

CITY COUNCIL

BRENCIS D. SMITH
At-Large

JAMES KOLE
First Ward

ADRIAN G. SIMMONS
First Ward

KYLA M. 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

NEKESA MATLOCK
Deputy City Administrator

STEPHANIE P. ANDERSON
City Solicitor

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

(301) 725-5300

www.cityoflaurel.org

**EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026
6:00 PM
IN-PERSON MEETING
MINUTES**

The meeting convened in the Council Chamber of the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center at 6:00 pm with Council President Brencis D. Smith presiding. Councilman James Kole, Councilman Adrian G. Simmons and Mayor Keith R. Sydnor were present. Councilwoman Kyla M. Clark and Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills had excused absences. There were two (2) members of the public in attendance.

The following staff members were also present: Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator, Nekesa Matlock, Deputy City Administrator, Maria Morales, Administrative Assistant II, Office of the City Clerk, Bill Bailey, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Emergency Management, Chief Russell E. Hamill, III, LPD, Crystal Hypolite, Chief of Staff to the Mayor, Jay Meashey, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, Tim Miller, Director, Department of Public Works, S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services, James Cornwell-Shiel, Director, Department of Information Technology, Tommy Helms, Assistant Director, Department of Public Works, Mark Plazinski, Deputy Chief of Police, T'Amani Hamlett, Chief Building Official, Department of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services, Joyce Jackson, Assistant Director, Department of Communications and Stephanie P. Anderson, City Solicitor.

Mayor Sydnor led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Agenda Item No. 4 was Approval of the following Minutes:

- December 15, 2025- Closed Session
- January 26, 2026- Regular Meeting
- February 4, 2026- Work Session
- February 9, 2026- Regular Meeting

Councilman Kole made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Simmons seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 5 was Report of the Mayor and City Council. 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 noted that his office had issued the following proclamation:

- School Breakfast Week- March 2-6

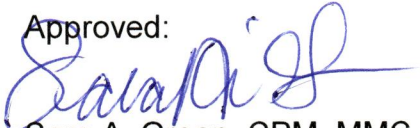
Agenda Item No. 6 was the General Public Hearing. President Smith opened the public hearing at 6:11 pm. There was no one signed up to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing at 6:11 pm.

Agenda Item No. 7 was the Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2053- 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, 2025 through June 30, 2026 and to Provide an Effective Date. S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services presented the ordinance. President Smith opened the Public Hearing on the item at 6:14 pm. There was no one who signed up to speak. President Smith closed the Public Hearing at 6:14 pm. Councilman Simmons made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2053 as presented. Councilman Kole seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present. Mayor Sydnor concurred with the vote.

President Smith noted that the next meeting of the Mayor and City Council would a virtual Work Session on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:14 pm.

Approved:



Sara A. Green, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

Date: *march 23, 2026*

Mayor and City Council Voting Record

February 23, 2026 6:00 pm

In-Person Meeting

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Meeting Ended: 6:14pm

Members of the Public: 2

Staff Attendance:

Christian L Pulley Nekesa Matlock Bill Bailey Chrissy Cornwell James Cornwell-Shiel
 Chief Russell Hamill Crystal Hypolite absent Marchelle LeBlanc Jay Meashey Tim Miller
 S. Michele Saylor absent Danny Selby absent Natalie Williams Stephanie Anderson Mark Plazinski

ADD: Joyce Jackson, ASST. Director, Dept of Communications
T'Amani Hamlett, Chief Building Official, Dept of
fm/s

Roll Call

absent Councilwoman Clark Councilman Kole absent Councilman Mills
 Councilman Simmons President Smith Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 4- Approval of Minutes:

- December 15, 2025- Closed Session
- January 26, 2026- Regular Meeting
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- February 9, 2026- Regular Meeting

absent Councilwoman Clark 1st Councilman Kole absent Councilman Mills

2nd Councilman Simmons yes President Smith

Agenda Item No. 5- Report of the Mayor and City Council

Agenda Item No. 6- General Public Hearing

Public Hearing Open: 6:11pm Closed: 6:11pm

Speakers: None.

Agenda Item No. 7- Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2053- 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, 2025 through June 30, 2026 and to Provide an Effective Date

Public Hearing Open: 6:14pm Closed: 6:14pm

Speakers:

absent Councilwoman Clark 2nd Councilman Kole absent Councilman Mills

1st Councilman Simmons yes President Smith Concur Mayor Sydnor

*****PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY*****

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

Eighth Meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026

	Name	Address	Agenda Item
1.			
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*****PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY*****

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707

Eighth Meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026

	Name	Address	Agenda Item
13.			
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23.			
24.			

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MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

(301) 725-5300

www.cityoflaurel.org

Eighth Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2026

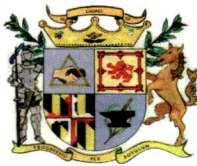
6:00 PM

Agenda (Revised 02/20/2026)

In-Person Meeting

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 – Brencis D. Smith, Council President
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America Led by Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
3. Roll Call- Maria Morales, Administrative Assistant II
4. Approval of Minutes
 - **December 15, 2025- Closed Session Minutes**
 - January 26, 2026- Regular Meeting
 - February 4, 2026- Work Session
 - February 9, 2026- Regular Meeting
5. Report of the Mayor and City Council
6. General Public Hearing
7. Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2053- 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, 2025 through June 30, 2026 and to Provide an Effective Date
8. Adjournment



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2053

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, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

WHEREAS, the FY2026 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was adopted on May 28, 2025 through Ordinance No. 2041 and subsequently amended through Ordinance No. 2049 and Ordinance No. 2051, and

WHEREAS, the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center Program has received grant funding from the State of Maryland to assist backstretch workers of the Laurel Racecourse, and

WHEREAS, additional administrative assistance is required at the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Communications is requesting additional funding for auxiliary staff to sustain required operations and support the department's increased workload both in volume and complexity, and

WHEREAS, additional funding is needed in the training budget of the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide additional training opportunities in advancement of the department's goals, and

WHEREAS, the savings from street projects are to be reallocated to another street project that requires more funding, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland are required to amend the FY2026 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, 2025 through June 30, 2026 is hereby amended.

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

<u>GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD2051</u>	<u>CHANGES</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD2053</u>
<u>REVENUE SUBCATEGORY DESCRIPTION</u>			
4010 - R/E TAX REVENUE	30,001,060		30,001,060
4030 - PERSONAL PROP TAX	1,345,000		1,345,000
4040 - PERSONAL PROP-INT/PENTALTY	40,000		40,000
4050 - LOCAL TAXES	4,850,000		4,850,000
4060 - OTHER LOCAL TAXES	1,979,771		1,979,771
4110 - LICENSES	756,350		756,350
4130 - PERMITS	334,975		334,975
4210 - FEDERAL GRANTS	23,000		23,000
4230 - STATE GRANTS	797,992	26,786	824,778
4250 - COUNTY GRANTS	448,362		448,362
4310 - GENERAL GOV'T SERVICE CH	150,797		150,797
4340 - SANITATION SERVICE CHGS	176,000		176,000
4350 - SERVICE CHARGE-HEALTH	10,000		10,000
4370 - FACILITY RENTALS	163,890		163,890
4411 - SWIMMING POOL FEES	135,010		135,010
4413 - RECREATION PROGRAM FEES	83,500		83,500
4415 - P&R ACTIVITY FEES	89,500		89,500
4417 - P&R CONCESSION FEES	25,000		25,000
4430 - SENIOR PROGRAM FEES	16,500		16,500
4620 - POLICE FINES	2,780,600		2,780,600
4630 - CODE ENFORCEMENT FINES	12,250		12,250
4710 - INVESTMENT INTEREST	199,500		199,500
4720 - RENTAL INCOME	18,963		18,963
4730 - CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS	600		600
4740 - SALE OF PROPERTY	14,500		14,500
4750 - MISC REFUNDS AND REBATES	86,780		86,780
4761 - POLICE ACCT RECEIPTS	195,130		195,130
4790 - OTHER MISC REVENUES	487,474		487,474
4840 - FUND TRANSFER	6,956,784		6,956,784
	\$52,179,288	\$26,786	\$52,206,074

<u>DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURE SUMMARY</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD2051</u>	<u>CHANGES</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD2053</u>
201 - CITY COUNCIL	115,109		115,109
205 - CLERK TO THE COUNCIL	232,642		232,642
210 - MAYOR	666,392	(8,559)	657,833
215 - CITY ADMINISTRATOR	638,427		638,427
220 - ELECTIONS	88,090		88,090
225 - BUDGET & PERSONNEL SVCS	1,313,593		1,313,593
235 - COMMUNICATIONS	769,918	13,942	783,860
240 - ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEV	935,642	(5,000)	930,642
244 - SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS	96,727		96,727
250 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	2,967,093		2,967,093
270 - COMMUNITY PROMOTION	157,299	(5,383)	151,916
280 - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	951,880		951,880

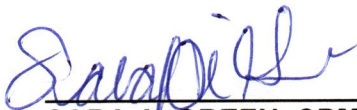
281 - JOSEPH R. ROBISON - LAUREL MUNICIPAL CENTER	195,918		195,918
284 - PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY	151,927		151,927
285 - ROBERT J. DIPIETRO COMMUNITY CENTER	199,513		199,513
286 - ARMORY COMMUNITY CENTER	124,252		124,252
287 - LAUREL MUSEUM	19,045		19,045
288 - GUDE LAKEHOUSE	37,850		37,850
289 - MAIN ST. POOL MAINTENANC	91,320		91,320
290 - LPD FACILITY	332,598		332,598
291 - GREENVIEW DR REC COMPLEX	53,355		53,355
292 - P&R MAINTENANCE FACILITY	52,020		52,020
293 - GUDE HOUSE	83,991		83,991
294 - CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULITSERVICE CENTER-MAINTENANCE	301,298		301,298
301 - POLICE	14,327,069		14,327,069
320 - FIRE MARSHAL & PERMIT SV	903,149		903,149
325 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	711,345		711,345
326 - HUMAN SERVICES-CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULTISERVICE CENTER-PRGMS	521,550	39,704	561,254
401 - PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN	724,913		724,913
410 - AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE	1,214,348		1,214,348
415 - WASTE COLLECTION	1,358,292		1,358,292
420 - RECYCLING	587,391		587,391
425 - HIGHWAYS & STREETS MAINT	1,144,792		1,144,792
430 - SNOW REMOVAL	186,155		186,155
435 - STREET LIGHTING	278,970		278,970
440 - ENGINEERING&TECH SERVICES	263,873		263,873
445 - TRAFFIC ENGINEERING	194,804		194,804
450 - TREE MANAGEMENT	98,992		98,992
501 - PARKS & RECREATION ADMIN	920,642		920,642
505 - RECREATION	542,926		542,926
510 - MAIN ST POOL PROGRAMS	330,813		330,813
515 - ROBERT J. DIPIETRO COMMUNITY CENTER	341,459		341,459
520 - GREENVIEW DR PROGRAMS	109,878		109,878
525 - ARMORY COMMUNITY CTR PROG	219,522		219,522
530 - HUMAN SERVICES-LAUREL HELPING HANDS	252,689	(12,918)	239,771
535 - GUDE LAKEHOUSE PROGRAMS	32,827		32,827
550 - SENIOR SERVICES	282,535		282,535
650 - PRINCIPAL	1,226,027		1,226,027
651 - INTEREST	435,347		435,347
652 - RETIREMENT	2,548,030		2,548,030
654 - PROPERTY INSURANCE	625,764		625,764
655 - BONDING INSURANCE	29,600		29,600
656 - EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	4,569,615		4,569,615
657 - MISC FINANCIAL USES	6,103,582		6,103,582
658 - SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT	350,000		350,000
659 - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROG	0		0
810 - EMPLOYEE TRAINING	149,535	5,000	154,535
820 - EMPLOYEE TUITION	16,955		16,955
	\$52,179,288	\$26,786	\$52,206,074

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

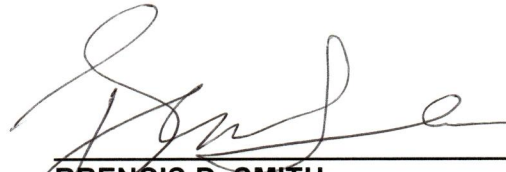
PROJECT	AMENDED ORD2051	CHANGES	AMENDED ORD2053
ALL OTHER PROJECTS	\$35,235,427		\$35,235,427
STAGGERS ROAD	\$128,000	151,634	\$279,634
STANLEY PLACE	\$148,305	(45,508)	\$102,797
WARD STREET	\$196,000	(104,931)	\$91,069
SNOWDEN PLACE	\$134,000	(1,195)	\$132,805
TOTAL CIP	\$35,841,732	\$0	\$35,841,732

PASSED this 23rd day of February, 2026.

ATTEST:

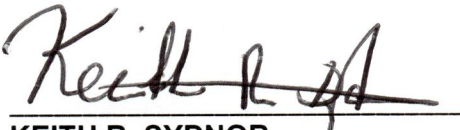


SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC
City Clerk



BRENCIS D. SMITH
President of the City Council

APPROVED this 23rd day of February, 2026.



KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

City of Laurel



PROCLAMATION 2026-11

WHEREAS, the School Breakfast Program (SBP), permanently established in 1975, provides nutritionally balanced breakfasts to more than 15 million children across 91,000 schools and institutions in the United States each day; and

WHEREAS, the School Breakfast Program meets the nutritional needs of children, improves food security, and promotes health, learning, and development by providing nutritionally balanced breakfasts to school children each day; and to

WHEREAS, 16%- of children in Maryland are food insecure and face hunger; and

WHEREAS, school-aged children who experience hunger are more likely to be absent from school, visit the school nurse, and experience more challenges than children with a nutritious diet, and skipping breakfast has consistently been linked with worse academic and health outcomes for children; and

WHEREAS, eating breakfast improves children's overall diets, builds healthy, lifelong eating habits and enhances their ability to learn and perform academically; and

WHEREAS, making breakfast a part of the school day, commonly known as Breakfast After the Bell, and offering breakfast at no cost are effective ways to ensure more students realize the benefits of breakfast; and the Bell, and offering breakfast at no cost are effective ways to ensure more students realize the benefits of breakfast; and

WHEREAS, the federal Community Eligibility Provision offers eligible schools the ability to serve breakfast to all students at no cost, increasing food security and academic outcomes, while also allowing schools to eliminate the collection of paper applications, reduce administrative costs, streamline meal service operations and increase the reimbursements schools receive from federal child nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS, 40, 893, 778 breakfast meals were served in Maryland in 2025, reaching 249,960 students; and

WHEREAS, parents, caregivers, teachers, and school food personnel all play an essential role to ensure the children of City of Laurel have the basic resources needed to grow, learn, discover their own potential, and live happy fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, No Kid Hungry offers information, tools, resources and grants to support schools in implementing and expanding school breakfast programs and the School Nutrition Association offers free materials to help schools commemorate "National School Breakfast Week" including artwork to decorate their meal serving areas, toolkits and handouts, sample menu items, marketing materials, and suggested promotional activities, including games, activities and contests; and

WHEREAS, my administration is committed to helping expand access to and enhance current school breakfast programs to ensure that our children have the means to succeed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Keith R. Sydnor, Mayor of City of Laurel, MD, do hereby proclaim March 2-6, 2026, as SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK. I encourage all residents of Laurel to recognize and commemorate school administrators, school nutrition directors, and cafeteria staff who operate school breakfast programs that ensure the health, safety, and success of our children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith R. Sydnor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith R. Sydnor

Mayor