

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

**SEVENTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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 6:00 pm with Council President James Kole presiding. Councilwoman Kyla Clark, Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills, Councilman Adrian G. Simmons, and Mayor Keith R. Sydnor were present. There was (1) member of the public in attendance.

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, Tim Miller, Director, Department of Public Works, S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services, Danny Selby, Director, Department of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services, Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management, Monta L. Burrough, Acting Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, Department of Public Works and Stephanie P. Anderson, City Solicitor.

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

- July 22, 2204 Special Work Session
- July 22, 2024 Regular Meeting
- July 29, 2024 Special Meeting
- September 4, 2024 Work Session
- September 9, 2024 Regular Meeting

The minutes were approved on motion by Councilman Mills, seconded by Councilman Simmons and carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present

The Mayor and City Councilmembers provided their reports regarding events and happenings since the last meeting and made announcements regarding upcoming meetings and events.

Councilwoman Clark made a statement regarding two instances where people had made comments that she was not "black enough" and implying that she should have voted a certain way based solely on race. Councilwoman Clark said that she was proud to be a black woman. She said that the first comment was made to her following the vote to fill the Council vacancy when Councilman Simmons was appointed, where persons admonished her for not voting for "a black woman" and instead voting for a white man. The second comment was made in a text that was inadvertently sent to her about her, regarding the appointment for Monta Burrough as Director for the Department of Economic Development where even though she voted in favor of Mr. Burrough's appointment she was admonished for taking the comments of a white constituent who expressed concern about Mr. Burrough's (a black man's) appointment into consideration. The person stated that she (Ms. Clark) was "not like us". Councilwoman Clark said that the person was right, she was "not like them" and that she made decisions based on people's qualifications and did take constituents' concerns into consideration and did not base votes on race.

Mayor Sydnor noted that he had issued the following proclamations:

- National Arts and Humanities Month
- Domestic Violence Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Walk Laurel Day

Mayor Sydnor made a statement that he was the person Councilwoman Clark was speaking of regarding the text that was inadvertently sent to her and that he was angry at the time he made those comments that he thought he was sending them to a friend and that he had attempted to apologize via phone, text and written letter to Councilwoman Clark and she had not accepted his apology. Mayor Sydnor apologized to anyone that his comments may have affected.

Agenda Item No. 6 was Mayoral Appointments of the following:

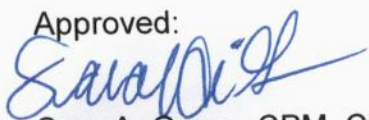
- Stanley Spalding Planning Commission 09/23/2024-09/23/2029

Councilwoman Clark made a motion to approve the appointment. Councilman Mills seconded the motion. The motion was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Next, President Kole opened the General Public Hearing at approximately 6:20 pm. There was no one signed up to speak. The General Public Hearing was closed at 6:20 pm.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:21 pm.

Approved:



Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

Date: *October 28, 2024*

Mayor and City Council Voting Record

September 23, 2024 6:00 pm

In-Person Meeting

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Meeting Ended: 6:21pm

Members of the Public: 1

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

- Councilwoman Clark absent Councilwoman Johnson Councilman Mills
- Councilman Simmons President Kole Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 4- Approval of Minutes

- July 22, 2024 Special Work Session
- July 22, 2024 Regular Meeting
- July 29, 2024 Special Meeting
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Yes Councilwoman Clark Absent Councilwoman Johnson 1st Councilman Mills

2nd Councilman Simmons Yes President Kole

Agenda Item No. 6- Mayoral Appointments/Reappointments

Appointment- Stanley Spalding Planning Commission 09/23/2024-09/23/2029

1st Councilwoman Clark Absent Councilwoman Johnson 2nd Councilman Mills

Yes Councilman Simmons Yes President Kole

Agenda Item No. 7- General Public Hearing

Open: 6:20 PM Closed: 10:20 PM

Speakers: P

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1. Call to Order - James Kole, President
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America- Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
3. Roll Call - Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, Clerk
4. Approval of Minutes
 - July 22, 2024 Special Work Session
 - July 22, 2024 Regular Meeting
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 - September 9, 2024 Regular Meeting
5. Report of the Mayor and City Council
6. Mayoral Appointments/Reappointments

Appointment

- Stanley Spalding Planning Commission 09/23/2024-09/23/2029

7. General Public Hearing

8. Adjournment



CITY OF LAUREL OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707
Phone: 301-725-5300 ext. 2125 • Fax: 301-725-6831

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

September 17, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: James Kole, Council President
Laurel City Councilmembers
FROM: Keith R. Sydnor, Mayor *KRS*
SUBJ: Mayoral Appointment

I plan to make the following reappointment and appointment at the September 23, 2024, Mayor and City Council meeting.

APPOINTMENT

Stanley Spalding

Planning Commission

09/23/24 – 09/23/29

I look forward to your confirmation of this reappointment and appointment.

ec: Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, City Clerk

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Appointment

- Stanley Spalding Planning Commission 09/23/2024-09/23/2029

7. General Public Hearing

8. Adjournment

City of Laurel



**PROCLAMATION
2024-41**

WHEREAS: October has been recognized as National Arts and Humanities Month by thousands of arts and cultural organizations, communities, and states across the country, as well as by the White House and Congress for over 30 years, and

WHEREAS: the City of Laurel recognizes that arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of all citizens, and

WHEREAS: the arts and humanities play a unique role in the lives of our families, our communities, and our country, and

WHEREAS: the City of Laurel encourages all residents to participate and invest in the visual arts, performing arts, and art education, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL do hereby proclaim October as

NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

In the City of Laurel and call upon our residents to celebrate, participate, and promote the arts and culture in our City.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith R. Sydnor".

**Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor**

City of Laurel



**PROCLAMATION
2024-42**

WHEREAS: In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed in the United States, and

WHEREAS: Domestic violence has no place in our society, and we have a moral obligation to help prevent it. A home should be a place of stability, comfort, and love. Domestic violence shatters this important foundation, and

WHEREAS: The crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity through the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic control and/or abuse, and

WHEREAS: The effects of domestic violence on children are devastating and can cause lifelong problems due to emotional and/or physical trauma, and

WHEREAS: Domestic Violence Awareness Month calls attention to the importance of working together to assure a life free from harm for all residents of the City of Laurel, and

WHEREAS: The purple ribbon has been recognized as commemorating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and

WHEREAS: To show the City of Laurel's support for spreading the word regarding domestic violence awareness, purple lights will shine in the lobby of the Laurel Municipal Center each evening during the month of October, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL do hereby proclaim October as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

In the City of Laurel and call upon our residents to work together to prevent domestic violence in our City.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith R. Sydnor".
**Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor**

City of Laurel



**PROCLAMATION
2023-43**

WHEREAS: During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we honor all those who lost their lives to breast cancer, and we recognize the courageous survivors who are still fighting it, and

WHEREAS: Hundreds of thousands of Americans will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and tens of thousands will lose their battle with this disease, and

WHEREAS: Although both women and men can have breast cancer, women are at higher risk. I encourage all women to find out if they are at increased risk and to learn more about recommended screenings by speaking with their health care providers, and

WHEREAS: In the City of Laurel, we stand in solidarity with breast cancer survivors and reaffirm our commitment to raising awareness of this disease and to advancing research efforts, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL do hereby proclaim October as

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

In the City of Laurel and encourage all of our citizens, to join in activities that will increase awareness of what we can do to prevent breast cancer.

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

**Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor**

City of Laurel



PROCLAMATION 2024-44

WHEREAS: The State of Maryland is encouraging Marylanders of all ages to take to the streets, trails and parks throughout the day on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, in honor of "Walk Maryland Day" to promote walking as a daily physical activity, and

WHEREAS: walking as a physical activity provides many health benefits including helping maintain a healthy weight, reducing risks for heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, and some cancers as well as improving quality of life, and

WHEREAS: the Mayor and City Council of Laurel continue to encourage walking throughout the City by requiring walking paths in all new developments, and by enhancing the existing walkways in the City, and

WHEREAS: children, parents and community leaders around Maryland are joining together to walk on this day to promote physical activity on a daily basis, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL do hereby proclaim October 2, 2024, as

WALK LAUREL DAY

and encourage all City residents to take a walk today and every day as the first step to increasing physical activity and improving their health and well-being.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith R. Sydnor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor