



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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J. HARRY NORRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MILLER
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **September 8, 2008 ~ 4:00 P.M.**

Attendees: J. Harry Norris, Mayor
Walter Wise, Vice President
Dan Burris, Councilmember
Thomas Collier, Councilmember
Robert Combs, Councilmember
Leslie E. Roberts, Councilmember

Also in attendance were: Laschelle Miller, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Town Treasurer; DeAnn Adler, Plans Reviewer; Teri Dimsey, Recording Secretary; Jackie Post, Fiscal Clerk; Dean Beck/JoAnn Beck, Home Builders; Deputy Simonds; Holly Lobas, Olde Town Cupboard; Kevin Thompson, Kevin's Corner Kafe; John Norris, NGO Engineering. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Leonardtown Town Hall.

Mayor Norris called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Norris proceeded to take up the first item of business.

Approval of Minutes:

The meeting minutes for the August 11, 2008 Town Council meeting were presented for approval.

Mayor Norris entertained a motion to approve August 11, 2008 Town Council meeting minutes; Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Councilmember Wise; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Our Town Award

Mayor Norris stated that the Our Town Award is sponsored by Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home. Mike Gardiner established this award seven years ago as a way to acknowledge those individuals that do things to make our Town a much nicer place to live and work. We are honored this year to bestow this award to Dean Beck and Jo Ann Beck for their inspiration and dedication to the restoration of the old Sterling home. The Sterling House, with the new Corbels Restaurant is truly a real asset to the Town and this is a small way for the Town Council to say thank you.

Mayor Norris invited Mr. Beck and Ms. Beck to come forward to accept the award and have some photographs taken of the presentation.

Mr. Beck and Ms. Beck thanked everyone stating it was definitely their pleasure to oversee the transformation and how much appreciation the house has received, along with the opening of Corbel's restaurant.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that in Council's packet today is the financial information for August. During the month \$75,000 was transferred to the LGIP and we are 17% into the current budget year. There are some allocations that are needed in the income statement, specifically the real estate taxes which have not yet been recorded. Payroll expense may look a little high as there were three payrolls in August which bumps up the percentage but will level out as time goes on.

Ms. Sothoron stated that she prepared a memorandum to address some issues that deal with the utility billing. Council may remember that they delegated, as an administrative task, that staff members could make credits to customer's account if the bill had not been prepared yet; otherwise, we needed to come before Council who would evaluate and decide for the approval or disapproval. I am requesting a slight modification for customers who experience water leaks that for one time, administratively, we can handle those credits. It allows us to take care of the customer in a more timely fashion; we make it very clear it is a one time credit only. We communicate this through a letter with the invoice.

Councilmember Burris noted that he is concerned about the one time only credit as our building and infrastructure is very old and they could have issues further down the road. Is the sewage based on the water usage?

Ms. Sothoron agreed they could have future problems and answered that it is based on volume, currently the water is metered but the EDU's are flat regardless of consumption. This will change once the new water meters are in place. A new rate schedule will be presented to Council for approval at that time. This will also mean it will be a two service credit, one for water and one for sewer.

Ms. Sothoron commented it could be written to clarify it is a one time administrative credit and if necessary it could be appealed in the future.

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the policy on customer request for credit to utility accounts; seconded by Councilmember Wise, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Police Report – Deputy Simonds

Deputy Simonds reported that Councilmember Wise had expressed concern at last month's meeting about the amount of cars traveling out of town that were speeding. Deputy Simonds set up a traffic stop and they did pass out quite a few warnings and they will continue to monitor the speed of the exiting traffic periodically. We do still have a big problem along Route 5 and last month had eighteen motor vehicle accidents that were property damage only that occurred along the main corridor. In contrast, we had six hit and run accidents that were mostly parking lot related.

Deputy Simonds noted that they are making numerous premise checks down at the Leonardtown Wharf. During the month of August in the overnight hours mainly between 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. we had 42 officers doing premise checks. The only concern I have is to have some rules and regulations posted as this makes it more effective for us to enforce the type of behavior that is not acceptable, such as skateboarding.

Another issue is the number of assaults, which are mainly at the hospital and the detention center. One trend we had noticed is the number of assaults occurring at the nursing center off of Peabody Street, which is due mainly to the number of Alzheimer's patients there and they cannot be held accountable for their actions. We have had a few loitering and suspicious calls on occasion.

Councilmember Burris inquired about Leonard's Freehold.

Deputy Simonds responded that in that particular neighborhood the property manager has good intentions but getting things in motion has been difficult. But we have been working together to try new ways to improve security.

Planning Department – Laschelle Miller

Ms. Miller reported that last month's meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

This month's meeting on Monday, September 15, cases to be heard are:

- Case # 70-08 - 41630 Courthouse Drive – Request for Rezoning: Public Hearing to start at 4:15 p.m.
- Case # 81-08 - 22615 Washington Street – Request for 2nd Floor Addition:
- Case # 17-08 Ryken Facilities Waiver – 22600 Camp Calvert Road
- Case # 79-08 4th Floor Variance for St. Mary's Hospital
- Case # 92-07 Dr. Luke's Office Building Expansion
- Case # 64-04.2 Leonard's Grant Phase II
- Public Hearing for Ordinance 141 at 4:10 p.m. to hear comments regarding the text amendment to the Leonardtown Zoning Ordinance

Town Administrator's Report - Laschelle Miller

Olde Town Cupboard – This business is moving into the old County Seat location at 22696 Washington Street and is requesting a Beer, Wine and Liquor license for on site sales only. The owner, Ms. Holly Lobas is here today to answer any questions.

Ms. Lobas stated they'll be open 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with the long term plan to be open for dinner Thursday through Sunday and our goal is to open on September 15th.

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve a letter of support for a Beer, Wine and Liquor license for on-site sales only, seconded by Councilmember Wise, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Kevin's Corner Kafe –Mr. Kevin Thompson is here today to request on-site sales only Beer, Wine and Liquor license for his restaurant located at 41565 Park Avenue.

Councilmember Roberts asked if Mr. Thompson had any plans to expand his hours of operation.

Mr. Thompson replied they are open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday with later hours on Friday's as we have had some catered events and also plan to open on Saturdays from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Councilmember Wise moved to approve a letter of support for a Beer, Wine and Liquor license for on-site sales only, seconded by Councilmember Roberts, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously

Resolution 2-08 MML Geocache Trail – Several months ago Council was informed about a promotional project that MML is working on, the MML Geocache Trail. I presently chair this subcommittee and would like Leonardtown to be in the first round of participants. The program is ready to go. It does not require funds only a few minutes of staff time once a month. Placed in your packet for your review, is a letter from the President, an informational sheet along with a sample proclamation.

Ms. Miller provided a brief description of Geocaching, similar to a scavenger hunt only participants use a GPS tool to locate the cache which is hidden but placed to be found. The cache box may contain trinkets and coupons relative to the Town it is located in. The visitor will pick up a passport at the local Welcome Center. Collectible coins will be given out once a certain number of caches are located and the appropriate stamp or item is turned in as proof of finding the cache. The GPS coordinates of the cache box are on-line and individuals may record their cache box findings along with a tracking number on the collectible coins. We recently learned there is and has been a geocache box down at the Wharf for quite some time and there is a local group that meets at Doo Dah Deli. The box at the Wharf is art related, they find the cache, pull out a sketch book, draw a picture of something they see, place it back in the box and the person who maintains the cache box takes them out, scans the drawings and places it on the web.

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve and sign Resolution 2-08 Geocache Trail, seconded by Councilmember Wise, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Washington Street Partners Redevelopment Project- Mr. John Norris is proposing a redevelopment project for the Hospice building at 22699 Washington St. He is proposing dividing the first floor into two retail spots and adding a second floor for 6 apartments. Drawings of the proposed building were shown. Council needs to decide to move the project forward as a redevelopment project due to additional EDU requirements and forward it on to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Council members asked questions in regard to the exterior, the mixed use concept plan and the number of EDUs required.

Councilmember Roberts moved to forward the project on to the Planning and Zoning Commission as a revitalization project; Councilmember Burris seconded, no further discussion, motion passed by vote of three in favor, Member Collier opposed and Councilmember Combs abstained.

Mayors Report

Mayor Norris stated that he would like to appoint Glen Mattingly to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Mattingly lives out near the Governmental Center and has agreed to serve and this brings us up to five board members.

Mayor Norris commented that he attended the National Assisted Living Week event at Cedar Lane and presented them with a Proclamation from Council and joined them during their ice cream social. The theme this year is “Filling Life with Love” and Mayor Norris passed out buttons with the present theme.

Mayor Norris remarked that he will be making a presentation, along with Kennedy Abell and Al Gough of history of the Town based on postcards from the 1900s to 1950s in conjunction with the CSM’s Friday Night Lecture Series on Friday, September 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. We expect to have a bit of fun with it and hope you can all attend.

Events

Councilmember Burris reported on the upcoming events.

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
Tuesday, Sept. 9	9:00 AM	Chamber Tourism Committee Meeting @ SM Airport Conference Room
Wednesday, Sept. 10	8:30 AM	LBA Meeting @ TBD
Thursday, Sept. 11	NOON	9/11 Remembrance Ceremony @ Governmental Center
Friday, Sept. 12	8:30 AM	Location to be determined
Saturday, Sept. 13	10 AM – 3 PM	Fall Follies Craft Show in Leonardtown

Adjournment:

Councilmember Burris moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Roberts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teri Dimsey, Recording Secretary

Approved:

J. Harry Norris, III, Mayor

Walter Wise, Vice President

Daniel W. Burris, Councilmember

Thomas R. Collier, Councilmember

Robert C. Combs, Councilmember

Leslie E. Roberts, Councilmember