

The Town of Laurel  
Mayor & Council Public Hearing  
November 15, 2021

A Mayor & Council Public Hearing Meeting was held in the Mayor & Council Chambers at the Laurel Hall, on Monday, November 15, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Donald Holden, Randy Lee via teleconference, Cheryl Martin via teleconference, and Jonathan Kellam via teleconference. Also, in attendance were Director of Code Enforcement Ken West, Public Works Director James Foskey, Alderman Taylor Oliphant, Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Councilwoman Robin Fisher-Cornish, Chief Dan Wright, and Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant were absent.

Mayor Shwed explained the purpose of the Public Hearing is to listen to the presentation regarding the Sussex County Community Development Block Grant Funding. Mr. Mike Jones, the Rehab Coordinator, Mr. Brandon Hamilton, and Ms. Tyesha Dupont were in attendance. Mr. Jones explained the funding is funded by the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) where both Kent and Sussex County apply for the funding. The municipalities apply for the CDBG Funding to help restore and rehabilitate low-income housing. Mr. Jones advised there is a community waiting list and homeowners must meet the necessary requirements to qualify for the funding. Mr. Jones stated the purpose of holding a public hearing is for him to explain the program to Mayor and Council and to answer any questions pertaining the funding from Mayor & Council and citizens. He stated the grant funding goes towards housing rehabilitation, sewage hook-ups, and demolition projects. In order to receive funding a recipient must below an 80% of local median income, which a household for two must have a median income below \$42,100 and a household for four must have a median income below \$60,100. Mr. Jones advised the participant must be a resident of their home, owner-occupied, with their house being insured, and they must be update on both town and county taxes. He explained there is a 15-year lien on the property under \$15,000 and anything over \$15,000 there is a 10-year lien. Mr. Jones stated the town has received \$472,000 in the past five years and the town has applied for \$770,000 in the last five years. Mr. Jones advised they're currently 13 households on the waiting list. Mr. Jones inquired if Mayor & Council or residents had any questions or comments regarding the grant funding.

With there being no further questions or comments, Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Jones for his presentation.

The public hearing adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Mayor Shwed opened the second public hearing at 7:08 p.m. regarding the Laurel Fire Department Loan. Mayor Shwed explained the fire department is applying for a loan, in which the town owns the property where the fire department resides. Town Manager Smith stated the fire department is re-financing a loan, in which the property is owned by the town and a public hearing must held following a resolution. The town will not have any financial obligation due to the fire department signing off on the loan. Town Manager Smith advised the town

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solicitor recommended to add additional wording to the resolution to agree if the fire department defaults on the loan it must remain only as a fire department.

With there being no further questions or comments, Mayor Shwed closed the public hearing.

The public hearing adjourned at 7:10 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