

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting
October 5, 2020

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held in the Mayor & Council Chambers at the Laurel Town Hall, on October 5, 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, Robin Fisher-Cornish, Cheryl Martin via Vast Conferencing, and Jeff Hill. Also, in attendance were Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Councilman Jonathan Kellam was absent. Please note the town offers a Vast Tel-Conferencing System virtual option to adhere the state guidelines.

The Mayor & Council Regular Session Minutes and Closed Session Minutes of September 21, 2020 were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Hill made a motion to accept the regular and closed session meeting minutes of September 21, 2020. Councilman Lee seconded the vote. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Kellam absent.

Mayor Shwed advised the purpose of tonight's meeting is to hold a trial run using the Vast Tel-Conferencing System to ensure it is operating correctly. Mayor Shwed stated the Vast Tel-Conferencing System adheres to the Governor's alternate virtual option requirement.

Town Manager Smith gave a brief update status regarding Trick or Treat and the town's "3rd Annual Trunk or Treat." She stated the town approved Trick or Treat and we are moving forward with the event. The town is still awaiting the state's approval to hold Trunk or Treat. She advised the Trunk or Treat event will exceed the outdoor gatherings of 250 or more and the town has applied for a Special Event Permit from the state. The Trunk or Treat is scheduled to be held at the Laurel Elementary School Bus Parking lot to allow for social distance. She explained the Laurel School District has tentatively verbally agreed for the town to utilize the parking lot. After the town has received approval from the state, the Laurel School Board will vote on the utilization of the school's parking lot. Town Manager Smith advised Evergreen Drive will be closed and there will be social distance markings on the ground. Volunteers will be monitoring the social distance requirements and the mask requirements for all attendees. The trunks must be a minimum of 6 feet and depending on how many trunk participants signed-up the town could have a maximum of 10 feet between each trunk. Town Manager Smith proposed the trick or treaters can line-up on Evergreen Drive and enter the Trunk or Treat at the Bus Entrance and exit the Trunk or Treat at the Bus Exit to avoid non-intentionally of crossing of paths. Town Manager Smith advised Trunk or Treat falls under a moderate risk with the proper mask requirements and social distance requirements. She explained Trunk or Treat also falls under a high risk if they're no mask requirements and no social distance requirements. She advised a Halloween costume mask is not considered a proper face covering. Town Manager Smith submitted an aerial view of the parking lot and a plan to the state. Mayor Shwed inquired how the candy will be distributed to the kids safely. Town Manager Smith stated we are requiring the trunk vendors to assign one person as a "Candy Designator," to drop the candy in the trick or treaters bag. President of Council Calio stated he believes it's safer to drop the candy in their bags rather than kids grabbing candy off a table. Mayor Shwed inquired when the state will give their notification regarding the Trunk or Treat.

Town Manager Smith advised hopefully by the end of this week. Mayor Shwed inquired how the Trunk or Treat will be advertised with the proper safety requirements. Town Manager Smith advised a flyer will be submitted to the Laurel Star, the town's website, and the town's Facebook Page detailing the proper safety requirements. She advised she will reach out to the Laurel School District if they would do a robo call highlighting the safety requirements.

Town Manager Smith advised Mayor & Council to keep in mind the holding of the town's Christmas Parade. She stated the town would have to submit a Special Event Permit due to exceeding the outdoor gathering requirement.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish shared a brief update regarding the One-Laurel groups. She stated the Open Mic Night was held on Sunday, October 4, 2020 at Roger C. Fisher Laurel River Park. The Multi-Cultural Cookout will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at Dunbar. A Youth Basketball Tournament and an Arts & Crafts Event will be held in early November at North Laurel Elementary. Town Manager Smith inquired if the event will be under the 250 or more outdoor gathering requirement. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish explained there will be small groups in different areas.

President of Council Calio stated on Sunday, October 25, 2020 the American Legion will be starting their All You Can Eat Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Shwed advised this past weekend has been a very social weekend with the Open Mic Night at Roger C. Fisher Laurel River Park and the Rock-On Concert at Market Street Square Park.

Mr. Rick McVey, resident of Central Avenue, gave a brief update regarding his One-Laurel Group Projects. Mr. McVey stated their group is working on completing a Welcome to Laurel Sign. He stated his group has reviewed the Del-Dot Permits and the safety requirements regarding the sign, which will be donated to the town. Mr. McVey advised he has contacted Town Manager Smith regarding the design of the sign, which is similar to the town's proposed sign plan. Mr. McVey stated their second group project is working on a Kayak Launch Sign that will face the north entrance on the west side. Mr. McVey stated their third group project there working on is painting a mural on the outside of Dunbar's Gymnasium with Mayor & Council Approval. The mural will portray the following themes: Race, Diversity, Pride, and Unity. Mr. McVey advised they spoke with the art teacher from the Laurel School District to help get students engaged in the project. He explained students will submit their proposed mural to the group and the group will select the mural and the group will recommend the selected mural to Mayor & Council for approval. Mr. McVey advised the mural will either face 6th or 7th street. Town Manager Smith recommended the mural to face the front of 6th Street to allow for more visibility. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish inquired if a property has historic signage is there a process to follow if there is any proposed change to the building. Town Manager Smith advised she will reach out regarding the matter, but she believes it's just for a structural change. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish made a motion to

endorse the creation of a mural on the outside of the Gymnasium at Dunbar. Councilman Hill seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Kellam absent.

Town Manager Smith stated the Laurel Library is hosting a Cones for Cops at Market Street Square Park from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

Mayor Shwed complimented Mr. Bennett from Boating Education and Rescue for promoting fishing at Roger C. Fisher Laurel River Park.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary