



# Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS  
*Mayor*

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY  
*Town Administrator*

## **Town Council Meeting Minutes June 12, 2023**

**Live streamed video of the meeting can be found on  
YouTube – [www.youtube.com/c/TownofLeonardtown](http://www.youtube.com/c/TownofLeonardtown)**

Attendees: Daniel W. Burris, Mayor  
J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Vice President  
Nick Colvin, Council Member  
Heather M. Earhart, Council Member  
Christy Hollander, Council Member  
Mary Maday Slade, Council Member

Also, in attendance were: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary, Angie Graves, Treasurer; Mike Bailey, Planning; Will Morehead, JustTech; Roger Mattingly, Resident, Ken Held, Slice House. A sign-up sheet was provided, there were no attendees to sign. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Town Hall.

Mayor Burris asked Councilmember Colvin to give the invocation and asked Ms. Dimsey to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2023 meeting.

**Councilmember Colvin moved to approve the minutes of May 8, 2023, as presented; seconded by Councilmember Mattingly; no further questions, motion passed unanimously.**

### **Treasurers Report – Angie Graves**

Ms. Graves reported that we have received 100% of our property tax revenue and our income tax revenue and our highway user revenue is expected to come in by the end of this month or early July and as such, revenues are all on target. There are some items in the Capital Outlay and Public Works budget that shows over budget and this is attributed to capital projects that were moved over from FY22 to FY23/

### **Planning & Zoning Report – Mike Bailey**

Mr. Bailey reported that there are three items to be heard at the upcoming PZ meeting on Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was moved to Tuesday as the office is closed on Monday in observance of the Juneteenth federal holiday.

- **Case No. 33-32 – Lot 2 – Dash In Food Stores Subdivision** – Request façade change from KFC & Taco Bell to Taco Bell only, 26045 Point Lookout Road.
- **Case No. 37-20 A – Medstar St. Mary’s Hospital Normal Power Service Upgrade** – Requesting a 26.67’ x 12.15’ (350 SF) additional to the existing Power and Electronics building at the rear of the hospital building.
- **2022 Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) Annual Report** – Request for review and approval.

### **Police Report – Mayor Burris**

Mayor Burris thanked Cpl. Roszell for providing a written report as she is unavailable to attend today’s meeting.

### **Town Administrators Report – Laschelle McKay**

#### **Introduction of Ordinance No. 217 Chapter 62 Development Impact Fee- Repeal Section 62 1.1**

On May 23, 2023 the St. Mary's County Commissioners repealed the school impact fee ordinance and put in place a new excise tax. Our code Chapter 62-1.1 specifically stated that the Town would collect the Board of Education Impact Fee at the going rate set by the BOCC and would forward the fee to the County. Since there is no longer an impact fee our attorney advised us to repeal that part of our ordinance. We can explore options for continuing to assure funds get set aside for future school needs by another method. A public hearing will be held at the July 10, 2023 meeting.

#### **Updates**

The Main Street application was submitted and we should hear back from them shortly.

We also received our Arts & Entertainment Designation. A huge thank you to Ms. Bailey who worked diligently on obtaining all the required information.

All information has been submitted to the State of Maryland in regards to the fourth Façade Grant, we received approvals to move forward and will be sending out award letters to those businesses who applied. We are also submitting another application for a \$50,000 grant to continue to provide this valuable resource to our small businesses.

The base for the archways for the waterfront and downtown district is planned to begin and then the construction of the entire archways should be completed by early July.

The big news is the World’s Largest Rubber Duck is coming to Leonardtown Wharf for August First Friday All Weekend – August 4, 5, and 6. The excitement is building and we expect thousands of tourists to attend with special excitement from the Jeep groups who have a special affiliation with rubber ducks. There is a lot of coordination that needs to happen but all the businesses are on board and looking for ways to incorporate the big Duck into their marketing strategies. The initial cost is \$9,500 but we will be sending out sponsor packages and already have sponsors in place for the infrastructure set-up portion. It is the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the opening of the Wharf.

Lastly, we received our Banner City Award this year and we are one of five towns, out of all the Towns, that have received the award since 2007. Thank you to Ms. Dimsey for making sure the Banner City Award requirements are submitted on time.

### **Mayor's Report – Mayor Burris**

There is no one here in attendance today from LBA to report but Ms. McKay did attend the last meeting and presented updated information about Town happenings.

Ms. McKay stated that there was a lot of discussion about the upcoming big Duck arrival, the summer concerts and the fireworks taking place during the Labor Day concerts. It was a very positive well attended meeting.

Mayor Burris stated that there was an open position on the Ethics Commission and that Mr. Matt Hall, Senior Pastor of Southpoint Church, agreed to and was appointed to the Ethics Commission as a new member.

### **Events – Heather Earhart**

Councilmember Earhart reported that she is amazed at seeing all of the people around Town. She had brunch in Town and enjoyed seeing all the activities downtown and at the Wharf. We have a lot happening during the summer. Root SUP has the kids camps at the Wharf, Latrice Carr is performing on June 24<sup>th</sup> and Doc Martin and the Flannels will be up next. The POL Winery has music every weekend with large crowds in attendance. Seaplane rides have been popular. The new kayak launch is being well used.

### **Community Development and Planning – Nick Colvin**

Councilmember Colvin reported that the Route 5 work was supposed to start up and it appears they are moving some equipment in preparation of some paving work. He will be attending the Flag Day ceremony, reading the Proclamation, and hopes to see lots of people attend in support.

### **Utilities – Christy Hollander**

Councilmember Hollander remarked that she too has been so happy to see all the people out and about enjoying Leonardtown.

### **SMMA Update – Jay Mattingly**

Councilmember Mattingly reported that there is no update on the next SMMA meeting at this time. He will be attending the MML Summer Conference June 25 to June 28 in Ocean City and looking forward to attending many of the informative workshops and sessions, along with the annual MML Board of Directors meeting.

### **Business Development – Mary Maday Slade**

Councilmember Slade reported that she has noticed how Leonardtown is a happening place these days and she kayaked herself on Breton Bay and then hung out at POL Winery. Everyone is excited about the arrival of the big Duck and she passed out some homemade ducks made by a local 14yr old young lady.

### **4:15 Public Hearing- Ordinance No. 216 Adopting the FY24 Budget and Setting the Real Property Tax Rate**

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing.

**Councilmember Mattingly moved to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, motion passed.**

Ms. McKay stated that this ordinance was introduced at the May 8, 2023 Town Council meeting and advertised on the Town website and in the County Times on May 25, 2023. At the close of the public hearing, Council will have the opportunity to adopt Ordinance No. 216 and set the tax rate as well as the utility rates for the year.

Ms. Graves, Treasurer, thanked both Ms. Post and Ms. McKay for their assistance in bringing this budget forward. We were very conservative and I will just highlight some of the more important budget items. We have the General Fund for the daily governmental activities of the Town and the Enterprise Fund which includes the operations of the water, sewage and trash utilities for the citizens and businesses of the Town of Leonardtown. Within the General Fund the largest revenue source is our income tax which represents 40.2% of the operating revenue. The real property tax is the second largest revenue source which represents 31.8% of the operating revenue. The Maryland Department of Tax Assessment calculated the Town's constant yield tax rate to be .1203 cents per \$100 in assessed value and this budget reflects this constant yield tax rate. The next highest source is the highway revenue user funds which covers snow removal and road maintenance. Our goal is to achieve 50% of our operating budget, this FY24 Recommended Budget exceeds that goal and is predicted to result in unassigned fund balances of 60.69% at the end of the fiscal year. There is an Ordinance in place that calls for an annual 2% increase in the utility rates. Council has agreed to waive this increase for the water services charges only as it will not put undue financial pressure on the current FY24 water budget. In March of 2023, the Town Council negotiated a two-year contract extension with WB Waste Solutions and the extension has resulted in a 26.15% total increase with residential collection increasing to \$16.29 per quarter and commercial will see larger increases due to operational costs nationwide. Under Capital Projects, there is a small sewer slip line project at the Waste Water Treatment and there is a planned new Water Tower to serve new customers and this water tower will be funded by existing impact fees on hand, loan proceeds and some from the state and local fiscal recovery funds from ARPA. We have put in place a very conservative and achievable FY24 Budget while lowering our tax rate to the constant yield along with a 2% increase in sewer rates but not increasing the water in the utility bill.

**Mayor Burris inquired if there were any comments from the public audience?**

Ms. McKay stated that we did not receive any comments from the public.

**Hearing none, Mayor Burris entertained a motion to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting.**

**Councilmember Earhart moved to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting; seconded by Councilmember Slade, motion passed.**

Councilmember Colvin remarked that he feels this is a good budget as it addresses all the needs of the Town and thankful that we can lower the tax rate giving our residents a small break. Thank you to the Town staff for working so diligently during the budget process.

Councilmember Earhart stated that she feels this is a very forward-looking budget.

Mayor Burris noted that the expansion project for the Treatment Plant is paid for by the new homes that will be connected to it not the current customers.

Councilmember Mattingly stated that preparing the budget is very time consuming and gave a big thank you to Ms. Graves, Ms. Post and Ms. McKay and for keeping the Town in great financial shape.

**Councilmember Earhart moved to approve Ordinance No. 216 to adopt the FY24 budget and set the Real Property Tax Rate; seconded by Councilmember Colvin, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. McKay announced that she wanted to sadly acknowledge the passing of former Delegate Johnny Wood, who was always a supporter of the Town and his many years of gifting his time and energy to St. Mary's County.

Mr. Ken Held inquired when the 2024 Town Elections will begin.

Ms. McKay replied that the Election calendar will be set and published in January 2024.

Mayor Burris reminded everyone that he is available after the meeting for discussions.

**Mayor Burris entertained a motion to adjourn.**

**Councilmember Mattingly moved to adjourn the meeting at 4.35 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Slade, motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted:

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Teri P. Dimsey

Approved:

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Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

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Nick Colvin, Councilmember

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Heather M. Earhart

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Christy Hollander, Councilmember

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J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember

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