

CITY COUNCIL

CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON
At-Large

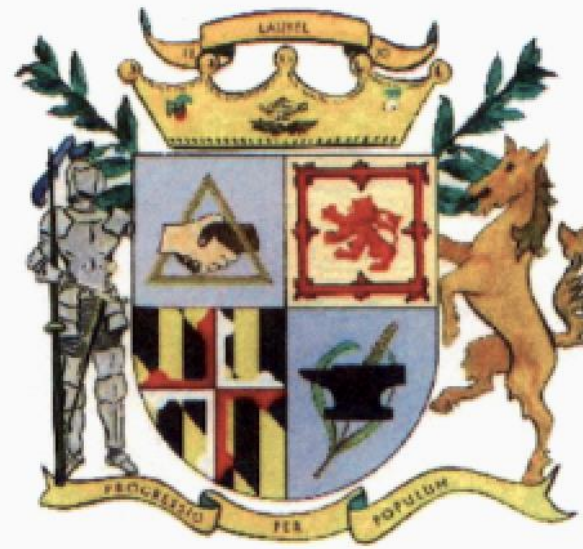
ADRIAN G. SIMMONS
First Ward

JAMES KOLE
First Ward

KYLA CLARK
Second Ward

JEFFREY W. MILLS
Second Ward

Council meets second and fourth
Mondays of each month.



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-SECOND MEETING MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 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, Councilwoman Christine M. Johnson, Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills, Councilman Adrian G. Simmons and Mayor Keith R. Sydnor were present. There were approximately thirty (30) 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, Ana R. Navarro, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Bill Bailey, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, 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, and Stephanie P. Anderson, City Solicitor.

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

Next, the Mayor and City Council recognized the following residents who graduated from Laurel University:

- Kenneth Anthony Alston
- Arie Baker-Fox
- Howard "Rick" Barnett
- Kristia Barnett
- Calvin Burns
- Dr. Joelle Davis Carter
- Kyani Dawkins
- Tia Evans
- Ed Ford

- Michelle Garcia
- Ursula Gnan
- Jacqueline R. Jones
- Rosette Ladson-Edmonds
- Boris Lang
- Connie Lucas
- Rodney Pressley
- Adeniyi Salako
- Roy M. Smith, II
- Mila Wilson

Each graduate was recognized with a plaque for their achievement. The graduates then honored Carreen Koubek for all of her hard work and organization in putting together their class and keeping them on track with a check for the Fourth of July Committee and flowers.

The next agenda item was Approval of Minutes for the following:

- November 4, 2024 Regular Meeting
- November 13, 2024 Special Meeting
- November 13, 2024 Closed Session

Councilwoman Clark made a motion to approve the three sets of minutes as written. Councilman Mills seconded the motion. Councilwoman Johnson voted “Yes” on the minutes for November 4, 2024 and “Abstain” on the minutes for November 13, 2024 Special Meeting and Closed Session as she was not present for those meetings. Roll call continued with Councilman Simmons and President Kole voting “Yes”.

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

Mayor Sydnor presented the proclamation for Small Business Saturday attached hereto.

Agenda Item No. 7 was Mayoral Appointments. Mayor Sydnor asked for the Council’s confirmation of the following appointments:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Tiara Matthews | Education Advisory Committee | 11/25/2024-11/25/2026 |
| • Rubama Patwary | Arts Council | 11/25/2024-11/25/2026 |
| • Roy Smith, II | Planning Commission | 11/25/2024-11/25/2029 |

Councilman Simmons made a motion to approve the appointments as requested. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Next, Chief Russell E. Hamill, III spoke and asked the public to please not drink and drive this holiday season. To ensure everyone’s safety, he said the Laurel Police Department would be ramping up enforcement efforts for impaired drivers. He also asked people to pay attention to their surroundings especially when they were out during the holidays. Additionally, Chief Hamill spoke about recent vehicle break-ins and thefts and asked people to remember to lock their vehicles and not to leave valuable items in in their vehicles and in open view. Chief Hamill also asked that the public report any suspicious activity as soon as they see it and not to wait until after something happens.

Next, President Kole opened the General Public Hearing at approximately 6:45 pm. There was no one signed up to speak. The General Public Hearing was closed at 6:45 pm.

Agenda Item No. 9 was the Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 4-2024-A Resolution of the Laurel City Council to Approve the Rewrite of the Council Standing Rules. President Kole read the title of the Resolution into the record for the second reading and then presented the proposed resolution and provided a summary of the proposed rules. Stephanie P. Anderson, Esquire, City Solicitor addressed the Council and noted that she had reviewed the draft resolution and rules and found them to be both legally sufficient and in line with good governance. President Kole opened the public hearing on the item at 6:49 pm. There was no one signed up to speak. The public hearing was closed at 6:49 pm. Councilman Simmons made a motion to approve Resolution No. 4-2024 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present. Mayor Sydnor concurred with the vote.

Agenda Item No.10 was Possible Adjournment to Closed Session Under the Open Meetings Act Provisions Section 3-305 (b) (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto in order to protect the Mayor and City Council's bargaining power and Section 3-305 (b) (7) to consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the potential purchase of real property. Councilwoman Clark made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session. Councilwoman Johnson seconded the motion that carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present. President Kole read the required statement into the record (Attached hereto as "Attachment A"): "The following statement is made regarding the adjournment of the Mayor and City Council to Closed Session on this date:

The Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland will adjourn to Closed Session during the November 25, 2024 regular meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm. The statutory authority to close the session is contained within the Open Meetings Act General Provisions Section 3-305 (b) (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purposed and matters directly related thereto in order to protect the Mayor and City Council's bargaining power and Section 3-305 (b) (7) to consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the potential purchase of real property. The Mayor and City Council adjourned to Closed Session at approximately 6:51 pm in the Council Chamber Conference Room of the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center located at 8103 Sandy Spring Road Laurel, Maryland 20707."

The following people attended the Closed Session:

- Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
- President James Kole
- Councilwoman Kyla Clark
- Councilwoman Christine Johnson
- Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills
- Councilman Adrian G. Simmons
- Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator
- Joanne Hall Barr, Deputy City Administrator
- Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, City Clerk
- William Bailey, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
- S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services
- Ana R. Navarro, MMC, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

- Stephanie P. Anderson, City Solicitor

The topic discussed was the potential purchase of property for public use. The Council was of the consensus that the Administration would move forward with investigating the possible appraised value of the property and next steps for possible purchase. There was no action taken during the Closed Session. The Closed Session adjourned at approximately 7:09 pm.

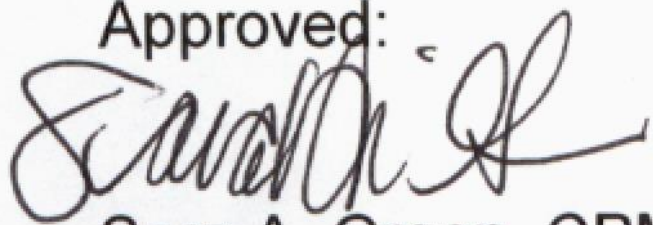
President Kole called the regular meeting back to order at approximately 7:10 pm.

The next agenda item was the Election of the Council President. President Kole turned the gavel over to Ms. Green. Ms. Green opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Councilman Mills made a motion to elect Councilwoman Kyla Clark as President. Councilman Simmons seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote by all Councilmembers present. Ms. Green turned the gavel over to President Clark.

President Clark selected Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills to serve as President Pro Tempore. Councilman Mills accepted.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.

Approved:



Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

Date:

December 9, 2024

City of Laurel



PROCLAMATION 2024 – 58

Whereas, the City of Laurel celebrates our local small businesses and the contributions they make to our local economy and community; and

Whereas, according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are 34.7 million small businesses in the United States, small businesses represent 99.7% of firms with paid employees, small businesses are responsible for 61.1% of net new jobs created since 1995, and small businesses employ 45.9% of the employees in the private sector in the United States; and

Whereas, 68 cents of every dollar spent at a small business in the U.S. stays in the local community and every dollar spent at small businesses creates an additional 48 cents in local business activity as a result of employees and local businesses purchasing local goods and services; and

Whereas, 59% of U.S. consumers aware of Small Business Saturday shopped or ate at a small, independently owned retailer or restaurant on Small Business Saturday 2023; and

Whereas, the City of Laurel supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy, and preserve our communities; and

Whereas, advocacy groups as well as public and private organizations across the country have endorsed the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL DO HEREBY PROCLAIM, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024, as

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

in the City of Laurel and urge the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to support small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday – celebrating its 15th year in 2024 – and Shop Small throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith R. Sydnor". The signature is stylized with a large "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

**Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor**

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

**TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024**

6:00 PM

AGENDA *(Revised as of 11/19/2024)*

****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 - 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, City Clerk
4. Laurel University Graduation Ceremony
5. Approval of Minutes

- November 4, 2024 Regular Meeting
- November 13, 2024 Special Meeting
- November 13, 2024 Closed Session

6. Report of the Mayor and City Council

7. Mayoral Appointments

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Tiara Matthews | Education Advisory Committee | 11/25/2024-11/25/2026 |
| • Rubama Patwary | Art Council | 11/25/2024-11/25/2026 |
| • Roy Smith, II | Planning Commission | 11/25/2024-11/25/2029 |

8. General Public Hearing

9. Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 4-2024- A Resolution of the Laurel City Council to Approve the Rewrite of the Council Standing Rules
10. Possible Adjournment to Closed Session Under the Open Meetings Act Provisions Section 3-305 (b) (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto in order to protect the Mayor and City Council's bargaining power and Section 3-305 (b) (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the potential purchase of real property
11. Election of the Council President
12. Selection of President Pro-Tem
13. Adjournment

Mayor and City Council Voting Record

November 25, 2024 6:00 pm

In-Person Meeting

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Meeting Ended: 7:15pm

Members of the Public: 30

Staff Attendance:

☒ Christian L Pulley ☒ Joanne Barr ☒ Ana Navarro ☒ 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

Roll Call

☒ Councilwoman Clark ☒ Councilwoman Johnson ☒ Councilman Mills
☒ Councilman Simmons ☒ President Kole ☒ Mayor Sydnor

Approval of Minutes

- November 4, 2024 Regular Meeting
- November 13, 2024 Special Meeting
- November 13, 2024 Closed Session

1st Yes-11/14 Abstain 11/13 both sets absent at those meetings
Councilwoman Clark 2nd Councilman Mills

Yes Councilman Simmons Yes President Kole

Agenda Item No. 7- Mayoral Reappointments/Appointments

- Tiara Matthews Education Advisory Committee 11/25/2024-11/25/2026
- Rubama Patwary Art Council 11/25/2024-11/25/2026
- Roy Smith, II Planning Commission 11/25/2024-11/25/2029

WJD Councilwoman Clark 2nd Councilwoman Johnson WJD Councilman Mills

1st Councilman Simmons WJD President Kole

Agenda Item No. 8- General Public Hearing

Open: 6:45pm Closed: 6:45pm

Speakers: None.

Agenda Item No. 9- Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 4-2024- A Resolution of the Laurel City Council to Approve the Rewrite of the Council Standing Rules

Public Hearing Open: 6:49pm Closed: 6:49pm

Speakers: None.

WJD Councilwoman Clark 2nd Councilwoman Johnson WJD Councilman Mills

1st Councilman Simmons WJD President Kole WJD Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 10- Possible Adjournment to Closed Session Under the Open Meetings Act Provisions Section 3-305 (b) (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto in order to protect the Mayor and City Council's bargaining power and Section 3-305 (b) (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the potential purchase of real property

1st Councilwoman Clark 2nd Councilwoman Johnson Yes Councilman Mills

Yes Councilman Simmons Yes President Kole

Agenda Item No. 10- Election of Council President

Yes Councilwoman Clark Yes Councilwoman Johnson made motion to elect Councilwoman
1st Councilman Mills as President

2nd Councilman Simmons Yes Councilman Kole

President Clark appointed
Appointment of Council President Pro Tempore Jeffrey W. Mills



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 7.

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

November 8, 2024

MEMORANDUM

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

I plan to make the following appointments at the November 25, 2024, Mayor and City Council meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Tiara Matthews	Education Advisory Committee	11/25/24 – 11/25/26
Rubama Patwary	Arts Council	11/25/24 – 11/25/26
Roy Smith II	Planning Commission	11/25/24 – 11/25/29

I look forward to your confirmation of these appointments.

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

CITY COUNCIL

CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON
At-Large

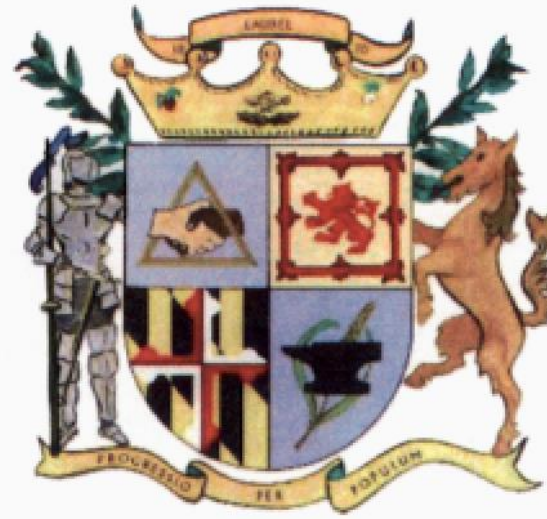
ADRIAN G. SIMMONS
First Ward

JAMES KOLE
First Ward

KYLA CLARK
Second Ward

JEFFREY W. MILLS
Second Ward

Council meets second and fourth
Mondays of each month.



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issued: November 19, 2024

The Mayor and City Council of Laurel will Possibly Adjourn to Closed Session during their Regular Meeting on **November 25, 2024** to be held in-person at the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center at 8103 Sandy Spring Road Laurel, Maryland 20707 at **6:00 pm**. The Authority for this Closed Session is Contained in the Open Meetings Act General Provisions Section 3-305 (b) (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto in order to protect the Mayor and City Council's bargaining power and Section 3-305 (b) (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the potential purchase of real property.

Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON
At-Large

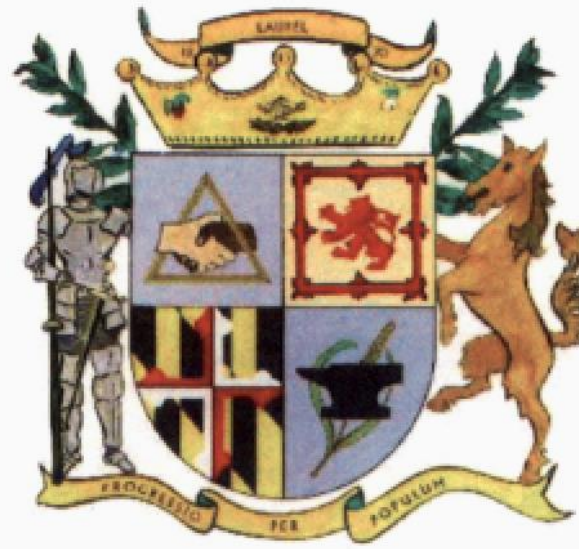
ADRIAN G. SIMMONS
First Ward

JAMES KOLE
First Ward

KYLA CLARK
Second Ward

JEFFREY W. MILLS
Second Ward

Council meets second and fourth
Mondays of each month.



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

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

8103 Sandy Spring Road

Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

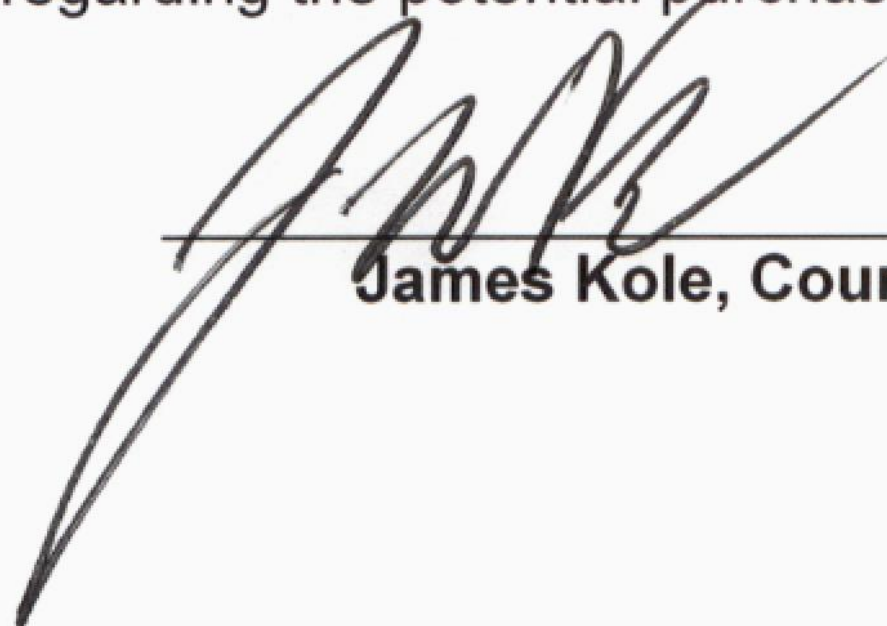
Mayor and City Council of Laurel,
Maryland Open Session Minutes-
November 25, 2024- "Attachment A"

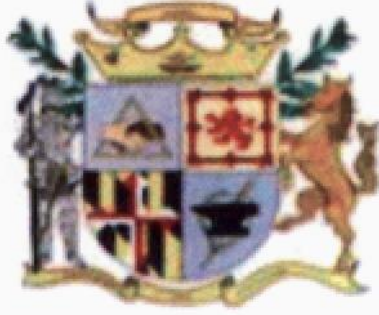
CLOSED SESSION STATEMENT

November 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm

The following statement is made regarding the possible adjournment of the Mayor and City Council to Closed Session on this date:

The Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland will possibly adjourn to Closed Session during the November 25, 2024 Regular Meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm. The statutory authority to close the session is contained within the Open Meetings Act General Provisions Section 3-305 (b) (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto in order to protect the Mayor and City Council's bargaining power and Section 3-305 (b) (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the potential purchase of real property.


11/25/24
James Kole, Council President



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 4-2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE LAUREL CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE REWRITE OF THE COUNCIL STANDING RULES

Sponsored by Council President James Kole

WHEREAS, the Laurel City Council review and amend their Standing Rules from time to time; and

WHEREAS, after a review by Council President James Kole and the full City Council, the attached Laurel City Council Standing Rules have been rewritten in their entirety; and

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution No. 1-2020, a resolution to approve the amended Standing Rules for the Laurel City Council, adopted January 27, 2020, is superseded upon the passage of Resolution No. 4-2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Laurel, Maryland, that the Laurel City Council Standing Rules are hereby adopted.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

JAMES KOLE
President of the City Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

**CITY OF LAUREL
STANDING RULES FOR THE LAUREL CITY COUNCIL**

RULES OF ORDER

1. Regular Meetings of the City Council shall be held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. except as follows: (1) No meetings held during the Month of August when the City Councilmembers are on summer break; (2) when a meeting date falls on a holiday, such meeting shall be held on Wednesday, (3) Other days as directed by the President of the City Council.

2. Three members present and voting shall constitute a quorum to conduct official business.

OPEN MEETINGS

3. Regular Meetings, Work Sessions and Special Meetings of the Mayor and City Council shall be open for the public to observe except when such meetings are held in closed session pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter and Title 4 of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Open Meetings Act.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OR WORK SESSIONS

4. An agenda for a special meeting or work session to be held, together with the date, time, and location, as well as the purpose of such meeting or work session, shall be posted on the City Website within 48 hours of such meeting or work session.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

5. The City Council shall nominate and elect by majority vote one (1) of its members as President of the City Council annually at the second Mayor and City Council meeting in November.

6. The City Council shall then nominate and elect by majority vote one member of the Council to serve as the President Pro Tempore for the same term as the President.

DUTIES - PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

7. The President shall take the chair at the scheduled hour, call the members to order and, on the appearance of a quorum, proceed with business.

8. In the absence of the President, the President Pro Tempore of the Council, who is present at the meeting, shall call the Council to order and preside over meetings until the President resumes the Chair. When both the President and President Pro Tempore are absent, the Councilmember with the most seniority will preside over the meeting.

9. If two (2) or more of the Councilmembers have the same seniority the three (3) remaining City Councilmembers shall appoint, by motion, a President Pro Tempore to conduct such meetings or work sessions.

10. The President shall preserve decorum and order, may speak to points of order in preference to other members, and shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by the Council. The President shall declare all votes and may vote in all cases.

11. The President may call the President Pro Tempore to preside over a full Council meeting for reasonable purposes.

12. It shall be the duty of the City Council to examine and approve the records of each meeting. It shall, likewise, be the duty of the President or the President Pro Tempore to sign all legislative matters which have been passed at any meeting.

13. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Council, and shall have all the powers, duties, functions, obligations and rights of any other member of Council, including the right to vote.

14. The President shall arrange seating for the members of the City Council. The President and Mayor shall always sit in the center seats of the dais.

AGENDAS

15. The Clerk of the City Council shall prepare the agenda for each regular meeting, special meetings, and work sessions at least seven (7) days prior to each regular and special meeting and work session, the President, or in their absence the President Pro Tempore, shall approve and provide each member of the Council and the Mayor with a copy of the agenda for the forthcoming meeting.

16. The President or in their absence the President Pro Tempore may add or delete items from the agenda prior to the preparation of the agenda by the City Clerk at the discretion of the President.

17. The agenda of a Council meeting shall be subject to approval of the President and be posted in the same location as public meeting notices.

CONDUCT AND DECORUM OF MEMBERS

18. When a member speaks, they shall address the presiding officer and shall confine their remarks to the question under consideration. While speaking, members shall avoid personalities, and no member shall directly or indirectly impugn another member or conduct themselves in a manner unworthy or unbecoming of a Mayor or City Councilmember.

19. The "presiding officer" is properly addressed as President (surname). The use of Mr., Ms., Madame, or Mx. President is also acceptable.

20. No member of Council or member of the assembly may speak, unless they are first recognized by the presiding officer.

21. All Councilmembers and the Mayor shall be dressed appropriately. The dress code for all regular meetings is Business Formal. No hats shall be worn during the meeting, with exception given to those worn for religious purposes.

22. The Mayor shall be addressed by members and the public as "Mayor (surname)." "Your Honor," or the use of Mr., Ms., Madame, or Mx. Mayor is also acceptable.

23. Members of the Council shall be addressed according to their preference as "Councilmember (surname)," or "Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. (surname)." First names shall not be used in the Council Chamber or at other meetings of the Mayor and City Council.

24. No member shall be interrupted while speaking except by their consent or by a point of order or point of information; nor shall there be any conversation among the members while a question is being stated, while a member is speaking, or a paper is being read.

25. If a member repeatedly violates any of the rules of the Council or disrupts the orderly procedure of the Council, the presiding officer, after warning the member of such violations, shall call the member to order, and a member so called to order shall lose the right to speak on the pending subject matter but shall not be prevented from voting. A member so called to order shall remain silent until the presiding officer returns to the member their rights to the floor.

26. When a matter is being debated, no member may occupy more than five (5) minutes for each point under debate, nor shall they speak more than twice to the same question. No member shall speak a second time on the same matter until after all members have had a chance to speak. On general matters of discussion, and under the members' Council Report

no Councilmember shall occupy more than five (5) minutes when speaking on a particular subject.

27. No member shall vote on any matter or serve on any committee where their private interest is immediately distinct from that of the public.

28. No member shall leave without permission of the presiding officer if their presence is necessary to make a quorum.

29. The reading of any paper, email, letter or text, if objected to by any member, shall be decided by the Council President.

30. No member or member of the public shall stand up, to the inconvenience of others, while a member is speaking; pass unnecessary messages between the presiding officer and the member speaking; stand in the area in front of the chair; or stand at the City Clerk's desk while a roll call is in progress. The use of electronic devices shall be restricted for Council business only during a meeting of the City Council.

31. The members of the Council shall not stand or leave their places until the presiding officer has declared the Council adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEES – CITY COUNCIL

32. The Mayor shall appoint, with input from the President of the Council, Councilmembers to each Standing Committee or Commission of the City. In some cases, the Councilmember shall serve as the Chairperson. This is to be done annually, at the second meeting in November; these appointments shall be approved by the City Council.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

33. The business of all regular meetings of the Council shall be transacted in the following order:

- a. Call to order
- b. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- c. Roll Call
- d. Approval of Minutes
- e. General Public Hearing
- f. Report of the Mayor and City Council
- g. Appointments/Reappointments (other than Department Heads, which shall be listed as separate agenda items) (if any)
- h. Agenda Items
- i. Adjournment

34. Reading of the Minutes -- An electronic copy of the minutes shall be transmitted to the full Council and Mayor, at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of any vote regarding those minutes.

35. The Agenda order may be changed, at any meeting, by the Council President or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and, upon motion to change the order of business, no debate shall be allowed.

PUBLIC HEARING

36. Members of the public are invited to speak at each regular Council meeting. There will be a period to speak in public comment via remote participation whenever practicable, to be managed by the City Clerk's Office. Members of the public will follow the below rules of Public

Hearing– Procedure. In order to promote fair and open discussion, once a public hearing is called to order, the presiding officer shall recognize members of the public who may speak in the order of recognition. Public hearings shall not be divided into time periods for proponents and opponents to speak.

37. Members of the public shall state their first and last name and address of residence for the record.

38. All comments are to be addressed to the Mayor and Council as a whole, not to individual members.

39. Speakers may speak about any topic relating to the City of Laurel.

40. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Time may not be donated to another speaker. If five (5) or more members of the public in attendance either in person or virtually, wish to speak on the same subject, they may choose a single representative who may speak for five (5) minutes.

41. The time limit shall also apply for all written comments that will be read aloud. Written comments requiring more than the time limit may be given to the City Clerk. The Clerk will transmit copies of written comments to the Council and include them in the official record of the meeting.

42. The public comment period is the time for the public to offer comments, not ask questions for which they expect to be answered. The Mayor, Council, and City Staff will not answer questions posed during this time. If an individual has specific questions, they shall be submitted in writing to the City Clerk for an appropriate response.

43. Demonstrations, such as clapping, cheering, booing, are not allowed. They disrupt the meeting and inhibit a speaker's free speech rights.

44. PowerPoint presentations, recordings, or props from the public as part of public comment(s) are not allowed.

45. Public comment will not be held during work sessions or special meetings of the Council.

46. If any member of the public causes a disruption during any meeting or fails to comply with these guidelines or the reasonable instructions of the presiding officer, they will be asked to leave the meeting, or they may be ejected from the Chamber.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

47. The report is to be used to present any item or fact of interest by the City Council, report current or future events, and to permit the Mayor and staff to report on conditions in and on the City or departments; answers may be given to constituent questions from previous meetings, accept and read commission/committee reports, and to make presentations, and give awards. **Each member is limited to 5 minutes unless the City Council President allows the member more time.**

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS

48. All pending matters before the Council shall be presented by the President; and shall be read by the President, City Clerk or such other person as the President may request. They shall be acted upon in the order in which they are presented unless the Council shall otherwise direct.

49. All nominations/appointments made by the Mayor, subject to the confirmation of the Council, shall, when received by the Council, be placed on the Council agenda for confirmation at the next regular meeting.

50. Any proposed legislation from time-to-time may require a brief statement setting forth fiscal impact, which will be requested by the President to the Administration.

51. All matters involving the appropriation of monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the intra-departmental transfer of monies from one account of the City to another, shall be referred to the President of the City Council for their action.

52. All ordinances and resolutions shall be distributed by the City Clerk to all members of the Council, the Mayor, the City Administrator, for the meetings at which the ordinance or resolution is introduced. Whenever any member of the Council is absent from such a meeting, the City Clerk shall ensure the member is provided with the meeting information.

53. If the Council so desires, any pending ordinance or resolution may be referred to the Mayor, any member, to any standing or special commission/committee for study or recommendations, to the City Solicitor, or to the City Administrator for study, recommendations, redrafting, etc.

54. Every member present, when a question is put forth, shall vote either "Yes", "No", or "Abstain". Each member casting a vote of "Yes" or "Yes, with explanation" or "No" or "No, with explanation" may make a brief statement explaining the reasons for their vote after the roll call vote is completed. The presiding officer shall call on each member who voted "with explanation" after the completion of the roll call vote. Comments on an abstention shall not be in order. Abstentions are considered as not casting a vote and shall not be included in the vote count.

55. Unless otherwise ordered, votes shall be taken by Roll Call vote by the City Clerk.

INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

56. INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION - Ordinances, Resolutions, Charter Resolutions, and other legislation shall be introduced to the Council only in written or printed form.

57. INTRODUCTION OF APPROPRIATIONS - All ordinances except ordinances making appropriations and ordinances codifying or rearranging existing ordinances or enacting a code of ordinances, shall be confined to one subject, and the subject or subjects of all ordinances shall be clearly expressed in the title.

58. Ordinances making appropriations shall be confined to the subject of appropriations.

59. No ordinance, resolution or other legislation may be introduced for first reading by any member of the City Council until reviewed by the City Attorney and placed on the agenda by the Council President.

60. No ordinance or resolution shall be passed until it has been read on two (2) separate days. Any reading of an ordinance, resolution or other legislation shall be by title only unless a full reading is required by a majority of the members of the City Council. The vote shall be taken upon the passage of all ordinances, resolutions or other legislation and entered into in the minutes of the proceedings.

61. No motion shall be stated, debated or put unless it is seconded.

62. EMERGENCY ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS - When a motion to suspend the rules to dispense with the requirements for reading of ordinances and resolutions on two (2) separate days fails to receive an affirmative vote of the majority of members, the ordinance or resolution shall go over to the next regular meeting of the Council. (See Rule No. 92 regarding Suspension of Rules.)

63. PRECEDENCE OF MOTIONS - When a question is before the Council, no motion shall be entertained except; (a) to fix the hour of adjournment, (b) to adjourn, (c) to lay on the table, (d) for the previous questions, (e) to postpone to a certain time, (f) to refer, (g) to amend, (h) to postpone indefinitely. These motions shall have precedence in the order indicated. Any such motion, except a motion to amend, to postpone to a certain time, to refer, and to postpone indefinitely, shall be put to a vote without debate.

64. AGENDA OUT OF REGULAR ORDER- The presiding officer may at any time permit a member to introduce an agenda item out of the regular order.

65. MOTION TO ADJOURN, WHEN NOT IN ORDER, NOT DEBATABLE - A motion to adjourn shall be in order at any time, except as follows: (a) when repeated without intervening business or discussions; (b) when made as an interruption of a member while speaking; (c) when the previous question has been ordered; and (d) while a vote is being taken. A motion to adjourn is not debatable.

66. MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE - A motion to lay on the table shall preclude all amendments or debate on the subject under consideration. If the motion prevails, the consideration of the subject may be resumed at any time by a majority vote under new business, at a subsequent meeting unless the motion was date specific.

67. THE PREVIOUS QUESTION - When the previous question is moved and seconded by one other member, it shall be put as follows: "Shall the main question now be put?" There shall be no further amendment or debate, but debate pending amendment shall be put in their order before the main question. If the question, "Shall the main question now be put?" be approved by a majority of the members present, the main question shall then be voted upon. If the question is decided in the negative, then the main question remains before the Council.

68. DIVISION OF QUESTION - If a question contains two or more divisible propositions, the presiding officer, upon request of a member, may divide the same.

69. AMEND AN AMENDMENT - A motion to amend an amendment shall be in order, but one to amend an amendment to an amendment shall not be introduced. An amendment modifying the intention of a motion shall be in order, but an amendment relating to a different matter shall not be in order.

70. MOTION TO POSTPONE - All motions to postpone to a certain time, except a motion to postpone indefinitely, may be amended as to time. If a motion to postpone indefinitely is adopted, the principal question shall be declared lost.

71. RECONSIDERATION - (1) A motion to reconsider can only be made by a member who voted on the prevailing side. It may be seconded by any member. (2) A majority vote is required to pass a motion for reconsideration. (3) Reconsideration of legislation can only occur during the meeting where the adoption or defeat of the legislation occurred. (4) No legislation shall be reconsidered after going into effect.

72. POINT OF ORDER - may be called for by any Councilmember, if the President has neglected a rule, or neglected to enforce a rule of the meeting. The Councilmember calling for the Point of Order shall state the specific rule(s) alleged to have been broken or not enforced.

73. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - may be requested by a Councilmember or the Mayor to speak on a particular matter of personal interest. The Councilmember must explain the nature of the request. The personal privilege must be approved by the President. Personal privilege shall not be used for political purposes.

74. PROCEDURE IN ABSENCE OF RULE - In the absence of a rule to govern a point of procedure, the practice approved of in the most recent edition of **Roberts Rule of Order** shall prevail.

75. TIE VOTES - In case of a tie in the vote on any proposal, the proposal shall be considered lost.

APPEAL

76. Any member may appeal to the Council of a ruling on the decision of the presiding officer. The member making the appeal may briefly state their reason for appeal, and the presiding officer may briefly explain their ruling, but there shall be no debate on the appeal. The presiding officer shall put the question, "Shall the decision of the presiding officer be sustained?" If a majority of the members present vote "Yes", the ruling of the presiding officer is sustained; otherwise, it is overruled.

VIRTUAL AND VIDEO MEETINGS

77. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS – the first Wednesday of each Month will be virtual, unless changed by the President of the City Council to be In-Person.

Additionally, when the agenda is ten (10) or more items of discussion, the Work Session will be in-person at the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center Council Chamber.

78. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING – the first regular meeting (2nd Monday of Month) of the Mayor and City Council shall be virtual, and the second meeting (4th Monday of Month) will be held In-Person at the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center.

79. City Councilmembers shall sign on to their computer at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled meeting to ensure virtual settings are working well.

80. City Councilmembers shall keep their cameras on during the entire meeting. Any member that turns their camera off for longer than two (2) minutes shall be marked absent.

81. Councilmembers and the Mayor shall be in a secure, and stationary location during the virtual meeting. Councilmembers, Mayor or City staff shall not be in restaurants, bars, places of worship or other public places and shall be dressed appropriately during the entire virtual meeting.

82. Councilmembers shall state the City from which they are logging into the virtual meeting

83. The President and in the President's absence, the President Pro Tempore, has the right to turn off any Councilmember, Mayor or other City staff who, after being informed by the presiding officer that they are in violation of any of the Council Rules, continues to violate Council Rules, by directing the Clerk to remove the member in question from the virtual meeting. The member(s) in question will be marked as absent and will not be permitted to re-enter the meeting.

84. When a virtual meeting occurs, speakers shall email or call the City Clerk's Office and request to be added to the speaker sign-up sheet no later than 2:00 pm the day of the meeting. Public participation shall be enabled in accordance with Rules 36-46.

85. Councilmembers, the Mayor and other City staff must utilize a video feed when participating in a virtual meeting. If a Councilmember or Mayor loses video and audio feed during a meeting, no vote shall occur on any matter until after such time that a recess has occurred to troubleshoot the problem. If the Councilmember or Mayor has a video and audio feed that has not been reestablished within 10 minutes of recessing, the members shall proceed with any vote that has to be taken.

86. If the City Clerk loses video and audio feed during a meeting, Alternate Host to the Clerk shall call the roll and record all votes taken.

FILLING A TERM OF A VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL

87. In the event the Council must elect a person to complete the term of a Councilmember in accordance with City Charter, Article 300-Government, Section 319 -Vacancies: City Council, the procedure for filling such vacancy shall be as follows:

- a. Public Notice informing the public that the vacancy exists, and a new Councilmember is being sought shall be posted by the City Clerk within ten (10) days of the vacancy, an official press release shall be issued by the City and when possible, notice shall be given by immediate publication once in a newspaper of local circulation for not less than two (2) weeks on the City's website homepage.
- b. Individuals interested in filling the vacancy (hereinafter "Applicants") shall contact the City Clerk to confirm that they reside in the appropriate voting ward and by 12:00 pm on the 15th day following the Public Notice, applicants shall submit a letter of intent, resume, Candidate Financial Disclosure, and Candidate Affidavit to the Office of the City Clerk.

- c. Applicants who have complied with all the requirements of the City Charter shall be invited to a special meeting of the full Council; at which time all applicants will be given an opportunity to be interviewed by the Council. The public will be able to view the interviews in-person or live streamed on Laurel TV. Public testimony will not be permitted.
- d. Certified candidates will first report to the Council Chamber at which time all electronics including cell phones, smart watches, etc. will be collected and held for safe keeping until the candidate's interview is complete.
- e. Candidates will be sequestered in Meeting Room 2 and the order that candidates will be interviewed will be determined by random draw prior to the start of interviews.
- f. Candidates will be interviewed one at a time.
- g. There will be ten (10) questions asked by the Council and each candidate will be asked the same set of questions.
- h. Candidates will have two (2) minutes to answer each question.
- i. Each candidate will be allowed two (2) minutes after the questions are complete to make a closing statement.
- j. After a candidate's interview, they will be permitted to retrieve their electronics from staff and may either join the audience in the Council Chamber or leave the Municipal Center.
- k. After all applicants have been given an opportunity to address the Council, the presiding officer shall open the floor and entertain a motion made by one of the sitting Councilmembers to nominate one of the interviewed candidates for appointment to fill the vacancy.
- l. The motion shall be seconded by another sitting Councilmember. If the motion prevails and is seconded, the Clerk shall conduct the roll call vote. If the candidate receives the majority of the vote, that candidate shall be the successful candidate and fill the vacant seat for the remainder of the existing term. A motion that fails to receive a second shall be considered lost.
- m. If the first motion is not successful, the presiding officer shall once again open the floor to nominations, except that no candidate shall be motioned for a second time until all candidates have been motioned for nomination at least once and the process detailed in k. and l. above shall be repeated until a candidate is appointed to fill the vacancy.
- n. In the event that no applicant receives a majority of votes after at least five (5) cycles, the Council may table voting and continue with the process at the next scheduled meeting of the City Council or by majority vote of the Council, the Council may ask the Mayor to break the tie.

CITY COUNCIL – BOARDS/COMMISSION/COMMITTEES

88. All boards, commissions, and committees of the City and the function, authority, responsibilities, and the number of members and reports required of the boards, commissions, committees, and other pertinent information necessary for the proper functions of the commission/committee, shall be set forth by the City Council. Board, Commission and committee appointments shall be announced as an agenda item.

89. POWERS OF BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES - No commission/committee of any kind shall have the power to employ any person for, or on behalf of the City or to incur any expense. The commission/committee may request the City Administrator and all Department Heads via the City Clerk to furnish information and assistance which may be granted provided it is pertinent to the matter before the commission/committee and is not in violation of provisions of the Charter or policies established by the Council.

90. REPORTS - Commission/committees shall submit reports from time-to-time as requested by the City Council. All reports shall be in writing and provided to the City Clerk in electronic

format or if in hardcopy enough copies shall be provided for each member of the Council, Mayor and City Administrator.

Item 9.

91. OPEN MEETINGS - All meetings of Boards, Commissions, and Committees shall be open to the public except when the Board, Commission or Committee, by a vote of the majority of its members, goes into a closed session in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act. Notice of closed sessions shall be given in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

MISCELLANEOUS

92. SUSPENSION OF RULES- Any rule may be **suspended by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members present**. When a motion to suspend a rule is made, the specific rule for which suspension is sought must be cited in the motion and the reason stated on the record.

93. Any rule may be amended or repealed by a vote of a majority of all the members of the Council, but the motion for such a purpose shall not be made and acted upon at the same meeting.

94. Recording, photographing and videotaping - The authority for these procedures/rules is stated in Md. Ann. Code, General Provisions Article § 3-303(b). The standard to be applied is one of reasonableness so as not to disrupt the Meeting. The citizen or member of the press must request permission before the Meeting of the Council President to proceed in this manner.

95. The use of the Council Chamber, or the Council Committee Room, shall not be granted to any person or organization without the permission of the City Clerk. Said request shall be in writing, and the City Clerk shall keep a suitable calendar noting the permitted uses hereon.

96. Demonstration or disorder among bystanders – If any confusion, demonstration, or disorder arises in the Council Chambers or at other locations of Mayor and City Council meetings, and virtual meetings, the presiding officer may upon his/her own initiative or upon the request of any member enforce order. If the offending person or persons be a spectator, he/she or they may be ejected from the meeting. If any member of the City Council shall object to the ruling of the presiding officer, he/she has the right to appeal to the Council as provided in Rule 76.

Revised/Actions

Rewrite in full, November ____, 2024, Resolution No. 4-2024



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 4-2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE LAUREL CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE REWRITE OF THE COUNCIL STANDING RULES

Sponsored by Council President James Kole

WHEREAS, the Laurel City Council review and amend their Standing Rules from time to time; and

WHEREAS, after a review by Council President James Kole and the full City Council, the attached Laurel City Council Standing Rules have been rewritten in their entirety; and

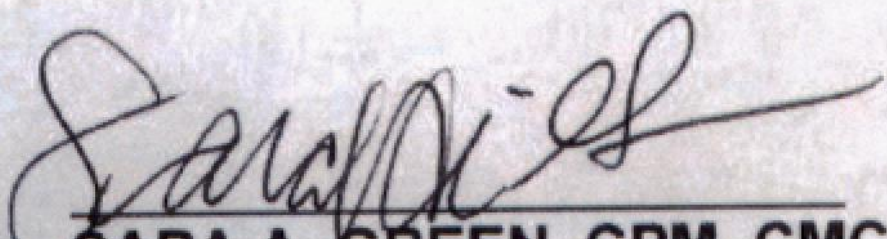
WHEREAS, City Council Resolution No. 1-2020, a resolution to approve the amended Standing Rules for the Laurel City Council, adopted January 27, 2020, is superseded upon the passage of Resolution No. 4-2024.

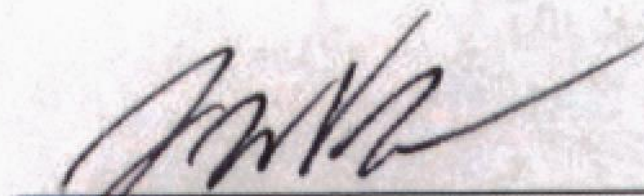
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Laurel, Maryland, that the Laurel City Council Standing Rules are hereby adopted.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

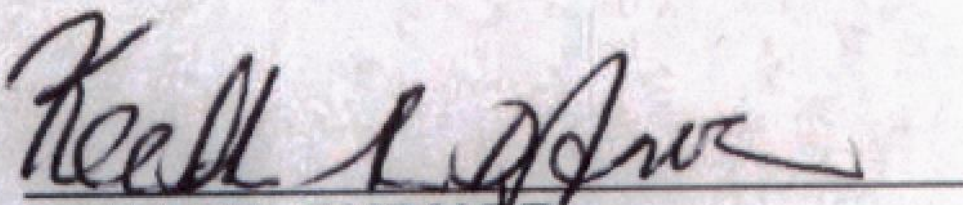
ADOPTED this 25th day of November, 2024.

ATTEST:


SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC
City Clerk


JAMES KOLE
President of the City Council

APPROVED this 25th day of November, 2024.


KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor