



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown Town Council Meeting Minutes October 21, 2019

Attendees: Daniel W. Burris, Mayor
Tyler Alt, Council Member
Hayden T. Hammett, Council Member
J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Council Member
Mary Maday Slade, Council Member

Absent: Christy Hollander, Council Member

Also, in attendance were: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer; Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary; Trip Muldrow, Arnett Muldrow; Mike Mummaugh, Paragon Properties; Lisa Blottenberger, Mr/Mrs. Price, Farr Family, Sarah Nielsen, Linda Cockrell, Johnny Keeler, Decoding Dyslexia & Boundless Expectations, Inc.; Gail Perry, Visit St. Mary's; Nicole Stewart, North End Gallery; Nell Elder, St. Mary's Arts Council; Terri Raley, Resident; Susan Dyer, W&P LLC. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Town Hall.

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

Mayor Burris announced that Ms. Blottenberger of Decoding Dyslexia & Boundless Expectations is here today to accept a Proclamation from the Town to highlight Dyslexia Awareness Month, along with Ms. Nielsen, Ms. Cockrell, Mr. Keeler and the Farr family.

The Proclamation reads:

WHEREAS, Dyslexia is the most common learning disability in children and persists throughout life affecting one of every five people regardless of race, gender, age, or socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, neurological in origin, Dyslexia affects the way the brain processes information and is characterized by difficulties with reading, writing and spelling despite normal intelligence; and

WHEREAS, Dyslexia Awareness Month is an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the importance of early identification and alternative instruction. Early diagnosis of dyslexia is critical to ensure that individuals with dyslexia receive focused, evidenced-based intervention that leads to the promotion of self-awareness and self-empowerment and the provision of necessary accommodations to ensure school and life success; and

WHEREAS, teachers and students benefit from increased educator professional training about dyslexia and the evidence-based teaching strategies designed to better identify and educate students with dyslexia which contributes to the success dyslexic students enjoy in the classroom, in life and, later, in employment, and

COUNCIL: TYLER ALT HAYDEN T. HAMMETT
CHRISTY HOLLANDER J. MAGUIRE MATTINGLY IV MARY MADAY SLADE

NOW THEREFORE, WE, THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN, do hereby proclaim October as Dyslexia Awareness Month and urge our community to offer support to those affected by dyslexia and recognize the dedicated efforts of those who are working to raise awareness.
Mayor Burris moved on to the next order of business.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Councilmember Slade moved to approve the September 9, 2019 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Mattingly, motion passed.

Treasurers Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that the September financial information was provided to Council. During the month of September \$150,000 was transferred to the LGIP. We are 25% through the budget. A financial draft was submitted to the Auditor and they are conducting their review and will be attending the November Town Council meeting to make their presentation. There will be revenue surplus and revenue expenditure savings for an increase in the unassigned fund balance which means we will meet 60% of the general fund balance.

This week we will be working the mandatory Maryland reporting document which has an October 31st deadline. Then the tax bill process starts, as it does every year, November 1st.

Planning & Zoning Report – Jada Stuckert

The last Planning & Zoning meeting was held on September 16, 2019 with one item on the agenda.

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

There are no items on the Tuesday, October 22, 2019 Planning and Zoning Agenda.

Police Report – Deputy Nelson

Deputy Nelson submitted a written report for Council's review. She remarked that all the September events went well and were well attended. Focusing on the upcoming big November events. We have given out quite a few traffic violations mainly speeding along Lawrence Avenue and within the Clark's Rest neighborhood, working to get people to slow down.

Town Administrator's Report – Laschelle McKay

Presentation by Tripp Muldrow of Arnett Muldrow- Branding Update

Ms. McKay reported that Mr. Tripp Muldrow will be following up on the Downtown Strategic Plan that was adopted back in February. If you've driven through the square, you'll see some of the recommendations that we had budgeted for this year have begun. The sod is in and we've opened up a lot of landscaping really trying to make it a more usable space on a day-to-day basis not just for large events, so it is looking really good and we're excited to make these changes. In August, we invited Mahan Rykiel and Arnett Muldrow back. They did the original Downtown Strategic Plan and we had a follow-up for three items, which is rebranding or updating of our brand, the alley networks and the wayfinding signage. So, today, Mr. Muldrow will provide a presentation on those meetings.

Councilmember Slade remarked she would like to be on the record that Council has not had a chance to review the presentation. In fact, I think the only one who's seen the

presentation beforehand was me and I saw it two hours ago. So, this is something that the Council hasn't seen and I do have a few concerns that I kind of wanted to show you before the presentation. One is something that you have all seen before which is the Google logo, which is a very common logo, and the military contractors are pretty important in our town and this is a local contracting firm that we have here and just to see what their logo looks like. So just thought there were some things that I had a couple concerns with the presentation and I really was hoping that Council and the LBA could get together and talk about it before this presentation was given.

Councilmember Slade moved to push off this presentation until the council and the LBA can work together to present a unified front on the logo design.

Mayor Burris noted that this is what the presentation is about and the information presented today is very flexible, changes can be made.

Mayor Burris asked for a second? Hearing none, without a second the motion will not be considered.

Mayor Burris asked Mr. Muldrow to continue with the presentation.

Mr. Muldrow stated that a strategic plan workshop began back in September of 2018 and included 16 roundtable meetings and a wrap-up meeting with about a hundred attendees. We returned and gave a group presentation where we presented the concepts and then a workshop to work through some editing to finalize with a resolution adopting the Downtown Strategic Plan this past February of 2019.

One of the several recommendations that came out of that strategic plan were to explore:

- Look at how the alleyways might be improved as multi-use spaces.
- Update the brand identity...people said they would like to see a fresh approach.
- Wayfinding – The State/County does a good job of getting us out of a place, but they don't necessarily do a good job of getting us around to the destinations within a place.

We returned at the end of August. Eight workshops with over 70 attendees were held and we received so much great input. It really ran the gamut from citizens to shopkeepers, to LBA, county staff members and, there was a young professionals roundtable. They were all really good at contributing their thoughts to this concept.

Mr. Muldrow continued on with his presentation which can be found on the Town website.

Mr. Muldrow wrapped up the presentation, thanked all the past participants, the audience, the Town staff, the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Burris thanked Mr. Muldrow for his hard work and the vision that you had to bring all this together and we look forward to moving ahead on these next steps. Mayor Burris asked if Council had any questions?

Councilmember Mattingly commented that when he first saw the icon, everyone knows how much Leonardtown truly does mean to me as I was born here. You pointed out something I had not noticed before in the icon to the left side, you can like see the "L" and I liked that as it meant something personal to me.

Councilmember Alt noted that he also liked that but asked if they looked at making the "L" more of a solid blue to stand out more.

Mr. Muldrow responded that we can certainly look at embellishing the "L" as this is a collaborative effort and can be changed and adjusted.

Councilmember Slade remarked that she was concerned about the mosaic colors and how this would be interpreted by say an embroiderer. Are they going to be able to pull off the colors? One of the things that I see in my branding is that you know, it's so hard once you get that information out to people, you know, they've got different color printers the printers are going to have different offsets and even screen printing it's going to be really difficult. We talked about doing the one-color screen printing but what might work but to do multi-color screen printing with all those different facets. I think there may be some difficulty here with the square. The rest of the logo is beautiful, I think.

Mayor Burris asked the audience if they had any comments.

Ms. Nicole Stewart, a member of the North End Gallery, remarked that as soon as she saw the logo she thought of stained glass and is really appreciative of the incorporation of all the different colors. This is brighter and as an artist much more exciting and the fact that it represents the square.

Mr. Chris Kaselemis, Director, Economic Development noted that he has been very supportive of the process and helping to bring economic development to the downtown which is super important right now. Leonardtown is the only historic downtown walkable place in St. Mary's County and its great that the Town wants to reach beyond and bring in some new ideas and brought in experienced consultants with fresh eyes and expertise. I like the results with the new logo.

Mr. Aul, Visit St. Mary's, also agreed that the presentation was outstanding and from a marketing standpoint this new branding brings compatibility with the County as we focus on tourism.

Mrs. Susan Dyer, Sweetbay Restaurant Owner, we personally say thank you. This is really exciting and our partners are very interested in the whole Downtown Strategic Plan because, as you bring a business into an area you want to see that it is fitting into something, so it not only gave us something to work with but is also exciting to begin our plans. So, seeing and learning about the new logo/branding, about where you were and where you are taking us is really exciting. It was stimulating to see how it can be leveraged to expand into other areas.

Mrs. Ellen Lewis, President LBA, as you know we have been involved since the beginning and seeing this as the culmination of everything and it is great to see the efforts all pulled together. Having the "L" in the logo is very striking and symbolic and the different businesses have been very excited about this new concept to help define the downtown as part of the whole strategic plan.

Mrs. Nell Elder, Director of St. Mary's County Arts Council, very appreciative of the work that went into creating this logo and especially the possibilities there are to re-work this logo to fit the many different categories and districts that are developing within Leonardtown.

Ms. Nicole Magee remarked that the position statement in the presentation should be made into a children's book and given out to all local elementary students.

Ms. Gerri L'Hereux, Owner, SOF Market, said thank you. I know how hard it is to come up with something that embodies so much of what is in Leonardtown and now that I see the "L" in the square, I like the versatility to fit the logo to the different districts within Leonardtown because we know we have them, such as the Waterfront and the Warehouse District and this logo is flexible enough to accommodate a lot of the forward thinking projects.

Mayor Burris thanked Mr. Muldrow for his detailed and enlightening presentation.

Councilmember Mattingly remarked that this has been a great collaborative and cooperative effort between everyone thank you Mr. Kaselemis and Mr. Aul and I believe it is very important that the county supports the Town.

Liquor License Letter of Support for Antoinette's Garden (Wine Bar)

Ms. McKay reported that Mr. Jonathan Boss is opening a wine bar in the spot currently occupied by Panda Village at 22694 Washington Street and is present today if Council has any questions.

Mr. Boss said he is excited to be a part of the Town and offer a great place to socialize, to sit and have some light fare.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to approve a letter of support for Antoinette's Garden Class D liquor license for on/off sales at 22694 Washington Street; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Presentation by Susan Carney for Historic Marker

Susan Carney, a resident and local artist, would like to recommend installation of a historic marker that would recognize the long history (8,000 years) that indigenous people lived in the area.

Ms. Carney came forward and provided Council with a sample of a historic marker she would like to see placed at the Wharf, to start, that focuses on what was there way before it was settled as a Town, prior to 1634. Recognizing the archaeological landscape, the vegetation and the indigenous people and history of a time period where a lot of things happened farther back than traditional times.

Ms. Carney remarked that she would provide grant writing to help fund this marker. She is presenting it as a way to mark native history. This is just the beginnings of an idea and she would like to facilitate discussion and feedback from Council on this idea. Mayor Burris thanked Ms. Carney for her interest.

Council gave consensus for Ms. Carney to pursue this project and bring it back to Council for review.

Award Street Striping Contract

This contract was publicly bid and one bid was received from W&W Striping who have done jobs for the Town for several years and we need an ongoing contract instead of job by job.

Councilmember Alt moved to award the street striping contract to W&W Striping for a 2-year term with two 2-year extensions at the stated bid prices including the additional line items; seconded by Councilmember Mattingly, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Extension of Street Sweeping Contract

This is the final extension available from the 2015 bid for the street sweeping contract with T&T Sweeping. They are very conscientious and do a good job and they have agreed to hold their prices this year. Next year it will have to go out to bid as this is the final extension.

Councilmember Hammett moved to extend the street sweeping contract with T&T Sweeping for the final one-year extension at the current prices; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Facade Grant Update

Ms. McKay reported that Council has received a spreadsheet with the final numbers. We had 15 businesses who applied for the grants with a maximum of \$5,000 of a matching grant so the project could be up to \$10,000. As you can see, 14 of the 15 applicants received the grants and one of them withdrew because they could not get through the historical trust review but will look into correcting for next year. We did award the other 14 applicants and work has begun. The Slice House added new siding, the Vanderwal Building has painted their building and the North End Gallery have started their work too. The total cost of the projects we are funding with the \$50,000 we received is \$183,351 so you can see it is seed money for a significant amount of improvement. We have applied for the second \$50,000 grant that we hope to receive but we are really pleased that we had so many requests for these funds.

Ms. McKay reported that there was a partnering meeting on the next phase of the Rt. 5 widening which is the breakout project at Abell and Moakley Streets. This will continue from the hospital entrance to the Clark's Rest entrance and is in the beginning stages. They estimate a date of completion as October 30 of 2020 and the contractor for this next phase is Highway and Safety Services Inc.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Burris

Mayor Burris reported that we have new appointments to the Planning and Zoning Board and Board of Appeals and would like to propose that Mr. Andrew Ponti sit on the Planning and Zoning Board and Mr. Doug Islieb and Mr. Rob Nielsen to the Board of Appeals.

Council gave consensus on the appointees.

Mayor Burris noted that the hotel will be doing some extra work and will take a bit longer and will not re-open until February.

Events – Tyler Alt

Councilmember Alt reported that the final Sunrise Yoga at the Wharf was held on Saturday, September 14th. The Chamber of Commerce held their Annual Taste of St. Mary's event on Saturday, September 14th. The popular event drew a big crowd where attendees were able to sample offerings from local restaurants and caterers.

Saturday, September 28th was an event-filled day in Town. The day began with the St. Vincent De Paul Society Friends of the Poor Walk throughout Town, Coastal Arts Market at the Wharf, the Zumba & Tai Chi Combo Class at Port of Leonardtown, and the Leonardtown Sidewalk Sale featuring local businesses in the Square. The day continued with the Harvest Festival and Grape Stomp at the Port of Leonardtown Winery and the Winery Park and completed with the Fall Bar Crawl at participating restaurants/bars in Town.

The last Coastal Arts Market of the Season was held at the Wharf on Saturday October 12th.

Fall Fest First Friday was a successful day for businesses in Town. The Old Jail Museum, North End Gallery and Shepherds Old Field (SOF) Market had great attendance during the evening, and visitors to the Square were treated to live music provided by Cowboy Crossings, enjoyed food from Ye Olde Town Café and a variety of games and activities including pumpkin decorating, face painting, a pumpkin chuckin contest and a wagon ride to SOF Market where attendees were able to participate in a scarecrow making activity.

Participants in First Friday were also able to help with a community art project by assisting in painting pre-drawn art on smaller boards that will later be added to the larger art piece that will be displayed in Town. The art project is being led by area students and sponsored by the St. Mary's Arts Council.

Leonardtown Wharf was active on Saturday, October 5th and Sunday, October 6th with Bash on the Bay, the Annual two-day Fall Boat Regatta sponsored by the Southern Maryland Boat Club. Attendees were able to view Vintage Race boats that ran in heats throughout both days of the event. Pits were also open so attendees could be up close and personal with the boats and drivers.

The Annual Tractor Parade sponsored by the Southern Maryland Antique Power Association was held in Leonardtown Square on Sunday, October 6th. Attendees enjoyed the parade featuring antique tractors and trucks. They were then able to get a closer look and meet the owners during the static display throughout the Square. The event is an annual fundraiser for Christmas in April St. Mary's County, a local nonprofit that works in partnership with the community to rehabilitate the homes of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and disabled.

Upcoming Events:

- Ryken 5k, Throughout Town, Saturday, October 19th, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Sip & Salsa, Port of Leonardtown Winery, Saturday, October 19th, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. (Rain Date: Saturday, November 2nd, 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.) New Event!
- Trick-or-Treat on the Square, Leonardtown Square, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Zumba Fitness Around Town, SOF Market, Saturday, October 26th, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) First Friday, Leonardtown Square and Throughout Town, Friday, November 1st, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Community Development and Planning – Hayden Hammett

No report at this time.

Utilities – Christy Hollander - No Report

SMMA Update – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that he attended the MML Fall Conference and attended the MML Board of Directors meeting. There were 650 attendees and he and his wife, Katie, walked around the historic town of Cambridge and noted a lot of interesting ideas that he passed on to Ms. McKay. The SMMA legislative dinner is scheduled to be held in Annapolis in December. He attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Donnie Williams Center at St. Mary's Ryken.

Business Development/Retention – Mary Maday Slade

Councilmember Slade reported that the Doo Dah Deli opened and they have been very successful and have a great following of customers. Please take some time to browse, shop and visit SOF Market, and she noted she is wearing a piece she purchased. Chopticon High School dropped off tickets to their upcoming play and she has some available.

Ms. Irene Parrish, Owner, Ye Olde Café, spoke out that there are a lot of new apartments and developments but not enough parking around the square to accommodate customers and would like the Town to focus more on additional parking and/or a parking garage.

Mayor Burris responded that this subject is part of the wayfinding signage that the Town is working on to direct people off of the square and into the back additional parking spaces.

Ms. Parrish stated that she has an event once a month and her customers have to park at the courthouse and walk over and are complaining about walking that distance.

Mayor Burris noted that even if the Town built a garage it would be several blocks away.

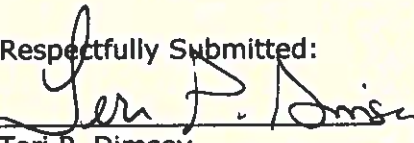
Ms. Parrish would like to see the parking become more of a priority.

Mayor Burris thanked Ms. Parrish for her comments and said that parking is an important element in the Strategic Downtown Plan and they are working towards ways to improve parking.


Mayor Burris entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:17 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Slade, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:


Teri P. Dimsey


Approved:


Daniel W. Burris, Mayor


Tyler Alt, Councilmember


Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

Absent


Christy Hollander, Councilmember


J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember


Mary Maday Slade, Councilmember