

CITY COUNCIL

CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON
At-Large

ADRIAN G. SIMMONS
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

**FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, JULY 22, 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 6:01 pm with Council President James Kole presiding. The roll was called with Councilwoman Kyla Clark, Councilwoman Christine M. Johnson, Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills, Councilman Adrian G. Simmons 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, Tim Miller, Director, Department of Public Works, S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services, Brooke Quillen, Senior Administrative Assistant, Department of Economic and Community Development, Stephanie P. Anderson City Solicitor, and Deputy Chief Mark Plazinski, LPD. There were approximately fifteen (15) members of the public present.

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

- May 28, 2024 Regular Meeting
- June 5, 2024 Work Session
- June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting
- July 1, 2024 Ward 1 Council Vacancy Interviews
- July 3, 2024 Work Session
- July 8, 2024 Regular Meeting

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

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.

Mayor Sydnor presented the following Proclamations:

- National Night Out, presented to Chief Hamill

Agenda Item No. 6 was Fourth of July Committee Acknowledgement by Chairwoman Carreen Koubek. Ms. Koubek thanked the Mayor and City Council and City staff for all of their assistance and support for the City's Independence Day Celebration. Ms. Koubek thanked the Fourth of July Committee Members and volunteers who were in attendance for all of their hard work and dedication to the City and the event. Mayor Sydnor thanked Ms. Koubek, the Committee Members, and volunteers for all of their hard work and dedication in making the event such a success year after year and that they deserved all of the credit. The Mayor and Council took a photo with all Committee Members present.

Next, President Kole opened the General Public Hearing at approximately 6:30 pm. The first person signed up to speak was Mr. Joseph Ojo, 15803 Joyce Lane Laurel, Maryland 20707. Mr. Ojo read a written statement to the Mayor and City Council regarding the business that he owned at 23 C Street that had been closed by the Department of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services on Friday, July 19, 2024. Mr. Ojo stated that he would email the written statement to the City Clerk. The statement from Mr. Ojo is attached to these minutes labeled "Attachment No. 1- July 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes of the Mayor and City Council".

The next speaker was Mr. Jeremy Smith, 8301 Ashford Boulevard Apt. 620 Laurel, Maryland 20707. Mr. Smith stated that he loved living in the City and that he enjoyed how inclusive the community was and that it was important to him that the politicians that represented him thought that it would be constitutional for a woman to be President and that he would be very disappointed if that were not the case.

The last speaker was Ms. Georgena Ifill, 8231 Northlake Court Laurel, Maryland 20707. Ms. Ifill said that she was happy to hear that her request was approved to increase the time limit for speakers from two (2) to three (3) minutes and thanked President Kole for his statement at the beginning of the meeting regarding the decorum and rules that would be followed for public hearing. Ms. Ifill then began to read a written statement aloud regarding public speaking. The written statement has been attached to these minutes and labeled: "Attachment No. 2- July 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes of the Mayor and City Council".

Agenda Item No. 8 was a Leasing Agreement for Bigbelly Compost Bins for Multi-family Compost Collection that had been postponed (at the July 8, 2024 meeting) to the July 22, 2024 meeting to allow additional time for staff to answer questions from the Council and gather additional information regarding the possible purchase. Mayor Sydnor stated that he was withdrawing the bid recommendation request to allow for more research and information gathering by staff prior to a new bid recommendation being submitted for the project.

Agenda Item No. 9 was the Introduction and First Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2028- 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 Providing an Effective Date. President Kole read the title into the record for the first public hearing. Ms.

S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services provided a summary of the proposed ordinance and stated that she had provided a detailed presentation that evening at the 5:30 pm Special Work Session held just prior to the regular meeting. Ms. Saylor noted that the draft ordinance was the cleanup Ordinance for the end of the fiscal year to ensure that all of the revenue and expenditures balanced. President Kole opened the public hearing on the item at 6:41 pm. Ms. Georgena Ifill, 8231 Northlake Court Laurel, Maryland 20707 stated that she heard some of the amendments to the budget that were presented during the work session that evening and wanted to know if the increase in the legal fees incurred by the City related to the Department of Public Works Collective Bargaining Agreement for which the City had budgeted \$15,000.00 but actual expenses incurred were higher, was included in the budget amendment and where those extra funds were taken from to cover the cost. Ms. Ifill said that she had received a response to an MPIA request that she had submitted requesting the invoices paid by the City to Jackson Lewis Law Firm and the very first invoice she was provided was for \$64,781.00 and that the total invoices received to date were for over \$87,000.00. There was no one else signed up to speak on the item. President Kole closed the public hearing at 6:44 pm. The Council agreed that the item would be placed on the Special Mayor and City Council meeting agenda for July 29, 2024 that would be held virtually via Zoom.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:47 pm.

Approved:



Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

Date:

September 23, 2024

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**FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024
6:00 PM**

IN-PERSON MEETING

AGENDA (revised as of 07/19/2024)

***Watch the meeting on Laurel TV streaming live in your web browser at
<https://laurelvtv.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
 - May 28, 2024 Regular Meeting
 - June 5, 2024 Work Session
 - June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting
 - July 1, 2024 Ward 1 Council Vacancy Interviews
 - July 3, 2024 Work Session
 - July 8, 2024 Regular Meeting
5. Report of the Mayor and City Council
6. Fourth of July Committee Acknowledgement- Carreen Koubek, Chairwoman
7. General Public Hearing

8. Consideration of a Leasing Agreement- Bigbelly Compost Bins for Multi-family Compost Collection- Environmental Programs
9. Introduction and First Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2028- 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 Providing an Effective Date
10. Adjournment

Mayor and City Council Voting Record

July 22, 2024 6:00 pm

Regular Meeting

IN-PERSON

Call to Order: 6:01pm

Meeting Ended: 6:43pm

Members of the Public: 15

Staff Attendance:

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

Roll Call

☒ Councilman Simmons ☒ Councilwoman Johnson ☒ Councilman Mills
☒ Councilwoman Clark ☒ President Kole ☒ Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 4- Approval of Minutes

- May 28, 2024 Regular Meeting
- June 5, 2024 Work Session
- June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting

Agenda Item No. 8- Consideration of a Leasing Agreement- Bigbelly Compost Bins for Multi-family Compost Collection- Environmental Programs

*Withdrawn by Mayor Sydney White Fisher
Notice*

_____ Councilman Simmons _____ Councilwoman Johnson _____ Councilman Mills

_____ Councilwoman Clark _____ President Kole

Agenda Item No. 9- Introduction and First Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2028- 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 Providing an Effective Date

Public Hearing Open: 6:41pm Closed: 6:44pm

Speakers: *See Speaker sign up list attached*

- July 1, 2024 Ward 1 Council Vacancy Interviews
- July 3, 2024 Work Session
- July 8, 2024 Regular Meeting

yes Councilman Simmons yes Councilwoman Johnson 1st Councilman Mills

2nd Councilwoman Clark yes President Kole

Agenda Item No. 6- Fourth of July Committee Acknowledgement- Carreen Koubek, Chairwoman

Agenda Item No. 7- General Public Hearing

Open: 6:30 pm Closed: 6:38 pm

Speakers: See Sign-up sheet attached

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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

Fourteenth Meeting, Monday, July 22, 2024

copy
only

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Agenda Item #</u>
Christopher Ojo	15803 Joyce Lane Laurel MD 20707	8
Jeremy Smith	8301 Ashford Blvd Apt 630 Laurel MD 20707	7
Gregoria Fil	4231 Northlake Ct. Laurel, MD 20707	5
Georgina Hill	" "	9

City of Laurel



**PROCLAMATION
2024 - 34**

WHEREAS: *National Night Out was first established in 1981 by Matt Peskin of the National Association of Town Watch which is a nonprofit, crime prevention organization working in cooperation with thousands of crime watch groups and law enforcement agencies throughout the country; and*

WHEREAS: *National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," was introduced by the Association in 1984 and always occur on the first Tuesday in August; and*

WHEREAS: *The purpose of the National Night Out is to inform the public about various police programs and community programs such as drug prevention initiatives and neighborhood watch groups that exist to keep people safe and fight crime in neighborhoods everywhere; and*

WHEREAS: *The annual National Night Out Against Crime is a nation-wide event designed to promote neighborhood safety; and*

WHEREAS: *National Night Out Against Crime activities are designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and community partnerships, and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back; and*

WHEREAS: *The focus of National Night Out is to allow our Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer Rescue Squad to present demonstrations and activities for the community; and*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM
AUGUST 6, 2024, TO BE**

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

in the City of Laurel and urge all residents of Laurel to support and participate in the fight against crime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith R. Sydnor".
**Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor**



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2028

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

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

WHEREAS, the FY2024 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was adopted on May 22, 2023 through Ordinance No. 2011, and subsequently amended through the adoption of Ordinance No. 2019, Ordinance No. 2021, and Ordinance No. 2022, and

WHEREAS, intradepartmental transfers have been made in the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Works, and

WHEREAS, there are expenditure savings and unanticipated revenues to be appropriated for an additional contribution to the Pension Plans and the CIP, and

WHEREAS, insurance proceeds are to be allocated for repairs and the balance transferred to the CIP for future purchases of vehicles, and

WHEREAS, there was a market-based increase in bonding insurance which requires additional funding, and

WHEREAS, an adjustment is made to reflect actual ARPA revenues and expenditures for FY2024, and

WHEREAS, the operating transfer to the CIP is being allocated to fund certain projects, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland are required to amend the FY2024 General Operating Budget and CIP to reflect these changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the General Operating Budget and CIP for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 is hereby amended.

Note: B/T= Budget Transfer

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

<u>REVENUES BY CATEGORY</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD2022</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD2028</u>	
4010 - R/E TAX REVENUE	\$26,661,305		\$250,000	\$26,911,305	A
4030 - PERSONAL PROP TAX	1,410,000			1,410,000	
4040 - PERSONAL PROP-INT/PENTALTY	68,500			68,500	
4050 - LOCAL TAXES	4,400,000		250,000	4,650,000	B
4060 - OTHER LOCAL TAXES	1,718,892		240,479	1,959,371	C
4110 - LICENSES	632,075			632,075	
4130 - PERMITS	422,510			422,510	
4210 - FEDERAL GRANTS	90,595		2,681,470	2,772,065	D
4230 - STATE GRANTS	599,829			599,829	
4250 - COUNTY GRANTS	275,362			275,362	
4310 - GENERAL GOV'T SERVICE CH	156,097			156,097	
4340 - SANITATION SERVICE CHGS	164,000			164,000	
4350 - SERVICE CHARGE-HEALTH	10,000			10,000	
4370 - FACILITY RENTALS	127,090			127,090	
4411 - SWIMMING POOL FEES	124,010			124,010	
4413 - RECREATION PROGRAM FEES	74,000			74,000	
4415 - P&R ACTIVITY FEES	83,825			83,825	
4417 - P&R CONCESSION FEES	21,500			21,500	
4430 - SENIOR PROGRAM FEES	12,100			12,100	
4620 - POLICE FINES	2,609,457			2,609,457	
4630 - CODE ENFORCEMENT FINES	4,750			4,750	
4710 - INVESTMENT INTEREST	17,000			17,000	
4720 - RENTAL INCOME	18,963			18,963	
4730 - CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS	600			600	
4740 - SALE OF PROPERTY	20,500			20,500	
4750 - MISC REFUNDS AND REBATES	78,780			78,780	
4761 - POLICE ACCT RECEIPTS	45,000			45,000	
4790 - OTHER MISC REVENUES	437,417		72,730	510,147	E
4840 - FUND TRANSFER	1,088,247			1,088,247	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$41,372,404	\$0	\$3,494,679	\$44,867,083	

<u>EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD2022</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD2028</u>	
201 - CITY COUNCIL	\$122,368			\$122,368	
205 - CLERK TO THE COUNCIL	210,175			\$210,175	
210 - MAYOR	680,153			\$680,153	
215 - CITY ADMINISTRATOR	758,811			\$758,811	
220 - ELECTIONS	82,590			\$82,590	
225 - BUDGET & PERSONNEL SVCS	1,122,150		50,000	\$1,172,150	F
235 - COMMUNICATIONS	697,393			\$697,393	
240 - ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEV	749,817			\$749,817	
250 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	2,625,334			\$2,625,334	
270 - COMMUNITY PROMOTION	148,175			\$148,175	
280 - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	803,768		20,000	\$823,768	G

281 - MUNICIPAL CENTER	183,173		10,000	\$193,173	H
284 - PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY	125,181			\$125,181	
285 - RJD COMMUNITY CENTER	156,527		23,000	\$179,527	I
286 - ARMORY COMMUNITY CENTER	108,595		11,723	\$120,318	J
287 - LAUREL MUSEUM	13,000		3,000	\$16,000	K
288 - GUDE LAKEHOUSE	30,100			\$30,100	
289 - MAIN ST. POOL MAINTENANC	78,970			\$78,970	
290 - LPD FACILITY	308,919		(15,000)	\$293,919	L
291 - GREENVIEW DR REC COMPLEX	45,680			\$45,680	
292 - P&R MAINTENANCE FACILITY	37,250	9,500		\$46,750	
293 - GUDE HOUSE	72,394	7,000	(25,000)	\$54,394	M
294 - BUILDING 204	180,228	(16,500)	13,000	\$176,728	N
301 - POLICE	12,208,940			\$12,208,940	
320 - FIRE MARSHAL & PERMIT SV	816,500			\$816,500	
325 - OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MGT	737,589			\$737,589	
326 - LMSC PROGRAMS	273,032		(150,000)	\$123,032	O
401 - PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN	715,088	817		\$715,905	
410 - AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE	1,201,741	17,142	50,000	\$1,268,883	P
415 - WASTE COLLECTION	1,343,722	955		\$1,344,677	
420 - RECYCLING	331,662	19,697		\$351,359	
425 - HIGHWAYS & STREETS MAINT	963,766	6,988	(75,000)	\$895,754	Q
430 - SNOW REMOVAL	197,288	(44,884)		\$152,404	
435 - STREET LIGHTING	275,000			\$275,000	
440 - ENGINEERING&TECH SERVICES	151,426	700		\$152,126	
445 - TRAFFIC ENGINEERING	162,301	3,563		\$165,864	
450 - TREE MANAGEMENT	101,479	(4,978)		\$96,501	
501 - PARKS & RECREATION ADMIN	797,140		(13,000)	\$784,140	N
505 - RECREATION	468,225		(23,000)	\$445,225	I
510 - MAIN ST POOL PROGRAMS	276,311			\$276,311	
515 - RJD COMMUNITY CENTER	317,581			\$317,581	
520 - GREENVIEW DR PROGRAMS	124,267			\$124,267	
525 - ARMORY COMMUNITY CTR PROG	204,826			\$204,826	
530 - YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU	341,339			\$341,339	
535 - GUDE LAKEHOUSE PROGRAMS	26,389			\$26,389	
550 - SENIOR SERVICES	256,099			\$256,099	
650 - PRINCIPAL	841,027			\$841,027	
651 - INTEREST	66,192			\$66,192	
652 - RETIREMENT	2,563,075		250,000	\$2,813,075	R
654 - PROPERTY INSURANCE	437,901		(41,000)	\$396,901	S
655 - BONDING INSURANCE	20,100		1,000	\$21,100	T
656 - EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	3,977,641		(250,000)	\$3,727,641	R
657 - MISC FINANCIAL USES	1,334,235		973,486	\$2,307,721	U
658 - SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT	300,000			\$300,000	
659 - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROG	0		2,681,470	\$2,681,470	D
810 - EMPLOYEE TRAINING	179,528			\$179,528	
820 - EMPLOYEE TUITION	20,243			\$20,243	
	\$41,372,404	\$0	\$3,494,679	\$44,866,526	

	AMENDED ORD2022	CHANGE	AMENDED ORD2028
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM			
TOTAL FUNDING - OTHER PROJECTS	\$41,071,893		\$41,071,893
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS	200,000	305,000	505,000
CITYWIDE FURNITURE REPLACEMENTS	0	25,000	25,000
PARK IMPROVEMENTS	289,493	103,007	392,500
SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS	393,182	100,000	493,182
C STREET - MAIN ST-FETTY ALLEY	0	35,000	35,000
VAN DUSEN ROAD	2,841,900	170,000	3,011,900
TOTAL AMENDED FUNDING	\$44,796,468	\$738,007	\$45,534,475

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

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

JAMES KOLE
President of the City Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	REVENUE NOTES							
2								
3	A	250,000	UNANTICIPATED REAL ESTATE TAX REVENUE					
4			TRANSFER TO CIP					
5	B	250,000	UNANTICIPATED LOCAL INCOME TAX REVENUE					
6			TRANSFER TO CIP					
7	C	35,479	CANNIBIS TAX					
8			CONTRIBUTION TO LMSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS>GRANT MATCH					
9		205,000	ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY USER REVENUE					
10			TRANSFER TO CIP-STREET PROJECTS					
11	D	2,681,470	FY2024 ARPA FUNDS USEAGE					
12			CORRESPONDING EXPENDITURE DEPT 659					
13								
14	E	45,485	INSURANCE PROCEEDS - VEHICLES					
15		11,723	WATER DAMAGE - ARMORY					
16		15,522	LGIT GRANT - VEHICLE BACKUP SENSORS					
17	TOTAL	3,494,679						
18								
19								
20	EXPENDITURE NOTES							
21								
22	F	50,000	BANKING FEES FOR PAYMENT RECEIPT PROCESSING					
23	G	20,000	TREE REMOVAL SERVICES; PARK BENCHES AND GRILLS					
24	H	10,000	HVAC COMPRESSOR					
25	I	23,000	RJDCC HVAC					
26	J	11,723	WATER DAMAGE - ARMORY>INSURANCE PROCEEDS					
27	K	3,000	MUSEUM HVAC REPAIR					
28	L	(15,000)	SAVINGS - LPD FACILITY					
29	M	(25,000)	SAVINGS - GUDE HOUSE					
30	N	13,000	P&R ADMIN TRANSFER - WRESTLING MAT					
31	O	(150,000)	SAVINGS - LMSC PROGRAMS					
32			CONTRIBUTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS					
33	P	15,522	BACKUP SENSOR GRANT					
34		34,478	VEHICLE REPAIRS>INSURANCE PROCEEDS					
35								
36	Q	(75,000)	SAVINGS - STREET MAINTENANCE					
37	N	(13,000)	P&R ADMIN - YSC GRANT - WRESTLING MAT					
38	I	(23,000)	RJDCC HVAC					
39	R	250,000	ADDITIONAL PENSION CONTRIBUTION					
40	S	(41,000)	SAVINGS - PROPERTY INSURANCE					
41	T	1,000	ADDITIONAL PREMIUM - BONDING INSURANCE					
42	R	(250,000)	SAVINGS - EMPLOYEE INSURANCE					
43								

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
44	U	185,479	CONTRIBUTION TO LMSC BOARD					
45		788,007	OPERATING TRANSFER TO CIP					
46								
47	D	2,681,470	FY2024 ARPA FUNDS USEAGE					
48	TOTAL	3,494,679						
49								
50	**Direct offsets are color-coded and have the same letter notation							

Submitted
by MS. Georgena Ifill
at m+cc mtg
7/22/2024

"Attachment NO. 2 - July 22, 2024
meeting minutes of the Mayor and City Council"
Page 1 of 2

07/22/24 PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT

Good evening, Mayor and City Council. My name is Georgena Ifill and I reside at 8231 Northlake Court in Laurel. I want to start by thanking the city council for taking into consideration my recommendation of extending the time for public speakers during these meetings. It recognizes and supports statement(s) of encouragement to constituents that you indeed want to hear from them through your willingness of giving them ample time to do so. Public speaking, expressing one's views or concerns is something that may not come naturally for so many. Standing here at this microphone, our voices may crack, we might begin to perspire, find it difficult to make eye contact, lose our train of thought or nervously (without intent) misspeak about something. Knowing this and regardless of it, we are willing to endure these physical, verbal and physiological effects so that our voices and concerns could be heard. That is the reason I stand here today with a plea to this elected council to ensure when we do so, we are treated with dignity and respect.

I am asking this because on more than one occasion, the Mayor has chosen to end these meetings by stating, "A lot of things have been said tonight, a lot of things that [aren't] true, but we can't control what people

Submitted by Ms. Georgina Hill at 7/22/2024 m+c mtg. J
"Attachment No. 2- July 22, 2024 meeting minutes of the Mayor and City Council"
Page 2 of 2

say when they come up here and speak for their three minutes." It was

even reported in the latest edition of "The Voices of Laurel." In essence, he

was calling speakers LIARS without any specificity. Being that I was a

speaker at each one of these meetings in which these closing statements, I

was offended. To make such statements without providing ANY substance

to the speakers, council or general public as to the identity of the liars and

the lies that were told is reprehensible. Such defamatory, deplorable

statements of inference should not meet your standards for meeting

etiquette. Whereas I can agree there may be times in which corrective or

clarifying statements may be warranted by this body. I would think it could

be done in a non-self-serving, cowardice manner to have the last word.

This is not just the Mayor's meeting. It is the council's too. I am asking that

you stand in our, the general public, defense through adopting and

enforcing "rules of engagement" that ensure everyone who walks up to this

mic to speak, regardless if they represent an opposing view or not, is

treated fairly and with dignity. Let us all be mindful that "Words Have

Power. Words Matter." Let's choose wisely and respectfully.

Attachment NO.1 - July 22, 2024
meeting minutes of the mayor and city council
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Sara Green

From: christopherojo@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:37 PM
To: Sara Green
Subject: 23 C Street Christopher Ojo.

You don't often get email from christopherojo@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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On Friday, the commercial space that I rented was closed by Chief Building Official Hamlett without notice. My landlord was notified. My locks on the building were broken and replaced without due process, and keys were given to my landlord. The basis for this was provided in a letter to my landlord.

Many of the allegations in the letter are inaccurate, and no facts are provided to support these allegations.

I have rented 23 C Street for several years for a recording studio in the basement and a comedy club on the main level. Because of the time it has taken me to improve the club area and the difficulty getting a liquor license, I only tried to open the comedy portion this spring. I have Use & Occupancy Permit #2024425 for the Notes and Jokes Comedy Club, which was approved in March.

The Comedy Club space has had very little use due to the lack of a liquor license, so I have not even opened it for some time.

When I started several years ago, I was advised by the Director of Economic Development, Robert Love, that 23 C Street was a suitable location.

I applied for a liquor license based on the City Arts and Entertainment District, but my application was denied because the state did not recognize the district for a liquor license.

I worked with the city and the 21st delegation to get the law changed.

However, my landlord decided he wouldn't allow me to get the liquor license anymore, even though he leased me the space for a comedy club, and he signed off on my first attempt to get a liquor license.

When I received my U&O in March, I passed the city inspections that the city is now saying I failed to get. Nothing new has been added since the March inspection.

I started the comedy club without selling liquor, which proved to be not very successful.

I decided to take the loss and ride out the lease. I stopped my open mic events because, without food and alcohol, I couldn't break even.

All that I have done recently is host several private listening parties. I am not operating a dance hall, and there have been only a handful of small events.

During a private event on Juneteenth and July 4th, I was informed that the police were towing cars. The police told me the landlord had called the tow truck on my guests' vehicles. When I inquired if I was in violation, they said no, and our event was successful.

On the weekend of July 14th, during a listening party, the police were called multiple times for a couple fighting on Main Street, unrelated to my location.

Despite this fight having nothing to do with my business, the police forcefully entered my building without a warrant.

I asked for a police report, which was promised, but I never received the report. Again, the fighting that occurred involved a business on Main Street and had nothing to do with my location.

On Friday, while I was at home sick, I was informed that my business was being sealed. I arrived to find my business sealed and the keys handed to the landlord without any prior notice of violation.

About the alleged violations:

- I have a valid use and occupancy permit.
- I am not operating an adult dance hall. I have allowed people from my community to use the space, which is very small, for a private gathering on several occasions. There was no admission price, and these few gatherings were not open to the public. No one has provided demonstrable facts otherwise.
- I have never sold liquor in my business, so I do not need a liquor license. No one has provided demonstrable facts otherwise.

- We are not cooking food, so I do not need a food handling license from the Prince George's County Health Department.

About alleged permit violations:

- My business was inspected and permitted in March. I have not added luminaires, sound booths, production booths, etc.
- I have fire protection systems.
- The city inspector spoke to me about the hood system, and he agreed that it was fine to be there if we did not connect it and use it. We do not do any cooking.

I want to know why I am being treated this way without due process. The Chief Building Official could have contacted me about perceived problems. I have always let inspectors into the building, and I have nothing to hide.

It appears that letting some friends use my space a few times has caused me to be targeted as a dangerous dance hall that is open all night. That is not true, and there is no evidence to support it.

If there is something that the city officials believe I need to do that I have not done, why do they not just come and talk to me?

I feel used by a city that claims to support an arts and entertainment district but has not shown it in practice.

Thanks,

Christopher Ojo.
240-938-6245