

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION MEETING NOTES  
THURSDAY, April 17, 2025, 7:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

Time: 7:00 PM – Adjourned: 8:37 PM

Previous Minutes Approved By: Ed Rowe and seconded by Clyde Williams

**Attendees:** Councilmember Jeffery Councilman Mills; Sergeant Henson, Laurel Police Department; Sergeant Miskovich, Laurel Police Department; Chief Dove Robison, Laurel Volunteer Fire Department; Captain Clyde Williams, Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad; Captain White, PG County Fire Department; Director Tim Miller, DPW; Ed Rowe; Don Gavelek; and Roy Smith.

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The meeting began with Councilman Mills opening the floor to community concerns. A key issue raised was the city's **budget not yet being approved**, which may be delaying progress on various initiatives and services.

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### **Traffic Unit Updates – Presented by Sergeant Henson**

Sergeant Henson shared updates from the **newly decentralized traffic enforcement unit**, which will focus on broader, high-impact projects across the city.

- **Hotspot Identified:** 500 Block of Main St has seen repeated complaints about drivers ignoring stop signs or failing to yield.
  - **Focus Areas:** Enforcement will prioritize DUIs, crosswalk violations, speeding, seatbelt use, the Move Over Law, illegal window tints, and child passenger safety.
  - **Upcoming Operation:** Target date is set for **May 5**, aimed at increasing awareness and improving safety.
  - **Community Resources:** The team is working to secure the **MDOT seatbelt simulator** for outreach events such as National Night Out.
  - **Pedestrian Safety:** A noticeable **increase in pedestrian-related accidents** is prompting new enforcement efforts, including ticketing and public education.
  - Sergeant Henson invited residents to contribute ideas to support traffic safety goals.
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### **DPW & Citizen Complaints**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) offered updates, and several residents voiced concerns about local infrastructure:

- **Ward 2 Issues:** Committee Member, Roy Smith, expressed frustration, stating that **Ward 2 feels overlooked** in terms of city services and improvements.

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- **Sidewalk Safety:** Requested collaboration with the state to install sidewalks along **Route 197 (between Route 198 and Cherry/Clubhouse Blvd)**.
  - **Crosswalk Improvements:** Advocated for **raised crosswalks** on Cypress near the DiPietro Center to protect pedestrians.
  - **Traffic Lane Confusion:** Smith highlighted an issue near the **hospital and nearby church**, where unclear signage is causing confusion in merge and turning lanes. While it's not a DPW matter, it requires labeling for clarity.
  - **West Side Premise Checks:** Confirmed that area is under active monitoring.
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**Scam Awareness – Presented by Sergeant Miskovich**

Sergeant Miskovich distributed **printed resources on common scams** affecting local residents, including phone, email, and door-to-door schemes.

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**Volunteer & Recruitment Challenges – Presented by Captain Williams**

Captain Williams reported a steep **decline in community volunteerism**, particularly among young people.

- **Proposed Incentives:** Suggested **career pathway programs** and **tax incentives** to attract new volunteers.
- **City & County Support:** Requested collaboration from local government to help **promote and recruit** for service roles.
- **Safety Impact:** Low volunteer numbers are contributing to **delayed emergency response times**, posing a serious safety concern.
- **Training Solutions:** Emphasized the need for **evening and weekend classes** to accommodate more applicants. The **pre-trip inspection** and **written test** are the most difficult barriers to passing.
- **Application Process:** One county recruiter is available to assist. The entire process is now **fully online and electronic**.