

Laurel Mountain Borough
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 4, 2024

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at the LMPA Shelter House.

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

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

Participating via Zoom were Jason Kelly (representing 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. 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

A resident raised an issue of a dead tree on Walnut. Mr. Henson indicated that the Brant residence is responsible for addressing this issue.

A resident raised an issue of a large pile of wood chips at a residence on Hemlock. Mr. Henson indicated that LMIA filed an initial report on this matter in December 2023, and that council will follow up with LMIA prior to the next regular meeting.

A resident raised an issue regarding the presence of a loud rooster and several chickens at a residence on Hemlock that is creating a noise nuisance. Mr. Henson indicated that LMB is zoned residential (not agricultural). Council discussed various alternatives to redress this issue.

A resident raised an issue regarding raw sewage on White Oak. Mr. Henson indicated that LMIA's most recent activity report does not include this as an issue, and that he would alert LMIA to this matter.

A resident requested that council publish Treasurer's Reports on the borough's website. Mr. Henson indicated that council would review this request.

Previous Minutes

Following discussion, Council approved the draft minutes of the May 7, 2024 Regular Meeting, with an understanding that the minutes may be amended based upon further review by council.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Lentz presented the Borough's treasurer's report as of May 31, 2024. He also presented a detailed YTD business checking account reconciliation.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dixon indicated that during May 2024, LVPD performed 62 routine patrols, with zero 911 call and zero traffic citations.

Secretary's Report

None.

Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency Report

Mr. Henson indicated although the borough had not received the agency's report for May, there were four open cases on file.

Ongoing Business

Waterline Project

Mr. Faas provided an update on the project. He indicated that a meeting with PENNVEST is scheduled for June 27, and that representation from council is imperative. Ms. Detar indicated that she would attend the meeting.

Mr. Faas also spoke with Curt Fontaine, Manager of Operations, Engineering of the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County ("MAWC") regarding that agency's early involvement in the project.

WCD / Culvert Replacement Project

Mayor Dixon indicated that the culvert replacement project has been completed by Ramsay Construction. Mayor Dixon stated that the total award from WCD was \$13,800. As a result of an increase in the scope of the project, the total cost from Ramsay Construction would exceed the amount funded by WCD by approximately \$6,000. Following discussion, and upon motion duly made, council authorized the payment of this additional amount to Ramsay Construction.

Tree Removal at Walnut and Laurel

Mr. Faas indicated that he has begun discussions with West Penn Power regarding removal of the tree.

Borough Entrance Planter Replacement

Mr. Henson indicated that council had previously approved the work associated with replacement of the entrance planter. Ms. Detar indicated that she would oversee this project.

New Business

Road Opening and Gas Line Work on Walnut

Mr. Henson indicated that the work has been completed. He also stated that similar future work ideally requires a "Road Master" to oversee future projects to manage procedures and forms for street opening

permitting. Following discussion, and upon motion duly made, council appointed Mark Hollick as the borough's representative for street opening purposes.

Sign Ordinance Amendment for Public Safety-Related Signage at the Shelter House

Mr. Henson indicated that recent parking congestion at the Shelter House had led the Board of the Shelter House Park Association to post signs that restricted parking. Mr. Henson recommended that council amend the borough's sign ordinance to authorize the Park Association to issue post such signs.

Following discussion, council agreed to proceed with work with the borough's solicitor to draft an amendment to the borough's sign ordinance to accommodate the Park Association's desire to post signs that restrict parking within the Association's governed property, to be deliberated at the borough's next Regular Meeting.

Resignation of Scott Lentz as Secretary / Treasurer

Mr. Lentz indicated that he intended to resign his roles as Secretary / Treasurer. He also stated that he was willing to remain in his current positions for such time as most appropriate for council.

Solicitor's Report

None.

Correspondence

Mr. Henson indicated that his recent review of the borough's email correspondence indicated that there were no outstanding communications that required council's attention.

Public Comment

A resident requested that signage be minimized within the borough. Council agreed to take this resident's comments under advisement.

A resident indicated that remote meeting participation may not be understood by residents. Mr. Henson indicated that all communications, including remote access, are published on the borough's website.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

R. Scott Lentz, Borough Secretary/Treasurer