

The Town of Laurel
Mayor and Council Meeting
July 15, 2019

A Mayor and Council Meeting was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers of the Laurel Town Hall, July 15, 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, Jeff Hill, Jonathan Kellam, and Robin Fisher-Cornish. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey, Alderman Kelly Pettyjohn, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Chief Dan Wright was absent.

Mayor Shwed acknowledged Senator Brian Pettyjohn for attending tonight's Mayor and Council Meeting.

Mayor Shwed performed a Swearing in Ceremony of Alderman Pettyjohn. Mayor Shwed advised Alderman Pettyjohn will be reappointed for 4 years and her term will expire on July 15, 2023. Mayor Shwed administered the Oath to Alderman Pettyjohn. Mayor Shwed stated he is pleased with how the court has been running under Alderman Pettyjohn's term and we now the court is in good hands. Alderman Pettyjohn advised she has a great team and thanked everybody for their support.

The Mayor and Council Regular Session Minutes of June 17, 2019 were presented for review and adoption. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 17, 2019. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Kellam abstaining.

The Department Head Reports for June 2019 were presented for review and adoption. Director of Code Enforcement West advised he had no additions to his report. Mayor Shwed inquired when Burger King will be opening. Director of Code Enforcement West advised they're pushing the General Contractor to be open by end of July, but most likely will be open in the beginning of August. Public Works Director Foskey advised he had no additions to his report. Mayor Shwed inquired if the 937,681.40 of Septic Receiving in June included Proximity Malt. Public Works Director Foskey advised no; Proximity Malt hasn't been dumping with the town for the past couple of months. Mayor Shwed congratulated public works staff for handling the 4th of July. Alderman Pettyjohn advised she had one correction on her report. She explained the Monthly Collection Report Total was corrected, so it matched the total column in the Monthly Distribution Report. Finance Manager Introcaso advised her report is a Preliminary End of Year Report and next months report will be more detailed. She advised the high lines include the transfer tax and septic receiving. Town Manager Smith advised all 4th of July expenses have been paid besides the 5k and we will have a surplus of money for next years event. She thanked Operations Manager Oliphant for sending 4th of July donation letters, Police Department & Public Works staff for helping on the 4th, and the office ladies who answered phone calls pertaining the 4th. Town Manager Smith advised we have received an annexation request. The property is located on the Woodland Ferry Road and is zoned commercial. The Municipal Plan of Service has been completed. Mayor Shwed inquired about the Nature Trail along Tidewater Park. Town Manager Smith advised we received a quote from Soil Conservation and the quote is \$10,000 higher than the money we received. Town

Manager Smith advised she is hoping to transfer extra money from another project to complete the trail. Town Manager Smith advised the town was awarded a \$2,500 grant to improve the Band Stand. Councilman Hill made a motion to accept the Department Head Reports for June 2019 as presented. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Town Manager Smith advised the town has received the Assessment List from Sussex County for annual Real Estate Taxes and assessments for properties located within the Municipal Boundaries. Town Manager Smith advised Finance Manager Introcaso has copies pertaining the list. Once the list is approved the town may hold a Court of Appeals in August. She advised Finance Manager Introcaso staff has reviewed the list. Town Manager Smith recommends Mayor and Council to approve the Sussex County 1974 Assessment List. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the Sussex County 1974 Assessment List. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Councilman Lee advised town employees did an outstanding job of getting the town ready for the 4th of July. He also congratulated the Laurel Little League for advancing to another tournament.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish advised the 4th of July Celebration was wonderful and the Watercolor Bus Painting was well attended.

Mayor Shwed advised the Laurel Little League was in the News Journal for advancing to another tournament. Mayor Shwed complimented everybody who helped with the Watercolor Bus Painting and the 4th of July.

Councilman Kellam advised he was out of town on the 4th but he heard positive comments about the 4th and the fireworks. He advised the Watercolor Bus Painting was successful.

Councilman Hill congratulated Alderman Pettyjohn for her reappointment and has done a great job. He congratulated town staff regarding the 4th of July.

Ms. Betty Cassidy, resident of 9th Street, inquired if the Sussex County Assessment was made available to residents. Town Manager Smith advised yes, we have copies available at Town Hall or copies are available on Sussex County's website.

Ms. Betty Cassidy, resident of 9th Street advised her water/sewer bill has increased over the summer and inquired if there was an efficiency to reduce the cost. Mayor Shwed advised some residents have installed an irrigation meter.

Mr. Jim Waddell, resident of Mill Pond, advised he has moved back to Laurel from Florida and has been attending Mayor and Council Meetings ever since 1995 and 1996. He advised he enjoys the community events the town holds. Mayor Shwed welcomed Mr. Waddell back to town.

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Councilwoman Martin made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss contractual matters. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Regular Session Recessed at 7:31 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

With there being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary