

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council
October 19, 2020

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held in the Mayor & Council Chambers at the Laurel Town Hall, on October 19, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members: Randy Lee, Jeff Hill, Jonathan Kellam, Cheryl Martin via Vast Conferencing, and Robin Fisher-Cornish via Vast Conferencing. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey via Vast Conferencing, Chief Dan Wright, Alderman Kelly Pettyjohn, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. Please note the town offers a Vast Tel-Conferencing System virtual option to adhere to the state guidelines.

The Mayor & Council Regular Session Minutes of October 5, 2020 were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Hill made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 5, 2020. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Kellam abstaining.

The September 2020 Department Head Reports were presented for review. Director of Code Enforcement West advised he had no additions or changes to his report. Public Works Director Foskey stated there is a Pre-Bid Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2020 regarding Wilson Street and Delaware Avenue Paving Project. Mayor Shwed inquired where the paving project will take place on Delaware Avenue. Town Manager Smith advised this paving project is funded by State Representative Dukes and the paving will begin at the entrance of the alley way behind the library on Delaware Avenue. Chief Wright stated he had no additions to his report. Mayor Shwed congratulated the two officers who were promoted to detectives. Town Manager Smith recommended to recognize a One-Laurel Steering Committee Member who helped an individual in dire need at the next Mayor & Council Meeting. Alderman Pettyjohn advised she had no additions or changes to her report. Finance Manager Introcaso stated she had no additions or changes to her report. Town Manager Smith stated the Bowling Alley has changed to new ownership, which is now owned by the Altitude Trampoline Park in Delmar. She stated the bowling alley re-opened last week. Town Manager Smith advised the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance received a grant for 70 trees to be planted at Tidewater Park. Town Manager Smith thanked the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance interns, a LRC representative, and volunteers who helped planted the trees. Town Manager Smith stated a Planning & Zoning Public Hearing is scheduled for November regarding the mixed-use district and amendments for the Large Overly Parcel District to comply with the town's Comprehensive Plan. Town Manager Smith advised conversations for commercial development on the highway have begun again and more information will be coming in the beginning of the year. Mayor Shwed inquired when the Mill Dam Project is scheduled to be complete. Town Manager Smith stated the project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2021. President of Council Calio inquired why the Brooklyn Avenue Project got delayed until spring of 2021. Town Manager Smith advised due to COVID-19, they're scheduled to pave both Brooklyn Avenue and Madison Street. Town Manager Smith explained the MS4 has begun meeting again. A permit was supposed to be obtained in October regarding the MS4 but has been delayed due to COVID-19. Councilwoman Martin made a motion

to accept the September 2020 Department Head Reports. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Town Manager Smith gave a brief update regarding the Trick or Treat and Trunk or Treat Status. She stated the town has officially received state approval to hold the Trunk or Treat. She explained trunk applications are slowly coming in and our goal is to have at least 10 to 12 trunk participants. She advised Evergreen Drive will be closed to traffic to allow for the line-up in order to maintain social distance. The Trunk or Treat Entrance will begin at the Bus Entrance closes to the old middle school baseball field and the Trunk or Treat Exit will be at the Bus Exit closes to the tennis and basketball courts. The trunk participants are to bring hand sanitizer and designate one person as a "Candy Designator," to drop candy in the bags. Town Manager Smith advised we are looking for 12 to 13 volunteers to help enforce the safety guidelines. She stated she will be contacting Superintendent Dr. Larrimore about doing a robo call to all the elementary school students to relay the date and time of the event and the safety requirements. Town Manager Smith explained the School Board meets Wednesday, October 21, 2020 to vote on the approval of the town using the school's parking lot, which she see's no issue with receiving approval. Mayor Shwed inquired about the status of Trick or Treat. Town Manager Smith, yes everything is a go we are expecting no issues.

Mayor Shwed presented Resolution 2020-5, SRF Well Replacement. Town Manager Smith explained the town received \$770,000 SRF Funding last spring for the well and when the bidding was received the town was short \$218,900. Town Manager Smith advised the town will pay back the \$218,900 burrowed with principal forgiveness. Mayor Shwed stated approving issuance of a general obligation bond, series 2020-SRF, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$218,900, to the Delaware Department of Health & Social Services, the drinking water state revolving fund, as registered owner, for the purpose of financing the additional construction costs associated with improvements to the Town of Laurel's water distribution system, consisting of the replacement of a drinking water well, as approved by the town council; setting for the substantial form of the bond, including the interest rate, the times of payment, the maturity date, and other details of the bond; determining that the bond will be sold by private sale and authorizing execution of a financing agreement; pledging the full faith, credit and taxing power of the town; and authorizing other necessary action. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-5. Councilman Hill seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Mayor Shwed presented the Christmas Parade discussion. Town Manager Smith explained she has received a copy of another municipal's Christmas Parade Plan that was submitted by the state that received state approval. She advised the Park & Recreation Committee has volunteered to help with the parade if the town wishes to hold the parade. The biggest challenge is making sure social distancing takes place at both the line-up and in between floats and wearing the proper face mask if social distancing can't take place. Town Manager Smith advised she is inquiring for Mayor & Council's request to hold the Christmas Parade before moving forward with state approval. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept the request in holding the town's Christmas Parade in

order to move forward with the state approval. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-1, with Councilman Hill abstaining.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish thanked the One-Laurel Committee for the Multi-Cultural Community Cook-Out Event held on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at Dunbar.

President of Council Calio stated according to Pastor Rob there were 620 meals provided at the cookout.

Mayor Shwed recognized all the One-Laurel Projects that have the community heart and sole in mind. Mayor Shwed stated the Middle/High School Cafeteria have provided 375 meals with the initiative of the Lunch Box Program.

Mayor Shwed stated the Laurel Lions Club will be holding their Annual Journey for Sight 5K Walk Fundraiser on Saturday, November 1, 2020 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Trap Pond State Park.

Mr. Tony Windsor inquired if the vote regarding the Christmas Parade was unanimous. Councilman Hill stated no, he voted not to hold the parade due to his concern with the uptake of COVID-19 cases in the state currently right know.

Mr. Windsor inquired when the Trunk or Treat begins. Mayor Shwed stated Trunk or Treat begins from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Martin made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Councilman Hill seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0

Regular Session Recessed at 7:35 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary