

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting
October 17, 2022

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held in the Mayor & Council Chambers at the Laurel Town Hall, on Monday, October 17, 2022, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Randy Lee, Robin Fisher-Cornish via ZOOM, Cheryl Martin via ZOOM, Jonathan Kellam, and Donald Holden. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey, Chief Dan Wright, Judge Ruffin, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, and Town Manager Smith. It was noted that Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant was absent.

Chief Wright held a promotion ceremony to promote Officer Daniel Howard to the rank of corporal. Mayor Shwed thanked Cpl. Howard for his commitment and service to our town.

Mayor Shwed presented a proclamation on behalf of the Laurel Boys & Girls Club pertaining Lights On After School Day. Mayor Shwed stated the town is urging all residents to observe this day with the appropriate programs and activities to enhance public awareness of the vital importance of afterschool programs to our young people and to our community. Mayor Shwed proclaimed Thursday, October 20, 2022, will hereby be Lights on After School Day.

The Mayor & Council Public Hearing Minutes of September 19, 2022, were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept the public hearing minutes of September 19, 2022. Councilman Holden seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

The Mayor & Council Regular Session Minutes of September 19, 2022, were presented for review and adoption. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the regular session minutes of September 19, 2022. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

The September 2022 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 stated she had no additions to her report.
- Finance Manager stated she had no additions to her report.
- Town Manager Smith stated the two Highway Welcome Signs have been installed with one placed across from Johnny Janosik and the second one placed off Camp Road. Town Manager Smith stated she met with Senator Carper on Friday, October 7, 2022, pertaining the expansion and completion of Tidewater Park. She advised Economic Development Funds are available for the completion of the park if the federal government passes a

budget. Town Manager Smith gave an update pertaining the TAP Funding for the Walkway from Janosik Park to Roger C. Fisher Park. She advised the town has received 1 million in funding and a proposed safety structure needs to be constructed under the train bridge but there isn't enough room to build the structure on land and meet the railroads criteria. She explained Del-DOT has recommended the town to move forward with the project. She has looked into a Re-Connected Community Grant that is a 5-year grant opportunity that could help fund the new proposal for a walkway and safety structure that will meet the railroads criteria. This grant is considered a match grant and the town could utilize CTF Funds to secure that match to move forward with Phase 1.

Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept the September 2022 Department Head Reports. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Mayor Shwed presented the Rescind of 7th Street Watermain Replacement Bid. Town Manager Smith stated at last months September Mayor & Council Meeting the Mayor & Council recommended to deny all bids due to the shortage of funding and to continue to work with the State of Public Health to secure extra funding to complete the project. She advised the State of Public Health has a \$500,000 grant that will help cover the short fall of funding and the Mayor & Council must rescind September's denials of bids and accept the new low bid from Lindstrom Excavation Contractors. President of Council Calio made a motion to rescind September's denials of bids and to accept the new low bid from Lindstrom Excavation Contractors. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Mayor Shwed presented the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2022-3 RE: Zoning Ordinance Residential Permitted Uses. Town Manager Smith advised a public hearing was held last month to amend the residential zoning to relocate all special permitted uses into permitted uses for R-1, R-2, and R-3 zoning classifications. She explained the amendment will eliminate Sections 4.1 2 C, 4.2 2C, and 4.2. 3C Special Permitted Uses and relocate all Special Permitted Uses to the Permitted Uses Section of 4.1 2A, 4.2. 2A, & 4.2 3A. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2022-3. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Mayor Shwed presented the Discussion of Chapter 49 Animals (Chickens). Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish stated she was under the assumption the town passed an ordinance that either allowed or not allowed urban chickens. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish advised residents in her ward have concerns of live chickens roaming on their property and injuring other animals. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish recommended the town to pass an ordinance that either allows or not allows urban chickens. Mayor Shwed recommended the Mayor & Council to vote on the ordinance 2021-7 that was drafted by our town attorney at next month's Mayor & Council

Meeting. He stated the ordinance will only be voted on if all seven members of Mayor & Council are in attendance.

Mayor Shwed presented the Development Updates. Town Manager Smith presented the following Development Updates:

- ***Mariano Development:*** The Traffic Impact Study has been completed by Century Engineering and has been submitted to Del-DOT. The developer will be meeting with Del-DOT pertaining the recommendations made.
- ***Laurel Dutch Inn:*** They're back working with approved sight plans after the town issued several stop work orders.

Mayor Shwed presented the Annexation Committee Report RE: 29285 Discount Land Road, Tax Map #2-32/12.00/63.01. President of Council Calio advised the Annexation Committee met prior this evening with members Councilman Lee and Councilman Kellam. President of Council Calio advised the committee had no cons with the proposed annexation and recommended Mayor & Council's approval of the annexation. President of Council Calio stated the next step is to accept a resolution regarding the scheduling of a public hearing. Town Manager Smith stated the applicant has spoken with Public Works Director Foskey pertaining how to acquire water/sewer infrastructure and must submit infrastructure plans that meet the towns policy.

Mayor Shwed presented Resolution 2022-8 RE: Public Hearing 29285 Discount Land Road, Tax Map #2-32/12.00/63.01. Mayor Shwed stated a resolution proposing that the town annex certain territory contiguous to the present easterly limits of the Town of Laurel, owned by SS-LS-DE LC, located at 29285 Discount Land Road, Tax Map #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 (C-B) District. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept Resolution 2022-8. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Town Manager Smith stated Mayor & Council will hold two meetings in the month of November with the first meeting being held on Monday, November 7, 2022. The first month's meeting agenda will include the Community Block Development Grant Presentation and the acceptance of the new town's auditor.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish stated Town Manager Smith does a great job securing grants to allow the town to grow. Town Manager Smith stated she has a great team.

Councilman Kellam thanked the town staff for all they do and appreciate their efforts.

Mayor Shwed stated Operations Manager Oliphant and former Alderman Oliphant submitted thank you notes to Mayor & Council for the flowers sent on behalf of their aunts passing. Mayor Shwed stated houses around town are getting into the Halloween season. Mayor Shwed stated

the Homecoming Parade was successful and thanked public works and the police department for helping with traffic control.

Mrs. Denetra Fields, resident of West Sixth Street, inquired if the town will be holding a Clean-Up's. Town Manager Smith stated the town used to hold Clean-Up's where the town ordered dumpsters and placed in the town parking lots. Due to the excessive costs of the dumpsters the Clean-Up initiative was cut from the budget. Town Manager Smith stated she will look into holding a Clean-Up in the spring if the budget allows for it and try to implement the initiative in next years budget.

Mrs. Denetra Fields, resident of West Sixth Street, stated she has chickens coming in and out of her yard and inquired if the town can hold the owners accountable by fining them if their chickens are roaming free. It was explained there is no ordinance currently in town that addresses free range chickens.

Mrs. Ann Davis, resident of Pine Street, stated Mrs. Cheri Clark provided an ordinance that had parameters pertaining free range chickens. Town Manager Smith stated this ordinance passed on the 1st Reading but not on the 2nd Reading.

President of Council Calio made a motion to hold a Closed Session to discuss personnel matters. Councilman Holden seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Regular Session Recessed at 7:51 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 8:13

With there being no further business, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary