



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **December 14, 2015**

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

Absent: Thomas M. Combs, Councilmember

Also in attendance were: Teri Dimsey, Secretary; Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer; Cindy Williams, Planning Assistant, Billy Mehaffey, Mehaffey & Associates; John Wharton, The Enterprise; Dick Myers, The Bay Net. 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 lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Burris moved on to the first order of business.

Mayor Burris remarked that the Church of Nazarene was selected as the Best Dressed Business Window and we have with us today Pastor Paul MacPherson and his daughter Naomi to accept the award. Ms. Fleming captured the moment with a photograph of Mayor Burris presenting the award.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes for the November 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 November 9, 2015 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Roberts ; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that no transfer of funds was needed to or from the Operating Account. We have received \$1.1 million dollars in grant money for the ENR project and \$1.5 million dollars in loan proceeds. We will continue to draw down the loan proceeds twice a year, pay interest and we do not start repaying principal until 2018. We are 41% through the Budget. The first quarterly income tax remittance was received in November and looks like we are ahead of budget but the fourth quarter reconciling items which is part of that distribution was pretty significant. This year's reconciling numbers are slightly higher than last year.

The budget calendar has been distributed; budget requests are due on February 5th. The outstanding or delinquent property tax list has shrunk to about seven accounts and we will communicate with the County Treasurer and if anything is unpaid they will sell that at the March tax sale.

Planning & Zoning Report – Laschelle McKay

There was no meeting last month. There are numerous projects in the works but many are waiting on engineering and other reports so there are no cases to be heard and the meeting scheduled for this month has been cancelled.

Police Report – Mayor Burris

Deputy Smolarsky is not available to attend today's meeting but has submitted a written report.

Town Administrator Report – Laschelle McKay

Award Street Sweeping Contract – The street sweeping contract for approximately 12.65 miles of Town streets has expired and the contract was publicly bid. The contract is for a three year term with two one-year options. The ad was published in the County Times and on the town website. We received one bid from T&T Sweeping with no increase for 2016 and a 1% increase each year for 2017 and 2018. The current annual contract is for \$33,642. As new streets are accepted into the town system an increase is added to the contract.

Councilmember Hammett moved to approve the bid award to T&T Sweeping as presented; seconded by Councilmember Roberts, no further questions, motion passed unanimously.

2016 Annual Report from Patuxent Adventure Center – Ms. McKay noted that PAC is showing a 16-20% increase. They have plans for more activities and look forward to the upcoming season.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly inquired if there was any vendor interest in the Concession Stand.

Ms. McKay responded that she met with the Health Department and Mr. Kurley who is interested and he is supposed to be submitting a plan/proposal in the next few months.

Ms. McKay reported that she met with the Director of Programs for the State of Maryland Arts Council who released a pamphlet showing the incredible impact that Arts and Entertainment has on the economy.

Councilmember Roberts inquired about the new poetry reading event she had heard about.

Ms. McKay remarked that in February the Poetry Out Loud that used to be held locally at St. Mary's College has changed the format to three regional events and have asked Leonardtown to host one of the regional events which will be held at the Leonardtown Campus of College of Southern Maryland on the third Saturday of February.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Burris stated he wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Events – Roger Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly thanked Ms. Fleming and all the Town Staff for all their hard work in making the holiday events a huge success.

Veterans Day Parade & Memorial Ceremony – The parade on Monday, November 11th featured over 2,800 participants and 115 registered groups. Additionally, an estimated 5,000 spectators came into Town to honor our heroes, and to see Lieutenant Governor of Maryland Boyd Rutherford and other VIP's. Thanks to all the members of the Planning Committee, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, the Town Staff and our volunteers, donors and sponsors the parade and service ran very smoothly. However, there were quite a few issues with the shuttles, so we still need to keep working on streamlining that aspect of the event for next year.

National Youth 5K – The 3rd Annual NY5K was held at the Leonardtown Wharf, and throughout the streets of Leonardtown, on Sunday, November 15th. This was a timed 5K, so intersections were blocked as needed to allow runners time to pass. This year the race hosted 130 runners, and was well-attended by family members and other supporters.

