



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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J. HARRY NORRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MILLER
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **June 8, 2009 ~ 4:00 P.M.**

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

Absent: Leslie E. Roberts, Councilmember

Also in attendance were: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Town Treasurer; DeAnn Adler, Plans Reviewer; Teri Dimsey, Recording Secretary; Jackie Post, Fiscal Clerk; Tony Wheatley, Capital Projects Coordinator. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Leonardtown Town Hall.

Mayor Norris called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and called for 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 May 11, 2009 Town Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Burris moved to approve the May 11, 2009 Town Council meeting minutes; seconded by Councilmember Collier; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that during the month of May \$155,000 was transferred to the checking account to cover operating expenses. We are 92% through the budget year. We did receive compensation for the gutter damage sustained over the winter at the wharf. The insurance claim is being finalized for approximately \$10,000 for equipment damage at the treatment plant and a new claim for damage sustained by a lighting strike at the McIntosh Pump Station.

Ms. Sothoron stated there is a budget amendment for approval today BJ08-09 for the Comprehensive Plan Update and the monies received from the grant request. These monies were not previously added to the 2009 budget.

Councilmember Burris moved to approve BJ08-09 to move the consultant fees to the proper budget account; seconded by Councilmember Collier, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Planning Report – DeAnn Adler

Ms. Adler reported that last month our Planning and Zoning meeting was held on May 11, 2009 at 4:00 pm and one case was heard.

Case # 14-05 Clark's Rest – The applicant was requesting a two-year extension for the concept approval for this project. Their current concept approval will expire in June. The new submitted drawings have incorporated changes requested at the time of original concept approval. This two-year extension got a recommendation of approval from the P & Z board and will be presented at next month's meeting for final approval of this extension.

This month our P & Z meeting was scheduled for June 15, 2009. No cases are scheduled to be heard at this time; the meeting may be canceled.

Police Report – Deputy Simonds

Deputy Simonds reported there was a burglary at Ryken High School and the investigation is ongoing. There were a few thefts, assaults and breaking and entering during the last month. We are also introducing more coverage during First Fridays utilizing more bicycle patrol.

Mayor Norris entertained a motion to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Collier moved to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing on FY10 Recommended Budget; seconded by Councilmember Burris, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Norris opened the Public Hearing and reported a brief overview of the budget process. He stated that on May 20, 2009 he presented a draft budget to the Council and the draft included the current rate of .15 cents. The Council subsequently had two workshops and after their review of the budget, Council decided to reduce the tax rate to the constant yield, which in our case is .137 cents. The budget being presented today reflects that change.

Mayor Norris asked if Ms. Sothoron had any comments.

Ms. Sothoron stated we were required, and it was, advertised in all three local papers. One copy was picked up at the Town Office. We have not received any comments as of the deadline of 4:00 p.m. today.

Mayor Norris asked if anyone in the audience had any comments or questions. There being none, Mayor Norris stated that he would like to provide more time for people to voice any

concerns, therefore, he would suggest Council hold another meeting next week on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 to finalize the budget. Also, Councilmember Roberts could not be in attendance today and as we have an executive session scheduled it would be better she was available for both finalizing the budget and the executive session on personnel and litigation.

Council members consented to holding a Town Council meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 to finalize the budget and hold the executive session.

Mayor Norris asked if there were any further comments or questions. There being none, he entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting.

Councilmember Collier moved to close the Public Hearing and re-open the regular meeting; seconded by Councilmember Wise, motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Report – Laschelle McKay

Ms. McKay reported that they are replacing the boiler at the Waste Water Treatment plant and Ms. Sothoron has been working with Mr. Johnson on this project.

Ms. Sothoron remarked that a memorandum outlining the details is included in Council's packet. This process has taken several months and was a budgeted item for FY09. All prices were under the estimated budget amount. I did ask for another comparison quote, which did turn out higher than the other quotes. It was not advertised as we felt we could get good response from local companies.

Councilmember Combs remarked that the boiler mentioned in one of the quotes was different than the specifications, did anyone ask them if they had a typo or did they bid on the wrong equipment? Before we make a decision we need to inquire about this.

Ms. Sothoron stated that she cannot answer that but would confer with Mr. Johnson.

Councilmember Collier inquired if any local plumbers were contacted and if not this should be done.

Ms. Sothoron responded that we did pursue the route of purchasing the boiler and then hiring a firm to install but Mr. Johnson was uncomfortable with doing that due to the technical nature of the equipment. We can also send this out to the list of local vendors we used for the Port of Leonardtown, which includes plumbers and HVAC companies.

Mayor Norris requested that Mr. Johnson be in attendance at the next meeting to answer any questions.

Ms. Miller reported that funds from a grant we received were used to prepare a new brochure which features quotes from residents and business owners to promote the local businesses, events and wharf facilities, how Leonardtown is a most convenient place to live, work and shop.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Norris reported that he was invited to Newtowne Village to present a proclamation in honor of Older American’s Month and Ms. Foo Tippet is back as Manager of the facility.

Mayor Norris stated that he was contacted by a reporter from the Star, a Canadian newspaper, in regard to the GM dealer closings and he provided information on the Bell Motor Company and the Bell family was contacted and contributed to the article, a copy is available if anyone is interested.

Mayor Norris remarked that they have had several meetings with Quality Built Homes over the last week concerning a variety of issues as they continue to work on Leonard’s Grant.

Council Reports

Events - Councilmember Burris:

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
Friday, June 12	8:30 AM	LBA Meeting @ CSM, Leonardtown Campus
Sunday, June 14	6:00 PM	Flag Day @ Governmental Center
Sunday, June 14	11 AM – 5 PM	Crab Festival @ Fairgrounds
Friday, June 19	7:00 PM	2009 River Concert Series begins @ St. Mary’s College (Friday evenings)
Saturday, June 20 th	10 AM – 5 PM	Maryland Day @ Historic St. Mary’s City
Sunday, June 21 st	11 AM – 1 PM	Family, Fun, & Fitness Day, CSM Leonardtown campus
Wednesday, June 24	5:30 PM	Business After Hours @ Hickory Hills East Community Center in Great Mills
Saturday, June 27	6-9 PM	Downtown Tunes
Sunday, June 28 - Wednesday, July 1		MML Convention @ Ocean City
Friday, July 3		Independence Day Holiday – Office closed
Saturday, July 4	5-10 PM	Freedom Fest 2008 @ County Fairgrounds
Saturday, July 11	4-10 PM	Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival @ St. Clement’s Island Museum

Saturday, July 11 & 18 7-8 PM Evening Concerts on the Square

Saturday, July 25 6-9 PM Downtown Tunes

Parks – Councilmember Combs: No report

Streets and Roads – Councilmember Wise: No Report

MML/SMMA – Councilmember Roberts: No Report

Capital Projects – Councilmember Collier: No Report

Mayor Norris entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilmember Burris moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilmember Combs 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