

The Town of Laurel  
Public Hearing Minutes  
June 6, 2022

A Mayor & Council Public Hearing was held in the Mayor & Council Chambers at the Laurel Town Hall on Monday, June 6, 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 via ZOOM, Robin Fisher-Cornish via ZOOM, Cheryl Martin via ZOOM, and Donald Holden. Also in attendance were Finance Manager Mary Introcaso, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Councilman Jonathan Kellam was absent.

Mayor Shwed stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear the presentation of the proposed FY 2023 Budget. The proposed FY 2023 Budget was posted on the town website for citizens review and citizens were invited tonight to ask any questions regarding the proposed FY 2023 Budget. Town Manager Smith stated she is pleased to present a budget that contains no increases to any service fees. Town Manager Smith presented the highlights of the FY 2023 Budget. Town Manager Smith advised building construction of new homes continues with working with Habitat for Humanity. The town has approved the Preliminary Site Plans for the construction of a 400-unit residential development and the town has received plans for a mixed-use development on 18 acres of land. The town is also continuing to work with a commercial developer for the construction of a commercial business to be located on U.S. Route 13. Town Manager Smith stated the Delaware Courts have ruled that Sussex County must complete a re-assessment of all properties. The timeline for this is to be completed by 2024, but mostly likely it will be completed in 2025, according to the Sussex County Administrator. Town Manager Smith highlighted on the revenues and the expenditures of the budgets. The revenues include: a transfer tax revenue of \$130,000, delinquent taxes for tax sales is budgeted at \$260,000, \$1.2 million in ARPA Funds and a \$500,000 Sussex County Grant to help alleviate expenditures of maintenance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The expenditures include: a 5% increase in health insurance and a continued line item for the MS4 expense. Town Manager Smith stated the formal approval of the proposed FY 2023 Budget will be presented at Tuesday's, June 21, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting. Mayor Shwed inquired if the public had any questions pertaining the proposed FY 2023 Budget.

Mrs. Cheri Clark, resident of East Sixth Street, inquired if delinquent taxes were something that the town tries to re-coop. Town Manager Smith advised yes, delinquent taxes are overdue taxes that have not been paid and the town will submit paperwork to the towns attorney in order to go to a sheriff sale to collect the fees owed to the town.

Mrs. Cheri Clark, resident of East Sixth Street, inquired about the process of sludge removal at the Wastewater Treatment Plan. Town Manager Smith advised the town utilizes a company who pumps and hauls the sludge to a landfill in Pennsylvania. Town Manager Smith advised the WWTP gets inspected by DNREC yearly.

With there being no further questions or comments, Mayor Shwed closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Public Hearing Adjourned at 7:16 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