

THE TOWN OF LAUREL
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
Laurel Town Hall
201 Mechanic Street
July 20, 2026
7:00 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Mrs. Cheryl Barber & Dr. Harrison RE: Hopes Helping Hands Presentation
4. Mr. Brandon Tull RE: FY 2024 Audit
5. Minutes –June 15, 2026
6. Department Head Reports June 2026
7. Old Business
 - Decision of Request of Mrs. Sharon Ardisana from Mayor & Council June 15, 2026 – Town Manager Smith
8. New Business
 - Communication Committee Information Pamphlet – Councilman Lodato
 - Adoption of Sussex County Tax Assessment List – Town Manager Smith
 - Adoption of FY2024 Audit – Town Manager Smith
 - Upcoming Community Events – Town Manager Smith
9. Mayor and Council Comments
10. Citizens Comments
11. Closed Session RE: Personnel Matters & Legal Matters
12. Adjourn

Note to the Public: In accordance with 29 Del. C. § 1004 (e) (2), this agenda was posted on July 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., at the time it was prepared by the Town Manager and at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting. This agenda is subject to change to include the additional items including Executive/Closed Session or the deletion of items including Executive/Closed Session, which arise at the time of the meeting. Agenda items listed may be considered out of sequence.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88622616230?pwd=KCvNhNu3agHRVscgwKwW2O7bTcbhQZ.1>

Meeting ID: 886 2261 6230

Passcode: 124720

AGENDA AMENDED ON FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026, AT 9:31 A.M. TO INCLUDE THE ADOPTION OF THE FY2024 AUDIT AS IT WAS INADVERTENTLY LEFT OFF.

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2026

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held at Laurel Town Hall in the Mayor & Council Chambers on Monday, June 15, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor Carlos Oliveras, President of Council Chris Calio, RogJenea Fisher, George Lodato, Jonathan Kellam, and Donald Holden. Also, in attendance were Public Works Director James Foskey, Director of Code Enforcement Dan Hogg, Chief Robert Kracyla, Finance Manager Melissa Naselli, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted there was one vacancy on Mayor & Council.

Mayor Oliveras presented a Recognition Ceremony celebrating Town Manager Jamie Smith's milestone of "30 Years of Service." The following tributes were presented to Town Manager Smith on behalf of her service a tribute by former Mayor Shwed, a state tribute by Senator Richardson, and a House of Representative tribute by Representative Dukes. Town Manager Smith thanked all her town staff, residents, and family members who attended the ceremony.

Mayor Oliveras stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to listen to the presentation regarding the Sussex County Community Development Block Grant Funding. Mr. Brandon Hamilton from the Sussex Community Development Office was in attendance. The funding comes from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, (HUD), and is allocated to Sussex and Kent County and the Delaware State Housing Authority. This grant year, there's approximately \$3 million that will be awarded to Kent and Sussex counties on a competitive basis. The purpose of the CDBG Funding is to assist households on low to moderate income levels for housing projects. Mr. Hamilton explained a public hearing must be held to allow an opportunity explain the funding and to give any updates to the Mayor & Council and to town citizens. He stated eligible activities include housing rehabilitation, sewer and water hookups, demolition, and infrastructure projects. The projects will benefit persons at low and lower income, as defined as households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income for Sussex County set by HUD. He stated the maximum incomes for the 2026 Fiscal year pertaining the following households include: are a single person household max income \$57,802, a two-person household max income will be \$66,050 and a four-person household would be \$82,500. The majority of funding is used for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation. Housing rehabs include roofing, doors, windows, electrical and plumbing upgrades, as well as energy upgrades. The home must be owner-occupied and it must be the owner's primary residence. The home must be insured, and their county taxes and utilities must be current. When a rehab project occurs a lien is required, to put on the property in order to protect the funding for any work less than \$5,000 is no lien, for any work between \$5,000 to \$15,000 is a five-year lien, and for any work between \$15,000 to \$40,000 is a 10-year lien. In the last 3 years the town has received \$390,000, which assisted 26 households. There are currently 18 houses on the waiting list. He stated applications are available either at their office or online at Sussex County website. He stated residents who are in immediate need of a small window or floor unit air conditioners to contact them at 302-855-7777. Mr. Hamilton inquired if Mayor & Council or citizens had any questions pertaining the funding.

Chief Kracyla presented the Police Officer Swearing-In Ceremony to Patrolman Gavin Manning.

Mayor Oliveras presented a Proclamation honoring Mrs. Joyce Sessom's, for her 30 years of education and social work within the community.

Town Manager Smith stated the duties of the Board of Assessment are to meet once a year to review the Assessment List provided by Sussex County. Once they review a copy of Sussex County's Assessment List, the Mayor & Council adopts the list in July, and a Court of Appeals is held in August. The Court of Appeals allows residents to appeal their town's tax assessment where all appeals go through Sussex County. Mayor Oliveras recommended for appointment Mrs. Ann Davis and Mr. Jeff Hill. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept the two new Board of Assessment Appointments for Mrs. Ann Davis and Mr. Jeff Hill. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

The Mayor & Council Regular and Closed Session Minutes of May 11, 2026, May 18, 2026, and June 1, 2026, were presented for review. Councilman Lodato stated the following amendments need to be corrected on May 18, 2026, meeting minutes as what was written in the minutes versus the audio recording. He advised per the audio recording he made a motion for Mayor & Council to investigate Mrs. Ardisana's concerns as it pertains to the vacant house ordinance and cost reporting and that they report back to the Mayor & Council and to the residents. He advised per the audio recording he made a motion for Mayor and Council to further investigate what revenue stream would be if the JP Court replaced the Alderman's Court. He stated he is not saying to replace the court but to investigate alternatives. Councilman Lodato stated per the audio you can clearly hear Councilman Kellam second the motion with no voices opposing until Mayor Oliveras asked for a count. After a pause, a mixed count was given with Councilman Kellam stating we should look into the facts and not speculation. Councilman Lodato also stated an additional amendment pertaining the motion of the Alderman Court should read Councilpersons President of Council Calio, Councilwoman Fisher, Councilman Holden, and Mayor Oliveras opposed instead of proposing. Councilman Lodato stated to ensure the record is clear he proposed Mayor & Council to reconsider these two separate motions. President of Council Calio stated the proposed motions can be re-considered tonight. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the May 11, 2026, May 18, 2026, and the June 1, 2026, as presented with the proposed amendments provided above pertaining to the May 18, 2026. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

The May 2026 Department Head Reports were presented for review.

- Public Works Director Foskey stated the Transite Main Replacement on 8th Street is completed. The N. Poplar Water Tower is offline this week due to cleaning and maintenance and well inspections at Rt. 13 were completed with a potential well cleaning needed.

- Director of Code Enforcement Hogg stated there were 2 vehicles written for expired/no tags, 15 permits totaling \$16,974.08, 2 new home permits, 23 work orders for grass, 4 stop work orders, and 96 new cases, including 53 grass and 10 housing violations.
- Judge Mirro stated he had no additions or changes to his report. He congratulated Town Manager Smith on her milestone of 30 Years of Service.
- Finance Manager Naselli stated the town was without internet or phone service today with cash or check payments still being accepted. She congratulated Town Manager Smith on her milestone of 30 Years of Service.
- Chief Kracyla stated the police department handled a total of 364 complaints/calls for service last month. He stated US Marshall, Jim Weldin visited the p.d. and went on a ride along with Cpl. Howard. They continue to meet with Severn Management Group over issues in Little Creek and Hollybrook. He advised they conducted CVSA or Voice Stress Analysis Operator interviews where two operators have been selected and will be attending training shortly. He attended a course pertaining to Drone Assessment and Response and he's looking to secure grant funding to purchase a drone. The Back the Blue Caravan stopped at the p.d. He stated Block Parties at Little Creek are occurring frequently and they have partnered with state agencies for enforcement.
- Town Manager Smith stated Wawa is scheduled to submit their Final Site Plan to P&Z in July. Their tentatively scheduled to break ground in September and October. She stated the Main Street Assessment was held on June 2, 2026, and June 3, 2026, where business owners, town officials, and residents were invited. The assessment will be provided in approximately six months. She stated the Delaware Historical Society will be hosting a Juneteenth Celebration at Jason Beach, Trap Pond State Park on Friday, June 19, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the May Department Head Reports as presented. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Mayor Oliveras presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026-2, Amending Chapter 69, Curfew. Town Manager Smith stated they're recommending amending Chapter 69 Section 2. Curfew for Juveniles to read 18 years old, Section 6. Enforcement Procedures, and Section 7. Violations and Penalties. She stated this ordinance will go into effect July 1, 2026. Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept the 2nd and Final Reading of Ordinance 2026-2. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Mayor Oliveras presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026-3, Amending Chapter 157, Utility Construction and Repair. Town Manager Smith stated this amendment to Chapter 157, General

Conditions, Section GC, Subsection 2, Permit, Fees, and notices. She advised this ordinance will go into effect June 16, 2026. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the 2nd and Final Reading of Ordinance 2026-3. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Mayor Oliveras presented the Public Participation Policy. Mayor Oliveras stated public comment shall be subject to the following procedures, which shall be administered by the Mayor, or in their absence, the presiding officer of the Town Council. Each speaker will be asked to provide their name and address on a sign-up sheet, which will be available at the podium. Each speaker shall come forward to the podium after being recognized and will be asked to identify themselves on record by providing their name and address. Each speaker will have 3 minutes to present their public comments. Time for each public comment will be kept by electronic clock and displayed within view of the podium. At the end of that time, the Mayor or the presiding officer of Council will inform the speaker their allotted time has expires. The total period available for public comment during a meeting may not exceed 30 minutes. The Mayor or the presiding officer of Council can authorize an extension of the public comment. Based on the number of requests for public comment the presiding officer of Council may grant a speaker, at a maximum, 2 additional minutes. Councilman Lodato made a motion for Mayor & Council to review the wording used within the policy and to allow more of an opportunity for Mayor & Council to discuss the policy. Councilman Lodato stated he is in support of having procedures that keep meetings orderly and productive. He is concerned with the overall tone of the document with the policy reading as a list of restrictions and enforcement mechanisms. Councilman Lodato proposes Mayor & Council to revise the language, so it portrays that public participation is valued and welcomed which will allow residents to feel that the town wants to hear from them rather than regulating them. Please find attached Councilman Lodato's proposed recommendations to Mayor & Council. (**ATTACH RECOMENDATIONS**). After a brief discussion, President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the Public Participation Policy as written. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 5-1, with Councilman Lodato opposing and with one vacancy.

Mayor Oliveras presented the Adoption FY2027 Budget. Town Manager Smith stated a public hearing pertaining the FY2027 Budget was held on Monday, June 1, 2026, at Laurel Town Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Copies of the FY2027 Budget were made available at Laurel Town Hall and online at www.townoflaurel.net. Councilman Lodato stated he would not be accepting the budget due to the following reasons:

(1.) The Need for Budget versus Actual Information:

Councilman Lodato stated they were not provided with prior year budget versus actual information. He advised this is needed to determine if the proposed figures are reasonable and supported by past financial performance.

(2.) Public Access to Budget Committee Meetings:

Councilman Lodato stated the Budget Committee Meetings were held without providing the public to attend. He advised the purpose of public notices is not only to comply with legal requirements but to ensure residents have the opportunity to ask questions, understand

the budget process, and to participate in meaningful decisions that affect the community. He stated Town Manager Smith posted the notice at Town Hall. He questioned why this posting was not posted on the town website just as other agenda meetings are and why the notice can't be posted in other highly visible public locations. Councilman Lodato stated if the town values public participation they should make every effort ensuring residents are aware of meetings that impact the towns finances and future.

(3.) Tracking and Classification of Revenue:

Councilman Lodato stated he is concerned that some of the budget information is not being clearly tracked in the system. He provided an example; such as, delinquent vacant property and code violations fee's are added to real estate tax bills as revenue rather than credited back to the appropriate department once the revenue is collected. He stated recording these amounts as real estate tax revenue does not provide a clear or accurate account of the type of revenue being collected.

President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the FY2027 Budget as presented. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 5-1, with Councilman Lodato opposing and with one vacancy.

Mayor Oliveras presented Resolution 2026-4 pertaining to the FY2027 Rates & Fee's. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept Resolution 2026-4. Councilman Lodato seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Town Manager Smith presented the Citizen Participation Certificate of Assurance in regards to the CDBG Application. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the Citizen Participation Certificate of Assurance. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Town Manager Smith presented Resolution 2026-5, for the CDBG Application. The resolution assumes the Town of Laurel recognizes the importance of fair housing for the citizens of Laurel and where the Town of Laurel Supports the goals of the Federal Fair Housing. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept Resolution 2026-5. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Town Manager Smith presented Resolution 2026-6 endorsing the project to be submitted to the Delaware State Housing Authority for funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development authorizing Todd F. Lawson, Sussex County Administrator, to submit application for CDBG Funding. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept Resolution 2026-6. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

Town Manager Smith presented a 4th of July Update. She stated the Laurel Ministerial Association will be holding a Prayer's Breakfast on Saturday, July 4, 2026, at Abbott's beginning at 8:00 a.m. Tickets are available at Laurel Town Hall if interested. The Laurel Historical Society will be hosting Independence & Ice Cream Event on Saturday, July 4, 2026, at Hitchen's Homestead from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. She stated the town has raised the money towards the firework display and an advertisement will be listed in the Laurel STAR to recognize the donors.

Councilwoman Fisher congratulated Town Manager Smith on her milestone of 30 Years of Service. She stated she is working on scheduling youth activity meetings for summer activities, and she thanked Mrs. Sessom for being a mentor. She stated there will be Juneteenth Event held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Paul Laurence Dunbar Community Building from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Lodato stated a Café Night will be held at Connection Church on Sunday, July 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. where a collection of pre-packaged snacks will be collected on behalf Operation West Laurel.

Councilman Lodato stated he was hoping to present the Welcome to Laurel Brochure to Mayor & Council tonight in order it for it to be ready for the Broad Creek Bash but the attorney is still reviewing.

Councilman Lodato congratulated Town Manager Smith on behalf of her milestone of 30 Years of Service.

Councilman Lodato made a motion if Mayor & Council would investigate into Mrs. Ardisana's concerns that she raised regarding the vacant house ordinance and cost reporting and report their findings back to Council and the residents.

Councilman Kellam stated the town has policy and procedures that they must go through and the town needs to be cautious without adding more onto our constituents.

Town Manager Smith stated the town has enforced the Vacant House Ordinance for several years now and that she stands behind her staff on how it's enforced and she can provide the information to Mayor & Council for their review.

Councilman Lodato made a motion Mayor & Council review and evaluate the available options regarding the future operation of the Alderman's Court, including its financial impact on the Town, so that any future decisions can be based on accurate information and facts.

President of Council Calio stated the Alderman Court is generated by court cases and court is losing revenue due to less cases.

Councilman Lodato's motion pertaining if the Mayor & Council would review and evaluate the available options regarding the future operation of the Alderman's Court, including its financial impact on the Town, so that any future decisions can be based on accurate information and facts failed due to the lack of second and was not considered by Council.

President of Council Calio congratulated Town Manager Smith for her milestone of 30 Years of Service and thanked her for all what she does for the town.

Councilman Kellam congratulated Town Manager Smith for her milestone of 30 Years of Service and encouraged everyone to work for the betterment of the town.

Councilman Holden congratulated Town Manager Smith for her milestone of 30 Years of Service.

Mayor Oliveras stated there were the following community events held this past weekend:

- Anti-Gun Violence Event.
- Laurel Boys & Girls Club "Music in the Park."
- Ballin for God Basketball Tournament.
- Laurel Public Library Block Party.
- Ballin' For God Basketball Tournament.
- Laurel Family Day.

Mayor Oliveras stated he has fielded several phone calls in the past few weeks regarding the concerns raised in last month's Mayor & Council Meeting. He stated residents are perceiving the following misconceptions that the town has had failed audits, the town has no idea where the money is going, and that no actions were taken by the Mayor. He advised a follow-up email was provided regarding the concerns raised providing the situation. He stated action took place and to categorize it as no action is intellectually dishonest and unfair just because the findings were not what you were expecting. He stated he sent an email twelve days prior to May 18, 2026, Mayor & Council Meeting. He explained these misconceptions are causing the town to portray a bad image.

Mr. Tony Windsor, from the Laurel Star stated he typically uses the phrase no action was taken when closing an article when there was no formal action. He explained he wanted to make sure there was no mis-quoting information on his end.

Mrs. Sharon Ardisana, resident of Laurel, De, stated she has never received an email from April 2, 2026, through April 20, 2026, when she spoke with Mayor Oliveras. She requested if Mayor Oliveras could provide the email. Mayor Oliveras stated the email was sent on May 2, 2026. She encouraged everyone to go back and listen to the audio as this will provide everyone a better understanding of what occurred. She stated the issue with the audit was not about pass or fail and the issue is the audit is three years behind in October due to someone passing away. She advised it may take some amount of months to recover but it does not take two and a half years to recover to provide information to the auditors in order to be compliant with the town charter. She stated

audits are supposed to be completed within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year. She stated you cannot run a town when you don't have current audited data. She addressed her concern regarding the financial report only reporting limited revenues. She stated per the charter they must report all revenues for the month. She verified with Mayor Oliveras on April 2, 2026, that Mayor & Council receive only the financial report every month. She stated Mayor & Council cannot possibly know the financial health of the town without looking at budgeted versus actuals every month without looking at the town's bank account statements and check registry. She stated you have one person in charge of a \$7 million budget with no oversight. She advised the finance report submitted tonight is the same as last month without meeting the charter requirements. She advised no one is willing to change as it's what the town has always done, which is not the right answer and the town can always improve.

Mrs. Ardisana stated she has been misquoted in the previous two sets of Mayor & Council Minutes with items being left out and she is providing a letter to Mayor Oliveras to make the following corrections. The one concern she addressed was regarding the May 18, 2026, Mayor & Council Meeting. She stated that she was quoted that she was denied a place on the agenda by Mayor Oliveras, requesting 45 minutes originally, with a second request of 20 minutes, which she was allotted. She stated that's not what she said, and that's not what occurred. She stated she contacted Mayor Oliveras in which she was denied. She considered 45 minutes maybe too long and inquired for 20 minutes, in which she was denied again. She stated she was not added to the agenda until after a third email was sent discussing her First Amendment rights. She stated Mayor Oliveras knew what she was going to address and he had not even discussed her concerns from April 2, 2026, with Mayor & Council. She stated it wasn't until she addressed that her First Amendment rights were being violated, and copied the town solicitor that she was added to the agenda the next morning. She explained this is what it took for her to get 20 minutes to address her concerns, which she stated are 100% valid and 100% based on FOIA data.

She stated last month Mayor Oliveras asked her to provide a copy of her presentation from last month. She provided a transcript from the audio that is word for word in what she presented. She requested if this could be added as an attachment to the minutes. Secondly, she requested to include the attachment of the email exchange that went back and forth between Mayor Oliveras and herself with the council copied that illustrates she was told not to embarrass anybody on Mayor Oliveras team. She stated they're public officials, they're in the public eye, and they have to be available. She stated she has not criticized anybody according to her transcripts and that she points out the data, points out the charter that's not being met, and the ordinance that's not being met. She is requesting if this 15-page email exchange be part of the record and be an attachment to the minutes.

Councilman Kellam stated that you sent me the audio and the conversations you had with Mayor Oliveras and he explained Mayor Oliveras followed-up with Mrs. Ardisana because he reached out to Mayor Oliveras to verify.

Mrs. Ardisana stated that was May 7, 2026, and she met with him on April 2, 2026, to address her concerns. She stated when Mayor Oliveras left the meeting he stated that she had opened up his eyes and to please get back up with her as she did not want to stand up in a public meeting.

She advised Mayor Oliveras to contact the Mayor & Council and the town attorney to see if the concerns she was addressing were valid. She stated this is the best she could do, to avoid this situation that we're in now, because Mayor Oliveras did not act and she was forced to bring it up in a public sector.

Mrs. Ardisana requested if Mayor Oliveras will send the email where he addressed her issues that were raised on April 2, 2026, Meeting and not the email on May 7, 2026, regarding where she asked to be on the agenda. She stated she has no emails from Mayor Oliveras email from April 2, 2026, when she told Mayor Oliveras she was going to have to present it to the public if nothing was going to be done.

Mrs. Laina Betts, resides outside town limits, and she also wanted to discuss the May 18, 2026 Mayor & Council Minutes. She advised she doesn't know how the minutes are made, but looking back at the audio, she wanted to check to make sure that she was right. The mayor spoke about the Alderman Courts benefits. She requested at last months meeting, asking Mayor & Council to review the numbers, because the audio states that the Alderman Court generated \$81,677.13 in revenue in collecting court and court security costs, that would have made up 49% of the entire audit report revenue, in which she questioned. When reviewing the math, the actual revenue from the court security and court calls were \$43,930.49 and the fines were 122,000. She commented about other Alderman Courts in our state, which are Newark, Newport, Kent County has none, Dewey, Bethany, Rehoboth, and Laurel. She stated the reason that Dewey Beach and Rehoboth and Laurel have an Alderman's Court is because they process \$2 million worth of revenue with parking meters that the town doesn't have. She doesn't see why the town needs to do away with the Alderman's Court but recommending in looking at other options like consolidating to a one day to decrease overhead. She advised that's how the JP court and the other Alderman Courts work. Mrs. Betts thanked Town Manager Smith for her 30 years of service. She thanked Chief Kracyla for building the relationships that we have to keep our town safe, and she apologized that he has to sit here when others make unethical comments about helping the court by writing more tickets.

Mrs. Cheryl Barber, resident of Gibson Avenue, applauded Chief Kracyla and his officers for the Block Parties that have been occurring at Little Creek on weekends.

Mrs. Barber, resident of Gibson Avenue, applauded Councilman Kellam and town staff for assisting her through the permit process.

Mrs. Ann Davis, resident of Pine Street, verified the Hitchen's Homestead will be hosting a 4th of July Ice Cream & Cake Social beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor & Council Meeting
June 15, 2026
Page. 10

With being no further business, President of Council Calio made a motion adjourn the meeting. Councilman Lodato seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with one vacancy.

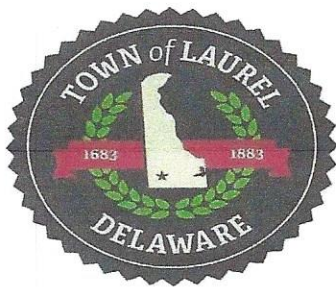
Meeting Adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary



Town of LAUREL DELAWARE

THE TOWN OF LAUREL PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

I. PURPOSE:

- 1) a. These rules shall govern the time, place, and manner for public comment during all public meetings for the Town Of Laurel.

II. PROCEDURES:

Public comment shall be subject to the following procedures, which shall be administered by the Mayor, or in their absence, the presiding officer of the Town Council.

- a. ~~Each speaker will be asked to provide their name and address on a sign-up sheet, which will be available at the podium.~~
- 2) b. Each speaker shall come forward to the podium after being recognized and will be asked to identify themselves on record by providing their name and address.
- 3) c. Each speaker will have 3 minutes to present their public comments. Time for each public comment will be kept by electronic clock and displayed within view of the podium. At the end of that time, the Mayor or the presiding officer of Council will inform the speaker their allotted time has expired. Generally, the total period available for public comment during a meeting may not exceed 30 minutes. The Mayor or the presiding officer of Council can authorize an extension of the public comment period. Based on the number of requests for public comment the presiding officer of Council may grant a speaker, at a maximum, 2 additional minutes.
- d. The presiding officer of Council will remind members of the public to speak clearly into the podium microphone, to address officials at the front of the

room rather than audience members behind them and to speak only when at the podium, unless previously authorized by the Mayor or the presiding officer of Council.

4) e. After a person is recognized and notified their allotted time to speak has begun, they are not to be interrupted except by the Mayor or the presiding officer of Council whose purpose is to enforce these policies. At the discretion of the Mayor or the presiding officer of Council, speakers may be asked to refrain from further comment if they continue to speak beyond their allotted time, digress from comments or questions related to Town business or jurisdiction, or if the speaker becomes so willfully and seriously disruptive as to prevent Council from accomplishing its business in a reasonable manner.

5) f. The Mayor or the presiding officer may choose to respond to questions or issues raised by a speaker. However, responses made by the Mayor or the presiding officer of Council shall not indicate the position of Council as a body.

6) g. To the extent possible, public comment shall be in person. An individual may submit a written statement in lieu of or in addition to verbal comments; however, public comment may not be submitted through the use of an electronic means of communication while the meeting is in session, unless the public body is required, by law, to hold the meeting virtually.

7) h. It shall be unlawful for any person in the audience at a public meeting to do any of the following ... (1) Engage in disorderly, disruptive, disturbing, delaying or boisterous conduct, such as, but not limited to, handclapping, stomping of feet, whistling, making noise, use of profane language or obscene gestures, yelling or similar demonstrations, which conduct substantially interrupts, delays, or disturbs the peace and good order of the proceedings of the public meeting.

8) III. GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC:

- a. The order of business at each regular meeting of the Mayor & City Council shall be as follows:

Call to Order
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
Public Hearings (if applicable)
Presentations (if applicable)
Approval of Minutes
Department Head Reports
Old Business
New Business

Mayor and Council Comments
Citizens Comments
Executive Session
Adjournment

The order of business may be altered at the discretion of the Mayor or the presiding officer of Council.

- b. Once you are called forward to the podium, please state your name and address for the record.
- c. Remember to speak clearly and directly into the microphone.
- d. While not required, it is encouraged that statements and questions be prepared in advance of the meeting.
- e. Please note, the public body is not required to respond to your remarks during the regular meeting.

Presented for approval May 18, 2026

Approved:

Public Comment Policy, something they cannot argue with:

Mayor, Sir, If we had got together as a council to discuss this new policy, I would not need to be doing this tonight.

I support having procedures that keep meetings orderly and productive. My concern is not with the existence of rules. My concern is with the overall tone of the document. As written, the policy reads primarily as a list of restrictions and enforcement mechanisms. I would encourage Council to revise the language so that it begins by affirming that public participation is valued and welcomed. Residents should leave with the impression that the Town wants to hear from them, not merely regulate them

1. "These rules shall govern the time, place, and manner for public comment during all public meetings for the Town of Laurel."

-The very first thing residents read is that the purpose is to "govern" public comment.

There is no statement that:

- Public participation is valued.
- Residents are encouraged to participate.
- Public input helps inform decision-making.

It begins with control rather than engagement.

Suggestion: "The Town of Laurel values public participation and encourages residents, taxpayers, business owners, and stakeholders to share their perspectives on matters affecting the community. These guidelines are intended to provide a fair, respectful, and orderly process for public comment while allowing Council to conduct Town business efficiently."

Talking Point "My concern isn't with having procedures. My concern is that the opening paragraph tells residents how they will be regulated before it tells them they are **welcome**."

2 (a) is not needed since (b) already is asking them to come forward to the podium after being recognized. "Provide their name and address"

Talking Point For safety purposes Street addresses should not be published. I would be satisfied with speaker stating they are a resident of Laurel.

3. "Generally, the total period available for public comment during a meeting may not exceed 30 minutes." -The emphasis is on limiting comments rather than ensuring everyone has an opportunity to speak.

Suggestion: "To provide an opportunity for all interested individuals to be heard while ensuring the meeting agenda can be completed, public comment periods will generally be limited to 30 minutes. It should also state the council reserves the right by majority vote to extend the public comment time as needed."

Talking Point "The existing language emphasizes the restriction. The alternative language emphasizes the reason for the restriction."

4. "Speakers may be asked to refrain from further comment if they... digress from comments or questions related to Town business or jurisdiction..."

-The phrase "asked to refrain from further comment" sounds disciplinary.

It also gives broad discretion without explaining what is expected.

Suggestion: "Speakers are encouraged to focus their comments on matters affecting the Town and issues within the Town's authority."

Talking Point "One version tells residents what they shouldn't do. The other tells residents what is helpful and expected."

5. "The Mayor or the presiding officer may choose to respond to questions or issues raised by a speaker."

-Residents may read this as:

"We may answer you, or we may not."

Even if that's legally accurate, it can feel dismissive.

Suggestion "Questions and concerns raised during public comment may be addressed during the meeting or referred to Town staff for appropriate follow-up."

Talking Point "Residents understand that every question can't be answered immediately, but they appreciate knowing their concerns won't simply disappear."

6. "Public comment through electronic means"

Talking Point As far as I am aware and please correct me if I am wrong, we are required by law to hold our town meeting virtually through zoom. Delaware code title 29 state government 10006A

(a) Member attending a meeting through the use of an electronic means of communication is a reasonable modification or reasonable accommodation is considered present for all purposes as if the member is physically attended, including for quorum in voting

(b) at the discretion of the chair or presiding officer, a public body may allow the public to monitor or provide public comment through the use of an electronic means of communication at any meeting

7. "It shall be unlawful for any person in the audience"

-This is the strongest example of poor tone.

Most readers are not lawyers. When they read:

"It shall be unlawful...it immediately creates an enforcement-oriented tone.

The policy moves from participation to punishment.

(Has the council discussed with Chief regarding the enforcement of any of this? I feel that they should have a say if they're going to be expected to enforce these.)

Suggestion "To maintain a productive, orderly, and respectful meeting environment, all participants, including the Mayor, Council members, Town staff, and members of the public, shall conduct themselves in a manner that promotes civil discourse and shall refrain from behavior that substantially disrupts, delays, or interferes with the proceedings. Mutual respect and professionalism are expected at all times. The prohibited behaviors can remain listed afterward.

Talking Point "The standard remains exactly the same, but the tone changes from threatening enforcement to encouraging respectful participation."

8. I feel the largest omission in the document is **the welcome**.

Talking Point "What stands out to me is not what the policy says—it's what it doesn't say. There is no statement anywhere that the Town welcomes public participation or values citizen input."

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT JUNE 2026

2 VEHICLES WRITTEN FOR EXPIRED / NO TAGS .

14 PERMITS TOTALING \$16,081.55

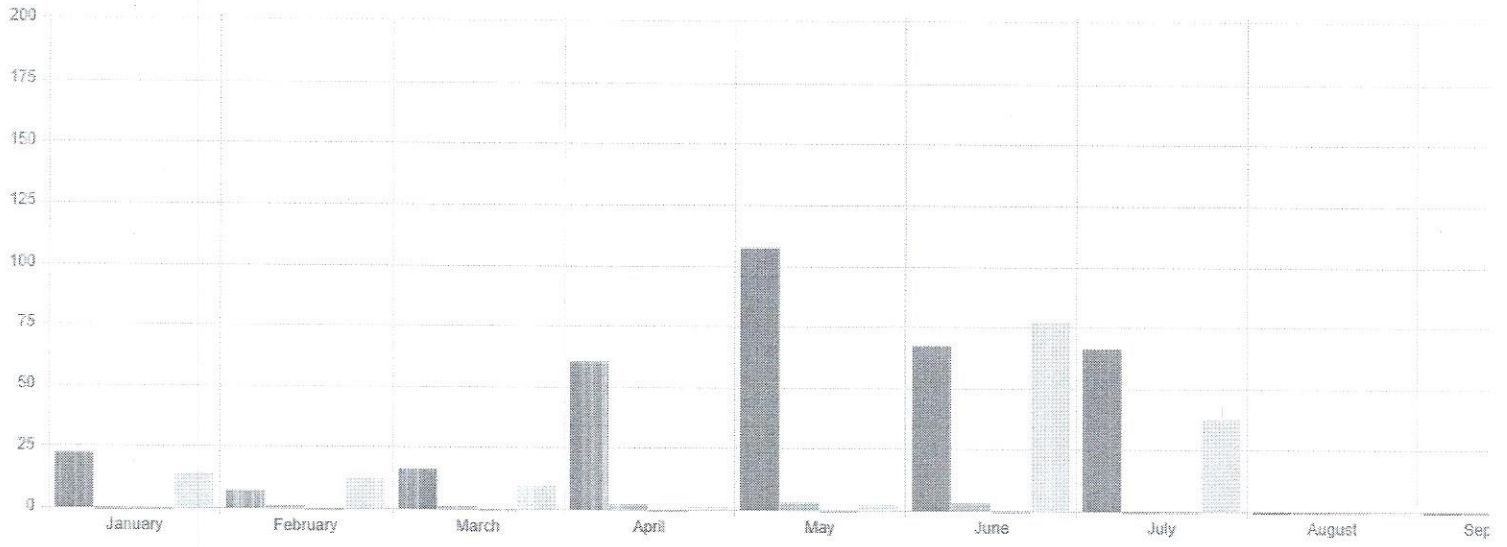
0 NEW HOME PERMITS

28 WORK ORDERS FOR GRASS

3 STOP WORK ORDER

44 NEW CASES , INCLUDING : 35 GRASS , 4 RUBBISH

Year: 2026



- Code Enforcement
- Junk Vehicle
- No Type Specified
- Rental Property

Town of Laurel Monthly Report for June 2026
Public Works Department
Prepared by James Foskey on July 06, 2026

Septage receiving station

Intake for June was 868,708 gallons - which resulted in income of \$55,338.24

- PW's department for the month of June. Staff continued to clean catch basins from debris along the streets to help with MS4 compliance and meter reads. Staff assisted with sewer lateral repair on Carvel Ave, assisted with new sewer tap to 311 Townsend St. property. Weeded Boys and Girls club, repaired broken sewer lateral at Insurance Market, Cut Limbs around town and trimmed up in Roger C. Fisher Park. Routine sewer jetting and cleaning was done throughout town.
- Water Plant- Staff performed monthly Bacteria & Fluoride testing of the Town's water system and reported to the State. Staff continued working with 120 Water for lead and copper compliance, and Hydro Corp for cross connection compliance. Staff drained North Poplar water tower for interior inspection. Tank was filled back and bacte tested before putting back in service. Staff repaired leaking valve on Hypochlorite Skid unit. Consumer Confidence report was completed and distributed.
- Waste water-Staff continued routine maintenance at the WWTP facility, and provided monthly reports to the state. Staff replaced the UPS battery at septage receiving, cleaned septage receiving Frac tanks 18tons of solids were removed and taken to the landfill. Staff replaced control board and top hat to blower control panel, and replaced the screen at septage receiving panel.
- We are continuing to work with GMB on a new water treatment facility located at Dunbar, and various sewer and street paving projects. Assisted Contractor working on utility's at the Promenade and the leaking valve at Front Street was replaced. Continued working on Sewer to the Eley property and a contractor has been selected and work should begin.



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT

1110 W. 6TH STREET, SUITE #1
LAUREL, DELAWARE 19956
Phone: 302-875-2244/ Fax: 302-497-3003



Robert F. Kracyla
Chief of Police

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL REPORT June 2026

- For the month of June 2026, the Laurel Police Department handled a total of 342 complaints/calls for service.

Complaint Breakdown

- Motor Vehicle Collisions: 10
- DUI: 7
- Felony Investigations: 15
- Misdemeanor Investigations: 54
- Follow-up investigations: 66
- Crime Prevention Checks: 17
- Other calls for service: 208

Crime Breakdown

- Felony Charges: 25
- Misdemeanor Charges: 49
- Fugitive Charges: 8

Traffic Breakdown

- Traffic Citations Issued: 108
- Parking Tickets: 3
- Warnings: 87

Assist Other Agencies

- Assist DSP: 27
- Assist other Police Departments: 5
- Assist Fire and EMS / Fire: 4

"Laurel...Our Community...Our Commitment"



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT

1110 W. 6TH STREET, SUITE #1
LAUREL, DELAWARE 19956
Phone: 302-875-2244/ Fax: 302-497-3003



Robert F. Kracyla
Chief of Police

Warrants Generated/ Executed

- Felony Warrants: Generated 14 Executed 13
- Misdemeanor Warrants: Generated 18 Executed 18
- Search Warrants: Generated 6 Executed 6

Notable Incidents/ Investigative Updates

- 6/1 Meeting with HELP Initiative and donation of a small drone to the Laurel Police Department. Zoom meeting with End Community Violence.
- 6/2 Main St. Assessment meetings
- 6/3 Rep. Short Townhall Meeting and Main St. Assessment meetings.
- 6/4 Conducted a presentation for the Senior Center for Rep. Tim Dukes.
- 6/5 Laurel PD hosted the National Gun Violence Awareness meeting.
- 6/6 Balling for God Basketball Tournament along with working with GVI leadership.
- 6/8 Little Creek Town Hall
- 6/9 Delaware Police Chiefs Meeting in Dover: SLEAF meeting and grant award of \$8K for three patrol rifles.
- 6/10 One Laurel Meeting.
- 6/13 Laurel Library Block Party.
- 6/15 Town Council Meeting.
- 6/16 Sussex Co. Police Chiefs Meeting and Meeting with DAG about Pop Up Legislation.
- 6/18 Meeting with Severn Management regarding Pop Up events and counter measures.
- 6/22 Hollybrook Townhall Meeting.
- 6/23 Guns of Lower Delaware Meeting.
- 6/24 One Laurel Meeting.
- 6/25 GVI Meeting
- 6/26 Tour of the PD with Amy Handy and Laurel HS students.
- 6/29 Little Creek Town Hall.

"Laurel...Our Community...Our Commitment"

LAUREL ADLERMAN COURT 35

JUNE 2026 MONTHLY COLLECTION REPORT

	CHECKS & CASH	VISA/MASTERCARD/DEBIT	DISCOVER	EPAY - VISA/MASTERCARD/DEBIT	EPAY - DISCOVER	TOTAL
VIDEO PHONE	\$20.00	\$53.00	\$0.00	\$54.00	\$2.00	\$129.00
VCF	\$219.50	\$619.35	\$0.00	\$605.00	\$20.00	\$1,464.05
VRF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
COURT COSTS	\$483.00	\$1,414.00	\$35.00	\$1,127.48	\$40.00	\$3,099.48
FINE	\$1,026.50	\$2,579.50	\$100.00	\$1,918.93	\$59.00	\$5,683.93
CT. SEC. FEE	\$655.00	\$1,642.00	\$50.00	\$1,778.81	\$60.00	\$4,185.81
TRANSP. FUND	\$447.00	\$429.50	\$0.00	\$899.35	\$23.50	\$2,286.35
DSP FUND	\$150.00	\$429.50	\$7.50	\$414.35	\$15.00	\$1,016.35
LOCAL LAW ENF. FD	\$156.00	\$434.00	\$7.50	\$420.35	\$15.00	\$1,032.85
EMS FUND	\$205.50	\$528.80	\$0.00	\$577.52	\$20.00	\$1,331.02
OVERPAYMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
APPEAL FEE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL:	\$3,362.50	\$8,610.05	\$200.00	\$7,795.79	\$260.50	\$20,228.84

LAUREL ADLERMAN COURT 35

JUNE 2026 MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION REPORT

		CHECKS OR CREDIT CARD RETURNS	
VIDEO PHONE	\$129.00		\$129.00
VCF	\$1,464.05		\$1,464.05
VRF	\$0.00		\$0.00
COURT COSTS	\$3,099.48		\$3,099.48
FINE	\$5,683.93		\$5,683.93
CT. SEC. FEE	\$4,185.81		\$4,185.81
TRANSP. FUND	\$2,286.35		\$2,286.35
DSP FUND	\$1,016.35		\$1,016.35
LOCAL LAW ENF. FD	\$1,032.85		\$1,032.85
EMS FUND	\$1,331.02		\$1,331.02
OVERPAYMENT - CASE# 2304002530	\$0.00		\$0.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$0.00		\$20,228.84

TOTAL FINE & COSTS \$8,783.41
 TOTAL BANK FEES \$199.31
 TOTAL COURT SECURITY FEE \$3,986.50
 TOTAL FINE & COSTS \$8,783.41
 GRAND TOTAL FOR DISTRIBUTION \$20,029.53

ALDERMAN COURT 35

ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE REPORT BY CATEGORIES

JUNE 2026

	26-May	26-Jun
TOWN FINES	\$97,121.97	\$97,182.72
VICTIMS COMP. FUND	\$16,774.15	\$16,889.35
COURT COSTS	\$41,272.79	\$41,721.57
VIDEOPHONE FUND	\$1,420.00	\$1,437.00
TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$37,796.50	\$38,340.55
COURT SECURITY FUND	\$44,448.19	\$44,971.71
STATE POLICE FUND	\$13,033.20	\$13,201.85
LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND	\$13,114.71	\$13,266.86
VICTIM RIGHTS FUND	\$519.40	\$564.40
AMBULANCE FUND	\$14,805.69	\$15,004.67
MAIL IN LATE FEE	\$6,403.84	\$6,373.84
RESTITUTION	\$608.15	\$608.15
TOTAL	\$287,318.59	\$289,562.67
3-10+ YEARS	\$134,788.54	\$135,096.09
TOTAL TO TOWN	\$138,394.76	\$138,904.29

Town of Laurel **6/30/26**
Finance Report - FY 2026

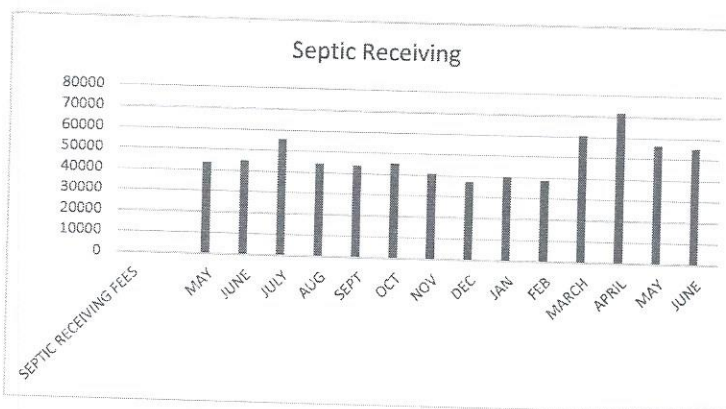
Budgeted Revenue **as of June 30, 2026**

Below are some revenue items & their year-to-date totals.

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Realized</u>	
Alderman Court Fines	275000	123372	45%
Fees - Court Security	85000	53401	63%
Fines - Court of Common Pleas	10500	8365	80%
Fines - Voluntary Assessment	17000	12616	74%
Services Provided & Billed (through violations)	55000	29877	54%
Building Permits	68000	36720	54%
Public Facilities Impact Fees	30000	26198	87%
Transfer Tax	160000	192088	120%
Dunbar Rental Income	60000	90428	151%
Water Fees (billed)	1030000	1003198	97%
Wastewater Fees (billed)	1390000	1326995	95%
Water Impact & Connection Fees		3000	
WW Impact & Connection Fees		13950	
Septic Receiving Fees (billed)	560000	589090	105%
Grants (MSAF,CTF,SRF,others)		575922	

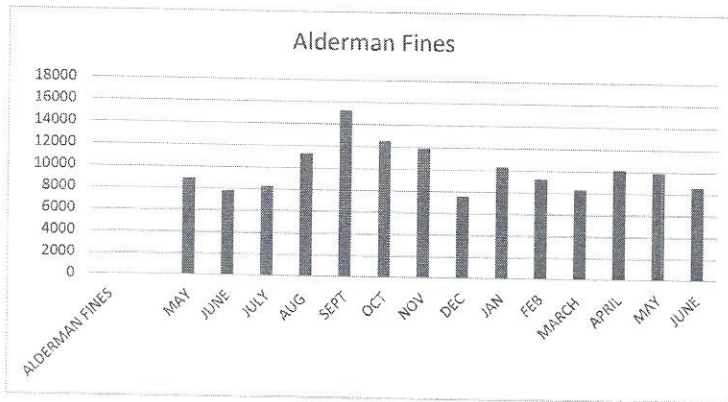
Budgeted revenue that is higher than average for this time of the year are in bold.

The following two graphs have been added to this report to show the trend of two major revenue items. The graph covers the past fourteen months.



SEPTIC RECEIVING FEES

MAY	43681
JUNE	44733
JULY	55590
AUG	44316
SEPT	43668
OCT	45058
NOV	40798
DEC	37249
JAN	40114
FEB	38574
MARCH	60420
APRIL	71631
MAY	56334
JUNE	55338



ALDERMAN FINES

MAY	8883
JUNE	7835
JULY	8251
AUG	11337
SEPT	15268
OCT	12538
NOV	11929
DEC	7544
JAN	10315
FEB	9243
MARCH	8290
APRIL	10141
MAY	9897
JUNE	8613

	<u>YTD Donations</u>	<u>YTD Expended</u>
Police K-9	48340	33234

The following box represents preliminary department expenditures for FY 2026.

Department Expenditures

	Budget	Expended	
General Government	413784	1054917	255%
Dunbar Maintenance	65000	64062	99%
Administration	381387	364085	95%
Public Works	461752	768251	166%
Alderman Court	220322	207036	94%
Police	3091046	3069363	99%
Code Enforcement	192188	184463	96%
Mayor & Council	6825	7091	104%
Water	641490	827765	129%
Wastewater	1164852	1136604	98%
Septic Receiving	189177	375653	199%
Trash	380000	378071	99%
Totals	7207823	8437361	117%

General Government increased expenses include: engineering fees, insurance, electricity, auditing, land purchase, interest costs, grants expenses;

Public Works increased expenses are for payroll and related expenses, electricity, street and vehicle repairs.

Mayor & Council increased expenses are for salaries and miscellaneous expenses.

Water Dept. increased expenses are for grants and operating supplies.

Septic Receiving increased expense was for sludge removal.

Cash Accounts	as of June 30, 2026
Operating Funds	
General Fund	113672.69
Payroll	46384.07
Capital Funds	
Capital Reserve Fund - Community Bank	267181.53
Special Purpose Funds	
Municipal Street Aid	2659.01
Police - EIDE	6709.62
Police - GCCJ	9957.00
Police - SLEAF	65739.92
Police - FFA	3649.41
Community Revitalization	<u>per Town Manager</u> 52271.35
Chief's Account	23136.66
Independence Day Account	<u>per Operations Mgr.</u> 14748.25



Town of LAUREL DELAWARE

Jamie Smith, Town Manager
201 Mechanic Street
Laurel, Delaware 19956
302-875-2277
laureltm@comcast.net

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

June 2026

- **Economic Development** – The town staff continues to work with a commercial and a residential developer for two properties along U. S. Route 13. The developer of McDonald is currently working with DelDOT for an entrance only permit from U. S. Route 13. Mayor and Council have provided letters of support for same. Wawa is waiting on one final state approval and intends to be back to Planning & Zoning for their final site plan July. We continue to work with our engineers and the developers on the infrastructure plans. Continue to work with a developer for the development of residential property located on Central Avenue and the same developer is looking at developing property on Discount Land Road for the development of a mixed use residential parcel. The Promenade has started with site work. Once site work is completed, construction of the homes will begin.
- **TAP Funding Update** – Phase 1 of the Walkway install, is to begin at Roger C. Fisher Park. In order to completed this, a waiver and easement is needed from the Railroad company to go under the railroad bridge, due to the time it is taking to obtain the necessary easement. Contact has been made from the Railroad Company and they were supportive as long as we meet the requirements for a safety structure. However, it has been determined, it is almost impossible to meet the requirements of a safety structure. Funding is still needed for this phase and we will continue to apply for TAP Funding when it is available.

- Main Street Assessment – I have been working with Stephanie Moody and Teresa Lynch on a Main Street Program for Laurel. The first step is to apply for grant funding, which we received to complete the assessment. Teresa Lynch held workshops on June 2nd and 3rd with various officials, residents and representatives from community organizations. She will be compiling on all information and it is expected to approximately 90 days to finalize the assessment. I will be communicating with Teresa throughout this process to answer any questions or provide any information she may need.
- Janosik Shore Line Stabilization – We have worked closely with the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance on the obtaining funding/grants for the implementation of the shoreline stabilization along Janosik Park. Permits have been applied for and we are waiting approval.
- MS4 – In 2016 we established an agreement with The City of Seaford and Sussex Conservation District to work as Co-Permitees which will allow costs of the MS4 Program to be shared. We have adopted the Coalition agreement between Laurel and Seaford. We have yet to receive any updates on our comments submitted on the proposed MS4 Permit, There has been no further meetings or discussions on this topic
- One Laurel – Steering Committee is a two time a month meeting. The 2nd Wednesday is at 9 a.m. at Vital Church and the 4th Wednesday is at 5 p.m. in the Community Room of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Public Safety Building.
- 4th of July Fireworks – The Town will host our annual 4th of July Fireworks. Laurel Ministerial Association will host their annual Breakfast and the Laurel Historical Society is Hosting a “Independence & Ice Cream” Celebration on July 4th from 7:30 until 10 p.m. NOTE: the remaining funds needed to cover the cost of the fireworks were received through generous donations from many businesses and residents.
- Meetings Attended – June 1st M&C Workshop; June 2nd Main Street Assessment Meetings June 3rd Main Street Assessment Meetings; SCAT Meeting; June 5th SCAT Steering Committee Meeting, GVN with OWL Dedication; June 10th One Laurel; June 13th Ark Banquet; June 15th M&C Meeting; June 16th Met with Rep from Sen. Blunt-Rochester’s Office; attending Legislative House Meeting via Zoom; met with reps from other towns and Congresswoman McBride; June 19th attended Juneteenth event at Jason Beach; June 23rd Davellis Ribbon cutting; June 24th Zoning Reform Update Meeting; Senate Meeting for Charter Change; One Laurel Meeting; June 25th Delaware League Meeting; June 26th Meeting with DNREC RE Disbursement Request Transite Phase 4; June 29th Main Street Meeting; June 30th – July 3rd Out of Office.

**THE TOWN OF LAUREL
COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
Laurel Town Hall
201 Mechanic Street
June 18, 2026**

Criteria to be included in the brochure

All organizations, businesses, or departments must be situated or currently doing business in the Town of Laurel.

Non-profits must (possess 501c3 tax exempt status and) be incorporated in the State of Delaware.

State representatives are included by virtue of their office. Associated state service centers and medical facilities must service the Laurel area.

All parks including Trap Pond State Park are located in the town of Laurel. Trap Pond is located on the eastern shore of the pond in Laurel, and the park's address is listed as 33587 Bald Cypress Ln, Laurel, DE 19956.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Laurel was founded in 1683 and incorporated as a town in 1883. In the summer of 1899, a major fire destroyed much of the downtown area, and the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department was organized. Laurel has had five persons from the area serve as Governors of the state: Nathaniel Mitchell (1805-1808); John Collins (1821-1825); William Barkley Cooper (1841-1845); William Ross (1851-1855); and Elbert Nortrand Carvel (1949-1953, 1961-1965). Laurel also is home to more historic buildings than any town in Delaware, with 800 on the National Historic Register. You should take time to visit them. The town's current population is 3,688.

Message from the Mayor

Welcome to Laurel, our charming town! We're thrilled to have you here and can't wait for you to explore our beautiful parks, take in the breathtaking waterfront views, wander through our picturesque historical neighborhoods, and connect with our vibrant communities. Throughout the year, we celebrate all major holidays and cherished town traditions, including the Heritage Festival, the spectacular 4th of July Fireworks, the Paint Laurel Plein Air, fishing tournaments, and many more. Laurel is a fun, friendly, and rapidly growing place where everything seems to work out perfectly. We're incredibly proud of our community and love where we live. Whether you're looking for a place to call home or a thriving business hub, you'll find warm hospitality and the quintessential small-town charm of Laurel waiting for you. We hope you have a wonderful stay!

Local Representatives

State Representative Tim Dukes: represents the citizens of the 40th District in the Delaware House of Representatives, which includes Laurel, Delmar, and Bethel. <https://housegop.delaware.gov>

Councilman Matt Lloyd: serves as the 1st district councilman on the five-member Sussex County Council, representing the southwestern portions of Sussex County, including the Bethel, Blades, Delmar, Gumboro, Laurel, and Seaford areas. 302-855-7743

State Senator Bryant L. Richardson, representing District 21, 302-744-4298, covering the southwestern corner of Sussex, which includes Seaford, Laurel, Delmar, Bethel, Gumboro, and Reliance. Bryant.Richardson@delaware.gov,

Communications

Morning Star Publications, 951 Norman Eskridge Hwy, Seaford, 302-629-9788 <https://starpublications.online/contact>

Laurel Ruritan Club, a community service and promotion organization located at 1006 West Street.

Community and Civic Organizations

The Ark

The Ark is a Non-Profit 501c3 educational Resource Center located at 208 East Front Street, 302-715-5318, <https://arkeducation.org>

Laurel Woman's Civic Club Inc., 384 Main Street, <https://www.facebook.com>, P.O. Box 105, Laurel

VFW, <http://www.vfw.org>, 302-526-0993

Ioof Fraternal Organization, 302-875-1154, 319 S. Poplar Street, <http://ioof.org>, **Odd Fellows Charity Lodge 27,** 302-875-1154, 319 S. Poplar Street

Laurel Lions Club

This organization is a part of Lions Clubs Intl., a network of volunteers who work to answer the needs that challenge our community, 357 US-13 Alt., <https://e-clubhouse.org>

Hope Lodge #4 (Masonic Organization) 102 W. 6th St. They were the founding Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Delaware in 1806.

One Laurel – The four focus areas are: Respect & Safety, Pride & Ownership, Race & Diversity, and youth engagement. You're invited to attend every second Wednesday, 129 N. Central Ave, at 9:00 a.m. and fourth Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Paul Laurence Dunbar Public Safety Building, 1110 West Sixth Street.

Laurel Boys and Girls Club, 316 N. Central Ave. 302-875-1200. The club is a trusted place where young people can learn, grow, and build a better future. Fees apply.

Operation West Laurel (OWL) is an interfaith advocacy organization committed to the safety and well-being of the children and citizens of West Laurel while empowering and advancing our community to build a better tomorrow. <https://operationwestlaurel.org>

Laurel American Legion Post #19, 12168 Laurel Rd. 302-875-9948. The American Legion strengthens our communities, states, and nation with programs and services for our veterans. <https://www.americanlegionlaurelpost19.com>

Laurel Senior Center, is a non-profit organization providing community-based services to the elderly in Western Sussex. 113 N. Central Ave, 302-875-2536, <https://sussexcountyde.gov>

Gang Violence Intervention, Ron Handy, Leader and Transition Coordinator of GVI, their moto is Safe, Alive, & Free. They are situated in the State Services Building on Poplar Street, five days a week, 302-983-6980.

Resources

Help Initiative of Delaware, Inc. 833-888-0410, 302-672-0778 www.HelpInitiativeDE.org

Deihm's Disposal of DE - Trash, Yard, & recycle waste 302-875-3957 or 302-841-2047. Trash should be put out the evening before pick-up and removed within 24 hours after pick-up.

Laurel Library, 101 E. 4th Street, 302-875-3184

Xfinity Cable Company, 800-934-6489

Western Sussex Chamber of Commerce, <https://westernsussexcoc.com> The mission is to establish and maintain itself as the primary advocate, voice, and resource for business organizations in our area.

Laurel School District, <http://laurelschooldistrict.org> 1160 S. Central Ave. 302-875-6100

Laurel DE Historical Society, 502 E. 4th Street, <https://laureldehistoricalsociety.org> 302-875-1344

Health Assistance

Laurel State Services Center, 31039 N. Poplar Street, 302-875-2280

Sussex Counseling Services, 302-877-0825

Division of State Service Centers, 302-875-8402

TidalHealth Immediate Care, Laurel, 30549 Sussex Highway, 302-297-2579

Pregnancy Care Hotline, 800-672-2296

Dr. Harris Mental Health Services, 443-365-5115 Hopes Helping Hands 2 LLC. Provides compassionate, professional and spiritually grounded mental health support. <https://hopeshelpinghands2llc.org/about>

Financial Assistance

First State Community Action, 302-856-7761

Catholic Charities, 302-856-9578 or 302-856-6310

Good Samaritan, The thrift shop is located at 115 W. Market Street, 302-875-6943 or 302-875-2425. They have a wide variety of furniture, clothing, and antiques.

Delmarva Clergy, it's mission is to educate and cultivate self-worth and dignity in the community. <https://dcusaoundation.org>,

[https://www.to
wnoflaurel.net](https://www.townoflaurel.net)

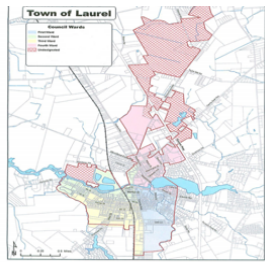




Our Vision

We are building on our proud heritage while creating new and exciting residential neighborhoods, commercial centers, recreational venues, and job opportunities. Visit us, shop, dine, and enjoy our community. You may get caught up in the magic and decide to make Laurel your home. While we may be small in stature, Laurel stands tall in spirit.

Keeping in Compliance



Feel free to meet our officers. Mayor and council meetings are held the 1st (as needed) and 3rd Monday of each month, 201 Mechanic Street, Laurel, DE 19956. Payment can be made online. <https://www.townoflaurel.net>

Mayor - Carlos Oliveras

Town Manager - Jamie Smith

There are Four Council Wards.

Open
Rogjenea Fisher
Jonathan Kellam, Sr.
George Ladato
Chris Calio
Bo Holden

First Ward
Second Ward
Third Ward
Fourth Ward
President & At Large Fourth Ward
At Large Third Ward

What's your address? City ordinance requires the clear display of your address; numbers shall be a minimum of four inches high and placed in a conspicuous place where they can clearly be seen.

Dog Ordinances All dogs must have a state issued license and rabies vaccination. They must be leashed or securely confined to prevent their escaping. Delaware laws prohibits dogs from barking continuously for more than fifteen minutes.

Laurel Police Department, <https://www.laurelpolice.com>
Robert Kracyla, Chief, 1110 W. 6th Street, 302-875-2244

Laurel Fire Department, <https://laurelfiredpt.com>, 205 W. 10th Street, 302-875-3081, Jeff Hill, Chief

Laurel Alderman's Court, 201 Mechanic St. 302-875-2855, The court has jurisdiction of all breaches of the peace in Laurel for offenses under its Municipal Code, certain Title 11 misdemeanor offenses and title 21 traffic violations. Alderman Marcealeat Ruffin can also perform marriage ceremonies.

Parks - Market Square Park: This park features a Victorian bandstand, town mural, fountain, period-style streetlights, and winding brick sidewalks.

Roger C. Fisher River Park, W. 6th Street. This is a pet-friendly environment with wheelchair accessibility, ample parking, and two entrances for easy access.

Laurel River Park: This park has a small fishing pier, a boat ramp, a picnic pavilion, and easy traffic flow.

Janosik Park: This graceful tree-lined park faces the Records Pond spillway and fishing areas.

Tidewater Park: This park features a new playground, a zipline, and showcases some of the history and folklore of the Nanticoke Indian Tribe.

Trap Pond State Park, 33587 Bald Cypress Dr, (302) 875-5153: It preserves one of the largest fragments of what was once an extensive wetland containing an extensive patch of bald cypress trees. **Jason Beach** is located in the park where the local Black community remembers gathering to picnic, socialize, dance, and attend church services.



Photo Gallery



Welcome to the

Town of Laurel

Love where you live.



The Town of Laurel does not endorse, recommend, or verify the quality of services.

Let Us Introduce Ourselves

TO: MAYOR & COUNCIL

FROM: ALEXIS OLIPHANT

RE: UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS 2026

Please find below Upcoming Community Events that will be held this Summer for your review.

(1.) Pentecost Service & Outreach – Hope Helping Hands, Dr. Michelle Harris

- **Date:** Saturday, July 25, 2026
- **Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Roger C. Fisher Park
- Consists of a church service and a give away to the community.

(2.) Ark Jamboree

- **Date:** Saturday, August 8, 2026
- **Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Janosik Park
-

(3.) Take It To The Streets/Back to School Bash -Kingdom Life Family Ministry

- **Date:** Saturday, August 15, 2026
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Roger C. Fisher Park

(4.) Camp for Christ – Operation West Laurel

- **Date:** August 10, 2026 - August 13, 2026
- **Rain Date:** August 14, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Paul Laurence Dunbar, Webb Avenue Courts

(5.) 2nd Annual Broad Creek Bash

- **Date:** Saturday, August 22, 2026
- **Time:** After Party begins at 10:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Janosik Park

(6.) Back to School Bash - New Hope Covenant Ministries

- **Date:** Saturday, August 23, 2026
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Tidewater Park