

Laurel Mountain Borough

September 5, 2023

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at the shelter house, zoom was unavailable. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Susan Crouse.

Council members present were Susan Crouse, President; Sharon Detar. Matt Thomas attended via phone. Sherry Naugle and Mark Hollick were absent. Also present were Ben Faas, Engineer; Robin Roberts, Secretary. Mayor Dixon was absent. Solicitor Lee Demosky attended via phone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the August 1, 2023 meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The July 2023 Treasurer's Report was presented. A motion to approve the July Treasurer's report as presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas and passed unanimously.

The disbursements for September 2023 were presented. A motion to approve the September disbursements was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Roberts' read the report for July 2023 in Mayor Dixon's absence. The report was not in the usual format. 1 Neighborhood complaint; 2 ambulance assists; 1 911 hang up; 49 routine patrols.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

None

LAUREL MUNICIPAL INSPECTION AGENCY REPORT

The July Report had 1 roof replacement noted.

ONGOING BUSINESS

The stream crossings on Beechwood & Walnut project is delayed due to the gas company work currently being done. They started the project today. Susan and Ross talked to the gas company workers. Ross did the One Calls.

Sue resubmitted the bid for the garden and sign area at the front entrance from Felgar Masonry in the amount of \$6,700. Sue confirmed the original bid still stands and is from the insurance settlement fund. A motion to approve the bid from Felgar Masonry was made by Shaon Detar, second by Matt Thomas and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: Matt stated he continues to work on the Ordinance regarding short-term rentals. He is working on blending the items to make them unique for our Borough.

Sharon: Sharon reported the pool opened early August. There are some surface problems they are addressing.

Sherry: Robert's read an email from Sherry Naugle informing Council of her resignation due to moving out of the Borough. A motion to accept her resignation was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar and passed unanimously.

Susan: Susan spoke with a spokesperson from LMIA. They are addressing some issues on White Oak, Walnut and Laurel Roads. She would like LMIA to provide a monthly code enforcement report. The Election Bureau met with the LMP Association regarding the voting polls. They are looking into the Bureau possibly paying for use of the shelter house for elections. Susan asked if anyone was interested in filling the council position. Tanner Solich commented he came to the meeting because of the vacancy position and was interested in serving. A motion to appoint Tanner Solich to fill the vacancy was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas and passed unanimously.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ben said he provided the culvert information to the Westmoreland County Conservation District. He felt the amount of information provided was much more than necessary but wasn't sure of all the specs required. Susan suggested reducing the quote to one page. Ben agreed. Solicitor Demosky agreed the simpler the better and respects Ben's opinion. There is still not enough grant money for the water project. The person from Pittman's office that seemed to understand our dilemma has taken another position.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

An agreement with the Gas Company had been reviewed for their replacing of the gas line. A motion to enter in agreement with the Gas Company was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas and passed unanimously. Solicitor Demosky provided an ordinance for road openings that would eliminate getting separate agreements with utilities each time they have work in the Borough. A motion to direct Solicitor Demosky to proceed with advertising the ordinance to the public for the Road Opening Ordinance was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Crouse shared a correspondence from Bridge Landscaping for a quote for emergency storm road cleanup so the work can be done as soon as possible after a damaging storm. Also, a quote from Ligonier Construction for plowing backup incase Bridge Landscaping was not available in an emergency. Demosky stated these items need to be on the agenda before a motion can be made. These items will be on the agenda for October.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 8:28 PM.

The next monthly meeting will be October 3, 2023 at 7:30 PM at the Shelter House and via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer