

CITY COUNCIL

CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON
At-Large

VACANT
First Ward

JAMES KOLE
First Ward

KYLA CLARK
Second Ward

JEFFREY W. MILLS
Second Ward

Council meets second and fourth
Mondays of each month.



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

CHRISTIAN L. PULLEY, CPM
City Administrator

JOANNE HALL BARR
Deputy City Administrator

STEPHANIE P. ANDERSON
City Solicitor

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

(301) 725-5300

www.cityoflaurel.org

**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, MAY 28, 2024
6:00 PM
IN-PERSON
MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting convened in the Council Chamber of the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center at approximately 6:00 pm with Council President James Kole presiding. Mayor Keith R. Sydnor led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. The roll was called with Councilwoman Kyla Clark, Councilwoman Christine M. Johnson, Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills, and Keith R. Sydnor, Mayor present.

The following staff members were also present: Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator, Joanne Hall Barr, Deputy City Administrator, Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, City Clerk, Ana R. Navarro, MMC, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Bill Bailey, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, James Cornwell-Shiel, Director, Department of Information Technology, Chief Russell Hamill, LPD, Robert Love, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, Tim Miller, Director, Department of Public Works, S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services, and Stephanie P. Anderson City Solicitor. There were approximately twenty-seven (27) members of the public present.

Agenda Item No. 4 was approval of the following meeting minutes:

- April 3, 2024 Work Session
- April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting
- April 22, 2024 Regular Meeting
- May 1, 2024 Work Session
- May 6, 2024 Budget Work Session
- May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting

Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve all of the minutes listed above as presented. Councilman Mills seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

The next item was the presentation of a grant award to the City however, the representative from Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) had not arrived, so President Kole continued with the agenda.

Next, the Mayor and City Councilmembers provided their reports regarding events and happenings since the last meeting and made announcements regarding upcoming meetings and events.

Agenda Item No. 5 was the Presentation of Grant Award to the City for the Automatic Breaking System by Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), Mr. Matt Peters, Executive Director. Mr. Peters presented the \$15,000.00 grant award and commended Ms. Pat Haag, Risk Management Officer and Mr. Timothy Moses, Safety Compliance Inspector, Department of Public Works on bringing the idea to LGIT and submitting the grant request to them. Mayor Sydnor, Ms. Haag, and Mr. Moses accepted the check on behalf of the City.

Mayor Sydnor presented the following proclamations:

- LGBTQ+ Month- Presented to Council President James Kole
- National Gun Violence Week- Presented to Chief Russell E. Hamill, III

Next, President Kole opened the General Public Hearing at approximately 6:19 pm. The first person signed up to speak was C. Philip Nichols, Montgomery Street Laurel, Maryland 20707. Mr. Nichols read aloud written remarks that have been made a part of these minutes and labeled "Attachment 1" and emailed photos taken of events that occurred on April 26, 2024 and a video taken of an event from September 2023 that have also been added to these minutes as "Attachment 2" and "Attachment 3" respectively. Mr. Nichols said that following the April 22, 2024 Mayor and City Council meeting where he addressed concerns he had regarding large events, loud noise that continued late into the night and into the early morning hours at the Laurel Boys and Girls Club located at 701 Montgomery Street, a video had been taken and posted online by Councilman Mills with Mr. Adrian Rousseau, President, Laurel Boys and Girls Club pointing out Mr. Nichols' home, resulted in a police vehicle having to be stationed outside his home and required the Sheriff's Office to get involved. A second video made of Councilman Mills and Mr. Rousseau that was very critical of the City Government, the Catholic Church and St. Vincent Pallotti High School not doing more to accommodate the Laurel Boys and Girls Club had also been posted online. Mr. Nichols said that he and his neighbors had made numerous complaints to the City regarding the matter but had not seen any significant actions taken or changes in the issues. Mr. Nichols said that his neighbors were afraid to express their concerns to their elected officials due to the fear of retaliation by the Laurel Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Nichols asked specifically that at least the City noise ordinance be enforced and that the City ensure that the Laurel Boys and Girls Club be required to comply with all City Code and Zoning requirements.

