Public Safety & Transportation Minutes

THURSDAY, October 15, 2026, 7:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

Attendees: Councilmember Jeffrey Mills; Councilwoman Kyla Clark; Seargent Henson, Laurel Police Department; Roy Smith, Stephen Slaughter; Vicki Rambow; Melvin Linsley and Don Gavelek.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by Mr. Gavelek and seconded by Mrs. Rambow. The minutes were approved.

Juvenile Curfews

Councilman Mills reported that the City Council had paused the summer juvenile curfew while developing a more effective approach. Members raised concerns about the severity of the proposed penalties, particularly a potential $10,000 fine for parents, and agreed to consider alternative disciplinary measures.

Mr. Smith noted the shortage of sustained recreational programs and opportunities for juveniles, explaining that short-term programs and occasional pop-up events were not sustainable long-term solutions. He recommended involving the youth in future discussions to better understand their needs and perspectives.

Mr. Lindsley stated that parents should be accountable for their children's actions. Sgt. Henson agreed and recommended parental development courses similar to those offered by Prince George's County. Mr. Smith proposed a tiered disciplinary system based on offense severity that would include parental participation.

Councilman Mills proposed expanding youth employment opportunities as another strategy for reducing juvenile-related crime.

Ms. Clark explained that the curfew legislation was drafted in 2025 at the mayor's urging, when neighboring jurisdictions faced similar juvenile-related concerns. She recommended partnering with the Department of Parks and Recreation to create diversion programs in which juveniles could contribute to community improvement and reinvestment projects. She also cautioned that substantial fines could disproportionately burden low-income families.

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Ms. Clark also discussed developing fall and winter programs to broaden youth engagement and outreach.

Sgt. Henson concluded by recommending employment-readiness courses to help juveniles develop job-search skills.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gavelek and seconded by Mr. Smith.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.