meeting Room and she will have room finalized before the election. She noted the Mayor's salary is \$80.00 per meeting which he/she attends and a Councilpersons salary is \$40.00 per meeting he/she attends.

Mayor Shwed presented the 2023 Mayor & Council Schedule. Town Manager Smith stated the town will be holding a workshop on Monday, February 6, 2023, at Laurel Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. to allow for the presentation of affordable housing presented by the Laurel School Superintendent Mr. Larrimore.

Councilman Kellam thanked the town staff for their continuous hard work.

Councilwoman Martin re-connected at 7:21 p.m.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish thanked the town for their hard work and to remember the words and memory of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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President of Council Calio announced his filing of office for re-election for the upcoming municipal election.

Mayor Shwed stated he has been working on the Town of Laurel's Forecast 2023 Article for the Laurel Star and he hopes readers see the great things happening in our town. Mayor Shwed announced his filing of office for re-election for the upcoming municipal election.

Mrs. Ann Davis, resident of Pine Street, stated the town looked great for the Christmas season.

Mrs. Cheri Clark, resident of Sixth Street, stated she enjoyed the town's Christmas tree at Market Street Square Park.

With there being no further business, Councilman Holden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Lee absent.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary