



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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J. HARRY NORRIS
Mayor

LASHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **February 8, 2010 ~ 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; Tony Wheatley, Capital Projects Coordinator; Katherine Stormont, Full Stride Community; Joe Orlando, Fenwick Street Used Books; Theresa Johnson, CSM Leonardtown Campus. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Leonardtown Town Hall.

Mayor Norris called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:10 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 January 11, 2010 Town Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve the January 11, 2010 Town Council meeting minutes; seconded by Councilmember Wise; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL: WALTER WISE, *Vice President* DANIEL W. BURRIS
THOMAS R. COLLIER ROBERT C. COMBS LESLIE E. ROBERTS

Mayor Norris stated that the Leonardtown Business Association has been working on a new marketing strategy and Ms. Kathryn Stormont and Ms. Theresa Johnson are here today to talk about their strategy. Mayor Norris felt it would be beneficial to hear from the businesses as we are making decisions on the upcoming budget.

Ms. Johnson noted that Mr. Danny Norris and Mr. Joe Orlando were also present today representing LBA. She and Ms. Stormont explained that the LBA has formed a marketing subcommittee to discuss how they could coordinate their efforts with the Town and the LBA members. They did some research to determine the Town's niche market. They surveyed people and many of the comments said they wanted to see a theater district and if the Town pursues application for an Arts and Entertainment District this could be a huge benefit. We hope to attract more members to join LBA. To highlight the privileges and benefits of becoming a member, we have come up with a brochure to use as we move forward with a membership drive.

Ms. McKay added that the LBA plans to also focus on including meetings with Town Council to keep the communication open between the LBA members and the Town.

Mayor Norris thanked them for keeping the lines of communication open and for working hard to inspire the LBA members to stay involved and to continue to work to increase their membership for the benefit of the businesses and the residents.

Ms. McKay noted that Carolyn Laray, Tourism Director for St. Mary's County, was also in attendance and asked her about the status of the Destination guide.

Ms. Laray explained that it is coming along beautifully, and that one of the two covers features Leonardtown specifically and both covers have a shout out about the Town of Leonardtown.

Mr. Orlando remarked that as First Friday on February 5th had to be cancelled due to the snow storm, it was changed to Friday, February 12th which includes a free raffle of a Valentine's Weekend give-away.

Ms. McKay noted that the winery just announced that they will be open in May, specifically for the First Friday event. Their grand opening will take place on Friday, May 21, more information to follow as we firm up the details for this event.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that information for January was included in Council's packet with a copy of the accounts payable listing for the month. \$100,000 was transferred to the checking account. We are 58% through the budget year. There will be a few budget amendments to bring forward as we are over on a few items, snow removal being one of the adjustments, but will wait until April to do so. The County tax sale is scheduled for March and we do have two accounts from Leonardtown that are still on that tax sale list. I received information from the State on the new construction tax billing. There will be 22 accounts to yield about \$3,900 in additional revenue and will be getting those tax bills out this week.

I also put at the table a postcard flyer. There is a concern that residents in town are not aware of the importance of filling out their State income tax return properly. We are mailing these to all 1615 residential accounts who we believe live in town and we also have door hangers that will be hung in areas we believe have tenants living. This has also been posted on the Town website and an article placed in the Beacon to get the word out to as many residents as we can. All new welcome packets will include this as well.

Ms. Sothoron explained that everyone's State income tax return has a place at the top near the address box that you are supposed to designate which county you live in but you are also supposed to write in if you live in a municipal corporation. That box should be labeled Leonardtown. There are certain procedures that they do at the State level to cross check this information but they do not catch everything so we are relying on our residents to assist us in providing this information to make sure we receive the funds due back to Leonardtown.

Ms. Sothoron reported that there will be trash collection difficulties, especially the alleyways, due to the snow. We will monitor this and do the best we can to resolve issues as they arise.

Ms. Sothoron reported that the last item is the Adoption of the Debt Management Policy which is required by the State of Maryland. This was distributed at last month's meeting for Council's review. A draft of the Resolution was also included. No comments were received; therefore, it has remained the same.

Councilmember Roberts moved to approve Resolution #1-10 Debt Management Policy as mandated by the State of Maryland; Councilmember Burris seconded; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Planning Report – DeAnn Adler

Planning and Zoning meeting was held on January 19, 2010. One case was heard:

Case #1-10 Mummaugh – 22645 Van Wert Lane – Request for concept approval for an office building with warehouse storage below. The request was approved.

The next Planning and Zoning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

Deputy Report - Deputy Smolarsky

Deputy Smolarsky reported that she provided a written report but no significant incidents happened during the past month. She stated that Council is invited each month to attend the monthly Comstat meeting which is a computer driven statistical system that tracks crime trends as well as accidents in the community.

Town Administrator Report – Laschelle McKay

Introduction of Ordinance No. 145 – Leonardtown Comprehensive Plan Update – Ms.

McKay reported that this ordinance is being introduced as we discussed in January according to the Comp Plan Calendar (another copy is attached). A copy of the draft Comp Plan and a brief overview of the changes are included. Today's action is simply to introduce the Ordinance and

forward the draft on to Planning and Zoning for a public hearing and a recommendation and to State and Local agencies for comment as required. We will coordinate a workshop with Town Council and Planning and Zoning to meet with Tony Redman to review changes and answer questions prior to the beginning of the public hearings.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 146 – Comprehensive Zoning Map Update – This ordinance is also just for introduction. A public hearing will be held on the zoning map in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan Update. The only proposed changes at this time are a mistake on Newtowne Village from the last update shows it as R-SF and it was originally and should be going forward R-MF. Also the two SMECO properties were slated to be changed to Institutional during this process. The only other item for discussion is the piece on Fenwick St. that Mr. Saba was originally looking at and to consider if we want to change that zoning from PUD?

Councilmember Collier pointed out that the zoning map has some inconsistencies with colors. Ms. McKay responded that she is working with Leonardtown Blueprint to correct the colors from overlapping.

Councilmember Combs inquired if the Bell Motor property where the Sheriff's cars are stored was included.

Ms. McKay remarked no, any other properties Council would like to include need to be brought forward if you would like to pursue those properties for it to be included in the public hearing.

Ms. McKay stated that the two ordinances have been formally introduced. A workshop will be scheduled and the first public hearing will be held in March at the Planning and Zoning meeting.

Council members came to a consensus to move the documents forward to the other agencies to being the process.

Ms. McKay reported that two bids were advertised. One is for the Canoe/Kayak launch at the Leonardtown Wharf after receiving final approval for the funding from the State of Maryland. The bid opening is February 22, 2010. The other is for the signage for the Port of Leonardtown Winery and the bid opening is February 26, 2010.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Norris

Mayor Norris remarked that everyone is aware that it has been a trying winter with snow removal and we appreciate the businesses and residents' cooperation, support and patience as we move next to catching up with trash removal. It has not been an easy process.

Mayor Norris remarked that the Winery Co-Op has evolved into a very strong core group and portends into a very successful operation. The core group consists of Rich Fuller, President; Pat Isles, Winemaker; Mary Wood and Carolyn Baldwin, they have given a tremendous amount of their time.

Mayor Norris stressed again that we want to promote buy local to help our businesses through this difficult time.

Councilmember Burris noted that the County is promoting a restaurant week to encourage residents to “Buy Local” as the restaurants will use local fresh produce for their specials that week.

Council Reports

Events - Councilmember Burris:

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Meeting</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Friday, Feb. 12 | 8:30 AM | LBA Meeting @ TBA |
| Monday, Feb. 22 | 8:00 AM | 2010 Legislative Breakfast @ Lenny’s \$25/person Paid RSVP by Feb. 17 |
| Thursday, Feb. 25 | 7:00 PM | Southern Maryland Legislative Reception @ Loew’s Annapolis Hotel \$35/person, Paid RSVP by Feb. 12 |
| Wednesday, Feb. 24 | 5:30 PM | Chamber Business After Hours @ JT Daugherty Conference Center |

Parks – Councilmember Combs:

Councilmember Combs received the engineering plans from NGO and received notification from MDE that they have been logged in and are going through the process. He met with the Garden Club and they have a budget of \$1,500 and are currently designing the landscape around the winery itself and the patio. When they begin they will use the students at the Tech Center which they have done in the past.

Streets and Roads – Councilmember Wise: **No Report**

MML/SMMA – Councilmember Roberts:

Councilmember Roberts reported the next SMMA meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3 at Chesapeake Beach at the Rod and Reel. MML is very active in the legislature working hard on many issues such as the new storm water management issues and the Highway User funds.

Capital Projects – Councilmember Collier: **No Report**

Mayor Norris moved to entertain a motion to adjourn this meeting and move into executive session on land acquisition.

Councilmember Burris moved to adjourn the meeting and move into executive session on land acquisition; Councilmember Roberts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 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