

The Town of Laurel  
Mayor & Council Public Hearing  
November 18, 2024

A Mayor & Council Public Hearing was held at Laurel Town Hall in the Mayor & Council Chambers on Monday, November 18, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Carlos Oliveras, 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. It was noted that Councilwoman Robin Fisher-Cornish was absent.

Mayor Shwed stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to listen to the presentation regarding the Sussex County Community Development Block Grant Funding. Mr. Mike Jones from the Sussex Community Development Office were in attendance. Mr. Jones explained the funding is funded by the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) where both Kent and Sussex County competitively apply for the funding. The purpose of the CDBG Funding is to assist households on low to moderate income levels for housing projects. Mr. Jones explained a public hearing must be held to allow him to explain the funding and to give any updates to the Mayor & Council and to town citizens. The money goes towards housing rehabilitation projects including roofs, windows, doors, electric, and heating etc. Mr. Jones stated a 5-year lean is placed on the property when the project is under \$15,000 and a 10-year lean is placed on the property when the project is over \$15,000. In the last 5 years the town has received \$452,000 and they're currently 20 houses on the waiting list. Mr. Jones inquired if Mayor & Council or citizens had any questions pertaining the funding.

Pastor Mike Webster inquired if property owners outside town limits are eligible for funding. Mr. Jones stated yes, there is money allocated for properties that are outside town limits.

Councilman Lodato inquired if the guidelines are available on the county's website. Mr. Jones stated when an interested applicant wishes to apply the county reviews the guidelines with them.

Mrs. Ann Davis, resident of Pine Street, inquired if an applicant can be on the waiting list if the regulations aren't compliant. Mr. Jones advised applicants may stay on the waiting list if regulations aren't current.

With there being no further questions or comments, Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Jones for his presentation and Mayor Shwed closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing Adjourned at 7:17 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