Christmas on the Square and Christmas Tree Lighting – While it is impossible to get an exact head count, we had an estimated 8,000+ spectators join us for Santa's arrival to light the Christmas tree! New performers on stage this year included COSMIC Brass, St. Marie's A Cappella, the Chesapeake Children's Chorus, LaKeisha Smith Whipple, and our new emcee Mock Mattingly! The pony rides were a hit, as was the music around Tudor Hall for the rides down Courthouse Drive – both last minute replacements – so many thanks to Milford Meadow Farms and James Hobbs! Many thanks to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department, Leonardtown Business Association, Leonardtown Council, Town staff and event sponsors for making this a safer and ridiculously popular event!

This year's Best Dressed Business is Leonardtown Church of the Nazarene!

Many businesses have reported good returns during Christmas on the Square, Small Business Saturday and Wish List First Friday.

Santa & Mrs. Claus – Santa and Mrs. Claus had a lovely 65 degree day in which to greet children of all ages. Due to parent input, we are considering permanently changing the time.

Beacon Newsletter – The next issue of the Beacon newsletter will be in distributed in late March 2016. Please share your ideas and suggestions for articles with DeAnn, Maria, Laschelle or Teri.

2016 Calendar of Events – Coordinating Leonardtown’s 2016 Calendar of Events Brochure for distribution in early February.

The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department is holding its first Fight Like a Kid 5k Walk and Fun Run on Saturday, December 19 at 9 a.m. to benefit 3-year-old Nolan Scully, who was recently diagnosed with a rare soft tissue cancer and is expected to have almost 49 weeks of treatment at various locations. Nolan is the son of Leonardtown Fire Chief Jonathan Scully. All proceeds from the race will go directly to the Scully family to pay for Nolan’s treatment, as well as transportation and housing.

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

Wednesday, December 16	5 PM	Chamber Business After Hours & Toys for Tots Drive @ Community Bank of the Chesapeake 25395 Three Notch Rd. Lexington Park
Wednesday, December 16	6 PM	Staff Christmas Party at Mayor Burris’
Saturday, December 19	9 AM	Fight Like a Kid 5K Walk and Fun Run Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Dept. To benefit Nolan Scully
Friday, December 25	HOLIDAY	Town Office Closed Merry Christmas!
Friday, January 1, 2016	HOLIDAY	Town Office Closed – Happy New Year!
Friday, January 8	8:30 AM	LBA Meeting @Marrick Homes, Clarks Rest

Community Development and Strategic Planning - Hayden Hammett

Councilmember Hammett reported that there are a lot of projects in the works. The PNC building has a contract on it and we look forward to learning more about their proposed project. We have received a lot of interest in renting space in the new retail center which is the old Bell Motor Used Car building.

ENR Upgrade – Laschelle McKay

The project is moving along smoothly. Information was sent on a proposal for an additional necessary expansion while they are presently working which was discussed previously and will be presented to Council at a future meeting.

Mayor Burris stated that Councilmember Combs has been under the weather in and out of the hospital but is home now, feeling much better, and we wish him good health and good cheer.

SMMA Update – Leslie Roberts

Councilmember Roberts reported that the SMMA Legislative dinner was very well attended and our representative, Deb Rey was in attendance. MML continues focus on the Highway User Funds and there is some results of potential distribution. Tax rebates were another issue, we are

very fortunate to have a great working relationship with our County government, but some of the other Towns struggle to get their fair share. The next meeting will be held on January 6, 2016 and hosted by the Town of Annapolis.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that the crosswalk was completed at Miss Bessie Drive and Doctors Crossing. AB&H spread some top soil and grass seed and we have already received a host of compliments.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to close the regular meeting; Council will move into Executive Session on Property Acquisition.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly moved to close the regular meeting at 4:35 p.m. and open Executive Session; Councilmember Hammett seconded, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

At 4:55 pm the regular December Town Council meeting was reopened.

Councilmember Leslie Roberts moved to approve what was discussed in Executive Session regarding the purchase of a specific property in Leonardtown. Councilmember Hayden Hammett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Hammett moved to close the public meeting at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Roger Mattingly. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teri P. Dimsey

Approved:

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

Leslie E. Roberts, Vice President

Absent
Thomas M. Combs, Councilmember

Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember

Roger L. Mattingly, Councilmember