



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown Town Council Meeting Minutes January 13, 2020

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

Also, in attendance were: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer; Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary; Brandy Blackstone, Events Coordinator; Madison Bateman, Enterprise; Guy Leonard, County Times; Gretchen Hardman, Governor's Office. 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 Mattingly moved to approve the Monday, December 9, 2019 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported there was no need to transfer money to or from the LGIP and we are 50% through the budget year. A few budget amendments will come forward in the future: line item for the Facade Grant Revenue, line item to recognize the sale of the condo and the payment of the debt which was outstanding for the payment for this building.

A draft budget calendar has been provided for Council's review and discussion for approval. As this is an early cycle year, budget approval will be given prior to the May election, which is standard for an election year. The most important date is the February 7th due date for budget submittals. If Council approves the budget schedule, it will be distributed to Council and Staff.

Council provided consensus on the budget schedule as presented.

The tax sale process that is coordinated with the County Treasurer's office is close to its' first step. We have two accounts for tax sale and we are working with one taxpayer right now to try to get their results and hopefully by the tax sale date all the Leonardtown accounts will be paid.

Councilmember Hollander inquired if we have ever had any properties go to tax sale?

Ms. Sothoron replied that we have and at most three or four were advertised with maybe only one ever sold.

We should receive a report, by the end of January, from the assessment office about new construction that was added to the tax rolls and will begin preparing our tax bills.

This is the time of year that the legislature introduces bills and asks local government for fiscal information that will help them to decide what the local impact would be from a financial standpoint. They usually run between 20 and 30 requests during a new legislative session.

We are looking at having our trash contractor provide some type of centralized glass recycling option for our residents and are are looking at a list of potential locations. They have provided us with a cost but we have no idea, ultimately, how much it would be used but, it would be a receptacle that limits any contamination and would have specific openings for glass containers. It is just a matter of the logistics of finding a spot we think people would use and it's not going to be in the way. We will provide an update at the February meeting.

Planning & Zoning Report – Laschelle McKay

Last month's meeting had only one item to be heard and it was approved.

Case No. 88-19 Woods Rest Subdivision – Map 121, Parcel 24 – Greenbrier Road - Request for two (2) lot single family subdivision approval.

As there are no cases to be heard the January meeting is cancelled.

Police Report – Deputy Nelson

Deputy Nelson is unable to attend today's meeting but has submitted a written report for Council's review.

Town Administrator's Report – Laschelle McKay

Appoint Election Judge for May 5, 2020

Ms. McKay reported that this is an election year and per the Town's Charter Council is required to appoint an Election Judge. Staff is recommending to appoint Mr. Ernest Bell, who has been the Town's Election Judge for over 15 years and is very familiar with the Town's Election procedures.

If Council agrees, we will invite Mr. Ernest Bell to once again be the Election Judge for the 2020 Election year.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to appoint J. Ernest Bell, II to serve once again as election judge for the Leonardtown elections on May 5, 2020; seconded by Councilmember Alt. Councilmember Hollander recused, Councilmembers Alt, Hammett, Mattingly, Slade voted in favor, motion passed.

GHD, Inc. Task Order #20 Water Tower Design

Following the water and sewer capacity management plan by GHD, Inc and in preparation of the FY20 budget the first priority capital water or sewer project was decided to be a new water tower (800,000 gallons). The tower is budgeted to be constructed in FY20-FY22. The first step is to have the tower engineered. This task order moves the design forward. The budget estimate for construction was \$3 million in the FY20 budget and \$815,000 for engineering/design and construction administrative services.

Councilmember Hollander noted that it seems very reasonable as the costs are normally about 10% for engineering and this is just a bit under that percentage.

Councilmember Alt moved to approve task order #20 with GHD, Inc. in the amount of \$225,000 for design of a new water tower; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, Councilmembers Alt, Hollander, Mattingly, Slade voted in favor; Councilmember Hammett opposed; motion passed.

Slips and Pier

Ms. McKay provided an update that everything has been completed on the Slips and Pier at the Wharf and there will be a final walk through this week. Grant application work for the second phase has begun and we should hear back sometime in May. A ribbon cutting will be planned for some time in the spring.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Burris

Mayor Burris reported that the new restaurant Sweetbay has opened up and has been very well received. Very sad to say that Larry Rhodes, owner of Big Larry's recently passed due to a long illness. The store will stay open for now and close sometime in March. There has been interest in new businesses opening in that location.

Events – Tyler Alt

Whoville/Where's the Grinch First Friday took place on Friday, December 6th. Attendees excitedly followed the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who, played by LBA Rep, Christa Serra and Gail Perry of Visit St. Mary's, throughout Town to enjoy activities with the Grinch at various participating businesses. Activities included craft-time at Shepherd's Old Field Market, game-time at Leonardtown Chevrolet, Buick and GMC, story-time at Fenwick Street Books, and cocoa and cookie time at Social Coffeehouse. Christina Allen of Cycling Without Age generously transported our famous Whoville residents around Town in her Trishaw, lovingly referred to as "The Grinch Mobile" for the event. Attendees then joined the Grinch and Cindy Lou for a festive round of caroling around the Square before concluding the evening with a traditional Whoville-esque final song (Silent Night) in front of the Town Christmas Tree (a magical moment made even more special when church bells began to ring during the song).

A special thank you to all the participating businesses, our dedicated volunteers including the Grinch (Christa Serra), Cindy Lou Who (Gail Perry) and Christina Allen for helping to make the evening possible.

There was an amazing turnout for the 2nd Annual Meet-and-Greets with Santa on Tuesday, December 17th and Saturday, December 21st. Both events filled quickly with reservations and due to the overwhelming response additional time-slots were added to meet the influx of requests. Families with loved ones with disabilities and families who were celebrating a baby's 1st Christmas were able to meet with Santa in a private setting. Thank you to Southpoint Church, and Town Staff: Laschelle McKay, Beth Sandberg, Donna Page and Rebecca Sothoron for generously donating decorations to help turn the meeting space into a magical holiday setting for the meet-and-greets.

Santa and Mrs. Claus on the Square took place on Saturday, December 21st. A steady flow of visitors came out for this popular, annual event with their cameras and wish lists. The event was held inside the Leonardtown Chevrolet, Buick & GMC showroom to allow attendees to meet with Santa and his wife out of the cold. Christina Allen of Cycling Without Age once again lent her Trishaw for the event. Thank you to Christina Allen for transporting Santa to the festivities. A special thank you to Leonardtown Chevy for kindly donating the use of their showroom for the event and to our amazing volunteers including Jenn Dorsey for helping to photograph the event and for also photographing the Whoville/Where's the Grinch First Friday, and both the Meet-and-Greets with Santa.

On Monday, December 23rd a private ceremony was held to honor Mr. Stanley Buckler. Mr. Buckler, a local resident, is a World War II Veteran who participated in the allied invasion of Normandy. In recognition of Mr. Buckler's service during the war and in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, Mayor Dan Burris read a proclamation in honor of Mr. Buckler. Mr. Buckler also received The Christian Man of the Year Award from the men's group at his local church, Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Mechanicsville. Thank you to Mayor Burris and Jay Mattingly for attending and helping to honor Mr. Buckler.

As this exciting season of events draws to a close, we would like to offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to our amazing supporters including our generous sponsors including: Marrick Homes, Quality Built Homes, Leonardtown Buick, Chevrolet and GMC, Olde Towne Insurance, St. Mary's Arts Council, The County Times, The Leonardtown Business Association, and The Commissioners of Leonardtown; our caring donors including: SMECO, Tri-County Rent-a-Tent, Southpoint Church, Olde Town Pub; and our wonderful volunteers: including Ron Bailey Photography, Jenn Dorsey of Dingus Has a Camera, Christina Allen of Cycling Without Age and many others. We thank all of you for your kind support this season!

Upcoming Events:

- *The Leonardtown Event Summit, Thursday, January 9th at Town Hall from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*
- *Sip & Salsa, January 18th at Port of Leonardtown Winery from 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.*

Save The Date:

- *The 20th Annual Leonardtown Earth Day Celebration, Sunday, April 19, 2020*
- *Salsa & Sangria II, Friday, April 24th at Port of Leonardtown Winery from 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.*

Community Development and Planning – Hayden Hammett – No report

Utilities – Christy Hollander

Councilmember Hollander noted that last month her neighborhood had a water main break and Mr. Wheatley, along with AB&H were diligent in working to get it repaired and back on quickly. It reminds us to continue to include money in the budget for replacement of water lines and sewer mains for our aging water/sewer system.

SMMA Update – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that he was unable to attend the opening day in Annapolis due to an illness. He did attend the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Annual Banquet on January 4th and congratulated all the line officers. He will be attending the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Banquet on January 19 and the next MML Board of Directors meeting is January 25 in Annapolis.

Business Development/Retention – Mary Maday Slade

Councilmember Slade said she has also heard great things about the new restaurant Sweetbay. The Slice House has started making bagels and her family loves them. Her family has enjoyed walking around the Wharf in the nice weather and it has been a joy to see all the people with pets and families enjoying the Wharf. The St. Mary’s County tax rate has increased 0.17% for 2020 and that's going to provide an increase in revenue which is something for us to be aware of during the upcoming budget discussions.

Mayor Burris noted that Gretchen Hardman from the Governor's office is with us today. Ms. Hardman remarked that this is the beginning of the legislative session for 2020 and Governor Hogan announced that 2020 is the Year of the Woman acknowledging the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted American women the right to vote and Governor Hogan will talk about women leaders in Maryland.

There is a specific website <https://www.visitmaryland.org/list/2020-year-woman-maryland> that has been created to focus on women leaders and anyone can upload events on women and/or talk about women in their area. The Governor is also releasing the budget information and lastly, we are encouraging everyone to participate in the 2020 Census.

Ms. McKay reminded everyone that the State of the Town will be held at the College of Southern Maryland on Friday, February 14, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. This is a very well attended and positive event highlighting updates on the Town.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to close the regular meeting at 4:35 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Slade, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teri P. Dimsey

Approved:

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

Tyler Alt, Councilmember

Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

Christy Hollander, Councilmember

J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember

Mary Maday Slade, Councilmember