



# Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS  
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY  
Town Administrator

## **Commissioners of Leonardtown** **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **January 11, 2016**

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; Maria Fleming, Events Coordinator; Cindy Williams, Planning Assistant; Carolyn Laray, SMC Tourism; 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.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes for the December 14, 2016 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 December 14, 2016 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Jay Mattingly ; motion passed unanimously.**

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

Ms. Sothoron reported that there were no transfers required during December to or from the Operating Account. We are now 50% through the budget year. We do have two tax sale accounts that were sent over to the County Treasurer. We are working on County budget requests which are due early February.

A phone meeting has been arranged with the vendor on the online bill pay. They will be installing software to begin the electronic communication for credit card payment. The next step will be to do some testing with how the transactions start with the customer and end up in the Town records and how the money flows to the bank. Training needs to occur so we are looking at about mid-quarter. Unfortunately we do not have high enough band-width to accommodate a kiosk at this time.

Budget requests are due February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning & Zoning Report** – Laschelle McKay

Ms. McKay reported that there was no meeting held last month and no meeting scheduled to be held this month. There are projects in the works but they are all awaiting information before they came come before the commission.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly inquired about the sidewalk project.

Ms. McKay responded that we are waiting on two signatures on the side that does not have sidewalks and we are working on obtaining them and if we do not, sidewalks will not be placed at that location.

**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

Ms. Laray is in attendance today to update us on the SMC Tourism Master Plan and to answer any questions you may have.

Ms. Laray thanked Council for the opportunity to update them. She indicated that this is the first time that St. Mary's County has had such a plan and taken such an initiative to bring this forward as a road map for the County's investment in infrastructure as it relates to tourism. She provided details on how tourism increases the County's economy by providing public parks, museums, historical attractions, retail, and restaurants to name a few. She indicated that we have water access but need to provide more open access especially for day trippers. Some areas to focus on for more economic impact is nightlife. Day trippers have many things to do but if we really want that economic impact we need to turn the day trippers into weekend trippers. Another challenge is the distance between our sites, how do we connect them, market the transportation. But we need to overcome the lack of awareness that tourism is really important to economic development for our community. The things that we see when developing tourism and what we have heard from the community itself, no one is talking about theme parks or anything of that nature, but they are talking about ways to enhance what we have and focus on the culture and heritage of St. Mary's County.

Ms. Laray wrapped up by saying that we are recognizing Tourism and its value, embracing it and incorporating it as to what we are here in St. Mary's County. We speak with a voice to the public to take notice which helps drive Tourism infrastructure and amenities to help change the direction of our economy and have a deliberate say to create a strategy moving forward.

Councilmember Roberts responded by saying that we would love to find a space for an outdoor concert performing arts center.

Ms. Laray noted that on the handout provided there is a link to the master plan at <http://www.stmarysmd.com/ded/THMP.asp> for everyone to review.

### **Appoint Election Judge for May 3, 2106 Town Election**

Ms. McKay stated that the Charter requires the Council to appoint an election judge in January prior to the May Town election. Mr. Ernie Bell has agreed to once again serve in that role.

*Council gave consensus to appoint Mr. Bell as Election Judge for the 2016 Elections.*

### **Public meeting for Rt. 5 Improvements**

Ms. McKay remarked that a flyer was sent to residents for the January 19<sup>th</sup> Public meeting. The meeting will be held at the LVFD from 5-7 pm. A short presentation will begin at 5:30.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Burris remarked that unfortunately, Mrs. Cindy Williams will be leaving us as her husband has obtained new employment in North Carolina. We wish her the very best and we will miss her tremendously. We thank her for all her contributions.

Next month we will be bringing forward the Wharf Playground and Pavilion for Council approval so that we can have in place by the spring.

Mayor Burris mentioned that Leonardtown was listed as Number 1 of the top ten most charming towns in Maryland.

### **Events** – Roger Mattingly

Councilmember Roger Mattingly gave to the LVFD, Eddie Boswell and Mickie Suite for their annual participation in Santa & Mrs. Claus on the Square again this year.

Thanks also to Roger, Kevin Mattingly, the LVFD, Jay, Kyle, Joe, Timmy and Greg for their help decorating – and un-decorating – the Town for the holidays.

The community really came together for the Fight Like a Kid 5K Walk and Fun Run for Nolan Scully on Saturday, December 19. With representatives from the Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Sheriff's Office and State Police, as well as Foundation for Heroes and other special guests, the event hosted about 250 participants and raised almost \$7,000. It was a great show of love and teamwork, and an amazing turnout for a first time event.

| <u><i>Date</i></u>           | <u><i>Time</i></u> | <u><i>Meeting</i></u>  |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Monday, Jan. 18              | HOLIDAY            | Town Office closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day   |
| Wednesday, Jan. 27           | 5:00 PM            | Chamber Business After Hours<br>Holiday Inn Express & Suites, California, MD. 20619  |
| Friday, Feb. 5               | 5 - 8 PM           | I  First Fridays in Leonardtown<br><a href="http://www.leonardtownfirstfridays.com">www.leonardtownfirstfridays.com</a> for details |
| Friday, Feb. 12<br>TENTATIVE | 7:30 AM            | LBA State of the Town Breakfast<br>College of Southern Md, Bldg A Auditorium   |
| Monday, Feb. 15              | HOLIDAY            | Town Office closed for President's Day   |
| Saturday, Feb. 20            | 1 – 3 PM           | St. Mary's Cty Arts Council Poetry Out Loud<br>Competition @ CSM Leonardtown Campus  |

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

Councilmember Hammett reported that Dunkin Donuts is in the midst of construction and they are planning a spring opening. Clearing for the Hamptons project has begun and more information about the project will be placed in the next Beacon. The LBA State of the Town is a great opportunity for the Town to share past, future and present projects.

### **ENR Upgrade** – Laschelle McKay

Ms. McKay reported that things are progressing and going smoothly at this juncture.

### **SMMA Update** – Leslie Roberts

Councilmember Roberts reported that this past week the SMMA meeting was held in Annapolis and had a presentation on body camera and a great presentation by Lisa Craig on flooding. The next meeting will be held at Chesapeake Beach.

### **Safety and Emergency Preparedness** – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that he will be reviewing the streets and roads with Mr. Wheatley for the FY16 budget.

**Mayor Burris entertained a motion to close the regular meeting.**

**Councilmember Roger Mattingly moved to close the public meeting at 4:40 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Hammett. 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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Absent  
Thomas M. Combs, Councilmember

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Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

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J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember

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Roger L. Mattingly, Councilmember