



Commissioners of Leonardtown

41660 Courthouse Drive
P. O. Box 1, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

301-475-9791 • FAX 301-475-5350
leonardtown.somd.com

J. HARRY NORRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MILLER
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **September 14, 2009 ~ 4:00 P.M.**

Attendees: J. Harry Norris, Mayor
Walter Wise, Vice President
Dan Burris, Councilmember
Thomas Collier, Councilmember
Robert Combs, Councilmember
Leslie E. Roberts, Councilmember

Also in attendance were: Rebecca Sothoron, Town Treasurer; DeAnn Adler, Plans Reviewer; Teri Dimsey, Recording Secretary; Jackie Post, Fiscal Clerk; Tony Wheatley, Capitals Project Coordinator; Deputy Simonds. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Leonardtown Town Hall.

Mayor Norris called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Norris proceeded to take up the first item of business.

Approval of Minutes:

The meeting minutes for August 10, 2009 Town Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Burris moved to approve the August 10, 2009 Town Council meeting minutes; seconded by Councilmember Collier; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that she transferred \$150,000 for the month of August to the LGIP. We are 17% through the budget year. Real Estate Tax has been booked to the general ledger and we have met the budgeted amount. The State budget cuts have affected the Town. We will be losing \$ 94,500 in Highway User Revenue which is 90% of our funding. We have already done some paving this year. My recommendation is we hold off on any future paving projects until the audit is finished and then re-evaluate. We are also losing \$2,800 in State Police Aid which is 32% of

our budget and there is some surplus property tax revenue that I would recommend we designate to make up for that deficit. Council has also approved \$5,000 outlay for the Destination Guide. This was not budgeted. I will come back to Council after having reworked the revenue expense accounts and report. We did receive the final distribution of the income tax in August for the prior fiscal year and we were able to meet the budget amount. We are still working on audit, there has been a delay in getting the auditors here to begin; we still have an October 31, 2009 deadline. There is recent legislation that all municipalities have to approve Debt Policies by October 1, 2009. We would not have time for Council to approve before Council by the deadline, therefore, I have requested an extension from the Treasurer's office and it was approved.

Deputy Report

Deputy Simonds submitted a written report detailing the incidents that occurred last month.

Mayor Norris moved on to the next order of business and introduced Mr. Derek Berlage, Director, Land Use and Growth Management for St. Mary's County Government.

Mr. Derek Berlage thanked Mayor Norris for the introduction and remarked that he looks forward to having a very close and cooperative relationship with the Town.

Mr. Berlage stated that his presentation is regarding the Comprehensive Plan for St. Mary's County. They are in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan that was adopted in 2002 and are focusing on fine tuning the plan. He noted their focus is on how the vision of the 2002 plan will be carried forward into the 2010 plan. He spoke about some of the successes that have been implemented to date and some of the present and future challenges.

Planning Report – DeAnn Adler

Last month our Planning and Zoning meeting was held on August 17, 2009. Two cases were heard:

Case # 45-08 B – J. Louis Edwards Subdivision – 23350 Potato Hill Farm Lane – This case was for a confirmatory plat approval and approval was granted.

Case # 88-06 – Emergency Operations Center Equipment Shelter – 41870 Baldrige Street – This case was a request for final site plan approval and approval was granted.

This month our P & Z meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2009. No cases to be heard at this time which means the meeting may be cancelled.

Town Administrator Report – Laschelle McKay is not present but submitted a written report.

Winery Update

Ms. McKay reported that the Winery is nearing completion of the production area of the winery. On Saturday, August 29th the first batch of grapes were harvested and crushed at the winery. A second load was brought in last weekend and over the next couple of weeks the remainder of the expected 30 tons of grapes are due to be harvested. All is going well. We are looking for grants for the tasting room and other equipment needed over and above the original funding. Everyone is extremely pleased with the outcome. The first batches of white wine would be expected next spring with the reds to follow in the fall.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Tony Redman is proceeding with the draft Comprehensive Plan. As stated previously, the Town received a 6 month extension for completing the grant depletion.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Norris reported that the Headmaster's Test Pilot's schools, located in Edwards, CA, Great Britain, France and Pax River, have a yearly class and every four years it is held at Pax River Naval Base. This year all of the participants stayed at the Executive Inn and Suites here in Leonardtown and ate at many of the restaurants in Town. They told me they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and plan to come back to for their meetings and to visit.

Council Reports

Events - Councilmember Burris:

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
Friday, Sept. 11	8:30 AM	LBA Meeting @ TBD
Friday, Sept. 11	NOON	9/11 Remembrance Ceremony@ Governmental Center
Saturday, Sept. 12	10 AM – 3 PM	Fall Follies Craft Show in Leonardtown
Saturday, Sept. 12	NOON – 5 PM	Leonardtown Wharf Waterfront Celebration
Tuesday, Sept. 15	11:30 AM	2009 State of the County Luncheon @ JT Daugherty Conference Center
Sunday, Sept. 2	NOON – 4 PM	Taste of St. Mary's in Leonardtown

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>	<u><i>Meeting</i></u>
Thursday, Sept. 24- Sunday, Sept. 27		SMC Fair (Parade on Saturday @ 10:30 AM)
Thursday, Sept. 24	5:30 PM	Chamber Business After Hours @ Maryland International Raceway in Budd's Creek
Saturday, Sept. 26	9:00 AM	"Walk a Mile in My Shoes" 5K – starts at St. Aloysius
Thursday, Oct. 1	5-7 PM	Lexington Park Rotary Oyster Scald @ Leonardtown Wharf – tickets are \$25/each.
Saturday, Oct 3 Sunday, Oct 4	NOON – 6:00 PM	Riverside Winefest @ Sotterly
Saturday, Oct. Sunday, Oct. 4	10 AM-10 PM	Annual Blessing of the Fleet @ St. Clements Island Museum

Parks – Councilmember Combs:

Councilmember Combs reported that the St. Mary's County Garden Club is interested in working with the Town to possibly do some plantings at the Port of Leonardtown; they have a meeting this week and will get back to us.

Streets and Roads – Councilmember Wise: No Report

MML/SMMA – Councilmember Roberts:

Councilmember Roberts reported that the SMMA meeting will be hosted by Leonardtown and held at the Executive Inn and Suites to begin at 6:30 pm. Myself, Mayor Norris, Mr. Burris, Mr. Combs and Mr. Collier will be attending.

Capital Projects – Councilmember Collier: No report

Mayor Norris remarked that Mr. Collier has agreed to serve as an alternate on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Norris entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilmember Collier moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilmember Burris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teri Dimsey, Recording Secretary

Approved:

J. Harry Norris, III, Mayor

Walter Wise, Vice President

Daniel W. Burris, Councilmember

Thomas R. Collier, Councilmember

Robert C. Combs, Councilmember

Leslie E. Roberts, Councilmember