The next speaker was former Councilmember Martin Mitchell, 8231 Northlake Court Laurel, Maryland 20707. Mr. Mitchell spoke about supporting DPW and their right to unionization and fair collective bargaining.

Next, Wilbert Nicholson, Vice President of the Laurel Boys and Girls Club spoke about the Club and how special events were handled at the facility i.e. music turned down by 10:00 pm, not allowed to play music after 1:00 am and capacity was limited to 220 people. Mr. Nicholson spoke about money he believed the City owed the Club and the ownership of Alice B. McCullough Field.

The next speaker was Ms. Georgena Ifill, 8231 Northlake Court Laurel, Maryland 20707. Ms. Ifill spoke about supporting DPW and their right to unionization and fair collective bargaining. Ms. Ifill said she wanted to know what other law firms were considered in addition to the Jackson Lewis Law Firm and what their cost bids were and if the City planned to use Jackson Lewis for the next FOP collective bargaining negotiations.

Next, Levet Brown, 7114 Old Sandy Spring Road Laurel, Maryland, former Laurel Boys and Girls Club President, spoke about the Laurel Boys and Girls Club needing support and the ownership of Alice B. McCullough Field. Mr. Brown said that he wrote Mayor Sydnor on May 3, 2024 requesting a meeting with him regarding the Club and an organization he was representing called Children First and to try to resolve the issues between the City and the Club and had not heard back from him.

Ms. Cynthia Wood, resident Montgomery Street spoke about supporting DPW employees and about uniforms and equipment used by DPW that was provided by the City.

Next, Mr. Adrian Rousseau, President, Laurel Boys and Girls Club, 1001 Fifth Street Laurel, Maryland 20707 said he was the current President of the Laurel Boys and Girls Club and that he had a problem with comments made by Mr. Nichols and that he agreed that the parking lot was overfilled during the repass that he spoke about that was held at the Club in April, but that the Church had a wedding and the City had a frisbee tournament going on at the same time as the event. Mr. Rousseau asked that the Mayor and City Council consider helping the Club and the kids, but if not, asked that the City not cause harm to the Club.

The Mayor and City Council took a brief recess and resumed the meeting at approximately 6:50 pm.

Agenda Item No. 8 was the Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2026, and Ordinance adopting the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and to Levy Property Taxes and to Authorize the Collection of Such Taxes. President Kole read the title into the record for the second reading. Ms. S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services provided a summary of the ordinance. The public hearing was opened at 6:53 pm. No one was signed up to speak and no one came forward to speak. President Kole closed the public hearing at 6:53 pm. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026 as presented. Councilwoman Kyla Clark seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Mayor Sydnor thanked the Council for approving the budget and noted that the FY2025 budget included a pay raise of 5% for all City employees and that the union contract included a 5% raise for DPW workers for the next three (3) years and that the resolution to accept that contract would be before the City Council in June for approval. Mayor Sydnor thanked the Administration for their work on the budget and noted that the budget did not call for an increase in taxes and no cuts in City services.

President Kole clarified for the record that the Council did not negotiate agreements and that the Council presided over an impasse hearing regarding the DPW union.

Mayor Sydnor said that when the Administration negotiated with the union and that according to the City's Labor Code, when the management and union negotiated and were unable to agree on wages, an impasse was declared. An impasse was brought before the Mayor and City Council to decide on the wages as the Mayor and City Council were responsible for taxpayer dollars. Mayor Sydnor said a comparison was made of other local municipalities' DPW and the wages paid to their employees and

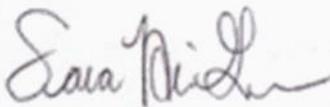
the City paid the highest wages. Following the impasse decision, the union took the contract and had it ratified by the DPW employees.

Mayor Sydnor said that he was going to meet with the Laurel Boys and Girls Club and that he had asked the Administration to put together a list of all of the items the City had provided to the Club over the years and that he would provide that to the Club when he met with them. Mayor Sydnor noted the comments made earlier in the meeting regarding the ownership of Alice B. McCullough Field were in discrepancy with the records the City had because they all showed that the City owned the field. Mayor Sydnor provided a summary of Resolution No. 9-07 that specifically addressed the ownership of the field. Mayor Sydnor said that he gave the list of the funds and other considerations the City had given the Club over the years in a memorandum to the Council dated April 23, 2024.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:06 pm.

Approved:

Date: July 22, 2024

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sara A. Green".

Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, City Clerk

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MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024
6:00 PM**

IN-PERSON MEETING

AGENDA (Revised 05/28/2024)

Watch the meeting on Laurel TV streaming live in your web browser at <https://laurelTV.org/watch-live> or locally Laurel TV can be found on Comcast Channel 996 (HD), 71 (SD) or Verizon FiOS Channel 12.

1. Call to Order - Council President James Kole
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
3. Roll Call - Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, Clerk
4. Approval of Minutes
 - April 3, 2024 Work Session
 - April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting
 - April 22, 2024 Regular Meeting
 - May 1, 2024 Work Session
 - May 6, 2024 Budget Work Session
 - May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting
5. Presentation of Grant Award to the City for Automatic Breaking System by Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), Mr. Matt Peters, Acting Executive Director
6. Report of the Mayor and City Council
7. General Public Hearing

8. Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2026- An Ordinance Adopting the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and to Levy Property Taxes; and to Authorize the Collection of Such Taxes

9. Adjournment

Mayor and City Council Voting Record

May 28, 2024 6:00 pm

Regular Meeting

IN-PERSON

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

Meeting Ended: 7:02 PM

Members of the Public: 27

Staff Attendance:

√ Christian L Pulley √ Joanne Barr √ Ana Navarro √ Bill Bailey X Chrissy Cornwell √ James Cornwell-Shiel
√ Tim Miller √ Monta Burrough, Acting Director, ECD √ Chief Russell Hamill √ S. Michele Saylor
√ Danny Selby √ Natalie Williams √ Stephanie Anderson X Mark Plazinski

Roll Call

absent Councilman DeWalt √ Councilwoman Johnson √ Councilman Mills
√ Councilwoman Clark √ President Kole √ Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 4- Approval of Minutes

- **April 3, 2024 Work Session**
- **April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting**
- **April 22, 2024 Regular Meeting**
- **May 1, 2024 Work Session**
- **May 6, 2024 Budget Work Session**
- **May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting**

absent Councilman DeWalt 1st Councilwoman Johnson 2nd Councilman Mills

yes Councilwoman Clark yes President Kole

Agenda Item No. 7- General Public Hearing

Open: 6:19 PM Closed: 6:45 PM

Speakers: C.Philip Nichols, Jr.: Montgomery Street
Martin Mitchell: 8231 North Lake Court
Wilbert Nicholson: 701 Montgomery Street
Georgena Ifill: 8231 North Lake Court
Levet Brown: 7411 Old sandy Spring Road
Cynthia Wood: 1111 Montgomery Street
Adrian Rousseau: 1001 Fifth Street

Agenda Item No. 8- Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2026- An Ordinance Adopting the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and to Levy Property Taxes; and to Authorize the Collection of Such Taxes

Public Hearing Open: 6:53 PM Closed: 6:53PM

Speakers: None

absent Councilman DeWalt yes Councilwoman Johnson 1st Councilman Mills

2nd Councilwoman Clark yes President Kole

*****PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY*****

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND
8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707

Eleventh Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2024

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Agenda Item #</u>
Philip Nichols	Montgomery St Laurel	#7
Marlin Mitchell	Pachulake Rd	177
Wilbert Nichols	Montgomery St	#7
Georgina Hill	8231 Northlake Ct	#7
Levet Brown	7114 Old Sandy Springs	#7
Cynthia Lopez	1111 Montgomery St Laurel	#7
Adrian Brown	Laurel	#7
Avian Rowson	Laurel	#7



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2026

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025 AND TO LEVY PROPERTY TAXES; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COLLECTION OF SUCH TAXES

Sponsored by the City Council President at the request of the Administration.

• **WHEREAS**, the Mayor has presented the City Council with his proposed budget, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has held work sessions and appropriate public hearings on such proposed budget, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have agreed upon the FY2025 General Operating Budget and FY2025-FY2030 Capital Improvement Program, including the reauthorization of prior year funds, as summarized below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the following General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 is hereby adopted.

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

<u>REVENUES</u>	FY2025 PROPOSED
<u>REVENUE SUB-CATEGORY</u>	
4010 - R/E TAX REVENUE	\$27,384,119
4030 - PERSONAL PROP TAX	1,385,868
4040 - PERSONAL PROP-INT/PENTALTY	40,000
4050 - LOCAL TAXES	4,650,000
4060 - OTHER LOCAL TAXES	2,047,576
4110 - LICENSES	734,850
4130 - PERMITS	505,445
4210 - FEDERAL GRANTS	162,980
4230 - STATE GRANTS	737,825
4250 - COUNTY GRANTS	286,642
4310 - GENERAL GOV'T SERVICE CH	169,797
4340 - SANITATION SERVICE CHGS	176,000
4350 - SERVICE CHARGE-HEALTH	10,000
4370 - FACILITY RENTALS	163,890
4411 - SWIMMING POOL FEES	124,510
4413 - RECREATION PROGRAM FEES	82,500
4415 - P&R ACTIVITY FEES	89,800
4417 - P&R CONCESSION FEES	22,000
4430 - SENIOR PROGRAM FEES	15,300

4620 - POLICE FINES	2,780,600
4630 - CODE ENFORCEMENT FINES	3,250
4710 - INVESTMENT INTEREST	117,000
4720 - RENTAL INCOME	18,963
4730 - CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS	600
4740 - SALE OF PROPERTY	14,500
4750 - MISC REFUNDS AND REBATES	86,780
4761 - POLICE ACCT RECEIPTS	45,000
4790 - OTHER MISC REVENUES	453,203
4840 - FUND TRANSFER	988,247

TOTAL REVENUE **\$43,297,245**

EXPENDITURES
DEPARTMENT

**FY2025
PROPOSED**

201 - CITY COUNCIL	\$122,513
205 - CLERK TO THE COUNCIL	243,333
210 - MAYOR	649,079
215 - CITY ADMINISTRATOR	679,268
220 - ELECTIONS	17,445
225 - BUDGET & PERSONNEL SVCS	1,230,403
235 - COMMUNICATIONS	701,304
240 - ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEV	1,032,943
244 - SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS	62,532
250 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	2,860,863
270 - COMMUNITY PROMOTION	<u>158,787</u>
280 - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	945,518
281 - JOSEPH R. ROBISON - LAUREL MUNICIPAL CENTER	177,616
284 - PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY	128,126
285 - ROBERT J. DIPIETRO COMMUNITY CENTER	168,869
286 - ARMORY COMMUNITY CENTER	104,561
287 - LAUREL MUSEUM	13,000
288 - GUDE LAKEHOUSE	31,000
289 - MAIN ST. POOL MAINTENANC	82,670
290 - LPD FACILITY	312,121
291 - GREENVIEW DR REC COMPLEX	47,180
292 - P&R MAINTENANCE FACILITY	47,750
293 - GUDE HOUSE	73,841
294 - CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULTISERVICE CENTER MAINT.	262,371
301 - POLICE	13,069,424
320 - FIRE MARSHAL & PERMIT SV	861,358
325 - OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MGT	<u>728,452</u>
326 - CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULTISERVICE CENTER PROGRAMS	463,417
401 - PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN	691,207
410 - AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE	1,180,819
415 - WASTE COLLECTION	1,196,135
420 - RECYCLING	353,009
425 - HIGHWAYS & STREETS MAINT	1,272,735
430 - SNOW REMOVAL	198,155
435 - STREET LIGHTING	268,970

Underlining indicates new language added.

~~Strikethroughs indicate language deleted.~~

* * * Asterisks indicate intervening language and section unchanged.

440 - ENGINEERING&TECH SERVICES	253,898
445 - TRAFFIC ENGINEERING	156,637
450 - TREE MANAGEMENT	99,781
501 - PARKS & RECREATION ADMIN	877,205
505 - RECREATION	525,256
510 - MAIN ST POOL PROGRAMS	287,053
515 - ROBERT J. DIPIETRO COMMUNITY CENTER	328,708
520 - GREENVIEW DR PROGRAMS	129,133
525 - ARMORY COMMUNITY CTR PROG	214,021
530 - YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU	256,996
535 - GUDE LAKEHOUSE PROGRAMS	25,598
550 - SENIOR SERVICES	275,021
650 - PRINCIPAL	1,895,527
651 - INTEREST	93,227
652 - RETIREMENT	2,369,530
654 - PROPERTY INSURANCE	526,251
655 - BONDING INSURANCE	27,000
656 - EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	4,018,467
657 - MISC FINANCIAL USES	0
658 - SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT	300,000
659 - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROG	0
810 - EMPLOYEE TRAINING	194,591
820 - EMPLOYEE TUITION	6,571
	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$43,297,245

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

<u>FY2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING REAUTHORIZATION</u>	<u>RE-AUTHORIZATION BALANCE</u>
ANIMAL SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE	\$217,697
BASE MAP UPDATE	27,579
CITY-WIDE RADIO SYSTEM	64,475
ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION	84,925
EMER. OPER. AND COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE	16,230
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS	342,484
FACILITY SURVEYS	16,349
FLEET EQUIPMENT	3,102,764
HAZARD MITIGATION	3,978,336
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	1,880,894
LPD LEASED VEHICLES	854,796
LPD TECHNOLOGY	760,000
MASTER PLAN UPDATE	25,000
RECORD ARCHIVING-DIGITAL PROCESSING	34,310
RIVER MONITORING FLOOD ALERT SYSTEM	12,038
TOTAL SPECIAL PROJECT REAUTH	\$11,417,877
	<hr/>
CITY HVAC SYSTEMS	\$2,465,000
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/MEETING ROOM 4 EQUIPMENT	300,952
ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS	117,568

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FACILITY SECURITY IMPROVEMENT	36,318
CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULTI SERVICE CENTER	777,434
LAUREL MUNICIPAL POOL	28,390
MAJOR FACILITY MAINTENANCE	983,410
TOTAL FACILITY PROJECT REAUTH	<u>\$4,709,072</u>
DAM RUINS	1,200,000
MEMORIALS	\$28,097
PARK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	714,390
RIVERFRONT PARK EXTENSION	492,500
TOTAL PARK PROJECT REAUTH	<u>\$2,434,987</u>
ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS	\$136,588
BOWIE ROAD/CSX PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS	28,841
BRIDGE REPAIRS	75,037
CARRIAGE HILL DRIVE	257,507
CARRIAGE HILL LANE	47,560
CARROLL AVE IMPROVEMENTS	381,646
CITY-WIDE SIDEWALK PLACEMENT	85,100
CURB AND GUTTER IMPROVEMENTS	81,454
CYPRESS STREET IMPROVEMENTS	219,173
DORSET ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	135,523
EIGHTH STREET	214,930
EMERGENCY REPAIRS	71,300
FIFTH STREET IMPROVEMENTS	319,065
FIRST STREET	213,490
FOURTH STREET IMPROVEMENTS	366,000
LAFAYETTE AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS	135,790
LAUREL BIKEWAY	18,890
LITTLE MONTGOMERY STREET	51,100
MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS	141,166
MORTON PLACE	80,000
PARK AVE - 6TH TO 8TH STREETS	247,100
SARATOGA AVENUE	155,000
SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT/REPAIR	55,265
STANLEY PLACE	95,000
STREET LIGHT AND SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS	150,331
TRAFFIC & PARKING ANALYSIS	100,368
TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION	99,711
VAN DUSEN DAM MAINTENANCE	76,123
VAN DUSEN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	2,625,188
VIRGINIA MANOR COURT	122,000
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT REAUTH	<u>\$6,786,246</u>
TOTAL REAUTHORIZED FUNDS	<u>\$25,348,182</u>

Underlining indicates new language added.

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* * * Asterisks indicate intervening language and section unchanged.

FY2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
NEW FUNDING REQUESTS

NEW FUNDS

EMERGENCY RESCUE VEHICLE	\$236,604
BARKMAN-KAISER PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX	320,000
CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULTISERVICE CENTER	3,000,000
DAM RUINS	850,000
LPD TECHNOLOGY	76,000
LPD LEASE VEHICLES	287,000
TOTAL NEW FUNDING REQUESTS	\$4,769,604

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the taxes are hereby levied, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at the rate of \$.71 on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessable real property at 100% full cash value, within the limits of the City of Laurel.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the taxes are hereby levied, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at the rate of an additional \$.03 on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessable real property at 100% full cash value, within the limits of the City of Laurel Special Taxing Districts One, Two, Three, Four and Five, and that a portion of those funds will be distributed to the local public transit provider and the remainder, if any, will be used in accordance with State law for infrastructure improvements within the districts.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, that the taxes are hereby levied, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at the rate of \$1.69 on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessable personal and mixed property within the limits of the City of Laurel.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, that the Director of Budget and Personnel Services of the City of Laurel is hereby authorized and directed to collect the taxes herein levied by this Ordinance.

AND, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect on the date of its passage.

PASSED this 28th day of May, 2024.

ATTEST:

Underlining indicates new language added.

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* * * Asterisks indicate intervening language and section unchanged.

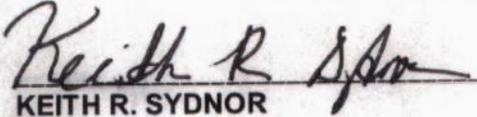


SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC
City Clerk



JAMES KOLE
President of the City Council

APPROVED this 28th day of May, 2024.



KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

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* * * Asterisks indicate intervening language and section unchanged.

City of Laurel



PROCLAMATION 2024-28

WHEREAS: *In June 1969, patrons and supporters of The Stonewall Inn in New York City staged an uprising to resist harassment and discriminatory laws and practices against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) community. The riots and protests fifty-five years ago marked the beginning of the modern LGBTQ+ movement; and*

WHEREAS: *During LGBTQ+ Pride Month we celebrate our progress and yet recognize that there is still work to be done. LGBTQ+ people still face harassment, prejudice, health disparities and lack of equal protection under current state and federal laws; and*

WHEREAS: *We proudly proclaim the month of June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of Laurel and recognize those who fight for equality, inclusivity, and justice. We recognize that youth, minority, and transgender people face greater risk to adversity. All people should be able to live openly and freely without fear of harassment, prejudice, or discrimination.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM June 2024 as

LGBTQ+ Pride Month

in the City of Laurel and urge residents to recognize the contributions made by members of the LGBTQ+ community and to actively promote the principles of equality, liberty, and justice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith R. Sydnor".

**Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor**

City of Laurel



**PROCLAMATION
2024-30**

- WHEREAS,** every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average, there are nearly 17,000 gun homicides every year; and
- WHEREAS,** cities across the nation, including in the City of Laurel are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions and protecting public safety in the City of Laurel is the Mayor's highest responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** Mayors and Law Enforcement Officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and
- WHEREAS,** in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 2, 2024, to recognize the 27th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and to the loved ones of those victims; and
- WHEREAS,** the idea of recognizing this day was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange and they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and
- WHEREAS,** anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 7th, the first Friday in June 2024, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and
- WHEREAS,** by wearing orange on June 7, 2024 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and
- WHEREAS,** we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM
JUNE 7, 2024, AS**

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

in the City of Laurel and encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith R. Sydnor".

**Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor**

Remarks to the City Council of Laurel, Maryland

May 28, 2024

Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center

By

C. Philip Nichols, Jr.

City of Laurel Resident

"Attachment 1"
mayor and city council
meeting of May 28,
2024
minutes
comments
submitted by
C. Philip Nichols,
Jr.

Mr. President, Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council:

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you tonight.

As you know, I brought to your attention a continuing neighborhood problem that I thought the City could address and perhaps solve, as many of my neighbors were apprehensive about coming to City Hall to speak before you.

Instead, what happened was likely the creation of a worse problem. The problem now is that my neighbors are not just apprehensive, *they are actually afraid*. This lack of confidence in city government needs to be addressed by you and how you deal with your colleague. I cannot recollect a time until now when citizens were not just apprehensive but afraid to come speak to their elected representatives and for good reason.

After I spoke several videos were published.

The first video caused a police car to be stationed at my home for several weeks.

I commend our police department and our county sheriff's office for their quick thinking and willingness to help protect me and my family and have the offending video taken down.

The second video is very critical of the City Government, the Catholic Church and St. Vincent Pallotti High School - the City Government for not doing more to accommodate our errant neighbor, the Church, and Pallotti High School. I think the allegations made in this video were just disingenuous.

The reality is much different and, you would have to close your eyes to avoid seeing the obvious.

For example, I have asked the clerk to show some pictures taken by Craig Frederick on Friday April 26, 2024. After a recent funeral, the repast was held here in our neighborhood. Traffic was backed up for blocks. There was no parking within two blocks.

(show pictures)

Another example was in September 2023, when I asked the liquor board to inquire. They found the parking lot packed with vehicles, a wedding reception inside, and alcohol present but none being sold.

(play video)

I have asked for, and received under the Freedom of Information Act a compilation of police calls to our neighbor, they are significant and are well over

a hundred in number for various reasons.

This past Christmas Eve the party went on until well after 3:00 AM. I suspect this was not a children's event but it was a rather large and loud adult party that resulted in several calls being made to the police.

The noise is significant. It can be heard across the street and inside my and my neighbor's homes late into the night. We have a noise ordinance, but it is not enforced. It should be.

Typically, my neighbors will call and a visit by the police will take place. The police will leave. The noise will return to the same or higher levels. One report said the officer "could feel the vibrations on the ground from the music." We can feel the vibrations and hear the noise in our homes.

Sadly, we have normalized this flagrant behavior by failing to take action to abate this nuisance sooner. They are a public nuisance that should have been addressed a long time ago. They seem to regularly operate a catering hall late into the night without a license in violation of the zoning within the R -55 Zone. They seem to be the only not-for-profit in the county not required to get the "one day" license to dispense alcohol. They park various trailers and vehicles in their parking lot. They keep their garbage collection in their front yard which, by the way, gets picked up by a private company on Mondays at 7:30 AM long and the noise is disruptive. This practice is long before the city begins its collections so as not to make that kind of noise that early disturbing the neighborhood.

This is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city and it is in the Historic District. When I wanted to change the colors of my shutters from gray to black, it required a full public hearing. I support ensuring the integrity of our Historic District and applaud the Commission's work. However, the City also needs to support the quality of life in our neighborhood, not just the appearance of our buildings.

The City had a Task Force, chaired by Rick Wilson, who as you know is a former member of this council, created several years ago to deal with the issues not the least of which were their finances. At the end of their report, the Task Force asked for this financial information such as where the funds to operate came from and where they went. A non-profit should be transparent in their dealings with the community at large, yet those questions have still not been answered years later. Their refusal to cooperate continues to be of concern.

Former Mayor Moe probably said it best...no neighborhood should have to put up with this type of activity.

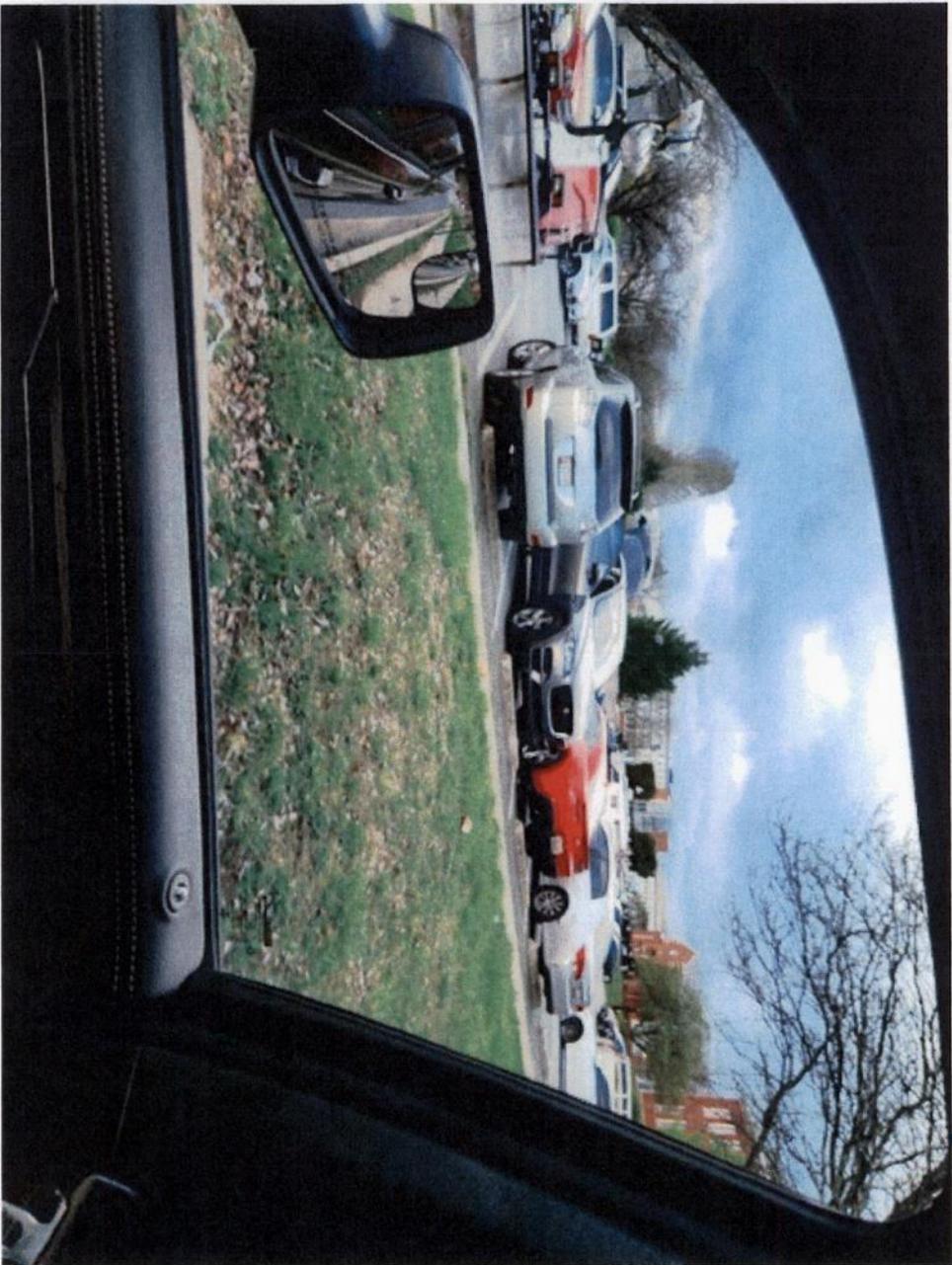
Please enforce the zoning and noise ordinances in our neighborhood.



Attachment 2 Pg 1 of 3
Mayor and City Council
meeting minutes of May 28, 2024
Comments Submitted by
C. Phillip Nichols, Jr.



Attachment 2 pg 2
maps and city council of 3
meeting minutes of may
28, 2011 comments
Submitted by C. Pruitt
Nichols, Jr.



Attachment 2 pg 3 of
Mayor and City Council's
meeting minutes of
May 28, 2024
Comment Submitted
by C. Phillip Nichols, Sr.