

The Town of Laurel
Mayor and Council Meeting
May 20, 2019

A Mayor and Council Meeting was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers of the Laurel Town Hall Monday, May 20, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance: Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Randy Lee, Cheryl Martin, and Jonathan Kellam. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Chief Dan Wright, Alderman Kelly Pettyjohn, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Public Works Director James Foskey, Councilman Jeff Hill, and Councilwoman Robin Fisher-Cornish were absent.

Mayor Shwed advised Mr. Dana Bolden is in attendance tonight to present their Motorcycle Club Event. Mr. Bolden introduced the President, Mr. Devon Bolden from the Unbreakable Motorcycle Club. Mr. Bolden explained the purpose of the Unbreakable Motorcycle Club is to help under-privilege youth in our community. Mr. Bolden advised their organization has donated 200 book bags, donated 100 free coats, and has sponsored a basketball team. Mr. Bolden stated he purchased property in town and would like to convert the property into a community building. The club proposed to host 1 or 2 events each month on their property to help raise money for events. Mayor Shwed inquired where the property is located. Mr. Bolden advised the property is located on 406 West 6th Street. Mayor Shwed questioned if this type of use is permitted in this area. Director of Code Enforcement West advised yes. Mayor Shwed advised he is familiar with the organization and the good work they do. Mr. Bolden explained the organization is looking for an endorsement from the Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to endorse the Unbreakable Motorcycle Club Community Building located on 406 West 6th Street. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

The Mayor and Council Regular Minutes of May 6, 2019 were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 6, 2019. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

The Department Head Reports for April 2019 were presented for review and adoption. Director of Code Enforcement West advised three new permits for single family residences have been issued at Market Street and West Street. Director of Code Enforcement West explained a brief update regarding the Vacant Housing. He advised the vacant property owners have received at least three notices thus far. Town Manager Smith advised they're 46 vacant properties on the list. Mayor Shwed advised Public Works Director Foskey is not in attendance tonight. Mayor Shwed advised there is a lot of activity and the Septic Receiving Intake for April resulted in \$73,067.79 of income. Chief Wright thanked Public Works Director Foskey and his staff for helping with Laurel Ministry Council's Youth Gathering & Fishing Tournament on Saturday. Chief Wright presented the following officer promotions for Patrolman First Class to PFC Ashley Little, PFC David Marvel, and PFC Michael Guerrei. Chief Wright advised these officers are hard working, eager to learn, and are involved in the community. Mayor Shwed thanked the officers for their

dedication and service towards our town. Alderman Pettyjohn advised she had no additions or changes to her report. Finance Manager Introcaso advised she had no additions or changes to her report. Mayor Shwed noted the transfer tax is above forecast and the septic receiving is on track. Town Manager Smith advised Milford Housing has begun constructing the first house on Oak Street. Town Manager Smith advised the next Mayor and Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

Chief Wright gave a Power Point presentation pertaining the Year End Report Statistics for 2018. Chief Wright gave a brief overview of the crime rate from 2017 to 2018. Chief Wright explained the LPD assisted different agencies 95 times in 2017 and 94 times in 2018. Chief Wright explained the department spends 14.7% in Little Creek, 5.2% in Holly Brook, 3.9% in Carvel Gardens, and 1.4% in Wexford Village. This is 25.2% of LPD activity. Chief Wright played a video regarding an officer in a high-speed pursuit, which led to six masked suspects fleeing on foot when the vehicle crashed, resulted in three subjects obtained, and two loaded handguns retrieved the next morning. Ms. Betty Cassidy, resident of 9th Street, inquired what the community could do to help reduce crime. Chief Wright advised contact the Laurel Police Department or contact 911 if something doesn't look familiar. Chief Wright advised majority of the crime rate went down. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the Year End Report Statistics for 2018. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Mayor Shwed presented the 2nd and Final Reading of Ordinance 2019-2. Mayor Shwed stated an ordinance proposing that the town annex certain territory contiguous to the present easterly limits of the Town of Laurel owned by David & Donella Hudson, located at 10811 Kurtz Drive, Tax Map No. 2-32/12.05/28.00. To amend the zoning map and zoning ordinance of the Town of Laurel to include said property in a Commercial Business Use (C-B) District. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the 2nd and Final Reading of Ordinance 2019-2. Councilman Lee seconded the vote. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Councilman Lee: The residents approached the town and would accept anybody who's willing to become part of the town.

Councilwoman Martin: Will be an asset to the town.

Mayor Shwed: it conforms to our Comprehensive Plan for our short-term growth plan.

President of Council Calio: concur with the following statements from the Mayor & Council.

Councilman Kellam: concur with the following statements from the Mayor & Council.

Mayor Shwed presented the 2nd and Final Reading of Ordinance 2019-3. Mayor Shwed stated an ordinance proposing that the town annex certain territory contiguous to the present south easterly limits of the Town of Laurel owned by Rehoboth Temple of Praise, located at 31824 & 31836 Gordy Road, Tax Map No.'s 3-32/1.11/78.00 & 79. To amend the zoning map and zoning ordinance of the Town of Laurel to include said property in a Residential Use (R-1) District.

Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept the 2nd and Final Reading of Ordinance 2019-3. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Councilman Kellam: it conforms to our Comprehensive Plan for our short-term growth plan.

President of Council Calio: concur with the following statements from the Mayor & Council.

Mayor Shwed: concur with the following statements from the Mayor & Council.

Councilwoman Martin: concur with the following statements from the Mayor & Council.

Councilman Lee: the resident asked to become a part of the town and we will bring them in.

Mayor Shwed presented Resolution 2019-7, a resolution recommending to the appointment for an Alderman for the Town of Laurel. Mayor Shwed stated Section 19(a) of the Town of Laurel's Charter provides for the appointment of an Alderman to interpret and enforce the Charter of the Town of Laurel and the ordinance which duly enacted by the Town Council of the Town of Laurel. Under 10 Del. C. Section 1901, mandates that all judges, regardless of whether they sit on a state or local court, shall be appointment by the Governor and confirmed by the majority of the Senate. A Resolution passed by the Town Council at its Regular meeting held on May 20, 2019, at which a quorum was present and voting throughout and that the same is still in full force and effect. Town Manager Smith explained the state law stipulates the limit, which is 4 years. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept Resolution 2019-7. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent. Mayor Shwed advised Alderman Pettyjohn has done a great job for the town.

Councilman Lee advised the Strawberry Festival and the Laurel Ministry Council Youth Gathering & Fishing Tournament were held this past weekend.

Mayor Shwed advised a Grand Opening was held at Paul Laurence Dunbar regarding the Telamon Corporation/Head Start Program from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The program has 57 new students.

Councilman Kellam thanked all the volunteers who helped with the Strawberry Festival.

Mayor Shwed proposed the next scheduled Mayor and Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the proposed scheduled Mayor and Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Mayor Shwed advised a flier was mailed to the Mayor and Council regarding the Town of Laurel becoming a Monarch City USA Organization. President of Council Calio made a motion that the Town of Laurel becomes a part of the Monarch City USA Organization. Councilman Kellam

seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Ms. Ann Davis, resident of Pine Street, inquired if the officers will be seen in residences as described in the newsletter. Chief Wright advised the officers are in the community every day and each day there is a Holly Brook Patrol, Little Creek Patrol, and a Carvel Gardens Patrol.

Mr. Rick McVey, resident of Central Avenue, inquired if the FY 2020 Budget will be presented on June 4, 2019. Town Manager Smith advised the budget will be presented at the first meeting on June 4, 2019 and the budget will be voted on at the second meeting on June 17, 2019. Town Manager Smith advised the budget will be made available on May 21, 2019.

Ms. Betty Cassidy, resident of 9th Street, advised she appreciates the transparency with the town and thanked Mayor and Council for being welcoming.

Councilman Lee made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss contractual matters. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Regular Session Recessed at 7:56 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 8:11 p.m.

With there being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, with Councilman Hill and Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish absent.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary