

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting
April 18, 2022

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held in the Mayor & Council Chambers at the Laurel Town Hall, on Monday, April 18, 2022, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, Council Members: Randy Lee, Robin Fisher-Cornish via ZOOM, Cheryl Martin via ZOOM, Jonathan Kellam via ZOOM, and Donald Holden. Also, in attendance were Public Works Director James Foskey, Chief Dan Wright, Alderman Taylor Oliphant, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that President of Council Chris Calio and Director of Code Enforcement Ken West was absent.

Mayor Shwed presented a tribute to the McCrea Family on the behalf of the late Mrs. Carol McCrea a past councilwoman for the town. Mayor Shwed stated Mrs. McCrea served the town with distinction.

Town Manager Smith stated Mr. Jonathan Valdez of the Boys & Girls Club could not be in attendance tonight due to a prior obligation. Town Manager Smith advised Mr. Valdez is requesting approval from Mayor & Council to hold a Block Party on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at Tidewater Park. This year's event will be similar as last years with Mr. Valdez verifying the town services with Public Works Director Foskey, Chief Wright, and Town Manager Smith. Last year's event had police services with the Boys & Girls Club covering the costs. Councilman Holden made a motion to tentatively approve the Boys & Girls Club Block Party on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at Tidewater Park awaiting confirmation of the town services. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with President of Council Calio absent.

The Mayor & Council Regular and Closed Session Minutes of March 21, 2022, were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept the regular and closed session minutes of March 21, 2022. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with President of Council Calio absent.

The March 2022 Department Head Reports were presented for review.

- Mayor Shwed stated Director of Code Enforcement West isn't in attendance tonight and his report was submitted to Mayor & Council for review.
- Public Works Director Foskey stated he had no additions to his report
- Chief Wright stated he had no additions to his report.
- Alderman Oliphant stated the new full-time clerk Mrs. Robin Hearn started last week.
- Finance Manager Introcaso stated she had no additions.

- Town Manager Smith stated a copy of the One-Laurel One Day Flyer is attached to her report. There will be four free family events on May 21st including a Paint Laurel from 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Art in the Park from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Janosik Park, Balling for God Basketball Tournament from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Webb Avenue, and a Community Meal at 12:00 p.m. at Janosik Park.
- Chief Wright presented a PowerPoint presentation pertaining the police departments Calendar Year 2021 Statistics to Mayor & Council and citizen's review.

Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the March 2022 Department Head Reports. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with President of Council Calio absent.

Mayor Shwed presented the Fourth Street & Delaware Avenue Update. Town Manager Smith advised at last months meeting the Mayor & Council raised two questions regarding the traffic street change on Fourth Street and Delaware Avenue. The first question raised was contacting the Laurel School District regarding the proposal of the street change. Town Manager Smith advised the school district had no objection with the proposed traffic patterns. The second question was the proposal of installing a left turn signal arrow on the traffic light coming west off Rt. 24 Town Manager Smith stated both streets are state maintained, and Del-DOT requires the town to conduct a traffic study. She explained Del-DOT will not complete the traffic study and the town would be responsible in contacting someone to complete the traffic study. The study must be completed during various time periods and submitted to Del-DOT. She noted the traffic study completion doesn't guarantee Del-DOT approval. New traffic signs must also be approved by Del-DOT. Town Manager Smith advised she will look into the cost of this project and present to Mayor & Council.

Mayor Shwed presented the Central Avenue Name Change Update. Town Manager Smith advised Sussex County 911 Address will not support the name change of Central Avenue due to the number of homes and businesses residing on Central Avenue. Town Manager Smith stated she has reached out to the Calio Family requesting a remembrance sign placed below on Lansing Avenue where Mr. Calio resided for numerous years. Mayor & Council were in agreement to move forward with the remembrance sign below Lansing Avenue.

Mayor Shwed presented the Welcome Signs Update. Town Manager Smith advised Mayor & Council approved the installation of two Rt. 13 Highway Welcome to Laurel Signs in the Fall of 2021. She advised the sign application has been submitted to Del-DOT and it's currently in the review process.

Mayor Shwed presented Resolution 2022-1 USDA Loan #3 Refinance. Mayor Shwed stated approving the issuance of a general obligation bond, series 2022-A-RUS to the United State Department of Agriculture rural utilities service, as registered owner, to refund the 2014-RUS Bond, proceeds of which were used to refinance two existing loans and finance the construction of water and sewer extensions along U.S. Route 13, and to finance additional construction;

determining that the bond will be sold by private sale and authorizing the execution of loan documents; pledging the full faith, credit and taxing power of the town for the bond, and authorizing other necessary action. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept Resolution 2022-1. Councilman Holden seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with President of Council Calio absent.

Mayor Shwed presented Resolution 2022-2 USDA Loan #5 Refinance. Mayor Shwed stated approving the issuance of a general obligation bond, series 2022B-RUS to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural utilities service, as registered owner, to refund the 2018A-RUS bond, proceeds of which were used to refinance an interim loan which financed the construction of water and sewer extensions along U.S. Route 13, extending them northward from U.S. Route 9 to Discountland Road in order to enable additional properties along U.S. Route 13 to tie into the water and sewer lines and to finance additional construction; determining that the bond will be sold by private sale and authorizing the execution of loan documents; pledging the full faith, credit and taxing power of the town for the bond; and authorizing other necessary action. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept 2022-2. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with President of Council Calio absent.

Mayor Shwed presented the Bid Award Green Infrastructure Dunbar. Town Manager Smith stated the town was awarded a \$100,000 Chesapeake Bay Grant in May of 2021 for the Green Infrastructure at Dunbar. The town went out to bid in February 2022 with no bids received and went out for re-bid in March 2022 and received a bid amount of \$153,955 from Chesapeake Turf, LLC. Town Manager Smith advised the Chesapeake Bay Grant will not grant an extension and they will allow the town to move forward with the project within the town's financial means. Town Manager Smith recommended the town to move forward with the project not exceeding the \$100,000 grant. Councilman Kellam inquired if the \$100,000 grant will include the project and engineering fees. Town Manager Smith stated yes. Councilwoman Martin inquired if the agreement between the engineers and the Chesapeake Turf, LLC were in writing. Town Manager Smith stated yes, the engineer has contacted Chesapeake Turf, LLC regarding the approved admen. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the Chesapeake Turf, LLC Bid pertaining the Green Infrastructure at Dunbar to not exceed the \$100,000 Chesapeake Bay Grant. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with President of Council Calio absent.

Mayor Shwed presented the Planning & Zoning Appointment. Mayor Shwed recommended the appointment of Mrs. Amy Handy to fill the one vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Committee. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept the appointment of Mrs. Amy Handy to the Planning & Zoning Committee. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with President of Council Calio absent.

Town Manager Smith stated the town was awarded the second round of ARPA Funds of \$1.2 million along with a matching grant of \$500,000 from Sussex County. Town Manager Smith recommends to complete a Hydraulic Study on West 6th Street and to re-line the sewer line on

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West 6th Street with the proposed funds. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish made a motion to move forward with Town Manager Smith researching the costs and utilizing the ARPA Funds and the Sussex County matching grant for the Hydraulic Study pertaining West 6th Street. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with President of Council Calio absent.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish thanked the town and everyone who sent her flowers.

Councilwoman Martin thanked the town members who supported her through her husbands passing.

Councilman Kellam thanked the town staff for their hard work.

Mayor Shwed thanked the town staff for striving to make our town one of the greatest small town.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary