

CITY COUNCIL

CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON
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.



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

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

**TWENTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025
6:00 PM
VIRTUAL 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 Kyla M. Clark presiding. Councilwoman Christine M. Johnson, Councilman James Kole, Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills, Councilman Adrian G. Simmons, and Keith R. Sydnor, Mayor were present. Xerxes led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. There were approximately fourteen (14) members of the public in attendance.

The following staff members were also present: Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator, Joanne Hall Barr, Deputy City Administrator, Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, City Clerk, Bill Bailey, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, Monta Burrough, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management, Chief Russell E. Hamill, III, 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 Permits Services, James Cornwell-Shiel, Director, Department of Information Technology, Natalie Williams, Director, Department of Communications, Deputy Chief Mark Plazinski, Marchelle LeBlanc, and Stephanie P. Anderson, City Solicitor.

Agenda Item No. 4 was approval of minutes from the February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Kole seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Next, 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 presented a Mayoral Citation and the Key to the City to Mr. Kevin Hymel who had researched, written about, and worked with Tyler Perry on a movie called, "The Six Triple Eight", an all African American, all female unit that served overseas during World War II and had worked to get the Army unit's postal mail system up and running in just 90 days. The group of brave women were able to

get the program up and running, ensuring that seventeen million pieces of mail were properly delivered to and from soldiers and their loved ones.

Next, Mayor Sydnor and the Laurel City Council presented Mr. Mike Mondy with Proclamation No. 2024-60 recognizing Mr. Mondy's and the Moving In Maryland group of Keller Williams Realty Center for their work in preparing Blessing Baskets during the 2024 holiday season.

Agenda Item No. 6 was Mayoral Appointments:

- Tanéa BrownCAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities 02/24/25-02/24/27
- Yolanda Pearson Juneteenth Committee

Councilman Kole made a motion to approve the appointments. Councilman Mills seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote by all members present.

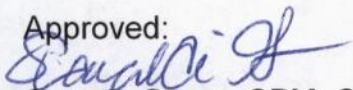
Agenda Item No. 7 was the General Public Hearing. President Clark opened the General Public Hearing at 6:27 pm. Amy Dunham, Montgomery Street Laurel, Maryland 20707 spoke about concerns that she had regarding a social media post in which a Councilmember stated that they felt that they were being bullied by the LGBTQ+ community, insinuating that another Councilmember who was a member of the LGBTQ+ community was trying change election laws and targeting the Councilmember. Ms. Dunham expressed that she was disappointed that regardless of what was going on between Councilmembers, that the Councilmember would falsely accuse an entire community, a group who had historically been bullied themselves, as bullying anyone was deeply concerning to the community.

Next, Brian Cox, Chief, Laurel Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) Station 10, 7411 Cherry Lane Laurel, Maryland 20707 provided information on the number of calls that LVFD had completed just in 2025 so far, noting that they were always running calls and serving the community. Chief Cox also noted that LVFD did a lot of community events in Laurel. Chief Cox thanked the Mayor and City Council for their great working relationship with the City over the years and that LVFD hoped to continue that relationship and support into the future. There was no one else who signed up to speak. President Clark closed the General Public Hearing at 6:33 pm.

Next, Agenda Item No. 8 was the Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 3-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Declaring Support for the Preservation of the Federal Tax Exemption of Municipal Bonds. President Clark read the title of the Resolution into the record for the second reading. Councilman Kole presented the proposed resolution and noted that after a discussion with Councilman Simmons who was concerned with the dollar figure that was noted in the fourth "WHEREAS" of the resolution, it had been amended to remove the dollar figure completely from the paragraph and that Councilman Simmons was in favor of the edit. President Clark opened the Public Hearing at 6:36 pm. There was no one that was signed up to speak. President Clark closed the Public Hearing at 6:36 pm. Councilman Simmons made a motion to approve Resolution No. 3-2025 as amended. Councilwoman Johnson seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present. Mayor Sydnor concurred with the vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:37 pm.

Approved:



Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

Date: *March 10, 2025*

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**TWENTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025
6:00 PM**

AGENDA

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 – Kyla M. Clark, 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, City Clerk
4. Approval of Minutes
 - February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting
5. Report of the Mayor and City Council
6. Mayoral Appointments

Appointments

- Tanéa Brown CAC for Senior Residents & Persons w/Disabilities 02/24/25-02/24/27
 - Yolanda Pearson Juneteenth Committee
7. General Public Hearing
 8. Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 3-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Declaring Support for the Preservation of the Federal Tax Exemption of Municipal Bonds.
 9. Adjournment

Mayor and City Council Voting Record

February 24, 2025 6:00 pm

Regular Meeting

In-Person

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Meeting Ended: 6:37pm

Members of the Public: 14

Staff Attendance:

Christian L Pulley Joanne Barr Bill Bailey Chrissy Cornwell

James Cornwell-Shiel Tim Miller Monta Burrough Chief Russell Hamill

S. Michele Saylor Danny Selby Natalie Williams Stephanie Anderson Mark Plazinski

*Marchelle
LeBane*

Roll Call

Councilman Mills Councilman Kole Councilwoman Johnson

Councilman Simmons President Clark Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 4- Approval of Minutes

- February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

2nd Councilman Kole yes Councilwoman Johnson 1st Councilman Mills

yes Councilman Simmons yes President Clark

Agenda Item No. 6- Mayoral Appointments

Appointments

Tanea Brown CAC for Senior Residents and Persons w/Disabilities 02/24/2025-02/24/2027
Yolanda Pearson Juneteenth Committee

1st Councilman Kole yes Councilwoman Johnson 2nd Councilman Mills
yes Councilman Simmons yes President Clark

Agenda Item No. 7- General Public Hearing

Open: 6:27pm Closed: 6:38pm

**Agenda Item No. 8- Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 3-2025- A
Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Declaring Support for the
Preservation of the Federal Tax Exemption of Municipal Bonds**

Open Public Hearing 6: 34pm Close Public Hearing 6: 36pm

yes Councilman Kole 2nd Councilwoman Johnson yes Councilman Mills

1st Councilman Simmons yes President Clark Conor Mayor Sydnor



CITY OF LAUREL OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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

Item 6.

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

February 10, 2025

MEMORANDUM

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

I plan to make the following appointments at the February 24, 2025, Mayor and City Council meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Tanéa Brown	CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities 02/24/25 – 02/24/27
Yolanda Pearson	Juneteenth Executive Committee

I look forward to your confirmation of these appointments.

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



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE FEDERAL TAX EXEMPTION OF MUNICIPAL BONDS.

Sponsored by Councilman James Kole

WHEREAS, the tax-exempt municipal bond market is a widely used source of capital for states, local governments, tribes, territories, and non-profit borrowers that finances a tremendous share of the nation's public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments finance about three-quarters of the public infrastructure in the United States and use tax-exempt bonds to do so, with the federal government providing only about one-quarter of the investment; and

WHEREAS, federal tax exemption for municipal bonds, dating back to the 1800s and incorporated into the modern tax code in 1913, has been crucial for state and local governments to affordably finance critical infrastructure projects; and

~~WHEREAS, tax-exempt bonds offer borrowers to achieve a multiplier effect of 2.11, meaning that for every dollar, borrowers achieve \$2.11 in borrowing cost savings thereby demonstrating the efficiency and effectiveness of this exemption in facilitating infrastructure~~ **tax-exempt bonds offer borrowers significant cost savings on their borrowing expenses, thereby demonstrating the efficiency and effectiveness of this exemption in facilitating infrastructure investment; and**

WHEREAS, tax-exempt bonds provide for essential infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, utilities, broadband, water and sewer systems, and hospitals, which are vital to the health and well-being of our community such that without such bonds, the cost of borrowing would be more expensive thereby causing an increase in taxes and fees that would place an undue burden on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland finds and determines that tax-exempt municipal bonds provide an opportunity for economic development along its path, better facilitate the movement of agriculture products, equipment, and other goods, and increase safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the Mayor and City Council hereby encourages the Maryland Congressional Delegation to assist the City of Laurel, Maryland by preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds by supporting and ensuring the protection of the federal tax exemption of municipal bonds.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption and that copies of this Resolution shall be furnished to all members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

KYLA M. CLARK
President of the City Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE FEDERAL TAX EXEMPTION OF MUNICIPAL BONDS.

Sponsored by Councilman James Kole

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WHEREAS, state and local governments finance about three-quarters of the public infrastructure in the United States and use tax-exempt bonds to do so, with the federal government providing only about one-quarter of the investment; and

WHEREAS, federal tax exemption for municipal bonds, dating back to the 1800s and incorporated into the modern tax code in 1913, has been crucial for state and local governments to affordably finance critical infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt bonds offer borrowers to achieve a multiplier effect of 2.11, meaning that for every dollar, borrowers achieve \$2.11 in borrowing cost savings thereby demonstrating the efficiency and effectiveness of this exemption in facilitating infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt bonds provide for essential infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, utilities, broadband, water and sewer systems, and hospitals, which are vital to the health and well-being of our community such that without such bonds, the cost of borrowing would be more expensive thereby causing an increase in taxes and fees that would place an undue burden on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland finds and determines that tax-exempt municipal bonds provide an opportunity for economic development along its path, better facilitate the movement of agriculture products, equipment, and other goods, and increase safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the Mayor and City Council hereby encourages the Maryland Congressional Delegation to assist the City of Laurel, Maryland by preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds by supporting and ensuring the protection of the federal tax exemption of municipal bonds.

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ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

KYLA M. CLARK
President of the City Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

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

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

Twenty-Seventh Meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
✓ Amy Dunham	322 Montgomery Street	General Public Hearing
✓ Nicole Morely	15404 Alen St	"

- Distinct
speak

Mayoral Citation



Presented to

Kevin Hymel

*In recognition of your outstanding contribution to preserving and honoring the history of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-African American, all-female unit to serve overseas during World War II. Your dedication to researching and writing about the courageous women of the Women Army Corps brought long-overdue recognition to their invaluable service and inspired Tyler Perry's creation of the Netflix film *The Six Triple Eight*.*

Your work ensured that the incredible story of these brave women who, in just 90 days, processed over 17 million pieces of mail, lifting the spirits of countless troops was shared with the world. Without your efforts, their legacy may have remained hidden far longer.

On behalf of the City of Laurel, I extend our deepest gratitude and commend you for your commitment to preserving this vital part of American history. Your storytelling has not only educated but also inspired future generations to recognize the often-overlooked heroes who have shaped our nation.

Congratulations!

February 24, 2025

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

City of Laurel



PROCLAMATION 2024 – 60

WHEREAS, Mike Mondy and the Moving in Maryland group of Keller Williams Realty Center have demonstrated exceptional community leadership through the creation of the Laurel Blessing Baskets initiative since 2023; and

WHEREAS, this initiative embodies the spirit of Thanksgiving by providing essential holiday meal supplies and household necessities to families in the Greater Laurel area; and

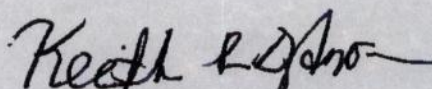
WHEREAS, each Blessing Basket thoughtfully includes a complete Thanksgiving meal kit comprising a gift card for a turkey, traditional side dishes, cooking supplies, and additional household essentials; and

WHEREAS, this program not only provides material support but also strengthens our community bonds and promotes the values of giving and gratitude; and

WHEREAS, the initiative creates opportunities for other community members to participate in meaningful acts of service by contributing to these Blessing Baskets;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City of Laurel hereby recognizes and commends Mike Mondy and the Moving in Maryland group for their outstanding service to our community through the Laurel Blessing Baskets initiative.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that we thank all citizens for supporting this worthy cause and contributing to making each holiday a time of joy and abundance for all Greater Laurel families.


**Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor**