



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **February 11, 2013**

Attendees: Daniel W. Burris, Mayor
Thomas R. Collier, Councilmember
Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember
J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember
Roger L. Mattingly, Councilmember

Absent: Leslie Roberts, Vice President

Also in attendance were: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer; Frank and J. Fearn, S. Frazier, T. Mattingly, Tana/Jay Battle, Vicki Springer, Ernie Bell, Kit Pilkerton, Robert Pogue, Mary Hicks, Frankie Tippet, Pam Graves, Kennedy Abell, Chip Norris, Residents; Mark Boucot, St. Mary's Hospital; Nicole Clark, Enterprise, Dan Norris, LBA; Laura Clarke, LSA. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Leonardtown Town Hall.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes for the January 14, 2013 Town Council meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly moved to approve the January 14, 2013 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Thomas Collier, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that she distributed the financial information for January. No money was necessary to transfer to or from the operating account. The income statement is attached and we are 59% through the budget year. We acquired 36 new construction accounts for a total of \$6,500 in additional revenue for the property tax income. We have spent year to date \$4,200 in snow removal and there will be budget amendments forthcoming for certain line items that will need reallocation of appropriation. During January the tax rebate request was submitted to the county for inclusion in their budget draft for \$50,471. The funding application for the ENR upgrade for the treatment plant was submitted to MDE. That was a \$23 million dollar application. We are also responding to fiscal notes as the State legislation introduces bills. Three accounts have been submitted to the county treasurer for tax sale which is scheduled for March. A draft for the Anti-

Fraud policy has been included in your packet for your review and is planned for adoption by resolution during the March meeting.

Approval is needed today on the Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Plan. The Bay Restoration Fee is mandated by the State and they are requiring us to offer a Bay Fee Hardship Plan which we have received approval from the State but requires Council approval to finalize.

Mayor Burris inquired as to how many customers may be exempt.

Ms. Sothoron responded that any homeowner that received a State Homeowner's Tax credit, we currently have only ten residents.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to approve the Bay Fee Hardship Plan.

Councilmember Collier moved to approve the Bay Fee Hardship Plan as presented by the Treasurer; Councilmember Roger Mattingly seconded; no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sothoron also mentioned that she has prepared and distributed the Recommended Budget Calendar for FY 2014.

Planning & Zoning Report – DeAnn Adler

The Planning and Zoning meeting last month was held on January 22, 2013. We had one case on the agenda:

Case #1-13 – 40950 Merchants Lane – McDonald's Restaurant – Request for changes to the exterior of the building and drive thru area. This request received unanimous approval.

This month's Planning and Zoning meeting will be cancelled as we have no items on the agenda.

We are continuing to work on the Arts and Entertainment District Application and Ms. McKay will be giving you an update today on where we're at when she does her report.

Police Report – Deputy Smolarsky

Deputy Smolarsky was unable to attend the meeting today but did provide a written report to Council.

Town Administrator Report – Laschelle McKay

Ms. McKay reported that St. Mary's Hospital submitted a letter of request along with a site plan for two temporary trailers. Mr. Mark Boucot is in attendance today to brief Council.

Mr. Boucot stated that the hospital will be undergoing a significant construction phase over the next 18 to 24 months. We are renovating and bringing new services into the hospital. During this renovation we will need to move some facilities around, having two temporary trailers would help accommodate our patient's needs until the renovations are complete.

Councilmember Collier inquired if the hospital has looked toward the future and having space set aside for this type of renovation as there will always be continuing construction.

Mr. Boucot responded that in the past we were able to get approved for shell space but the Maryland Healthcare Commission frowns on the approval of shell space for hospitals. Because of the nature of this project, we do not have to get a Certificate of Need and asking for shell space would require us to go through an approval process for a Certificate of Need.

Mayor Burris noted that bringing these new services to the community is vital.

Council gave consensus to approve the use of two temporary trailers for a period of 18 to 22 months during renovations to make way for new services.

Ms. McKay reported that work on the Arts and Entertainment District Application is continuing. Ms. Adler has been writing up the initial draft of the application with my review and we will send to the Arts and Entertainment committee next week for their review. We sent a request to the St. Mary's County Commissioners for their support and we are on their agenda on February 25, 2013.

The State of the Town was very well received and we had over 80 attendees. There was an extensive agenda with several presentations. We received a lot of positive feedback.

Mayor Report – Mayor Burris

Mayor Burris introduced Mr. Chip Norris and Mr. Al Gough, members of the Walter Francis Duke Committee who are in attendance today to provide Council with a presentation.

Mr. Chip Norris and Mr. Al Gough provided Council with a power point presentation of the details of the life and loss of Captain Walter Francis Duke on June 6, 1944 during World War II and to the astonishing find of his plane the "Ms. V" and his remains, solving the mystery of his disappearance and the effort to bring him back home.

Walter was a St. Mary's County resident, born and raised in Leonardtown. He was the son of "Colonel" Roland B. and Lillian D. Duke, both well known to County residents. In July 1941 he entered the Royal Canadian Air Force; the U.S. Army Air Corps would not accept him as he had no college degree. He completed his primary and intermediate flight training in Canada. In May 1942, after the United States had entered the war, he was discharged from the RCAF and joined the Army Air Corps. He completed his advanced flight training at Pierce Field, Dothan, Alabama. He graduated at the top of his class and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

He was assigned to the 89th Squadron of the 80th Fighter Group in Long Island New York. There he flew P-47's in preparation for assignment to the 8th Air Force. A change in plans placed him into P-40's for assignment to the 10th Air Force in India. He arrived on station in Sadiya, Assam, India in September 1943. There he flew several non-combat missions; escorting cargo planes over the "Hump". In December 1943 he was transferred to the newly formed 459th Fighter Squadron which had been issued the new P-38 "Lightning's".

His first few months mostly consisted of uneventful bomber escorts into Burma. However, in March 1943 the Allies started a campaign to drive the Japanese Air Force out of Burma. The 459th "Twin Dragons" began a concentrated effort of fighter sweeps, bombing and napalm attacks on Japanese air bases in Burma. From 11 March to mid-May Captain Duke accumulated a score of 10 confirmed "kills", 8 probables, 13 damaged plus several destroyed or damaged on the ground. This total made him the leading "Ace" of the entire 10th Air Force. On 6 June 1944 while returning from a mission he could not account for his wing-man. He went back into the combat area to perform a search - was never heard from again and was reported Missing in Action.

After the war ended in Burma, in May 1945, intelligence revealed that on the 6th of June, Captain Duke was "jumped" by several Japanese KI-43 "Oscars". He was reported to have shot down three of them before he, himself, was shot down. These "kills" were never credited to him as there was no gun camera film or eyewitness accounts. Captain Duke was the recipient of the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross w/ 3 oak leaf clusters, Air Medal w/ 3 oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart, American Service Medal, American Defense Medal, Asiatic / Pacific Area Service Medal, Canadian War Medal (1939-1945) and the British Burma Star. Just as a matter of trivia: the runway at the County airport is designated as 11 and 29 (110 degrees and 290 degrees). Captain Duke's last mission was 110 degrees out, 290 degrees return.....

Events – Roger Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported the Ms. Maria Fleming is in attendance today and thanked her for her outstanding work on the events and all of the other duties she takes on for the Town. The 2013 Calendar of Events brochures are available.

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
Wednesday, Feb. 13	9 AM – 12 Noon	Chamber Economic Forum (RSVP)
Thursday, Feb. 14	HOLIDAY	Town Office OPEN – Valentine’s Day
Monday, Feb. 18	HOLIDAY	Town Office CLOSED - Presidents’ Day
Monday, Feb. 25	7:30 AM	Southern MD Legislative Breakfast (RSVP) Olde Breton Inn, Leonardtown
Wednesday, Feb. 27	5:30 PM	Chamber Business After Hours (RSVP) Hosted by T. N. Bowes Heating and A/C 26743 Radio Station Way, Suite 100 Leonardtown
Thursday, Feb. 28	7:00 PM	So. MD Legislative Reception (RSVP) Loews Annapolis Hotel 126 West Street, Annapolis, MD

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders: (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
Thursday, Feb. 28 – Saturday, March 2	7:00 PM	<i>Once On This Island</i> St. Mary’s Ryken Fall Theater Production Romuald Hall Theatre
Friday, Mar. 1	5-8 PM	First Fridays in Leonardtown – for more info check www.leonardtownfirstfridays.com
Friday, Mar. 8	8:30 AM	LBA Meeting - Governmental Center
Friday, Mar. 15	TBD	Doctors’ Day breakfast MedStar St. Mary’s Hospital

Community Development and Strategic Planning - Hayden Hammett

Councilmember Hammett stated that each year the State of the Town grows in attendance. This year presentations were given on development ideas for both Leonardtown Wharf and the Tudor Hall property to brief everyone on the upcoming RFPs that will be sent out later next month.

Mayor Burris commented that he sat next to the Mayor of Pocomoke City at the MMA conference and they recently opened a restaurant similar to what we are proposing.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that on Saturday, February 9, the Hometown Preparedness Committee met at the College Park City Hall. The next meeting is April 6, 2013 in Laurel, Maryland at the Prince George’s County 911 Center.

MML/SMMA – Leslie Roberts - Absent

Mayor Burris noted that Councilmember Roberts was not in attendance today but remarked that he attended the Maryland Mayors Association held in Annapolis. The keynote speaker gave a great presentation on economic development and many of his comments reflected directly on what we have been doing over these last few years under the direction of former Mayor Norris. We continue to head into the right direction.

Capital Projects – Tom Collier – No Report

Mr. Chip Norris remarked that Mr. Dickie Duke could not be in attendance today but he has put together a presentation which he places on Youtube.com on the story of Capt. Walter Francis Duke. Ms. McKay has the link and will send out and have it placed on the Town website.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Hayden moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 pm; Councilmember Roger Mattingly seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teri P. Dimsey

Approved:

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

Absent

Leslie E. Roberts, Vice President

Thomas R. Collier, Councilmember

Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember

Roger L. Mattingly, Councilmember