

Laurel Mountain Borough

December 5, 2023

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at the shelter house and via zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Susan Crouse.

Council members present were Susan Crouse, President; Sharon Detar; Mark Hollick; Tanner Solich. Matt Thomas attended via zoom. Also present were Mayor Ross Dixon; Ben Faas, Engineer; Robin Roberts, Secretary. Attorney Jason Kelly attended by zoom for Solicitor Demosky.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Mark Hollick and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The disbursements for December 2023 were presented. A motion to approve the December disbursements was made by Mark Hollick, second by Tanner Solich and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dixon shared the September 2023 Police Report. There were 35 routine patrols, 2 calls for service, three 911 calls. The October 2023 Police Report had 43 routine patrols, 2 calls for service, one 911 call and 1 traffic warning issued.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Robin stated the Borough's Reorganization Meeting will be January 2, 2024. She asked if Council wanted to change the date of the regular monthly meeting. Council decided to leave the regular meeting, the first Tuesday of every month, stand. The Reorganization meeting will be at 6:30 PM and the regular monthly meeting will follow at 7:30 PM.

LAUREL MUNICIPAL INSPECTION AGENCY REPORT

There was nothing to report for November. President Crouse said she hopes the new council will have good communications with LMIA.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Crouse stated the gas lines replacements are completed, but there is some road work that they will need to complete. Mayor Dixon said he has a few contact numbers for the gas company and will ask when they plan to be done with the roads.

Crouse filed an extension with the Westmoreland Conservation District to make sure the grant stays in place for when the contractor is available to start the stormwater project.

The 2024 proposed budget was presented to approve. A motion to approve the 2024 Budget and Ordinance 2-2023 to increase the millage rate from 9. To 10. was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: Matt has continued to work on the short-term rental ordinance. He thinks the new council should have a planning committee or work session to continue the work and to include the solicitor of the hearing board, Bononi.

Sharon: No communication from LMIA.

The LMP Association postponed the Harvest Dinner due to the rocks in the parking lot from the gas company.

Mark: Mark stated he has been thinking about the leaf situation the Borough has with some residents putting their leaves on the roads and in the ditches. There will need to be a plan and notifications made early for next year.

Tanner: None

Susan: Susan reported the certified inspector for our fire hydrants has retired. Council will need to find a new inspector as this is required.

Three people have inquired about the secretary/treasurer position. One interview has been scheduled with Susan and Sharon.

Susan shared the PSBA has trainings available for newly elected council people. Matthew Henson, Emily Honart, and Tanner Solich all expressed interest to attend.

Crouse stated there will be vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board for 2024.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ben said the Borough's obstacle is currently the water operating # that PennVest is requesting. He is meeting with MAWC to see if they would agree to a running operation agreement with the Borough and use their operating # since they currently provide the water. This would help the Borough with all the requirements needed to maintain a number and MAWC already does these requirements for their number.

SOLICITOR' REPORT

None

EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daneen Kinsey, 28 Walnut, thanked everyone on council and the newly elected council people for everything they do for the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tanner Solich, second by Mark Hollick and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer