



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown Town Council Meeting Minutes March 9, 2020

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

Absent: Tyler Alt, Council Member

Also, in attendance were: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary; Madison Bateman, Enterprise; Guy Leonard, County Times; Susan Carney, Resident/Artist; Kristen Whitesell, Resident; Doug Islieb, Resident; Gordon Stellway, Realtor. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Town Hall.

Mayor Burris asked Councilmember Hayden 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, February 10, 2020 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Slade, motion passed.

Councilmember Slade stated that she wanted to add that she received a letter from Dean Gass, Heritage Printing in regards to the Beacon Newsletter bid and wanted to add for the record that we have talked about it and someone will be reaching out to him in response.

Treasurers Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that during the month no transfers were made to or from the LGIP. We are 67% through the budget year and have responded to 26 fiscal notes during the MD legislative session this year.

Update Glass Recycling. The container is being fabricated and should be done Friday. We've selected a location, which is in the parking lot across from Good Earth. We will get the word out in the next Beacon and on all of our social media to notify all the residents. Each time it is picked up there will be a charge and then the per tonnage fee to the disposal site will be charged.

Councilmember Slade asked if tops of glass bottles will need to be taken off?

Ms. Sothoron responded that will not be necessary, everything will need to be rinsed as normal and there will be receptacles wide enough to take up to what is normal and customary but not too large to keep people from putting in other items other than glass. We will see about placing a sticker with what can and cannot be put in to the bin. We will monitor the use and frequency to determine a schedule of how often it will be emptied by Goode Trash Service.

Budget workshop for Council has been rescheduled for Monday, March 16, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. and at the adjournment of today's meeting you will receive a draft copy.

Councilmember Hammett asked if it was available to the general public yet?

Ms. Sothoron responded, No, but it will be available for the general public approximately a week before the April Council meeting.

Councilmember Hollander inquired how the income tax figures get incorporated.

Ms. Sothoron remarked that every quarter we receive what the State estimates is our share of withholding and any reconciled adjustments, such as people who filed late, gets incorporated. We receive four big payments and then at the end of FY20 we get another reconciling payment, but we are ahead of what we budgeted.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 194 Adopting the Budget and Setting the Real Property Tax Rate for FY21

Ms. Sothoron reported that the Town's Charter requires us to introduce the Ordinance before it is adopted, so it is being introduced today. The public hearing will be held during the April Council meeting.

Ms. McKay read Ordinance #149 to introduce Adopting the Budget and Setting the Real Property Tax Rate for FY21 and will hold a public hearing at the April meeting.

Planning & Zoning Report – Jada Stuckert

Ms. Stuckert reported that the last meeting held was September 2019 and no meeting will be held this month. However, a meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 20, 2020 as there are a few cases to be heard.

Police Report – Deputy Nelson

Deputy Nelson has been out due to an injury and expected to return to work next week. She did submit a written report for Council's review.

Town Administrator's Report – Laschelle McKay

Approval of Task Order No. 21 GHD, Inc. Scada System Technical Support

The computer system that operates the wastewater treatment plant is very technical and the operators need the support from the design engineers occasionally. This task order would be the means for calling in the engineers as needed on an hourly basis.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to approve Task order No. 21 with GHD, Inc for technical support for the Scada system operating the wastewater treatment plant. This is an hourly as needed task order; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Update from Artist on Historic Marker

At the October 21, 2019 meeting, artist Susan Carney, gave a presentation and received consensus for moving forward with ideas on funding a historic marker to recognize the long history of indigenous people that lived in the area. She is here today to provide an update.

Ms. Carney brought forward an artist rendering of a sample of the historic marker for Council to view. She explained that she has worked with a variety of informed researchers such as Mr. Ed Cheney at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory to help with the wording, the timeline and the specific images of that time period.

Her plan is to begin working on funding sources and have received assistance from Ms. Michelle Walker and Ms. Tina Smith, both with the Maryland Heritage Area program have recommended partnering with local non-profits such as the St. Mary's Arts Council for grant money.

The cost will be approximately \$2,500 for a sign that is about 36" by 24" on legs for reading height and includes the installation and hardware.

The best location I suggest is right in between the two Wharf historical markers.

Mayor Burris inquired if she had contacted the Piscataway tribes?

Ms. Carney responded yes, she has spoken with Mr. Rico Newman, the Piscataway representative to the Commission of Indian Affairs. He has been very helpful and supportive along with the vice chairman of the commission of Indian Affairs. They have seen this and liked it and also received an email today from the education commissioner with Indian Affairs and she too would like to weigh in on the image.

Council gave consensus for Ms. Carney to move forward with the historic marker as presented.

Liquor License Letter of Support for Happy Seafood Place

Bottom of the Hill restaurant has been sold and will be reopening as Happy Seafood Place. The new owners, JJ&T Group, are requesting a letter of support for a Class B restaurant license. The license will be in the names of Jassica li Xia Zheng and Aiqin Jiang. They are not requesting outdoor extension of premises as other restaurants in that location have had in the past.

Councilmember Hammett asked if this was a transfer of license and the same class?

Ms. McKay stated no, not a transfer as they are applying for a new license but it is the same class.

Councilmember Slade moved to approve a liquor license letter of support for a Class B Restaurant license for Happy Seafood Place purchasing Bottom of the Hill located at 40874 Merchants Lane; seconded by Councilmember Mattingly, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Easement Agreement for Outdoor Seating with Seymour Town Properties

Council approved a permanent structure for an outdoor seating area for Sweetbay Restaurant. This easement lays out the maintenance, liability and approval process for the construction.

Councilmember Slade inquired if they are liable and responsible for any repairs.

Ms. McKay stated this document states they are liable and responsible for any repairs.

Councilmember Hammett asked if we have any example of this for other businesses?

Ms. McKay responded No, as we have not done any new extensions into the street any others have been on the sidewalk immediately in front of the business and not building any new structure.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to approve the easement documenting the approval given at the February 10th meeting for a permanent outdoor seating area for Sweetbay Restaurant; seconded by Councilmember Slade.

Councilmember Hammett remarked that an easement seems to be inappropriate with the other restaurants that have outdoor dining.

Ms. McKay stated that she did have a conversation with the Town's attorney and he needed more information to see if the easement was the proper document and he felt it was because they are taking two parking spaces and constructing a new facility there on our road.

Councilmember Hammett felt it was an extension of the sidewalk to look similar to the other end of the sidewalk. There was mention of a temporary raised platform.

Ms. McKay stated that they are now putting in a permanent raised structure on Town property and as they will be using it and we need to document this easement so that they maintain it and they have liability coverage on it for the customers sitting on our property.

Councilmember Hammett remarked that none of the other businesses have a formal easement.

Mayor Burris stated No, as none have built any structures.

Ms. McKay remarked that it varies from building to building as to who owns the actual sidewalk as some of the businesses may even own their section of sidewalk and they just have tables next to their building and not out in the street and not constructing new facilities.

Councilmember Slade noted that that particular curb location is actually a pretty tight turn and this may actually help the visibility and drivers may go slower through that intersection.

Councilmember Mattingly noted that we may revisit this in the future to make this a one-way street.

Mayor Burris ask for any further discussion, there being none he entertained a vote. Councilmembers Hollander, Mattingly, Slade voted in favor. Councilmember Hammett opposed. Motion passed.

Approval of Easement for EV Charging Station Facility on Park Ave.

The Town and County are working with SMECO on locations for public charging stations for electric cars. The Town has been approved for one location at the public parking lot on Park Ave and a future location at the Washington Street public lot. Users pay for the electric through an app or by credit card. There is no cost to the Town. We need to dedicate 2 spaces for the station.

Councilmember Hollander moved to approve the easement for SMECO to install an EV Charging station at the public parking lot located at 41690 Park Ave.; seconded by Councilmember Slade.

Councilmember Hammett inquired as to who is the grantee.

Ms. McKay stated that the grantee would be SMECO and the grantor would be the Town.

Mayor Burris ask for any further discussion, there being none he entertained a vote. All voted in favor, motion passed.

Ms. McKay reported that next month, we will be bringing through a packet of text amendments that Ms. Stuckert has been working on that are updating past amendments and bringing them current. We will also be moving forward a Comprehensive Plan update change in anticipation of the annexation of the memory center nursing care facility at Cedar Lane. The first thing we have to do is amend our Comprehensive Plan to show it is a possible future area of growth and is required to go through the State. We will introduce legislation next month and then public hearings will be held to inform the public.

For those who attended the State of the Town, it was a great positive meeting and very well attended.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Burris

Mayor Burris also mentioned the State of the Town and how impressed the attendees were and it was a good informative meeting.

The small Leonardtown ornaments highlighting our new branding were a big hit, thanks to Ms. Donna Page, who worked tirelessly to have them available.

Driving through Clark's Rest there are over 20 homes either under construction or sold and Meadows at Town Run also have lots of homes under construction or sold.

Checking with Ms. Stuckert, the Hamptons have been issued over 50 U&O permits with only two units available in building one.

Events – Mayor Burris

The weekend kicked off with the Annual State of the Town Breakfast on Friday, February 14th at the College of Southern Maryland. There was an amazing response to the presentation of the new Town's branding and exciting projects that were newly developed or on the horizon for the Town, LBA, Visit St. Mary's and St. Mary's Economic Development. The attendees especially loved the sample art pieces that were on display showing how the new Town logo can be interpreted by local artists.

Upcoming Events:

- Sip & Salsa, March 21 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.
- The 20th Anniversary of Leonardtown's Earth Day Celebration, Sunday, April 19th in Leonardtown Square and Wharf from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
This year also commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.
- Tree Planting Ceremony Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the
- National Earth Day Commemoration. Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22nd
Attendees are asked to meet in front of Town Hall at 10:00 a.m.
- A procession will lead everyone to the location of the Planting Ceremony at Tudor Hall Manor.
- 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 – No report

Utilities – Christy Hollander

Councilmember Hollander reported that as mentioned work is being done on the upgrade to the treatment plant and that will be a huge project and take up quite a bit of resources. The Route 5 widening continues to go along fairly smoothly and inserting the new water main.

SMMA Update – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that he attended the State of the Town and agreed it was one of the largest crowds and everyone was engaged and anxious to hear what is going on in Leonardtown. Thank you to the entire staff for preparing and hosting this annual event. The SMMA meeting will be held here in the Town Hall on Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m. Attended the ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the new façade improvements. Will be attending the MML Board of Directors meeting in April in Annapolis.

Business Development/Retention – Mary Maday Slade

Councilmember Slade reported that she saw that Sweetbay will begin serving breakfast on Sundays and lunch on Saturdays. The Slice House has begun renovation in the old Big Larry's. Also, echo how well the State of the Town went and also a shout out to Ms. McKay as an excellent speaker/presenter. Attended the St. Mary's Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote which was also International Women's Day and it was a fantastic event.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to close the regular meeting at 4:46 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Hammett, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teri P. Dimsey

Approved:

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

Absent
Tyler Alt, Councilmember

Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

Christy Hollander, Councilmember

J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember

Mary Maday Slade, Councilmember