



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown Town Council Meeting Minutes February 10, 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; Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary; Brandy Blackstone, Events Coordinator; Madison Bateman, Enterprise; Guy Leonard, County Times; Doug Islieb, Resident; Gordon Stellway, Realtor; Joe Kurley, The Rex; Sean Coogan, Social Coffeehouse; Kristi Nielsen. 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, January 13, 2020 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Slade, motion passed.

Councilmember Hammett noted the minutes do not properly reflect he opposed the vote on the GHD, Inc. Task Order #20 Water Tower Design.

Mayor Burris directed Ms. Dimsey to correct the minutes as mentioned.

Treasurers Report – Laschelle McKay

Ms. Sothoron is off this week but did provide Council with the financial reports. A reminder that budget requests are due on Friday and draft copies of the budget will be provided to Council on March 9th. A budget workshop is scheduled for March 17.

Planning & Zoning Report – Laschelle McKay

The February meeting was canceled as there were no cases to be heard. It does appear that there will be cases to be heard for the March 16th meeting.

Police Report – Deputy Nelson

Deputy Nelson submitted a written report for Council's review with no new incidents to report at this time.

Town Administrator's Report – Laschelle McKay

Award Leonardtown Beacon Newsletter Contract

On January 9, 2020, a legal ad requesting bids for the printing of the Beacon Newsletter was published in the County Times (St. Mary's and Calvert editions). We then contacted three printing companies via email to bid on the printing of the newsletter. The contract is for one year with two one-year extensions.

Two (2) bids were received from the companies noted below and one (1) No Bid from Barefoot Graphics was received.

Heritage Printing & Graphics – Waldorf, MD. - \$1948.30/issue
The Printing Press – Leonardtown, MD. - \$1998.00/issue

Staff recommendation is to award the newsletter project to The Printing Press in the amount of \$1998.00 per issue. The Printing Press held their pricing to the same level as what we've paid the past 3 years; they did not increase the quoted price. The Printing Press also calculates our postage amount, sorts and takes the newsletter to the post office for us creating a time-saving and smooth process.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to award the Leonardtown Beacon Newsletter contract to The Printing Press for a one-year term with two, one-year extensions; seconded by Councilmember Hollander, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Award Portable Toilet Contract

On January 16, 2020, a legal ad requesting bids for the Rental of Portable Toilets for events was published in the County Times (St. Mary's and Calvert editions).

T&T Port-O-Let requested a copy of the bid packet on January 16, 2020.

One (1) bid was received from T&T Port-O-Let.

Staff recommendation is to award the Portable Toilet contract to T&T Port-O-Let as they were the only bidder.

T&T Port-O-Let is the incumbent vendor and they have always accommodated our needs.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to award the portable toilet contract to T&T Port-O-Let for a one-year term with two one-year extensions; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Liquor License Letter of Support for Annual Leonardtown Spring Crawl

This year's Spring Bar Crawl is May 2nd from 2 p.m. till 10 p.m. We have been meeting with a number of the businesses, and they would like to expand the event this year. The Rex and Antoinette's Garden would like an extension of premises in the upper square. They will have an outdoor band in the square. The roads would be closed in the upper square and Fenwick Street. Social Coffeehouse would have an extension of premise also but many of the other shops want to be involved and make it a block wide event. The Pub would be participating but just with their existing footprint.

Mr. Joe Kurley, the Rex and Mr. Sean Coogan, Social Coffeehouse, are here today to answer any questions Council may have about the Spring Crawl.

Ms. McKay noted that she had a meeting with the Sheriff's Department specifically to discuss Town events and the upcoming Annual Spring Crawl and they have a big concern about closing down Fenwick Street. They are adding a lot of requirements to all events that will add substantial costs and

we are trying to work through these issues. But, for the Spring Crawl in particular for police support on Fenwick and on the upper square, the police are saying they need eight deputies, four in the upper square and four on Fenwick Street.

Mayor Burris clarified that the Town would not be paying for their services as it would be up to the businesses to pay; the Town only pays for Town events.

Mayor Burris inquired as to how many people have attended the Spring Crawl in the past.

Mr. Kurley responded that they figure approximately 1,500.

Mayor Burris remarked that when the Town closes down Fenwick St. for Christmas on the Square it is for over 8,000 attendees so to close for only 1,500 attendees, it may not be practical. This is not a huge crowd that attends this event.

Mr. Kurley noted that this year they do expect a much larger crowd as they plan to have bands playing out on the square and add some type of activities and use social media more effectively. We met with all the restaurants last week and they are all very excited about the event.

Mr. Coogan explained that the majority of businesses along Fenwick St are participating and this event is to showcase the walkability of the Town of Leonardtown and to benefit all the businesses. We are also using this to raise money for the First Responders as well, following the First Friday First Responders event the day before.

Councilmember Hollander noted that The Rex and Antoinette's Garden are asking for an extension of premise. Will this include closing off the entire upper square?

Ms. McKay responded that each establishment will have a barrier/perimeter to contain those who are drinking alcohol in those enclosed areas but still give attendees the availability to walk freely around the square itself.

Mr. Kurley explained that each business will also have their own security staff to monitor their own establishment.

Ms. McKay remarked that Council will need to decide if Fenwick Street will be allowed to be closed down or not and that will be dependent on how the letter of support is worded.

Councilmember Slade asked what is the issue of closing Fenwick Street?

Ms. McKay responded that it requires more police involvement which is costly, also the police are demanding specific barriers that involve filling them with water, vehicles to block the road and it is much more intensive labor for our staff and the businesses. We would have to rent or purchase these types of barriers.

We are trying to figure out how to make it safe and affordable for the Town and the businesses. All of these issues need to be discussed. Council can approve the letter of support for the businesses that are going to participate and then the letter may be revised for those who choose not to participate.

Councilmember Hammett inquired if there had been any complaints?

Ms. McKay stated No.

Mr. Kurley remarked that they plan to have further discussions with the businesses, if this is not feasible, they may decide to not go into as much planning and continue with something similar to the past crawls without street closures, but at this moment we need to clarify that we need the extension of premise included in the letter for the liquor board and then we can determine if that needs to be changed after our discussions.

Councilmember Mattingly noted that he is a huge advocate of the businesses and events but his only concern is if we are going too big too soon by shutting down both the upper square and Fenwick St. for only 1,500 people, with Fenwick St. closed for ten hours.

Mr. Coogan remarked that we are hoping for a lot more than 1,500 attendees, especially if we are paying for a larger number of deputies. We have been growing our business events slowly with a good momentum and hope to continue to do so and draw more people into coming to Leonardtown to enhance our businesses viability and continue to be competitive with the other local events.

Councilmember Slade moved to send a liquor license letter of support for the participating businesses for a one-day extension of premise for May 2, 2020. The total set up and event time would be 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Alt, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

MD Heritage Area Grant Update

The Town has submitted an intent to apply for a \$100,000 grant from MD Heritage Areas to go toward the purchase of a possible paddleboat to operate during events down at Leonardtown Wharf. We are searching for additional funding sources. The grant application is due April 3, 2020.

Sweetbay Restaurant Outdoor Seating Update

The Council approved outdoor seating for Sweetbay Restaurant at the August 12, 2019 meeting utilizing 2 existing parking spaces. At the time the owners did not have funds to build a permanent structure, they now would like to build the permanent structure instead of a temporary. The temporary would cost about \$5,000 and the permanent about \$30,000. This was a recommendation from the Downtown Strategic Plan.

Mike and Debbie Mummaugh are in attendance today to answer any questions Council may have on this project.

Mr. Mummaugh stated they are utilizing only the two parking spaces and plan to put up some posts to be able to string some lights up overhead and have a few tables with umbrellas.

Councilmember Alt moved to approve the construction of a permanent outdoor seating area, instead of the temporary platform approved at the August 12, 2019 meeting, in front of Sweetbay Restaurant. The construction would be completed at the expense of the restaurant; seconded by Councilmember Mattingly, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Outdoor Furniture for Square

Mr. Bill Wood has worked with Amish builder, Wesley Stauffer, to design a double swing for the pocket park in the square. Similar ones were brought to our attention by Councilmember Hollander last summer. They will be constructed and installed under the Woodlawn contract at a cost of \$5,500-6,000 and will be installed by Spring if approved and we are also planning on adding a few Adirondack chairs. This goes along with the enhancements of the Downtown Plan recommendations.

Councilmember Hammett inquired if this is a permanent structure?

Ms. McKay stated that it will be concreted in the ground for stability but can be moved if needed in the future.

Councilmember Slade moved to have two large outdoor swings built and installed through the Woodlawn contract for use in the pocket park in the square. The cost estimate is \$5,500-6,000 and will be funded with unused funds at fiscal year-end with any balance from fund balance; seconded by Councilmember Hollander, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Burris

Mayor Burris reported that he was invited to the State of the State address by Governor Hogan. The next day was the opening of the Mayor's Association Conference which was well attended. Tomorrow, the Leonardtown High School invited him to attend to educate them on If I Were Mayor I Would...explaining how the local government works along with budgeting for the Town. Reagan Combs at Leonardtown Tech Center would like to include me in a film presentation she is working on involving myself and other St. Mary's County Government officials. We have State of the Town early Friday morning and encourage all our businesses and others to attend. The presentation will also be provided on the Town's website for viewing. Also, we are looking at changing hotels while attending the MML Summer Conference.

Events – Tyler Alt

Councilmember Alt reported that plans are underway for the 2nd Annual Leonardtown Summer Music Festival. Stay tuned for announcements for a great summer of music.

Year of the Woman – A meeting was held between the Town, the Tourism Department, the Museum Division, and Representatives in the fields of Business, Agriculture, Aviation and Technology to discuss ways to recognize and commemorate the Year of the Woman in Leonardtown. More information is forthcoming.

The 2020 Event Season - Plans are underway for the upcoming season of events.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The 20th Anniversary of Leonardtown's Earth Day Celebration, Sunday, April 19th in Leonardtown Square and Wharf from 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. This year also commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.
- Sip & Salsa, February 15th at Port of Leonardtown Winery from
- 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE:

- The Hospice Run, Saturday, April 18th from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Salsa & Sangria II, Friday, April 24th at Port of Leonardtown Winery from 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
- The 35th Annual Spring Fling Classic Car Show for Hospice in Leonardtown Square, Sunday, April 26th from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Community Development and Planning – Hayden Hammett

Councilmember Hammett noted that there are a lot of on-going projects, new businesses and renovations going on.

Ms. McKay added that the O'Connor's are renovating the home on Fenwick Street for use through Airbnb and will also be used for small events such as wedding receptions, bridal showers, birthday parties and will include a small Gazebo in the back yard for use too. No food on site but will use local restaurants for catering and will apply for a liquor license for event use only.

Utilities – Christy Hollander

Councilmember Hollander stated no report at this time but will be checking in with the plant next week.

SMMA Update – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported he attended the MML Board of Directors meeting in Annapolis in January and the next meeting is at the end of April. The SMMA Board is looking to make some changes to the meetings and are suggesting a central location that is convenient for all the Towns and encouraging all delegates to attend. Leonardtown is the host Town for the March 11th meeting. Attended the Fire Department Banquet, congratulations to all the new line officers for 2020 and will be attending the State of the Town this Friday.

Business Development/Retention – Mary Maday Slade

Councilmember Slade reported that she had had observed while attending the Fire Department Installation that there were ten elected officials with one woman official which was herself and realized that the Town has two women officials and it is nice to note the Town has diversity and representation, especially as it is the Year of the Woman.

Mayor Burris remarked that we received an invitation to attend and help promote the Fly for the Cure on February 22nd.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Hammett moved to close the regular meeting at 4:59 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Hollander, 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