

Laurel Mountain Borough

November 14, 2023

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Tuesday, November 14, 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 Dixon and Robin Roberts, Secretary. Attorney Jason Kelly attended by zoom for Solicitor Demosky.

Tanner Solich was sworn into office before the meeting by Mayor Ross Dixon.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melinda Clark, 19 Hemlock, request Council to take action of the rooster crowing and going in yards destroying flowers. She would also like to see the community kept up, for instance, abandoned cars and scrap refrigerators and stoves.

President Crouse explained the Borough does not have an ordinance against the rooster at this time. The other issues are currently under review with Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency.

Mary Marcum, 6 Walnut, asked about the leaves. Crouse said those concerns were being addressed this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the October 3, 2023 meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The September 2023 Treasurer's Report was presented. There were no questions. The report was filed for audit.

The October 2023 Treasurer's Report was presented. There were no questions. The report was filed for audit.

The disbursements for November 2023 were presented. A motion to approve the November disbursements was made by Mark Hollick, second by Sharon Detar and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dixon reported, as of this date, he has not received the September and October Police Reports.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Robin presented the Invoice from Beaufort Services Inc. The invoice is for the emergency water line breaks they fixed. After discussion it was decided to use the American Rescue Grant Fund. A motion to approve the American Rescue Grant Fund and pay the invoice was made by Matt Thomas, second by Mark Hollick, and passed unanimously.

Robin read a letter of resignation effective 12-31-23. She stated however she would assist with the County and State reports due in January. A motion to approve Robin's resignation was made by Mark

Hollick, second by Tanner Solich, and passed. Council thanked Robin for everything she has done for the Borough.

LAUREL MUNICIPAL INSPECTION AGENCY REPORT

There was nothing to report for September and October.

Crouse is still trying to contact them regarding updates on noncompliance issues. Jason will follow up with Lee on this matter.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Update on gas line replacements. Ross stated he remarked water lines in some areas recently. The gas company hopes to be done by Thanksgiving. However, they will work around any leaf clean ups the Borough may be doing.

The stormwater project with the Westmoreland Conservation district is in the contractor, Ramsey Construction, hands now. Depending on their schedule, may not happen until spring.

A motion to approve the bid for the planter at the entrance was done at the October meeting. Everything is ready for the project to be done in the spring.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: Matt continues to work on the Ordinance regarding short-term rentals.

Sharon: Nothing to report from LMIA.

The LMP Association is planning a movie night and a Harvest Dinner.

Mark: None

Tanner: None

Susan: Susan asked for a motion to enact the Road Opening Ordinance No. 1-2023. A motion to approve Ordinance No. 1-2023 was made by Mark Hollick, second by Matt Thomas and approved unanimously.

The proposed budget for 2024 with a millage increase to 10 was decided. A motion to move forward and advertise the budget to be passed at the December meeting was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas and approved unanimously.

A motion to advertise for a secretary/treasurer was made by Sharon Detar, second by Tanner Solich and passed unanimously. Roberts will advertise in the Bulletin and website. Sue will post on Facebook. All inquiries to be sent to the Borough's email.

A very long discussion was held regarding leaves in the ditches. The Borough has paid for the ditches to be cleared of debris and leaves for the past several years. However, each year it seems more people rake their leaves into the ditches. The Borough does not have the funds to pick up everyone's leaves. It cost more to clean these ditches than it does to resurface the roads. Residents are responsible for the leaves on their property and not to dispose of them in the road ditches. If the ditches are clogged with leaves and debris and it rains heavy there is a good probability of flooding. When all said and done council decided to do the ditch clean up this year since it is already late in the season. Next year they plan to inform all residents by website and email that they will not be cleaning the ditches. Residents will be responsible for the ditches along their property. A motion to approve Bridge's Landscaping for ditch clean up of debris and leaves in the amount of \$5,120.00 was made by Mark Hollick, second by Tanner Solich and passed with one opposed vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ben reported Senators Pittman and Langerholc are both working on the PennVEST angle for the water project. He expects the H2O grant announcements soon. We're holding on the CDBG and County Funds until we reach some kind of conclusion with PennVest.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None

EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT

Mayor Dixon commented that Robert has been wonderful helping with the emergencies.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melinda Clark, 19 Hemlock, asked several questions regarding the short-term rental ordinance that Matt is working on. Crouse explained that council is trying to have a fair ordinance to work for the better of the community. Nothing has been processed at this time and the public will have time to review as in all ordinances.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon Detar, second by Mark Hollick and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer