



Emergency Services Commission

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

7:00 PM

Emergency Services Commission Meeting

February 26, 2025, 7:00pm

In-Person Meeting at the Joseph R. Robinson Laurel Municipal Center, Meeting Room 2

8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707

Minutes

1. The Chairman Fred Carmen called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm with Commissioners Roy Gilmore, Douglas Redd, and Kenneth Ford in attendance.
 - a. Additional attendees included:
 - i. Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM), Director/Emergency Manager, Christina Cornwell
 - ii. Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM), Assistant Director, Lauren Thompson
 - iii. Laurel Police Department (LPD), Deputy Police Chief Mark Plazinski
 - iv. Department of Public Works (DPW), City Engineer, Arman Safakhah
 - v. Department of Fire Marshal and Permit Services, Director, Danny Selby
 - b. Not in attendance:
 - i. Commissioner Wayne Dzwonchyk
 - ii. Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad, Suppression Captain and Chaplain Rajah Rose
 - iii. Laurel Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Chief Brian Cox
2. Roll Call
 - a. Approval of the meeting minutes from November 22, 2024
 - i. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Roy Gilmore; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kenneth Ford.
 - ii. Roll call vote taken. The Chair and Commissioners all voted affirmatively. The motion carried; the meeting minutes were approved.
3. Staff Reports
 - a. Emergency Management: Director Cornwell provided the following departmental updates:
 - i. Financial disclosure statements are due on April 30, 2025. The forms were passed to the Chair and Commissioners for completion.
 - ii. The Laurel Multiservice Center is hosting a Volunteer Laurel event on April 30, 2025 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm in support of National Volunteer Month. The purpose of the event is to recruit volunteers to participate on boards and committees within the City of Laurel.
 - iii. A brief overview was provided of the impending dissolution of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management.

- iv. An updated was provided regarding the City of Laurel Master Plan. Economic and Community Development is conducting surveys in relation to the project. If the Emergency Services Commission Chair and Commissioners wanted to provide any input to the Master Plan, they were asked to provide feedback to Director Cornwell or Deputy Chief Plazinski.
 - b. Fire Marshal and Permit Services, Director Selby provided the following departmental updates:
 - i. The Patuxent Green Development Project has entered Phase 2, with 110 townhomes slated to be built; the Andersons Green Development Project is working to pull permits to build approximately 85 townhomes.
 - ii. The Department is working with the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department and Emerson to resolve some system issues at the Laurel Multiservice Center and Laurel High School.
 - c. Laurel Police Department, Deputy Chief Plazinski gave the following Department updates:
 - i. The legislative session for the Maryland Congress is currently happening. Chief Hamill has testified on several proposed bills on behalf of the City and local police jurisdictions.
 - ii. Approximately 30 police candidates sat for the police exam on Wednesday evening. LPD is offering the dispatcher exam next Wednesday. The Department is currently looking to hire 3 officers.
 - iii. Deputy Chief Plazinski addressed misinformation regarding ICE operations within the City limits. LPD is not conducting joint operations with ICE.
 - iv. One LPD officer is completing a prestigious law enforcement leadership program at the FBI National Academy. The program trains law enforcement officers seeking to become future deputy chiefs and police chiefs.
 - d. Department of Public Works, City Engineer, Arman Safakhah gave the following Department updates:
 - i. Roadway enhancements from Montgomery Street to Greenville Avenue are slated to begin in 2 months. The street will be resurfaced and restriped. Raised crosswalks and additional signage will be added. The concrete street ramps are being modified to ensure compliance with ADA standards. The enhancements seek to improve pedestrian safety and slow drivers down. Enhancements are also expected from Cypress Street to Saratoga Avenue.
 - ii. The Department has applied for a Federal safety grant, which would support the installation of traffic calming measures and increase community event safety. If awarded, the Department is looking to install removal bollards along Main Street.
 - iii. Several repairs on being completed to fix potholes and ponding issues.
- 4. General Public Hearing
 - a. Chairman Fred Carmen called the public hearing open at 7:42 pm.
 - b. Chairman Fred Carmen called the public hearing closed at 7:42 pm.
- 5. Schedule Next Meeting, Date, and Location
 - a. The next City of Laurel Emergency Services Commission meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm.
- 6. Adjournment
 - a. Chairman Fred Carmen announced he is resigning as the Chairman and Commissioner of the Emergency Services Commission effective at the conclusion of the meeting on February 26, 2025. The process to elect a new chair and appoint a new commissioner was reviewed.
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.