



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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

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

DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. McKAY
Town Administrator

Commissioners of Leonardtown **Town Council Meeting Minutes** **July 8, 2013**

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

Also in attendance were: Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer; Teri Dimsey, Secretary, Jackie Post, Fiscal Clerk; Laura Clarke, LSA; A complete list of attendees is on file at the Leonardtown Town Hall.

Mayor Burris stated that the first order of business was the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes for the June 10, 2013 Town Council meeting were presented for approval.

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

Councilmember Roger Mattingly moved to approve the June 10, 2013 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilmember Thomas Collier; motion passed unanimously.

St. Mary's Memorial Association

Mayor Burris announced that we have some members of the Lion's Club in attendance today and introduced Mr. Kennedy Abell to begin the presentation.

Mr. Abell remarked that they are here today to transfer over the responsibilities for the St. Mary's Memorials Association. This Association was first established back in 1921 but we are unsure of the actual history of its inception. During Mayor Chip Norris' tenure, he challenged the Lions Club to continue this heritage and raise funds to build an additional monument to document those in the county that sacrificed their lives for their community. Mr. Abell gave credit to Mr. Kirk Sterling, who has since passed, as he spent a lot of time and effort making miniature samples of the monuments which are very close to what was eventually built and

passed them along to the Town as part of the history of the Association. A past Beacon highlights its history and notes when the monument was re-bronzed using money from many donors. The remaining monies we are turning over to the Town as we close out our accounts and transfer the responsibilities of the Association to the Town.

Mr. Candela presented two checks to Mayor Burris, totaling \$6,468.32.

Mayor Burris thanked the members of the Lion's Club for their dedication to honoring those who served on the monuments and stated that the Town will continue to uphold the responsibility of the upkeep of the monuments and potential future memorials or monuments.

Council Members gave consensus to accept the responsibilities and the remaining money from the Association and to keep the funds restricted to the needs of the memorial association.

Mayor Burris introduced Mr. Andrew Guyther with Boy Scout Unit #303. He is here today to describe the project he elected to do in order to achieve the prestigious Eagle Scout Award.

Mr. Guyther began describing his project and presented Council with numerous photos of the debris they collected while cleaning up McIntosh Run. He began thinking about a project last June and in talking with his Scout Leader and a few others, the McIntosh Water Trail came up and he felt this would be just the challenge for him. He had to prepare a proposal, include safety measures and make sure that everything followed the BSA rules. Once the proposal was approved, he, along with the help of other Scouts, friends and family, began cleaning up the debris along the McIntosh Run. In total, they collected 1,641 pounds of debris, to include 21 tires and unfortunately they had to leave a recliner embedded in the marsh as they did not have any more room plus they could not get it out.

Councilmember Roberts remarked how much the Town appreciates his efforts and the other Council Members reiterated the same.

Mayor Burris thanked Mr. Guyther for all his hard work, along with help from his family and congratulated him on his achieving the Eagle Scout Award.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that the June financial information was distributed but keep in mind that it is preliminary year end information. The May and June receipts make me think that we may not meet the budgeted income tax but will not know for sure until the end of August. A transfer of \$225,000 was made to the operating account for expenses. You will find a copy of the June consumption block analysis in your packets and it appears that consumption has dropped for the first time. Property tax billing will be beginning shortly.

Councilmember Hammett inquired about the accommodation tax, along with the beer, wine liquor license monies which he understands comes in a lump sum once a year.

Ms. Sothoron responded yes.

Councilmember Hammett asked for clarification under other income for actual versus budget. What was the difference?

Ms. Sothoron responded most of that relates to inspection services that we bill, such as for Quality Built. This is just a function of how quickly work is done and how many times Mr. Wheatley visits the site, so these quarterly billings were much higher than budgeted.

Planning & Zoning Report – DeAnn Adler

The Planning and Zoning meeting was cancelled last month as we had no items for the agenda.

This month's P & Z meeting will be canceled also, as again we have no items on the agenda.

Ms. Adler reported that she is working on the Community Legacy Application for repaving Washington Street and adding new sidewalks and the deadline is August 15, 2013. Also, the Maryland Department of Planning annual report has been completed and given to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their review and approval.

We have ordered a scanner and will be scanning in all our older files to free up some office storage space.

Police Report

Mayor Burris stated that Deputy Smolarsky is unable to attend the meeting today but did provide a written report.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly inquired about the turnout for the Shred and Child Safety Seat Inspection day.

Ms. Sothoron responded that it was a low turnout but the residents who did show up did get a flyer. Goode Trash Removal distributed over 850 flyers to the residents. It was determined that it may have been the wrong time of the year. Those who came were very happy we were providing this service and asked when we would do it again. We plan to schedule it earlier in the spring. We did hear that a local bank had held one the week before and it may have contributed to the lower turnout.

The child safety seat inspection day also had a low turnout of only two or three but the Sheriff's department was happy with that as they stated that turnout is usually very low. We hope to do it again along with the shred day.

Town Administrator Report – Mayor Burris

Mayor Burris reported that Ms. McKay had to miss today's meeting and he would be presenting her report.

Introduction of Resolution 4-13 – Annexation Request – 23511 Hollywood Road

Mayor Burris presented the Introduction of Resolution 4-13 – Annexation Request – 23511 Hollywood Road. This property is owned by Mr. Wayne Davis and at his request; he would like to annex the Davis Office Park adjacent to the Hayden Farm property. A public hearing will be held on August 12, 2013. A copy of the Annexation plan has been submitted to the Department of Planning. St. Mary's County will have to approve the zoning category to be Commercial Office as it is currently zoned Residential Mixed Use in the County. As the Town does not have that same category and Mr. Davis' use of the property is commercial then Commercial Office is the correct zoning. He plans to build a third office building on the site.

Mayor Burris asked for any questions or concerns.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly inquired if we have EDUs available.

Mayor Burris responded yes and that this annexation will benefit the Town with additional property taxes. He then stated that this is just an introduction of Resolution 4-13 which will be presented at the Public Hearing on August 12, 2013.

MD Route 245 Sidewalk Project – Letter of Support

Mayor Burris reported that this project is still in the design process. At the last project meeting we requested that the project continue all the way to Leonard's Grant Parkway instead of ending at Mattingly Street as it currently does. The SHA has requested a letter of support from both St. Mary's County and the Town for the project. A joint letter of support has been drafted for Council's signature, and if approved today this letter of support will be sent to the County to be placed on their agenda to authorize the Commissioner President to sign and forward it to the SHA. The letter also addresses the issue of a 25% match requirement. We do have a commitment from SMECO to build their section but if we get the Sustainable Communities Designation it may not be necessary.

Mayor Burris asked for any questions? There being none, he entertained a motion to proceed with the Letter of Support.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly moved to proceed with the signing of the letter of support for the MD Route 245 Sidewalk Project; seconded by Councilmember Roberts, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Burris

Comprehensive Rezoning Committee

Mayor Burris reported that a committee has been selected which includes:

Dan Burris, Hayden Hammett, Christy Sterling representing Planning and Zoning, Dan Norris representing LBA, Laschelle McKay, DeAnn Adler and Mike Paone representing Maryland Department of Planning.

There are number of areas people have asked us to look at plus places we have noticed that may not be properly zoned and require rezoning. The committee will be reviewing and present their findings to Council for recommendation for approval.

Mayor Burris reiterated that the Town Council meetings are now being aired on Channel 95 on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:00 a.m., and also at various times on Metrocast’s Channel 10.

Events – Roger Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly thanked Ms. Fleming for preparing such a detailed report. He reported that he, along with Council Members Hammett and Jay Mattingly attended and participated in the Flag Day Ceremony on June 14th and a photo of him wearing his flag shirt made the Enterprise.

A special “First Friday” event is being planned for August 2nd to kick-off our Beach Party on the Square. Friday and Saturday of this past weekend was packed with people for July’s First Friday event.

Another new event tentatively scheduled for this fall is the National Youth 5K series – based out of Annapolis. They would like to hold their inaugural St. Mary’s run through Town on Sunday, November 17. The event encourages children of all ages to run the course, teaching the values of “overcome....dream...succeed” while supporting each other to finish the race.

The CSM Leonardtown Campus will be presenting their annual Twilight Series Performances on the lawn, Tuesday evenings, July 16, 23, and 30, starting at 6:45 PM.

We are updating the Town’s website. It is still a work in progress but we are doing a complete redesign.

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Friday, July 12 | 8:30 AM | LBA Meeting @ TBD |
| Saturday, July 13 | 8:00 PM | <i>Beatlemania Again</i> @ St. Mary’s Ryken HS Tickets Required |
| Tuesday, July 16, 23 & 30 | 6:45 PM | CSM Twilight Performance Series @ the College of So. Md. – Leonardtown Campus |
| Fri. and Sat. July 19, 20, 26, 27 | 7:00 PM | Summerstock Presentation of <i>Hairspray</i> @ Great Mills High School |
| Sat. Matinees July 20, 27 | 1:00 PM | Tickets required |
| Sun. July 21, 28 | 3:00 PM | |
| Saturday, July 20 | 7:30 AM | Sunrise Yoga at Leonardtown Wharf |

Upcoming Events of Interest/Meeting Reminders:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|---|---|--|
| Wednesday, July 24 | 5:30 PM | Chamber Business After Hours @ Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Park |
| Saturday, July 27 | 6 PM | Downtown Tunes – covers of hits from the last 4 decades with The <i>Piranhas</i> |
| Friday, August 2 | 5 - 8 PM | Special “First Friday” Celebration |
| Saturday, August 3 | 4 - 9 PM | Beach Party on the Square |
| Tuesday, August 6 | TBD | National Night Out Celebration @ Leonard’s Freehold (not confirmed) |
| Thursday, August 8, Friday, August 9, & Saturday, August 10 | 3 – 10:25 PM 1:10 – 10:15 PM 10:50 AM – 9:35 PM | “Lil” Margaret’s Bluegrass & Old Time Music Festival @ Goddard Farm |
| Saturday, August 10 | 6:00 PM | The US Navy Band <i>Cruisers</i> Contemporary Ensemble on the Square |
| Friday, August 9 | 8:30 AM | LBA Meeting @ TBD |
| Saturday, August 17 | 7:30 – 8:30 AM | Sunrise Yoga at Leonardtown Wharf |

Councilmember Roger Mattingly noted that during his time at the MML Convention many of the other towns were impressed with Leonardtown’s Council Members being so in tune with their facilities and events. Councilmember Mattingly remarked that we have an exceptional staff that handles it all and they provide reports to Council to keep them abreast so they are always aware of the Town’s activities and work in progress. He thanked the staff for making them look good.

Community Development and Strategic Planning - Hayden Hammett

Councilmember Hammett reported that a lot of initiatives are being rolled out right now and thanked staff for keeping up with the pace. The RFP is out for the Wharf Restaurant and we are waiting for responses.

With regards to the sidewalks, we have heard from the residents about connectivity which is in alignment with the Town’s vision. Recently we met with the Secretary of Natural Resources and were able to put a plug in about the Town and our vision for Tudor Hall to help look at some grants to help connect the Port of Leonardtown Winery to the Wharf.

As the committee comes together for the Comprehensive Rezoning Plan the idea is to keep a strong urban Town core for our businesses and keep it walkable/pedestrian friendly in every way possible.

Capital Projects - Tom Collier – No report

SMMA Update - Leslie Roberts

Councilmember Roberts reported that the MML Convention was attended by me, the Mayor, Council Members Roger and Jay Mattingly, and Ms. McKay. Council Member Roger Mattingly and I are graduates of the Academy of Excellence for Local Governance and Council Member Jay Mattingly spent a lot of time attending the classes he needs to complete the Academy. We do have a commitment to continuing education and strive to stay up-to-date on today's issues that affect municipalities. The SMMA September meeting will be hosted by Leonardtown.

Mayor Burris remarked that during the MML Convention he was able to meet with the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Comptroller Peter Franchot.

Councilmember Roberts stated that that is one of the benefits of MML is that you can get that one on one time with a lot of different people on the state level which helps to establish a connection and/or build a relationship.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that the Town has been hit by some severe storms lately and the Fire Department has been very responsive, our contractor AB&H has been working hard at repairs and staff has been very responsive.

The College of Southern Maryland activated its emergency siren and Leonardtown thought we were under a tornado warning which we were not. The Deputy Director of Emergency Services and Technology, Mr. Steve Cooper will be investigating this event for future coordination.

He attended eight Academy of Excellence classes during the MML Convention.

Mayor Burris asked if there was any further business.

Councilmember Roger Mattingly stated that the PNC Bank will be closing their Park Avenue Branch this month and the building could be up for sale. The building has been a mainstay in the center of Town since 1903. It would be a shame for this Leonardtown landmark to be destroyed or turned into something that our Town would not be proud of. I could think of no better place for the offices of the Commissioners of Leonardtown, as well as other office space that could be used for retail or rented to business people who may be looking for a central location. Our new business and rapport could bring new businesses from out of town. With a building this size, the possibilities of its use are endless. I move that a letter be drafted and sent to the owner of the PNC Bank Building on Park Avenue, which is the Mercantile of Southern Maryland Bank, telling them that the Commissioners of Leonardtown may be interested in possibly purchasing the building and would like some details of the square footage and asking price and any pertinent information that would be helpful in making a sound decision; seconded by Councilmember Collier.

Mayor Burris stated that he has sent emails to that effect to PNC Bank. They responded that they have not yet had an appraisal scheduled which they intend to do after the Bank has officially closed and they complete an already scheduled training session to be held at the building through August. They cannot provide us with any pertinent information at this time.

Councilmember Roberts noted that we want to send a formal letter of our intent so that they are aware of our interest.

Mayor Burris stated that there is a motion on the floor and seconded. Is there any further discussion? There being none, he asked for a vote, all Council Members voted in favor.

Mayor Burris stated that he will be available after the meeting for any discussions with audience members.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilmember Hammett moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm; Councilmember Collier seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teri P. Dimsey

Approved:

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

Leslie E. Roberts, Vice President

Thomas R. Collier, Councilmember

Hayden T. Hammett, Councilmember

J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember

Roger L. Mattingly, Councilmember