

**CITY OF LAUREL
MASTER PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES- JANUARY 29, 2025**

The meeting convened in the Council Chambers of the Laurel Municipal Center at 6:05 P.M., with The Honorable Chairman G. Rick Wilson presiding. Committee Members Present: The Honorable Frederick Smalls, The Honorable Stephen Slaughter, Ms. Ursula Gnan, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Calvin Burns, Maria Gonzales-Jackson and Mr. Mark Plazinski, Deputy Chief of Laurel Police. Staff support in attendance from the Department of Economic & Community Development were Mr. Monta Burrough, Director, Mr. Sam Braden IV, Deputy Director and Ms. Brooke Quillen, Community Development Coordinator, serving as Secretary to the Master Plan Review Committee. Also in attendance, Councilwoman Christine Johnson, Ms. Christina Cornwell, Director/Emergency Manager of Community Resources and Emergency Management. There was approximately two (2) members of the public in attendance.

Mr. Burrough introduced the Honorable Mayor Sydnor to the Committee, and Mayor Sydnor thanked the Committee for being involved in the Master Plan update that is essential for the City's future.

Chairman Wilson welcomed all of the Committee Members and spoke of how important the Master Plan document is to the city and to the community. Each Committee member introduced themselves and briefly spoke on their careers and backgrounds. Also included in these discussions were Mr. Edward Steere, President, Polestar Analysis, the city's Consultant for the Fiscal Impact Analysis and Planning Assistant.

Mr. Burrough shared a presentation with the Committee, which included a summary on the history of the city, goals and objectives, population trends and characteristics. Also included were several zoning maps of the city and processes of approval for applications within the Department of Economic & Community Development. Mr. Braden then presented a projected timeline with (4) four phases during the Master Plan update process. Staff provided the Committee with the current 2016 Master Plan copy and asked the Committee members to review closely as we move along the current schedule.

Chairman Wilson suggested the Committee keep the surrounding counties such as Howard, Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Prince George's County's current and upcoming development projects on radar that would essentially affect the city's volume of traffic. The Commission discussed the city's relationship with Fort Meade through Mayor Sydnor. There were also conversations on what a master plan is, which was explained by Chairman Wilson as a guidance for zoning and development.

Chairman Wilson noted there is currently not much land available in the city for new development therefore redevelopment on current properties should be a priority, moreover, some areas are not operating at full capacity. The Committee and staff discussed possible opportunities at various open parking lots that could be built up,



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
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however, that comes with challenges when mixing business and residential with noise and parking concerns.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Approved: Brooke Quillen

Date: 2/25/2025