CITY COUNCIL

BRENCIS D. SMITH
President

MARTIN MITCHELL
At-Large

CARLW. DEWALT
First Ward

JAMES KOLE
First Ward

KEITH R. SYDNOR
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

CRAIG A. MOE
Mayor

CHRISTIAN PULLEY, CPM
City Administrator

JOANNE BARR
Deputy City Administrator

LAWRENCE N. TAUB
City Solicitor

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

(301) 725-5300

www.cityoflaurel.org

THIRTY-NINTH MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023
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 Brencis D. Smith presiding. The roll was called with Councilman Carl DeWalt, Councilman James Kole, Councilman Martin Mitchell, Councilman Keith R. Sydnor and Craig A. Moe, Mayor present.

The following staff members were also present: 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, Brian K. Lee, Director, Department of Public Works, Robert Love, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services, Danny Selby, Director, Office of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services and Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management.

Mr. Ethan Sweep, Representative from Congressman Glenn Ivey's Office addressed the Mayor and City Council and provided information regarding FY2024 Federal "earmarks" and that the Congressman's Office would host a webinar with all of the details and how to submit requests for the funding in December.

Agenda Item No. 5 was approval of the following meeting minutes:

September 6, 2023- Work Session
September 6, 2023- Closed Session
September 11, 2023- Regular Meeting

Ms. Green noted for the record that the September 25, 2023 meeting minutes were not complete and would be moved to the next meeting. Councilman Sydnor made a motion to approve the minutes and Councilman Kole seconded the motion. Roll call continued with Councilman DeWalt, Councilman Mitchell and President Smith voting “Yes”.

Agenda Item No. 7 was Mayoral Appointments and Reappointments:

Appointments

Zoe Roane-Hopkins	Arts Council	10/23/2023-10/23/2026
Logan Staley	Bicycle and Pedestrian CAC	10/23/2023-10/23/2026
Garry Fitzgerald II	No-Kill Community Animal Shelter CAC	10/23/2023-10/23/2025
Diane Sartor	No-Kill Community Animal Shelter CAC	10/23/2023-10/23/2025
Jennifer Shannon	Arts Council	10/23/2023-10/23/2025

Reappointments

Wayne Dzwonchyk	Emergency Services Commission	10/23/2023-10/23/2026
Shirley Bell	Youth Services Commission	10/23/2023-10/23/2026
Marjorie McCeney	Historic District Commission	10/23/2023-10/23/2026

Councilman Sydnor made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments. Councilman Kole seconded the motion. Roll call continued with Councilman DeWalt, Councilman Mitchell and President Smith voting ‘Yes”.

President Smith opened the general public hearing at 6:23 pm. Kate Wright, 14913 First Baptist Lane Laurel, Maryland 20707 spoke about active parkland that had been developed in Ward 2 and that in her opinion, the parkland was not adequate for the number of citizens in the area. Ms. Green noted that an email with written comments from Mick Mark dated October 23, 2023 regarding a Council Meeting and Council behavior was made a part of the official record and attached to the minutes as “Exhibit A”

Agenda Item No. 6 was Mayoral Appointments and Reappointments:

•	Kerry Avant	No-Kill Community Animal Shelter CAC	10/11/2023-10/11/2026
•	Bruce Dodgson	No-Kill Community Animal Shelter CAC	10/11/2023-10/11/2026
•	Cheryl Dodgson	No-Kill Community Animal Shelter CAC	10/11/2023-10/11/2026
•	Bridgette Ratnam	No-Kill Community Animal Shelter CAC	10/11/2023-10/11/2026
•	Helen Woods	No-Kill Community Animal Shelter CAC	10/11/2023-10/11/2026
•	Lucy Haggerty	No-Kill Community Animal Shelter CAC	10/11/2023-10/11/2026

Reappointments

•	David Everett	Tree Board	10/11/2023-10/11/2025
•	Don Gavelek	Public Safety and Transportation	10/11/2023-10/11/2025
•	Ed Rowe	Public Safety and Transportation	10/11/2023-10/11/2025

Councilman Sydnor made a motion to approve all of the appointments and reappointments. Councilman Kole seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 9 was consideration of a Bid Recommendation to upgrade audio/visual equipment in the Council Chambers, Laurel TV Control Room and Meeting Room 4. Ms. Audrey Barnes, Director, Department of Communications presented the bid recommending approval to Washington Professional Systems (WPS) in the amount of $280,069.00. Councilman Kole made a motion to approve the bid as presented. Councilman Sydnor seconded the motion and roll call continued with all Councilmembers voting “Yes”.

Agenda Item No. 10 was a bid recommendation to transition cellular services to T-Mobile for Government. Mr. James Cornwell-Shiel presented the bid recommendation. Councilman Sydnor made a motion to approve the bid as presented and Councilman Kole seconded the motion. Roll call continued with Councilman DeWalt, Councilman Mitchell and President Smith voting “Yes”.

Agenda Item No. 11 was the second public hearing with possible action on Ordinance No. 2012 (Text Amendment No. 263) An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Amend the Unified Land Development Code, Chapter 20 "Land Development and Subdivision Regulations," to Update the Definition Section, the Use Table in the Commercial Zone, and to Update the Special Exception Section, all To Include Licensed Dispensary for Cannabis as a Special Exception Use in Certain Zones. Mr. Robert Love, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development presented the proposed Ordinance stating that the Department worked with the State of Maryland to ensure that the proposed ordinance was in compliance with the State law that recently legalized non-medical personal use cannabis. Councilman DeWalt asked Director Love if the State of Maryland was requiring the City to change the ULDC to allow dispensaries every 1,000 ft. instead of limiting them to one (1) per square mile. Director Love said that Councilman DeWalt was correct but that the State of Maryland was also limiting the total number of licenses issued in each County. Councilman DeWalt was concerned that there would be too many dispensaries too close together. Councilman Sydnor made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2012 and Councilman Kole seconded the motion. Councilman DeWalt abstained from the vote, as did Councilman Mitchell. President Smith voted “Yes”, and Mayor Moe concurred with the action.

Agenda Item No. 12 was the second public hearing with possible action on Ordinance No. 2018 (Text Amendment No. 265).an Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Amend the Unified Land Development Code, Chapter 20 "Land Development and Subdivision regulations," to update the design guidelines for historic district commission and create for sale affordable housing section. Robert Love, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development presented the proposed ordinance. President Smith opened the general public hearing at 7:00 pm. Ms. Kate Wright, 14913 First Baptist Lane Laurel, Maryland 20707 was signed up to speak on the item. Ms. Wright addressed the Mayor and City Council regarding affordable housing and that the development that would be proposed in the future by Pulte Homes would have For Sale Affordable Housing but that the City still needed more affordable units. Ms. Wright was requesting that the Mayor and City Council lower the number of units that triggered the Affordable Housing requirement and require more units to be added for new subdivisions. There was no one else signed up to speak and Council President Smith closed the public hearing at 7:03 pm. Councilman Kole made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2018 as presented. Councilman Sydnor seconded the motion. Roll call continued with Councilman DeWalt voting “No” and said that he thought the City was lacking affordable housing units and that the Department of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services was lacking the staff it needed to do the required inspections. Councilman Mitchell voted “Yes”, President Smith voted “Yes” and Mayor Moe concurred

with the action and the City had at least seventy-three (73) affordable housing units and that the City had been working on affordable housing for a long time and all he'd seen Councilman DeWalt do is gripe about the program, but he had never proposed any actually change or proposed an ordinance to change the Code.

Agenda Item No.13 was the second public hearing with possible action on Ordinance No. 2019 an Ordinance Amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and to Provide an Effective Date. Director S. Michele Saylor, Department of Budget and Personnel Services presented the proposed ordinance stating that it was the first budget amendment for FY2024. President Smith opened the public hearing at 7:09 pm and there was no one signed up to speak and closed the public hearing at 7:09 pm. Ordinance No. 2019 was approved on motion by Councilman Kole, seconded by Councilman Sydnor and carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present. Mayor Moe concurred with the vote.

Agenda Item No. 14 was Ordinance No. 2020 an Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Amend Laurel City Code Chapter 18, Section 21, Nuisance and Providing for an Effective Date. Chief Russel Hamill presented the proposed ordinance and noted that in the current City Code, only the Fire Marshal or their designee of the Department of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services was authorized to shut down a building that was a nuisance and if there was an issue after hours, Laurel Police would have to wait for a Fire Marshal and their designee to arrive on scene to order a building or business to be closed because the current Code did not allow for anyone else to do so. The proposed ordinance would allow either the Fire Marshal or their designee or the Laurel Police Department to order the closure. President Smith opened the general public hearing at 7:11 pm. No one was signed up to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing at 7:11 pm. Councilman DeWalt, Councilman Mitchell and President Smith voted "Yes". Mayor Moe concurred with the action.

Agenda Item No. 15d was Resolution No. 9-2023 a Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan of Prince George's County as the City's Official Plan. Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management presented the proposed ordinance. President Smith opened the public hearing at: 7:14 pm There was no one signed up to speak, so President Smith closed the public hearing at 7:14 pm. Councilman Kole made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9-2023. Councilman Sydnor seconded the motion. Councilman DeWalt, Councilman Mitchell and President Smith voted "Yes" and Mayor Moe concurred.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:17 pm.

Submitted:

Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: Date: