



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **September 9, 2019**

Attendees: Daniel W. Burris, Mayor
Tyler Alt, Council Member
Christy Hollander, Council Member
Mary Maday Slade, Council Member

Absent: Hayden T. Hammett, Council Member
J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Council Member

Also, in attendance were: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer; Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary; Jackie Post, Fiscal Clerk; Jay Johnson, WWTP; Karen Stone, SMC Tourism, Taylor DeVille; Enterprise; Kristi Nelson, Deputy; Ellen Lewis, LBA; Gerrie L'Heureux, SOF Market; A complete list of attendees is on file at the Town Hall.

Mayor Burris asked Councilmember Alt to proceed with the invocation and Ms. Dimsey to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Councilmember Alt moved to approve the August 12, 2019 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Slade, motion passed.

Mayor Burris mentioned that Councilmember Mattingly is away attending the Southern Maryland Leadership Program Retreat. Also, there is one additional item added to today's agenda which is a liquor license letter of support for the Rex requesting a one-day extension of premises.

Treasurers Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that Council has been provided with the August financials which have been posted to BoardDocs. There was no transfer to or from the LGIP. The final income tax receipt for FY19 was received. It has not yet been posted to the unaudited report but, when it is, the total income tax will be \$685,000, far above the original budget of \$600,000. Today, we had two members of the new audit firm arrive to start field work.

Planning & Zoning Report – Laschelle McKay

The last Planning & Zoning meeting was held on August 19, 2019 with one item on the agenda.

Case No. 100-15A Meadows at Town Run Subdivision
Request for Subdivision of Lot 107

There is one agenda item on Monday, September 16, 2019 Planning & Zoning Agenda.

Case No. 46-19 Olde Town Auto Showroom
Request for Concept Plan Approval

Police Report – Deputy Nelson

Deputy Nelson submitted a written report for Council’s review. She remarked that it was a very busy month with lots of event activity and will be working the upcoming Taste of St. Mary’s this Saturday.

Town Administrator’s Report – Laschelle McKay

Liquor License Letter of Support for The Rex One Day Extension of Premise

The Rex is requesting a one day extension of premises for their 9/28/19 Pub Crawl. This is the same set up they did in April utilizing additional sidewalk space in front of the restaurant.

Councilmember Hollander moved to approve a letter of support for a one-day extension of premise for The Rex Class D liquor license to accommodate a one-day event 9/28/19; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Leonardtown Business Association Update - Ellen Lewis, President

Ms. Lewis stated that as the newly elected President of the Leonardtown Business Association, she wanted to provide Council with an update on the LBA and their future outlook. There is a great collaboration between the Town and the Leonardtown Business Association which is why it is so successful. We want to continue this success and to help keep the momentum going we have recently launched a customer interfacing website, which focuses on visiting Leonardtown at www.visitleonardtownmd.com and it's really informative. The LBA and the Town share the same goals and vision.

This Friday, the LBA is hosting an Open Forum, here in the Town Hall, at 8:30 am. We have invited all business owners in and around Town, not just LBA members and we invite you to attend too. Our goal is to get a hundred percent membership and we want to hear from the businesses what they need from us. What is it that we are doing that they really value? And what is it that you would like to see the LBA do.

We thank the Town for all the work on the Comprehensive Plan and the Mahan Rykiel consultants for pulling together the business and residential community to hear our voices. You really listened to what we had to say, our thoughts and suggestions. The LBA is very excited about this future plan and thrilled to be part of it. The energy has been changing among the business owners because of this collaboration. Quite a few businesses have taken advantage of the Façade Grant and we can’t wait to see what is in store for the future look of Leonardtown.

This is an exciting time to be at the helm of the LBA. If there is anything that you need from me or the business community, please let me or the LBA officers know.

Ms. McKay responded that the Strategic Plan follow up meetings were a wonderful collaboration with over 70 people participating in various sessions over three days and it was just phenomenal. The October Town Council meeting will be moved to Monday, October 21 so that Mahan Rykiel can attend to present the exciting new branding. The LBA is holding a special meeting on Tuesday, October 22 to present the new branding to the LBA members.

Councilmember Hollander asked if we could get an update of the Façade Grant and who received funds and what they were for.

Ms. McKay responded that yes, we are waiting on the grant agreements to be returned and we will then be able to provide a list with all the details.

Presentation by Karen Stone-SM Museum Division Manager- Soil Collection Ceremony

Ms. McKay reported that we found out about an event planned for November 1st to be held at the Port of Leonardtown Public Park owned by the Town. We told Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's Museum Division, that the park is owned by the Town and asked her to come to today's meeting to brief Council on the project. This event is part of the nationwide project entitled "Equal Justice Initiative". Council has been provided with some information about the initiative locally, as well as, a copy of a current newspaper article, along with a copy of the invitation. No action is needed unless anyone has an issue with the event.

Ms. Stone remarked that this is one of those stories that it is not easy to tell. In 1887 Benjamin Hance was arrested and charged with making an improper proposal to a young white woman. He was an African-American who worked in the county and his family was from here in the county. They arrested him, put him in jail and a couple of weeks later a mob literally broke through the front door of the jail, held the jail keeper at gunpoint and took Mr. Hance down to what is now the Port of Leonardtown property and lynched him from the witches' tree.

We know where and when it happened but we don't know exactly what happened and we never will know exactly what happened, as it is one of those stories where the details kept changing but, it is an important story and it is the only lynching that was ever documented in St. Mary's County.

This has become part of a national project with the Equal Justice Initiative and a number of other groups that are part of building bridges to dismantling racism in St. Mary's County. Dr. Wolfe, President of the NAACP invited us to participate and to host a soil collection ceremony along with ultimately putting up an historic marker. The thought is that the soil contains memories. Two jars will be collected. One will be sent to the National Lynching Memorial in Alabama. The other one will stay here in the county and will go to the museums, the libraries, the churches and to anybody that will accept a poster exhibit and the soil collection jar. The soil collection remembrance ceremony is scheduled for November 1st, which is Maryland's Emancipation Day. We are seeking permission to dig up soil for two small jars from this property. We will also lay a wreath during the ceremony. This event will be held the same day as First Friday and the Old Jail Museum will be open for visitors and in the future, a historic marker is planned to be placed at the Old Jail site

commemorating the event with information about the Equal Justice Initiative and possibly an historic marker at the Port of Leonardtown Public Park.

Mayor Burris remarked that we appreciate your providing us with information on this event.

Liquor License Letter of Support- Brudergarten Extension of Premises

Ms. McKay reported that the Brudergarten at Shepherds Old Field has requested a one-day extension of premise for their Octoberfest. The extension would include the common area at the back of the market and garden area and a diagram has been provided to Council.

Ms. L'Heureux and her son, Raif, are in attendance if Council has any questions.

Councilmember Slade moved to approve the one-day extension of premise letter of support for Brudergarten for their Octoberfest on October 5, 2019 per the submitted plan; seconded by Councilmember Alt, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Renewal of Sludge Hauling Contract

Ms. McKay reported that Old Line Environmental has been hauling our sludge since 2015. We have discussed and pursued other options since that time without finding a solution. At last year's meeting in July, we once again looked at several options with Old Line Environmental being our only option. Mr. Johnson has since bid the repairs to the drying beds to try and store more sludge for longer periods of time. Even with the additional space, we will not achieve Class B for land application. Recyc Systems are hauling MetCom's but are not interested in our sludge. We cannot meet land application and landfills are getting harder to find to accept it. King George did not accept sludge at all last year. Mr. Johnson checked with all of the other companies and we still have no other options. Old Line Environmental has been operating their Curtis Bay (WRC) facility now for over 2 years. They had given us a low price as their first customer. They have now been bought by Synagro and have re-priced their services based on cost history. The new price has increased from \$80.33 per ton to \$127.25, as well as, we now have to load the trailer ourselves.

Mr. Johnson remarked that the Town of LaPlata is in the same situation and he has been talking to them to see if there is something we can pursue jointly. However, at this time, we feel this is our only alternative.

Ms. McKay stated that we have \$52,000 in this year's budget for sludge management but that will probably not be sufficient at these prices.

Mr. Johnson stated that the main issue is our sludge is Class B and not Class A which would give us more bidders. Presently, we are looking at various methods to increase our drying time to extend the time needed to decrease the amount of hauling required. We will continue to pursue and look at alternatives.

Councilmember Slade moved to approve a one-year extension to Old Line Environmental sludge hauling agreement; seconded by Councilmember Alt, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Storage Container Purchase for Carousel

Ms. McKay reported that in 2018 the Town accepted the LVFD carousel for future use at some location. Mr. Wheatley has reviewed all of the storage type equipment and determined that the best fit is two (2) twenty-foot containers for \$2,625 for one or \$5,350 total for two containers with free delivery. These would be more easily moved by AB&H if needed and could also hold the large center post which sits outside currently. After we are no longer using them for storage they could be sold or reused for storage at the treatment/utility plant. Because the number of years that the storage containers could be needed is such an unknown, we feel purchasing them is a better investment than renting at \$80/month per unit. In under 36 months we would pay for them both. The local provider offers a one-year warranty and a class A product, painted any color we want. We did not budget any money for the storage containers and will have to do a budget amendment no matter what is decided. Buying the containers seemed to be our best option as it will be years before any action is decided about the placement of the carousel in the future.

Councilmember Slade inquired why choose On-Site rental?

Ms. McKay stated that they are a local company and their units were better quality units in very good condition with only an additional \$75.00 more and we can have it painted a color we desire.

Ms. McKay remarked that with the expansion beginning we would not want to place them at the WWTP but we do have a grassy area next to our storage facility on Park Avenue that can accommodate them.

Councilmember Slade asked if a carousel could be painted on the side of the storage unit.

Ms. McKay responded we can certainly bring that up to the Arts Council for a future public project if funds allow.

Councilmember Alt moved to purchase 2 20' storage containers from On-Site Rentals at \$5,350 to store the LVFD carousel accepted by the Town for future use; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McKay reminded everyone that the Town Council meeting in October has moved from Tuesday, October 15th to Monday, October 21st to accommodate Mahan Rykiel for the unveiling of the new Town of Leonardtown branding.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Burris

Mayor Burris reported that the hotel has begun renovations and plan on being open by the end of November and then continue with additional renovations/changes after they open. A new restaurant, Sweetbay, is under construction and will plan to be open the first part of November. Supplies for the pier and slips have been delivered and they are planning on completion by mid to late October. Bank of America is moving forward with putting the building out to bid.

Ms. McKay noted that some of the new landscaping has begun around the monuments and Jeannie's park and we have already received a lot of great compliments. More work to continue and we are looking forward to seeing all the new pedestrian friendly changes.

Events – Tyler Alt

Councilmember Alt reported that the Salsa & Sangria Party held on Friday, September 16th at the Port of Leonardtown Winery was a very successful event. Another great evening of

music on the Square with Wesley Spangler performing for the Leonardtown Summer Music Festival on Saturday, August 17th. The second Zumba Fitness and Tai Chi Combo Class took place at Leonardtown Wharf on Saturday, August 24th.

Leonardtown kicked off Labor Day Weekend with two amazing events: Tai Chi and Wine enthusiasts were treated to a special evening at a Wine & Tai Chi Party, Tai Chi Swirl, at the Port of Leonardtown Winery on Friday, August 30th. The well-attended event brought out attendees from the popular Zumba and Tai Chi Combo Classes and included many new to Tai Chi in Leonardtown. The evening included a Tour of the Winery; a Tai Chi lesson taught by Certified Instructor, Yoko Gray; a complimentary glass of wine, appetizers and refreshments. The Square was filled to overflowing when Robbie Boothe returned to Leonardtown Square to perform for the Leonardtown Summer Music Festival on Saturday, August 31st. An estimated 1,500-2,000 attendees enjoyed three-hours of exciting music. Chip Wood, Robbie's Opening Act, kicked off the evening with an hour of popular Country hits that got the crowd amped up for the main event.

Upcoming Events:

- A&E First Friday takes place on Friday, September 6th from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Zumba Fitness Around Town, Saturday, September 7th, 14th, and 21st at Port of Leonardtown from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- Leonardtown Summer Music Festival Presents: Bushwoodstock III will be held at Leonardtown Wharf on Saturday, September 7th from 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Sunrise Yoga at the Wharf, 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at Leonardtown Wharf
- Taste of St. Mary's will be held in the Square on Saturday, September 14th from 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- The third session of the Zumba Fitness & Tai Chi Combo Classes will be held on Saturday, September 28th from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at Port of Leonardtown
- Coastal Arts Market will take place on Saturday, September 28th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Leonardtown Wharf.
- St. Vincent DePaul Society Friends of the Poor Walk will take place from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. throughout Leonardtown on Saturday, September 28th
- The Port of Leonardtown Harvest Festival & Wine Stomp, Saturday, September 28th from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- The Fall Bar Crawl, on Saturday, September 28th, 12:00 p.m. – Sunday, September 29th 12:00 a.m.
- The Leonardtown Summer Music Festival Presents: Latrice Carr on the Square on Sunday, September 29th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. This is the rescheduled concert from July 6th.

Ms. L'Heurex mentioned that SOF Market and Brudergarten will be holding the first annual Octoberfest on Saturday, October 5th.

Community Development and Planning

No report at this time.

Utilities – Christy Hollander

Councilmember Hollander reported that as she was driving around, she ran across a water leak and called it in and wants to remind folks if they see something like that please contact the Town right away.

SMMA Update – Mayor Burris

Mayor Burris noted that the next SMMA meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 hosted by the Town of La Plata.

Business Development/Retention – Mary Maday Slade

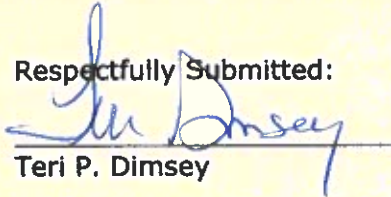
Councilmember Slade reported that she met with one of the owners of Sweetbay and the plans look beautiful. She stopped in to see the new owners of Fenwick Used Books and spent some time exploring and hearing how they appreciate the community's welcome. A Back to School Night was held at Bourbon and Bows for a group of eighth graders which was a great event. Enjoyed walking around during the Art Walk and seeing all the great art work, listening to the drum circle perform and watching all the people enjoying themselves.

Ms. McKay remarked that Main Street Affiliates, of which Leonardtown is an affiliate, will be hosting their semi-annual meeting here on Tuesday, September 24th if anyone would like to drop in. They will meet at the Town Hall, tour the downtown and have lunch at SOF Market and back to the Town Hall to wrap up the meeting.

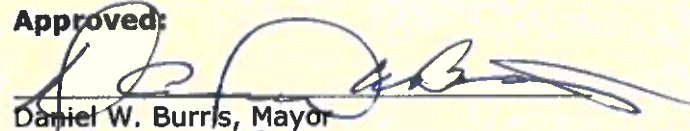
Mayor Burris entertained a motion to adjourn.

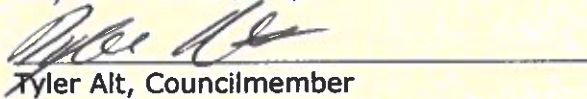
Councilmember Hollander moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:07 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Slade, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:


Teri P. Dimsey

Approved:


Daniel W. Burris, Mayor


Tyler Alt, Councilmember

Absent

Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

Christy Hollander, Councilmember

Absent

Jr. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember


Mary Maday Slade, Councilmember