

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Public Hearing
November 20, 2023

A Mayor & Council Public Hearing was held at Laurel Town Hall in the Mayor & Council Chambers on Monday, November 20, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor John Shwed, President of Council Chris Calio, Council Members Carlos Oliveras, Robin Fisher-Cornish 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, Judge Ruffin, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Councilwoman Cheryl Martin 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 4 years the town has received \$452,000 and they're currently 18 houses on the waiting list. Mr. Jones inquired if Mayor & Council or citizens had any questions pertaining the funding.

Mayor Shwed inquired how residents can apply for the fundings. Mr. Jones stated applications are available at Laurel Town Hall or at the Sussex County office.

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 7:11 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary