



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **February 10, 2014**

Attendees: Daniel W. Burris, Mayor
Leslie Roberts, Vice President
Thomas R. Collier, Councilmember
Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember
J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember
Roger L. Mattingly, Councilmember

Also in attendance were: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer; Teri Dimsey, Secretary; DeAnn Adler, Plans Reviewer; Jackie Post, Fiscal Clerk; Maria Fleming, Events Coordinator; Dick Myers, The BayNet; Nicole Clark, The Enterprise; Donna Hamlet, Resident; JoAnn and Christina Choporis, Resident; Bill Jenkins, Realtor; Laura Clarke, Soltesz Engineering; Kay Pairo, County Times; Joseph Sanders, Resident. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Leonardtown Town Hall.

Mayor Burris stated that the first order of business was the Invocation and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes for the January 13, 2014 Town Council meeting were presented for approval.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly moved to approve the January 13, 2014 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Collier; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that \$100,000 was transferred from the LGIP to the Operating Account. We are 59% through the budget year. The half-year tax bills were calculated and mailed at the end of January. The property and liability insurance premium allocations to other departments have been made. Buildings and grounds allocations have been disbursed to the shared departments. Tax rebate requests have been submitted to the County. I am continuing to work on revisions to the trash contract as the pre-bid meeting is scheduled for the end of February and hopefully a contract will be awarded at the April Town Council meeting.

Ms. Sothoron brought forward Budget Amendment BJ03-14 – Funding Compensation Study to confirm approval by Council given at January’s meeting to hire the consultants to prepare a Compensation Study.

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve BJ-3-14; seconded by Councilmember Hammett; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Planning & Zoning Report – DeAnn Adler

Ms. Adler reported that last month’s Planning and Zoning meeting was held on January 27, 2014. We had one item on the agenda – the Zoning Map changes – Ordinance #164, which was first introduced at January’s Town Council meeting. A public hearing was held for comments and you have a copy of the minutes from that meeting along with their recommendation. Another public hearing will also be held today on these same zoning map changes.

Next month’s Planning and Zoning meeting will be held on February 18, 2014. There is one item on the agenda – Marrick Homes. They will be asking for some changes to the Clark’s Rest site plan regarding the location of driveways for some of the single family homes.

Police Report – Deputy Smolarsky

Deputy Smolarsky was unable to attend but provided Council with a written report.

Mayor Burris remarked that he spoke with Sheriff Cameron who mentioned that the department recently purchased some Segways, one of which will be utilized by Deputy Smolarksy around the Town during events.

PUBLIC HEARING – Comprehensive Rezoning – Ordinance No. 164

Mayor Burris asked Ms. McKay to provide a brief background summary of Ordinance No. 164 - Comprehensive Rezoning before opening the public hearing.

Ms. McKay reported that the Comprehensive Rezoning committee has forwarded 10 proposed rezonings for consideration based on their meetings since last August. The committee consists of Christy Sterling, Hayden Hammett, Dan Burris, Dan Norris, Mike Paone, Laschelle McKay and Deann Adler. Provided before you is a map and a description of each of the proposed rezonings. At the January 13, 2014 Town Council meeting Ordinance No. 164 was introduced and forwarded to the Planning Commission for a recommendation. The Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing regarding the Comprehensive Rezoning proposal on January 27, 2014. Draft minutes from that meeting have been provided. The Planning and Zoning Commission sent a favorable recommendation regarding all 10 proposed rezonings. Ms. McKay read out each zoning change and the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ms. McKay noted that it was advertised in the County Times and a notice was placed on the Town’s website. The Town received no letters, but we did receive a few questions by phone regarding Ordinance No. 164.

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

Councilmember Roberts moved to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 164 – Comprehensive Rezoning; seconded by Councilmember Hammett, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Burris asked the Council if there were any questions.

Ms. Donna Hammett, homeowner of property on Church Street, asked how this would affect her property.

Ms. McKay remarked that it does not affect her unless she was to change the use, such as using it as a commercial business, then you would be taxed as a commercial property.

Mayor Burris stated that he checked with the Assessment Office and as long as the property owner did not initiate the change it does not affect your tax rate, only if you were to change the use.

Mr. Al Saunders, owner of the property at the corner of Rt. 245 and Rt. 5, asked Council to clarify his CO zoning and the Combs property located behind his property.

Mayor Burris responded that yes, his property is zoned CO which can accommodate light retail, and the Combs property is already zoned CO but the apartment complex is zoned MF.

Mr. Norman Norris remarked that he felt it was a good plan and they have done a good job.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor Burris entertained a motion on the Comprehensive Rezoning Plan.

Councilmember Hammett moved to approve Comprehensive Rezoning Ordinance No. 164 which includes all ten of the proposed comprehensive rezoning changes as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission; seconded by Councilmember Roberts, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Roberts thanked all the committee members for their time and efforts.

Ms. McKay stated that the Ordinance will go into effect in twenty days.

Town Administrator Report – Laschelle McKay

Ms. McKay reported that Patuxent Adventure Center provided their annual report on the canoe and kayak concession. They saw a 60% increase during the 2013 season. Dave Lane still plans

to increase the paddling services offered in Leonardtown for the 2014 season. The chart shows 408 rentals this year versus the 256 reported in the 2012 season.

Ms. McKay also noted that the engineering RFP for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade has gone out to bid. A pre-bid is scheduled for next week and on the agenda for awarding in March.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Burris reported that he received a very nice note from Cedar Lane thanking Council for attending their annual birthday celebration for those residents turning ninety.

He attended the Maryland Mayor's Association Conference in Annapolis and met with the Southern Maryland Delegation. The main subject, as usual, was the Highway User Funds which we keep challenging the State to maintain. The keynote speaker was Mr. Basu. Some points during his presentation were the top four employment areas: professional/business services, transportation, leisure/hospitality and lastly, education/health services and Leonardtown is especially primed for all these areas.

Events - Roger Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that Ms. Fleming is working hard on coordinating Earth Day 2014 to be held on Sunday, April 13th. She continues to help coordinate "Raiders and Invaders Weekend" with St. Mary's County Tourism and LBA.

Initial Christmas on the Square follow-up was supportive of moving the rides to the Courthouse side of Town. However, this has left a large empty gap between the tree and the fire truck rides that we need to try to fill for next year. While there are still complaints about the smaller parade, it has been determined to be the safer course of action.

25th Hour Band has been secured for this year's Beach Party. Steve Bailey and the buy boats are also returning to the Wharf this year for Beach Party weekend.

The Beacon newsletter is expected to be distributed in March and Leonardtown's 2014 Calendar of Events brochure is ready for distribution.

Letters requesting sponsorship of Leonardtown 2014 events have been mailed to local businesses.

Councilmember Mattingly mentioned that the story of Moll Dyer can be found on the Leonardtown.net website for those who are interested.

Mayor Burris remarked that a group of producers want to do a story on the Legend of Moll Dyer. They are affiliated with the Weather Channel and want to do a series which will air sometime this summer and the Moll Dyer story will be the first of that series to air.

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
Monday, Feb. 17	HOLIDAY	Town Office CLOSED - Presidents' Day
Friday, Feb. 21	7:30 AM	State of the Town Breakfast CSM – Leonardtown, Bldg. A - Auditorium
Monday, Feb. 24	8: 00 AM	Southern MD Legislative Breakfast (RSVP) Olde Breton Inn, Leonardtown
Wednesday, Feb. 26	5:30 PM	Chamber Business After Hours (RSVP) Hosted by Marrick Properties @ Elizabeth Hills Community 21091 Lizson Ct., California
Thursday, Feb. 27	7:00 PM	So. MD Legislative Reception (RSVP) Loews Annapolis Hotel 126 West Street, Annapolis, MD
Thursday, Mar. 6 – Saturday, March 8	7:00 PM	St. Mary's Ryken Spring Musical Romuald Hall Theatre
Friday, Mar. 7	5-8 PM	First Fridays in Leonardtown – for more info check www.leonardtownfirstfridays.com
Friday, Mar. 14	8:30 AM	LBA Meeting - TBD
Friday, Mar. 28	TBD	Doctors' Day breakfast MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

Community Development and Strategic Planning - Hayden Hammett

Councilmember Hammett thanked Ms. McKay and Ms. Adler for all their hard work on the Comprehensive Rezoning changes and Ordinance changes as it was a very long process. There are also several new businesses that have opened. St. Mary's Wine and Design, Designs by Jody at the Maryland Antique Center, All American MD, Latte Stone and Breton Bay Dentistry. It is exciting to note that Leonardtown has such a diverse group of businesses.

Capital Projects - Tom Collier

Councilmember Collier reported that he and Mr. Wheatley toured the Town roads putting together a list of items that need to be addressed for the FY2015 budget.

SMMA Update - Leslie Roberts

Councilmember Roberts reported that the next SMMA meeting is scheduled for March 5th. MML has been busy with their legislative work and the upcoming Maryland Mayor's

Conference. The legislators are very complimentary of the MML staff, how knowledgeable and helpful they are to them in addressing any Town issues.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that he received a compliment from one of his neighbors about how clear the streets were in such a timely manner after the recent snow. Thank you to Bowles Farm. He was unable to make the last Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting but will make the next one.

Mayor Burris reminded everyone that he will be available for discussion after the close of this meeting and entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm; seconded by Councilmember Hammett, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teri P. Dimsey

Approved:

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

Leslie E. Roberts, Vice President

Thomas R. Collier, Councilmember

Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember

Roger L. Mattingly, Councilmember