



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

Town Council Meeting Minutes April 11, 2022

Live streamed video of the meeting can be found on
YouTube – Town of Leonardtown Channel

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

Also, in attendance were: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer; Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary; Beth Sandberg; Procurement; Jackie Post; Fiscal Clerk; Will Moorehead, Just Tech; John Deatrck, Resident. A complete list of attendees is on file at the Town Hall.

Councilmember Colvin lead the invocation and Ms. Dimsey lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Burris remarked that there is a Public Hearing at 4:15 p.m. on Ordinance No. 210 Adopting the Budget and Setting the Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2023.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 2022, as presented.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to approve the minutes of March 14, 2022, as presented; seconded by Councilmember Colvin; no further questions, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that there were no transfers to/from the checking account in March. We reached 50% of what we expected for Highway User Revenue. The gas tax holiday is set to retire on April 16th and it still leaves us with 30 days of potential revenue but we do not know what the State has committed to make us whole.

Every year, as it is a requirement because we have tax exempt debt outstanding, there are restrictions on how you can re-sell an asset, this pertains to the treatment plant, but if circumstances change Council needs to be advised to make you aware of the restrictions on how the asset can be used in the future. This yearly memo is a reminder of this situation.

Planning & Zoning Report – Laschelle McKay

There were no cases to be heard in March and the April 18 meeting has been cancelled as there are no cases to be heard.

Police Report – Rachael Roszell

Corporal Roszell is unable to attend today's meeting but she submitted her monthly written report for Council's review.

Town Administrators Report – Laschelle McKay

Updates

Ms. McKay reported that during the budget workshop, it was discussed that there are some paving projects to get done before the end of this fiscal year and then we will put out a large paving bid in FY23 after July 1st. This will include paving Lawrence Avenue, Camalier Drive and Dorsey Street. Prior to that we had planned to pave Washington and Longmore Street.

We had been working with Gordian but their paving bids came in extremely high so we tried to get additional prices and only Gordian and Beltway responded. Gordian's price was \$200,000 and Beltway's price was \$72,300 so we are recommending using Beltway to get these two streets paved and then we will work on a bid to get the larger projects completed in the new fiscal year. We were quite surprised at the high bid from Gordian and not sure why they gave us such a high price. We have and do currently do business with Beltway.

We have a contract in place with the Trolley owners and set-up a consistent schedule for this season's events. Once we see the numbers of the Trolley use, we can work on future dates. Some events are in conjunction with the LBA. We worked with LBA and the Marketing Committee and are looking at supporting funding for the April 22th Luau and the concert on April 30th and a couple of concerts in May and looking to get the Trolley going on a set type of schedule.

Ltown Alley – we met with engineers a few weeks ago and we are waiting on the final survey and swm to then put this out to bid to begin the work, along with working with SMECO to get the electric lines buried underground.

The second phase of the slips is in process and SE Davis has begun work on the elevated boardwalk which needed replacement of boards.

Treasurer – Rebecca Sothoron

Ms. Sothoron reported that this public hearing was advertised in the County Times newspaper and posted on the Town's website and FB pages. Copies were available at the Town Office and no copies were picked up and no comments were received.

There is a very comprehensive budget explanation for the reader. The Constant Yield tax rate from the State of Maryland is .1251 but our budget keeps the tax rate at .1255 per \$100 of assessed value. The biggest income line item is income tax which makes up 41% of revenue. The county tax rebate, significantly higher than last year, is in the county's draft budget so we monitor this to make sure our request makes it to the draft budget document and it has. This budget recommends holding the water, sewer and trash service charges, we are not proposing increases in the rates for FY23. Council also incorporated a 3% cola for staff. There is also a very significant commitment to the future waterfront revitalization project to set aside funds of \$124,000. This commitment can only be undone by future Council making a formal action to undo this commitment. These funds will be tracked in its own account so that funds can be added or moved as needed. We project we will still have a 55% fund balance of undesignated reserve which Council has agreed to maintain.

4:15 Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 210 Adopting the Budget and Setting the Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2023

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

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

Mayor Burris noted that it was stated that there were no public comments nor any questions or concerns received.

There being no questions from the public, Mayor Burris entertained a motion to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting.

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

Ms. Sothoron stated that if Council chooses to approve the recommended budget as is, then you need to approve Ordinance #210 which was introduced at the last Council meeting.

Councilmember Colvin moved to approve Ordinance No. 210 Adopting the Budget and Setting the Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2023; seconded by Councilmember Slade, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Burris

Mayor Burris asked Ms. Sothoron to come up to the front and remarked that Ms. Sothoron is retiring after working for the Town for 30 plus years and today is her last Town Council meeting.

He told Ms. Sothoron that she will be very missed and read out loud a Proclamation announcing her retirement and thanking her for her service. Mayor Burris also presented her with a small tray depicting a photo of the Wharf and bestowed her with special sterling silver bracelet engraved with her initials and a special message "Thank you for 30 years – Ltown".

Ms. Sothoron thanked everyone.

LBA Report – No Report

Events – Tyler Alt

Plein Air at the Wharf was held April 2, 2022.

Smooth jazz performed by the GrooveSpan Trio and sampling of award-winning wine from the Port of Leonardtown Winery and tasty eats from Farm.Fork.Soul Food Truck **and Linda's Café on the Go** and sweet treats from the Frog Town Ice Cream Shop. A special thank you to Carrie Patterson and the Yellow Line Studio for partnering with the Town on the event to teach a **Beginner's Plein Air class and to the wonderful businesses (including Carrie's Yellow Line Studio)** who generously provided over \$200 worth of gifts for the prize drawing.

First Fridays All Weekend - With all the exciting activities taking place in Leonardtown, First Fridays have been expanded to First Weekends from May – October. The **theme for May First Friday is "Mad About Leonardtown" In honor of the completion of Leonardtown's latest, most unique mural titled "Alice in Leonardtown" and includes a thrilling** weekend of entertainment from the Mad About Leonardtown Cocktail Party and Fundraiser at the Fenwick Inn on Friday, May 6th to the Mural Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and A&E Movie Festival on May 7th.

Community Development and Planning – Nick Colvin

Councilmember Colvin stated that a number of U&Os and permits continue to come in. The Route 5 work appears to be making better progress. He congratulated Ms. Sothoron and wished her the best in retirement.

Utilities – Christy Hollander

Councilmember Hollander wished everyone a Happy Easter and wished Rebecca well on her retirement.

SMMA Update – Jay Mattingly

Councilmember Mattingly reported that North Beach is hosting the next SMMA meeting on May 11 and elections will be held that evening and North Beach will take over for the 2022-2023 year. He thanked Ms. Dimsey for her assistance. The MML Summer Conference is coming up soon to be held in Ocean City from June 26 to June 29. He did attend the EarthWise Pet opening ceremony which was very nice and there was a good crowd. He attended the LBA meeting on Friday and they had a good turnout. He thanked Ms. Sothoron for her on-going leadership, dedication to Leonardtown. It is truly an honor that not only did he get to work with her but also his grandfather as Mayor and his father as a Councilmember. Thank you from everyone and congratulations on your retirement.

Business Development – Mary Maday Slade

Councilmember Slade thanked Ms. Sothoron and stated the offer is open for her to come work with her company and help out with handling tax time. There was an announcement that went out that said there would not be state taxes for retirees but that is not exactly accurate as it still needs to go through legislation to finalize. Thank you to Shepherd's Old Field and Style by Dawn for the fundraising event to raise funds for the Leonardtown High School Theater program.

Councilmember Colvin inquired if the Candidate Forum, sponsored by the LBA, which is scheduled for Monday, April 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Town Hall will be live streamed?

Ms. McKay responded she was not sure but would find out and let Council know.

Mayor Burris entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Mattingly moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Slade, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Teri P. Dimsey

Approved:

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

Tyler Alt, Councilmember

Nick Colvin, Councilmember

Christy Hollander, Councilmember

J. Maguire Mattingly IV, Councilmember

Mary Maday Slade, Councilmember