

Laurel Mountain Borough
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 5, 2024

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at the Ligonier Borough Council Chambers and via Zoom.

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

Also present were Mayor Ross Dixon; Ben Faas, Engineer; Scott Lentz, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Curtis Fontaine, Manager of Operations, Engineering of the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County ("MAWC"); and Jonathan Longwell, District Director for PA State Senator Joe Pittman.

Participating via Zoom were representatives from Solicitor Demosky's office.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Mathew Henson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM Eastern Standard 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

A resident of Laurel Mountain Borough requested that Council investigate a residence on Hemlock that has accumulated household appliances and a large pile of woodchips on their front yard. Additionally, this residence has a rooster that creates noise throughout the day. Sharon Detar agreed to contact Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency to request that the agency investigate these issues. Ms. Detar also agreed to draft an email to all residents requesting that they conduct a "spring cleanup" of their properties (including clogs at drains).

A resident requested that Council obtain a quote to have the community flower garden repaired.

Previous Minutes

Following discussion, Council approved the draft minutes of the February 15 2024 Special Workshop and Regular meetings with one spelling change.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Lentz presented the December 2023 Treasurer's Report, a 2023 annual financial summary and the January / February 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Mayor's Report

None.

Secretary's Report

None.

Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency Report

None.

Ongoing Business

Waterline project. Mr. Fass provided Council with an overview of the waterline project. Following Mr. Fass' overview, and based upon his prior presentations to Council in January 2024 and February 2024, and upon motion duly made and approved, Council authorized Mr. Fass to complete documentation to submit to PENNVEST, and to proceed investigation with MAWC concerning that agency's early involvement.

Westmoreland Conservation District project (Culvert Replacement) Update. Mayor Dixon indicated that in 2023 the Borough received a grant of approximately \$10,000 to replace a 20-foot section of culvert at the intersection of Beechwood and Walnut. He also indicated that, given the fragile nature of the water lines at that intersection, his recommendation (seconded by Mr. Fass) is to replace the water lines as part of the culvert replacement, for which the Borough has received an indicative quote of \$10,000 from Ramsay Construction.

Mayor Dixon stated that the WCD grant monies cannot be used for water line replacement. Mr. Fass indicated that the Borough's existing ARPA grant of \$225,000 could be used to fund the water line replacement, subject to a 50% funding obligation by the Borough.

Upon motion duly made and approved, Council authorized the culvert replacement to proceed (utilizing WCD grant monies) and to replace the relevant water lines at that intersection (utilizing ARPA grant monies, subject to the 50% funding match by the Borough). Mayor Dixon agreed to contact Ramsay Construction regarding the increased scope of the project.

Tree Removal at Walnut and Laurel. Ms. Honhart agreed to obtain a quote for the removal.

Fire Hydrant Inspection. Mr. Henson indicated that he is awaiting a quote to perform the inspection services.

New Business

Damage to Driveway on Hemlock Road. Mr. Hollick indicated that he has contacted the snow removal contractor responsible for the damage, and that the contractor has agreed to repair the damage at no cost to the Borough.

Planning for Spring Road Repairs. Following discussion, and upon motion duly made and approved, Council authorized Mr. Hollick to obtain quotes from contractors to perform these services.

Citizen and Resident Messaging Alternatives. Following discussion, Ms. Honhart agreed to continue to investigate improvements to the Borough's resident communications options.

Solicitor Report

None.

Emergency Manager Report

None.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comment

A resident recommended that Council contact Bethany Caldwell at Ligonier Township as a source of information regarding potential grant monies.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

R. Scott Lentz, Borough Secretary/Treasurer