

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

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

The Mayor & Council Regular Session Minutes of June 21, 2022, were presented for review and adoption. Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept the regular session minutes of June 21, 2022. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

The June 2022 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 he had no additions to his report.
- Chief Wright stated he had no additions to his report. Mayor Shwed acknowledged the police department for their handling of various department activity and their workload. A resident of Pine Street inquired if a two-way stop at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Pine Street could help reduce speeding vehicles. Chief Wright advised Pine Street is a difficult street due to it being one -way and by allowing on-street parking. He stated he could assign an officer on Pine Street. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish inquired if there is anything that the community could do to help minimize the youth gang violence in town. Chief Wright stated the biggest initiative is if you see something call 911 and report. Chief Wright advised he would reach out to Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish to discuss topic further.
- Alderman Oliphant stated she had no additions to her report.
- Finance Manager Introcaso stated she had no additions to her report.
- Town Manager Smith stated the town submitted and updated their MS4 Comments that were based off previous comments in the past. The town secured grant funding from the Soil Conservation to help cover the associated costs pertaining the MS4. Town Manager Smith stated the town has formally received an email notification of \$806,000 of Bond Bill Funding for the conversion of the police department at Dunbar. Town Manager Smith stated they're continuing to work with the Railroad Company pertaining the walkway. She explained a safety cover must be installed and it can be difficult to install due to slopping and the town may need to come up with a Plan B for the walkway. Town Manager Smith advised she will continue to work with the Railroad Company and keep Mayor & Council updated with the project.

President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the June 2022 Department Head Reports. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Town Manager Smith presented a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Update. She advised she did a comparison and a breakdown from 2022's 4<sup>th</sup> of July and 2019's 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Town Manager Smith stated the town received a total donation of \$23,147 this year, which includes the town's donation of \$5,000. The town accrued \$25,233.02 in expenses with a loss of \$3,581.02 this year with the town covering the outstanding expenses totaling of \$8,581.02 including the fireworks. Town Manager Smith stated in 2019 the town received a total donation of \$23,028, which includes the town's donation of \$5,000. The town accrued \$22,690.44 with a loss of \$337.56 in 2019 with the town covering the outstanding expenses, which was covered by the remaining funds in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July account from the previous year. Town Manager Smith listed the differences of each year of 2019 and 2022. She advised survey's for both vendors and parade applicants were mailed out. Vendor applicants were happy and satisfied with their sales and crowds mostly appeared between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Town Manager Smith stated she heard compliments of the firework display and booked the same company for next year. Town Manager Smith advised she spoke with the town staff on how to make the event better and the town wants to continue to hold the event and to help attract more people.

Mayor Shwed presented the Development Updates. Town Manager Smith gave an update of the 410 single-family homes, condominiums, and duplex development on Discountland Road. She explained P&Z recommended approval for Mayor & Council, which Mayor & Council granted approval in Fall of 2021. They're currently evaluating the speed limit on Discountland Road as 50 mph as there is no current speed limit as of now. Town Manager Smith stated the town is recommending a 35-mph speed limit posted as it will be residential. Town Manager Smith stated a public hearing will be held in August pertaining an LPD-OD zoning of 18 acres with 180 apartments with commercial pads located at Doug Whaley's property behind the Exxon on U.S. Route 13. Town Manager Smith stated the storage units behind Aframe Liquors are looking to expand and are requesting an annexation into town. Town Manager Smith advised she and Director of Code Enforcement West are meeting with a developer this week pertaining workforce housing with the addition to include single-family homes. Town Manager Smith stated Del-Dot utilizes a list pertaining projects and the town submitted their Highway Sign Request in March 2022.

Mayor Shwed presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2022-2 Chapter 12 Code of Conduct. Town Manager Smith stated she recommends Mayor & Council to hold off on the amendment of Ordinance 2022-2 as the attorney is still reviewing the ordinance. Town Manager Smith stated she has been reviewing vagrancy laws in other states and they've been overturned due to discrimination of homelessness.

Mayor Shwed presented the Adoption of Sussex County Tax Assessment List. Town Manager Smith stated Mayor & Council must adopt the Sussex County Tax Assessment List in order to

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hold the Court of Appeals in August. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the Sussex County Tax Assessment List. Councilman Holden seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Town Manager Smith stated the town has received \$105,000 from Delaware State Housing Authority for the Community Development Block Grant for a total of 6 house rehabilitations with 22 homes on the waiting list as of June 2022.

Councilman Kellam thanked the town staff for their hard work.

Mayor Shwed stated the town has a lot of positive changes coming to our town which can help the towns financial wealth.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Mayor

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President of Council

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Town Manager

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Recording Secretary