

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting
March 17, 2025

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held at Laurel Town Hall in the Mayor & Council Chambers on Monday, March 17, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Carlos Oliveras, Robin Fisher-Cornish via ZOOM, George Lodato, Jonathan Kellam, and Donald Holden. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey, Chief Robert Kracyla, Judge Ruffin, Finance Manager Melissa Cassimore, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith.

Public Works Director Foskey recognized Josh Krueger as Wastewater Operator of the Year. He stated Delaware Rural Water asks municipalities each year to nominate an employee where a board reviews the candidates and selects a nominee to be recognized. The Mayor & Council congratulated Josh Krueger on his achievement.

Mayor Shwed presented a Police Swearing-In Ceremony to the following officers: Patrolman Patrick Marvil, Patrolman Austin Wilson, and Patrolman David Wyatt.

Mayor Shwed presented the Appointment of Board of Elections. Mayor Shwed proposed to appoint Mr. Dan Ash as Judge to fill in for the replacement of Judge Mr. Garret Pusey for this year's upcoming General Municipal Election.

The Mayor & Council Regular and Closed Session Minutes of February 18, 2025, were presented for review. Councilman Oliveras made a motion to accept the regular and closed session minutes of February 18, 2025. Councilman Lodato seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Kellam and Councilman Holden abstaining.

The February 2025 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 Jerry's Paving is on site for the milling of Poplar Street to 8th Street. He stated the hydrant on Culver Street will be replaced for repaving. He advised a walk through with engineers will take place on 8th Street.
- Chief Kracyla stated on February 27, 2025, first graders and second graders from the Laurel Elementary School visited the police department. He stated on February 28, 2025, he attended the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training in Dover. He stated he assisted Sussex Tech with a criminal justice national skills competition as a judge.
- Mayor Shwed stated Judge Ruffin is not in attendance, but her report was submitted for review.

- Town Manager Smith advised she had no additions to her report. Mayor Shwed inquired if there was an update on Grand Central Station. Town Manager Smith stated work still needs to be completed inside and there is no projected opening date.

Councilman Lodato made a motion to accept the February Department Head Reports as presented. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Town Manager Smith presented the Development Updates.

- ***The Promenade, Oak Street:*** sitework has begun but a delay has occurred with it being completed in the next few months.
- ***Bargain Bills Property:*** the purchase of the property has ceased but a contract on the neighboring property is moving forward.

Town Manager Smith presented the Election Reminder Update. She stated the Town of Laurel's General Municipal Election 2025 will take place on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the Laurel Fire Department Meeting Room (Entrance in front of building) from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The election will be for Mayor, Ward 3 Council Seat, and Council-At-Large. Registered voters who are registered with the State Department of Elections will be eligible to vote. She advised a Department of Election Representative will be on site to assist with the election.

Town Manager Smith presented the Hometown Hero Banners. She stated the town has received 13 applications for the Hometown Hero Banners Project with proof approvals being sent out to family members for their review. The banners will be displayed from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Town Manager Smith presented the 4th of July Update. She advised the town will be holding their 31st Annual 4th of July Celebration on Friday, July 4, 2025. The celebration is tentatively scheduled to be held at Janosik Park. With the Re-Shore Stabilization project occurring at Janosik Park this summer a re-location of events could take place along Central Avenue. She advised firework donation letters have been mailed, the food vendor & non-food vendor applications have been sent out, the car show flyers have been distributed, and the parade applications will be made available in early April.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish stated this will be her last full official Mayor & Council Meeting and she will say her final goodbyes at April's Mayor & Council Meeting.

Councilman Oliveras thanked everyone for coming out tonight and commended Chief Kracyla with his community efforts.

Councilman Lodato thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilman Kellam stated he spoke with resident Mrs. Valerie Moore about community suggestions.

Mayor Shwed recognized the following Laurel High School Senior Athletes in their college commitments: Keshawn Copes, West Virginia State, Football, Bailey Lynch, Delaware Tech, Softball, Caleb Boyce, Delaware Tech, Baseball, Kolby Shockey, Delaware Tech, Baseball, and Connor Smith, Delaware Tech, Baseball.

Mrs. Laura Mackey, resident of West 6th Street, inquired if there are floor plans of the 1921 building. Mayor Shwed stated the 1921 building is the Laurel School District property and recommended for her to reach out to the school district.

Councilman Oliveras made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Regular Session Recessed at 7:45 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 8:51 p.m.

Councilman Lodato made a motion to approve the recommended job descriptions pertaining the police department to become effective July 1, 2025, as discussed in closed session. Councilman Oliveras seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Councilman Kellam made a motion to approve the sale of two parcels declared as surplus property Deshields Street Property and the Corner of Maple Street/8th Street as discussed in closed session. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Councilman Oliveras made a motion to allow Town Manager Smith to negotiate the sale for the Poplar Street Property as discussed in closed session. Councilman Lodato seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary