

Laurel Mountain Borough
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 2, 2024

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the LMPA Shelter House.

Council members present were Mathew Henson, President; Sharon Detar, Vice President; Emily Honhart, Tanner Solich and Mark Hollick.

Also present were Mayor Ross Dixon and Ben Faas, Engineer.

Participating via Zoom were Lee Demosky, Solicitor, and Scott Lentz, Secretary/Treasurer.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Mathew Henson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time. A quorum of Council members was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was deemed ready to proceed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Public Comment

None.

Previous Minutes

Following discussion, Council approved the draft minutes of the March 5, 2024 Regular Meeting, as amended to reflect that Ms. Detar suggested that the Council draft an email to residences regarding Spring cleanup.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Lentz presented the March 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Cash Management

Mr. Lentz then presented a proposal to modify the Borough's management of existing cash balances. Mr. Lentz discussed potential alternatives to the Borough's existing cash management practices, which include transferring non-operating cash balances to interest-bearing money market and/or certificate of deposit accounts within First Commonwealth Bank.

Following discussion, Council indicated that it would address the proposals at the May 7, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dixon reviewed the results of the Laurel Valley Police Department's report for February 2024. Mayor Dixon indicated that during the month of February, 68 routine patrols were conducted, one building check was performed, one patrol action occurred, and zero traffic citations and/or warnings were issued.

Secretary's Report

None.

Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency Report

Ms. Detar indicated that she contacted LMIA and is awaiting a response.

Ongoing Business

Waterline project. Mr. Faas indicated that recent discussions had been held with Borough Council, PENNVEST and MAWC. Mr. Faas stated that MAWC informally indicated that they would be willing to consider serving as the interim water authority during the period prior to PENNVEST's assumption of ownership.

Mr. Faas advised that Council of the need to obtain a comprehensive drone survey / mapping of the waterlines and other infrastructures. Mr. Faas estimated that the total cost of this survey would be approximately \$5,000. Following discussion, Council approved that this expenditure would be included as part of the meeting agenda for the upcoming Regular Meeting on May 7, 2024.

Westmoreland Conservation District project (Culvert Replacement) Update. Mayor Dixon indicated that Ramsay Construction has commenced work to replace the culvert at the intersection of Beechwood and Walnut.

Mayor Dixon and Mr. Faas also discussed the need to modify the scope of the original project in order to mitigate secondary drainage issues. Following discussion, Council determined that the modifications would likely remain below the total grant monies authorized by WCD and that, subject to discussions with affected residents, the modifications should proceed.

Tree Removal at Walnut and Laurel. Council President Henson indicated that he was in contact with potential tree removal service providers.

Spring Road Maintenance. Mr. Hollick indicated that Big Tree Landscaping was prepared to commence work to repair potholes on Borough streets.

Communications with Residents. Ms. Honhart provided Council with an overview of the Borough's need to efficiently communicate with residents. She recommended that Savvy Citizen, a communications solution for local governments and citizens, be used to provide alerts and push notifications. She also recommended that the Borough utilize Mailchimp to facilitate email communications with residents.

Following discussion, Council directed Ms. Honhart to further investigate communications solutions.

Solicitor's Report

None.

Emergency Manager Report

None.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comment

A resident reiterated the need for the Borough to efficiently communicate electronically with residents.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and adopted, the Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Scott Lentz, Borough Secretary/Treasurer