



# Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS  
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY  
Town Administrator

## **Commissioners of Leonardtown** **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **April 13, 2015**

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

Also in attendance were: Teri Dimsey, Secretary; Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer; Cindy Williams, Planning Assistant; Dick Myers, The Bay Net; Dan Slade, Attorney; Mike Mummaugh, Paragon Properties; Steve Woodburn, Resident. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Leonardtown Town Hall.

Mayor Burris asked that Councilmember Hammett lead the invocation and Ms. Dimsey to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Burris moved on to the first order of business.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes for the March 9, 2015 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 February 9, 2015 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Jay Mattingly; motion passed unanimously.**

### **Treasurer's Report** – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that the March financial information has been provided. No transfers were made during the month. We are 75% through the budget year. We did receive the final certification from the State Assessment office for SMECO. It did go up but is far lower than what we have gotten in previous years and we have received no information as to why there has been a decrease and if this is what we should expect every year.

Budget deadline was Friday and the draft budget will be distributed at the May 11<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting with a Workshop on May 19.

Also, we have set up a Shred Day for Town Residents and Businesses on Saturday, May 9 at the storage facility parking lot across from Good Earth from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This was announced in the Beacon and the closer we get we will post on the news section of our website.

Mayor Burriss asked if there was a limit to the amount of shredding.

Ms. Sothoron responded they set a five box limit for any customer.

Councilmember Roberts inquired about the total amount spent on snow removal.

Ms. Sothoron remarked that to date approximately \$29,000 has been paid and once she does the five year average calculations it may be that the amount of \$15,000 budgeted yearly may need to be increased but it is too early to yet to tell.

Councilmember Roberts asked about the constant yield figure.

Ms. Sothoron responded that the constant yield was .1252 and the current tax rate is .1266 and we are exempt from any notification requirements.

Councilmember Roberts inquired about any health insurance issues.

Ms. Sothoron noted that she is working with our insurance agent. Renewal rates have gone up 8% this year and we have new compensation changes to include, so she is exploring options.

### **Police Report**

Deputy Smolarsky is unable to attend today's meeting but Mayor Burriss noted that she provided a written report.

### **Planning & Zoning Report** – Laschelle McKay

Last month's Planning & Zoning meeting was held on March 16, 2015. We had one item on the agenda:

Case #6-15 - 22845 Washington Street; M 127 P 288 - Request for concept plan approval

The concept plan includes renovation of the existing building and the addition of two pad sites. This redevelopment will be completed in three phases.

The first phase will be construction of the 2,027 s.f. pad site at the front of the property to be occupied by Dunkin Donuts. The second phase will be a pad site built at the rear of the property. The specific use for this space has not yet been determined. The third phase will be the renovation of the existing building.

The concept plan received unanimous approval.

Due to a scheduling conflict on April 20, the next meeting will be held on April 27, 2015 and we currently have one item on the agenda:

Case #23-15 – 25805 Point Lookout Road; Map 126 Parcel 95; formerly the Ahearn Property – Request for concept plan approval submitted by W.M. Davis Development

**Town Administrator's Report** – Laschelle McKay

**Liquor License Letter of Support Request for Pho Saigon Restaurant** - They are requesting a Class B Restaurant license for Wine, Beer and Liquor sales at 40874 Merchants Lane that includes the extension of premises for the outdoor tables at the rear of the restaurant. Mr. Peter Quen and Ms. Kim Pho will be the authorized persons holding the license. It is the same type of license held by the previous establishment.

Mr. Dan Slade is in attendance today, representing the owners, to answer any questions.

**Councilmember Roger Mattingly moved to send a letter of support for a Class B Liquor License for Pho Saigon; seconded by Councilmember Hammett; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.**

**Ordinance No. 169 – Authorization of Financing Authority of the ENR Upgrade** – We are on the schedule for the Board of Public Works for May 13 two days after our May 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. We are looking to add on the May agenda some tentative approval contingent on the Board of Public Works approving our funding. We introduced the Ordinance last month. We did receive approval on our final numbers of the amount we need to borrow and within this Ordinance it says that it was not to exceed \$14 million dollars and we will be under that number at approximately \$12 million. The plan is to move this Ordinance forward. The rest of the financial documents will be coming forward hopefully at the May meeting.

Councilmember Hammett asked to clarify some financial language regarding the cap issue and after reading through it determined he was comfortable with the language.

**Councilmember Combs moved to approve Ordinance No. 169 as presented; seconded by Councilmember Jay Mattingly; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. McKay reported that in October of 2014 the new Growler's to Go law went into effect statewide. These are refillable containers for craft beers. We do have a couple of restaurants who have requested this be added to their license and the Liquor Board wanted to know what the Council's position is on this issue.

**Council gave consensus that the Town is accepting of the Growler license being added to existing license.**

Ms. McKay also noted that we received a matching grant from the Maryland Arts and Entertainment to purchase a number of banners as something more visible to denote we are an A&E District.

The Food Vendor RFP was issued and is due on Friday.

Councilmember Roberts requested information on annexation of Wilkinson and Wathen farms.

Ms. McKay responded that the Comprehensive Plan changes have gone into effect and she met with the attorney handling the annexation request. It may then come forward at the June meeting and the public hearing would be scheduled for July.

Councilmember Roberts asked about the status of the Hampton project.

Ms. McKay noted that it is still going through the final site plan review.

Councilmember Roberts inquired about the new gazebo to be placed at the Port of Leonardtown Public Park.

Ms. McKay remarked that Mr. Wheatley has been working with the gentleman constructing the gazebo. It needs to be painted and we hope to have it on-site by the end of April but it will still need to have electric installed and flooring.

We received notice that Grace Brady nominated Carolyn Laray, Maria Fleming and myself for a Historic Preservation Award for the organizing and implementation of the Raiders and Invaders event and there is a scheduled presentation for May 19<sup>th</sup>. The entire staff and the entire Raiders and Invaders committee members will also be recognized.

Councilmember Roberts inquired about SMECO's interest in buying up additional land surrounding their facility.

Mayor Burris responded that he heard that the residents who have their property up for sale are waiting for a possible offer from SMECO but no news to date.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Burris reported that he was invited by the Leonardtown Fire Department to join them to present a Proclamation from the Town and recognize their 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during a visit by Maryland State Comptroller Peter Franchot.

Councilmember Combs remarked that he was also in attendance, it was a nice recognition speech given by Comptroller Franchot.

The new Beacon is out, take some time to read through it as it contains a large amount of interesting and useful information.

Ms. McKay interjected that this Beacon has a page that can be torn out to put someplace prominent listing all the children's and adult activities happening locally this summer.

The sidewalk breakout project through State Highway is moving along slowly with a plan to bid construction for phase I on Rt. 245 by the end of this year and the end of next year will be phase

II. We have had interest from residents coming in to ask questions and all have been positive about the planned sidewalk addition.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly inquired about the Fire Department/Rescue Department letter in regards to elevators in three-story buildings.

Ms. McKay remarked that that is in reference to the International Building Code and we are required to pass a new code by July 15, 2015 and we are waiting to see what changes the County is making to their code. We did reply and explained this to the Fire Department and Rescue Squad and does require further discussion before moving forward.

**Events** – Roger Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly congratulated Connie Pennington as St. Mary’s County Woman of the Year. Most know Ms. Pennington as the Veteran’s Day Parade coordinator. Join us on Sunday for the annual Earth Day Celebration and The Southern Maryland Film Festival submissions are due April 30, 2015.

**Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event/Meeting</u>
Saturday, April 18	9 AM – 3 PM	Coastal Arts Market, Port of Leonardtown Park
Sunday, Apr. 19	12:30 – 4:30 PM	Leonardtown Earth Day Celebration 2015
Wednesday, April 22	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Chamber Business After Hours (RSVP) Hosted by Lexington Park Dentistry 21875 Three Notch Rd. Lexington Park
Sunday, Apr. 26 (Rain Date: May 3)	8 AM – 4 PM	St. Mary’s Rod & Classic XXX Spring Fling Car Show Leonardtown Square
Wednesday, April 29	7:30 AM	Briefing on Export & Tech Export Opportunities Hosted by SMC Chamber of Commerce and The Patuxent Partnership @ the Southern MD Higher Ed Ctr
Friday, May 1	5:00 PM	Then & Now First Friday
Saturday, May 2	11:00 AM	Cystic Fibrosis Walk @ Leonardtown Wharf
Sat., May 2 (tentative)	5 - 6:00 PM	Pilates class @ Port of Leonardtown Park
Thurs. & Fri., 4/30 & 5/1	5:00 PM – 11:00 PM	So. Md. 21 <sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Festival @ SMC Fairgrounds
Sat., May 2	10:00 AM – 11:00 PM	
Sun., May 3	10:00 AM – 6:00 PM	
Friday, May 8	8:30 AM	LBA Meeting @ TBD
Friday, May 8 (tentative)	6:00 PM	LHS Jazz Band Spring Concert @ the Wharf
Saturday, May 9	10 AM – 1 PM	Shred Day for Residents

Wednesday, May 13	11:30 AM – 6 PM	2015 Business Showcase & Awards Luncheon So. Maryland Higher Education Center
Saturday, May 23	6 – 9:00 PM	Downtown Tunes

### **Community Development and Strategic Planning** - Hayden Hammett

Councilmember Hammett reported that there have been numerous discussions in regards to where a new library should be and we are excited that they are building it and looking forward to a final decision. The former Corner Critters building is now under construction and we are excited to see that project move along. There are some buildings up for sale in and around Town with some interest and we hope to see the arrival of some new businesses. Less than 20 homes still to be built in the Leonard's Grant community.

Councilmember Roberts expressed her excitement about the pop-up garden nursery at the former Winegardner used car lot.

Mayor Burris mentioned that Ms. Williams received a call from a chocolatier who may have an interest in opening up a shop.

Councilmember Roberts asked about the Economic Development Work Group and the status of the RPF.

Ms. McKay responded that they will be setting up a meeting soon to review the RFPs.

Councilmember Roberts mentioned that MML would love to see Leonardtown get more involved in the Main Street America which may be something we focus on now. Westminster received a \$2 million grant.

Mayor Burris noted that he will set up some meetings during the MML Convention for more discussion.

Ms. McKay explained that the Main Street America involves hiring a full time manager and considerable start-up funds. There are some budget items to be discussed to help move the A&E District up a level and this may be a stepping stone into the Main Street America program.

### **ENR Upgrade** – Tom Combs

Councilmember Combs reported that Ms. McKay covered the update in her report.

### **SMMA Update** – Leslie Roberts

Councilmember Roberts reported that the next meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> in La Plata and they will have a speaker who is the Chief of Resource and Infrastructure Management. They are also exploring starting a GIS working group to find a way to share GIS with all the Towns. The MML Convention is coming up in June and they have a great range of topics that are very informative.

Councilmember Roberts asked if we are doing anything with Sustainable Maryland.

Ms. McKay remarked that it is really focused on LEED Certification and we have not actively pursued it at this time.

**Safety and Emergency Preparedness** – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that he and Mr. Wheatley have been around Town locating roads and streets that need minor repairs, re-striping and paving due to the snow. They will be prioritizing this list as they have approximately \$57,000 in the budget for the work.

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

**Councilmember Hammett moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 4:55 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Roger Mattingly, no further discussion; motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted:

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Teri P. Dimsey

**Approved:**

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Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

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Leslie E. Roberts, Vice President

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Thomas M. Combs, Councilmember

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Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

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