

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting
November 7, 2022

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held in the Mayor & Council Chambers at Laurel Town Hall, on Monday, November 7, 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 Finance Manager Mary Introcaso and Town Manager Smith. It was noted that Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant was absent.

Mayor Shwed opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the presentation regarding the Sussex County Community Development Block Grant Funding. Mr. Mike Jones and Mrs. Palmer from the Sussex Community Development Office were in attendance. Mr. Jones explained the funding is funded by the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) where both Kent and Sussex County competitively apply for the funding. The purpose of the CDBG Funding is to assist households on low to moderate income levels for housing projects. Mr. Jones explained a public hearing must be held to allow him to explain the funding and to give any updates to the Mayor & Council and to town citizens. Mr. Jones explained in order for an applicant to receive funding they must own and reside in their home. The funding requirements to receive funding include that all taxes must be current including town taxes and county taxes, your insurance must be current. Mr. Jones stated a 5-year lean is placed on the property when the project is under \$15,000 and a 10-year lean is placed on the property when the project is over \$15,000. In the last 10 years the Town of Laurel has received \$420,000 of funding, which has helped 45 households. The town has currently received \$105,000 this fiscal year and there are currently 12 households on the waiting list. Mr. Jones inquired if Mayor & Council or citizens had any questions pertaining the funding.

Councilman Kellam inquired when the house repairs are made what percentage of payments need to be paid back. Mr. Jones stated a recipient never makes a payment as it's treated as a 0 % interest loan, unless they were to sell the home prior to the lien expiring.

With there being no further questions or comments, Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Jones for his presentation and Mayor Shwed closed the public hearing.

The public hearing adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Mayor Shwed presented the Citizen Participation Certificate of Assurance. Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept the Citizen Participation Certificate of Assurance. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Mayor Shwed presented Resolution 2022-9, where the Town of Laurel recognizes the importance of fair housing for the citizens of Laurel and where the Town of Laurel Supports the goals of the

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Federal Fair Housing Law. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept Resolution 2022-9. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Mayor Shwed presented Resolution 2021-10 endorsing the project to be submitted to the Delaware State Housing Authority for funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development authorizing Todd F. Lawson, Sussex County Administrator, to submit application. Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept Resolution 2022-10. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Town Manager Smith stated the Laurel Town Hall will be closed for the following observances of Election Day November 8, 2022, Returns Day November 10, 2022, and Veterans Day November 11, 2022.

Councilman Lee wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day and thanked all the veterans who served.

Councilman Kellam reminded everyone to come out and vote and wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish also reminded everyone to come out and vote and wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day.

Mayor Shwed stated the town had a nice trick or treat event.

President of Council Calio made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss contractual matters. Councilman Holden seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Regular Session Recessed at

Regular Session Reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

Councilman Holden made a motion to approve the firm of Lank, Johnson, & Tull, CPA's as the new town auditor. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary