

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting
June 16, 2025

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held at Laurel Town Hall in the Mayor & Council Chambers on Monday, June 16, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor Carlos Oliveras, President of Council Chris Calio, RogJenea Fisher, 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 via ZOOM. It was noted there was one Mayor & Council vacancy.

Chief Kracyla presented a police promotion ceremony for the promotion of Cpl. LaShawn Handy.

Mayor Oliveras stated Mr. Don D'Aquila is in attendance to pertaining business license fees. Mr. Don D'Aquila thanked the town for moving forward and looking into his request regarding business licenses.

Mr. D'Aquila thanked Town Manager Smith and Public Works Director Foskey for their quick response pertaining to a water meter installation at one of his properties today.

Mayor Oliveras stated Mrs. Kathleen Baker, resident of 214 Oak Street is in attendance pertaining to a handicap parking request. Mrs. Baker stated she is requesting a handicap parking space due to her daughter needing one. Town Manager Smith stated she has received Mrs. Bakers request letter. She stated she will need to work with Public Works Director Foskey and Chief Kracyla to provide a recommendation to Mayor & Council at next month's meeting.

The Mayor & Council Regular and Closed Session Minutes of May 19, 2025, and the Public Hearing Minutes of June 2, 2025, were presented for review. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the regular and closed session minutes of May 19, 2025, and the Public Hearing Minutes of June 2, 2025. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

The May 2025 Department Head Reports were presented for review.

- Director of Public Works Director stated he had no additions to his report. Mayor Oliveras thanked Public Works Director Foskey's staff for their hard work.
- Director of Code Enforcement West stated he had no additions to his report.
- Judge Ruffin stated she had no additions to his report.
- Finance Manager Cassimore stated she had no additions to her report. Mayor Oliveras thanked Finance Manager Cassimore for the donation of the fishing rods for this month's fishing tournament.

Mayor & Council Meeting

June 16, 2025

Page. 2

- Chief Kracyla stated on June 6, 2025, he, Mayor Oliveras, and Governor Meyer attended an Operation West Laurel Meeting pertaining to end violence in the town. He stated on June 7, 2025, he attended the Ballin For God Tournament held on Webb Avenue. He stated he on June 12, 2025, he met with Senator Coons staff pertaining gang violence issues within town.
- Town Manager Smith stated the town staff is currently preparing for this year's 4th of July Celebration which will be held on Friday, July 4, 2025, along Front Street. The town is currently still accepting 4th of July Parade applications. This year's festivities include vendors, a car show, a parade, two live bands, and a firework display.

President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the May Department Head Reports as presented. Councilman Lodato seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Mayor Oliveras presented an update pertaining Mr. Harley Watts, resident of 101 Laurel Court, Code Violation. Town Manager Smith stated the issue has been resolved.

Mayor Oliveras presented the Speed Bump Request Update. Town Manager Smith stated she attached a memo to Mayor & Council for such a request for their review. She advised she has received three more speed bump requests including Mr. Bolden's request to include an additional speed bump on West 7th Street. She stated she and Public Works Director Foskey, and Chief Kracyla will provide a recommendation to Mayor & Council on how to evaluate and how to proceed prior to accepting or denying any request. President of Council Calio made a motion to table the Speed Bump Request until next month. Councilman Lodato seconded the motion. Councilman Kellam inquired where Mr. Holden wanted the additional speed bump located on West 7th Street. Town Manager Smith stated he wanted one in between the two speed bumps on 7th/Elm Street and 7th/Belle Avenue. Town Manager Smith stated she has received requests for 8th Street, Howard Street, and Center Street. Please note the town has not received a formal request pertaining speed bumps on Center Street. Mayor Oliveras stated residents have expressed concern on 4th Street. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Mayor Oliveras presented the FY 2026 Budget. Town Manager Smith stated a public hearing was held on Monday, June 2, 2025, where a presentation of the FY 2026 Budget was presented to residents. She advised copies of the FY 2026 Budget were made available at Laurel Town Hall or online. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept the FY 2026 Budget as presented. Councilman Lodato seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Mayor Oliveras presented Resolution 2025-3 FY 2026 Established Fee Adjustments. Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept Resolution 2025-3. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Mayor Oliveras presented Resolution 2025 FY 2026 Establishment of New Fees. Councilman Lodato made a motion to accept Resolution 2025-4. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Town Manager Smith advised the town has been receiving complaints about goats and that she is working with the attorney on a draft ordinance that will be listed on next month's agenda.

Councilman Holden inquired if benches could be placed along the zipline at Tidewater Park. Public Works Director Foskey stated there may be old benches at the Wastewater Plant that the LRC utilized at Venables Park that could be installed.

Councilman Kellam thanked the town staff for their hard work.

Councilman Kellam thanked Officer Handy for his hard work and that the students speak very highly of him.

Councilman Kellam stated the Laurel Public Library's Block Party was a well-attended event.

President of Calio stated the Laurel Public Library's Block Party was a well put together event.

Councilman Lodato stated on Sunday, June 22, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the Sons of Thunder will be performing at Connection Church.

Councilman Lodato recommended to establish a committee to help determine what businesses within the town do not have a business license. He stated he traveled on one road and there were 7 to 8 business names not listed on the list Mr. D'Aquila provided to Mayor & Council.

Councilwoman Fisher thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Mayor Olivers thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and thanked everyone who has given him guidance throughout this transition.

Mr. William Macklin, resident of 508 4th Street, stated his neighbor has been burning trash for the last two years and he expressed his frustrations with the Code Enforcement.

Mr. Macklin, resident of 508 4th Street, expressed his concern regarding speeding on 4th Street.

Mr. Macklin, resident of 508 4th Street, inquired if the town would consider a tax reduction for seniors.

Mr. Nick Little, resident of 910 West Street, stated a Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2025, at Janosik Park from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Little, resident of 910 West Street, stated the next Open Mic Night will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at Roger C. Fisher Park.

Mr. Little, resident of 910 West Street, inquired if events can be held at the Dunbar Gymnasium.

Town Manager Smith stated the town only allows youth activities and community events to be held at the Dunbar Gym. An application must be submitted for the utilization of the gym, and the town charges a rate of \$20.00 an hour. She stated Cheer Starz, Laurel Youth Sports, and the Laurel Wrestling Club have been utilizing the gym.

Councilman Lodato inquired if the website pertaining the Laurel Planning & Zoning Meeting Minutes and the Board of Adjustment Members can be updated. Town Manager Smith stated Planning & Zoning meet on an as needed basis and past minutes are approved when a meeting is held. She advised the website does not include a Board of Adjustment Member page as they meet on an as needed basis.

Mr. Macklin, resident of 508 4th Street, inquired if Department Head Reports are available for the public. Town Manager Smith stated they're available the night of the meeting for resident's review.

Councilman Lodato made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss contractual and legal matters. Councilman Holden seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Regular Session Recessed at 7:50 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

With there being no further business, Councilman Lodato made a motion to adjourn the meeting. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary