ORDINANCE 2009-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 170 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF LAUREL TO ESTABLISH OVERLAY ZONES AND STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SOURCE WATER IN AND AROUND THE TOWN OF LAUREL.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Laurel wish to preserve the integrity, safety, and quality of the water resources used now and in the future to serve the citizens of Laurel with potable water;

AND, WHEREAS, the State of Delaware has required that all municipalities adopt specific source water protection measures.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Laurel, in session met, a quorum pertaining at all time thereto, that Chapter 170 of the Code of the Town of Laurel is hereby amended by adding the following article and sections:

ARTICLE IX
Source Water Protection

§170-25. Purpose.

The purpose of the Source Water Protection Area Ordinance is to ensure the protection of the public drinking water supply from contamination. The Town of Laurel herein adopts overlay maps delineating, as source water protection areas: wellhead protection and excellent groundwater recharge potential areas. To ensure the protection of these drinking water supplies, this ordinance establishes a zoning overlay to be known as the Source Water Protection Overlay. The purpose of the Source Water Protection Overlay is to protect public health and safety by minimizing contamination of aquifers, preserving, and protecting existing and potential sources of drinking water supplies. It is the intent to accomplish this through both public education and public cooperation, as well as by creating appropriate land use regulations that may be imposed in addition to those currently imposed by existing zoning districts or other state and county regulations.

The Source Water Protection Overlay is superimposed on current zoning districts. It shall apply to all new construction, redevelopment, subdivision or expansion of existing buildings and new or expanded uses. Applicable activities/ uses allowed in a portion of one of the
underlying zoning districts that fall within the Source Water Protection Overlay must additionally comply with the requirements of this district. Uses prohibited in the underlying zoning districts shall not be permitted in the Source Water Protection Overlay District. Nothing in this article is intended to inhibit planned and orderly growth, development, or redevelopment.

§170-26. Definitions

This section defines words, terms, and phrases found in this article.

**Aboveground Storage Tank (AST)** An AST is a single containment vessel greater than 250 gallons as defined in the Delaware Regulations Governing Aboveground Storage Tanks. ASTs with a storage capacity greater than 12,499 gallons containing petroleum or hazardous substances, and ASTs with a storage capacity greater than 39,999 gallons containing diesel heating fuel or kerosene are subject to the design, construction, operation, and maintenance requirements of the Delaware AST regulations.

**Applicant:** A person, firm, or government agency that executes the necessary forms to obtain approval or a permit for any zoning, subdivision, land development, building, land disturbance, or other activity regulated.

**Aquifer:** A geological formation, group of formations or part of a formation composed of rock, sand, or gravel capable of storing and yielding groundwater to wells.

**CERCLA Hazardous Substances** are defined in terms of either those substances specifically designated as hazardous under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), otherwise known as the Superfund law, or those substances identified under other laws. In all, the Superfund law includes references to four other laws to designate more than 800 substances as hazardous, and identify many more as potentially hazardous due to their characteristics and the circumstances of their release.

**Contamination** Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance that enters the hydrological cycle through human action and may cause a deleterious effect on ground water resources; it shall include but is not limited to hazardous waste, limiting nutrients, and sanitary sewage.

**Delineation** The process of defining and/or mapping a boundary that approximates the areas that contribute water to a particular water source used as a public water supply.

**Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):** A report required by this ordinance that assesses the environmental characteristics of a source water protection area and determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action that would increase impervious cover beyond the recommended 30% threshold.

**Excellent Ground-Water Recharge Potential Area:** Those areas with high percentages of sand and gravel that have "excellent" potential for recharge as determined through a Stack

**Geologist:** An individual who is registered in the State of Delaware to practice the profession of geology.

**Ground Water:** The water contained in interconnected pores located below the water table in an unconfined aquifer or located in a confined aquifer.

**Hazardous Substance UST System** means an underground storage tank system that contains a hazardous substance defined in 101(14) of the CERCLA (but not including any substance regulated as a hazardous waste under RCRA Subtitle C) or any mixture of such substances and petroleum, and which is not a petroleum UST system.

**Hazardous Waste** A solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating irreversible, illness, or pose a substantial present or potential a hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or dispose of, or otherwise managed. Without limitation, included within this definition are those hazardous wastes described in Sections 261.31, 261.32, and 261.33 of the Delaware Regulations Governing Hazardous Waste.

**Impervious Cover** Surfaces providing negligible infiltration such as pavement, buildings, recreation facilities (e.g. tennis courts, swimming pools, etc.), and covered driveways.

**Non-Conforming Use** is an existing use of a lot or a building that was legal at the time of its creation that is not permitted by this chapter in the district in which it is located.

**Natural Condition:** Open space that is essentially unimproved and set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved for public or private use.

**Passive Recreation** refers to recreation that involves existing natural resources and has a minimal impact because they do not require the alteration of existing topography. Such passive recreation shall include but not be limited to non-motorized vehicles, hiking, bicycling, picnicking, and bird-watching.

**Public Water Supply Well:** Any well from which the water is used to serve a public water system as defined by Section 22.146 (Public Water Systems) in the Delaware State Regulations Governing Public Drinking Water Systems.

**Public Drinking Water System.** A community, non-community, or non-transient non-community water system, which provides piped water to the public for human consumption. The system must have at least 15 service connections or regularly serve at least 25 individuals daily for at least 60 days.
On-site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System: conventional or alternative, wastewater treatment and disposal systems installed or proposed to be installed on land of the owner or on other land to which the owner has the legal right to install the system.

Redevelopment: Any proposed expansion, addition, or major facade change to an existing building, structure, or parking facility.

Runoff: That portion of precipitation or snow melt that has not evaporated or infiltrated into the soil, but flows on land or impervious surfaces.

Sanitary Landfill: A land site at which solid waste is deposited on or into the land as fill for the purpose of permanent disposal, except that it will not include any facility that has been approved for the disposal of hazardous waste under the Delaware Regulations Governing Hazardous Waste.

Site plan approval: is a process for the review and approval of a development plan prior to the issuance of a development.

Source Water: refers to any aquifer from which water is drawn either periodically or continuously by a public water system.

Source Water Assessment Area: The area delineated by DNREC Source Water Assessment and Protection Program that contributes water to a public water supply system.

Source Water Assessment Plan: The October 1999 U.S. EPA approved plan for evaluating the sources of public drinking water in Delaware for their vulnerability and susceptibility to contamination.

Source Water Assessment Report (SWAP): The identification and evaluation of the sources of water within the state used by public water systems in an effort to determine the vulnerability and susceptibility to contamination.

Stormwater: The runoff of water from the surface of the land resulting from precipitation or snow or ice melts

Stormwater Management:
A) For water quantity control, a system of vegetative, structural, and other measures that may control the volume and rate of stormwater runoff which may be caused by land disturbing activities or activities upon the land; and

B) For water quality control, a system of vegetative, structural, and other measures that control adverse effects on water quality that may be caused by land disturbing activities or activities upon the land.

Source Water Protection Area: Wellhead Protection Areas and Excellent Ground-Water Recharge Potential Areas
**Vacant Property:** Lands or buildings that are not actively used for any purpose as designated in the underlying zoning district/overlay for one year.

**Underground Storage Tank (UST).** An UST is one or a combination of Tanks including underground Pipes, the volume of which is 10% or more belowground, as defined in the Delaware Regulations Governing Underground Storage Tank Systems. The following USTs are not subject to the design, construction, operation, and maintenance requirements of the Delaware UST Regulations: Residential Heating Fuel, Agricultural, and Residential Motor Fuel USTs less than 1,100 gallons and any UST less than 110 gallons.

**Wastewater:** Water-carried waste from septic tanks, water closets, residences, buildings, industrial establishments, or other places, together with such groundwater infiltration, subsurface water, and mixtures of industrial wastes or other wastes as may be present.

**Water Quality:** Those characteristics of stormwater runoff from an impervious surface or a land disturbing activity that relate to the chemical, physical, biological, or radiological integrity of water.

**Water Quantity:**
1) Those characteristics of stormwater runoff that relate to the volume of stormwater runoff to downstream-gradient areas resulting from land disturbing activities.
2) Those characteristics of stormwater that relate to the volume of stormwater that infiltrates the land surface and enters the underlying aquifer.

**Wellhead:** The upper terminal of a well, including adapters, ports, seals, valves, and other attachments

**Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA):** Surface and subsurface areas surrounding public water supply wells or well fields where the quantity or quality of ground water moving toward the wells or well fields may be adversely affected by land use activity.

**Wellhead Protection Plan:** The March 1990 U.S. EPA approved plan for protecting the quality of drinking water derived from public water supply wells in Delaware.

**Wellhead Protection (WHP) Zone 1** is the surface area extending to a one-hundred fifty (150) foot radius around the wellhead.

**Wellhead Protection (WHP) Zone 2** is the remaining surface area of the delineated wellhead protection area outside Zone 1.

§170-27. **Source Water Protection Areas (SWPA)**

Source Water Protection Areas include Wellhead Protection Areas and Excellent Ground Water Recharge Potential Areas. All such areas are as depicted on the Source Water Protection Area maps located in Town Hall and adopted by the Mayor and Council as part of the 2009 update to the Town of Laurel Comprehensive Plan. These maps are also available in
GIS overlays from Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Water Resources, Source Water Assessment and Protection Program.

These areas shall be managed as required by the following sections to protect public drinking water resources from activities and substances that may harm water quality and subtract from overall water quantity.

§170-28. Prohibited Uses

Activities shall be subject to the land use restrictions contained within this ordinance that will protect the quality and quantity of ground water supplies. All uses not permitted in the underlying zoning district are prohibited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Source Water Protection Areas</th>
<th>ZONE 1</th>
<th>ZONE 2</th>
<th>Excellent Recharge</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Aboveground Storage Tanks</td>
<td></td>
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<td>YES</td>
</tr>
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<td>Confined animal feeding operations</td>
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<td>Dry cleaner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electrical/electronic manufacturing facility</td>
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<td>Equipment maintenance/fueling area†</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Injection wells***†</td>
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<td>Underground storage tanks†</td>
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<td>Vessel Storage†</td>
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<td>Wood preserving/treating facility</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dry wells/sumps: Dry wells/sumps are prohibited except for single-family residences directing gutter downspouts to a drywell.

**Injection wells: Injection wells are prohibited in Zones 1 and 2, except those used in the remediation of ground water contamination that inject oxygen-releasing compounds.

†For land uses identified as "Conditional" in a particular Source Water Protection Area, said conditions shall be established by the Planning and Zoning Commission as recommended by the Public Works Director or the Town Engineer and approved by the Town Manager or his or her designee.
§170-29. Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA)

The DNREC Source Water Assessment and Protection Program delineates wellhead protection areas to ensure the integrity of public drinking water. Deep wells drilled into confined aquifers and low volume wells in unconfined aquifers have, at a minimum, a one-hundred and fifty foot radius wellhead protection area. The wellhead protection area surrounding public supply wells in unconfined aquifers that pump more than 50,000 gallons per day are delineated using a mathematical model. This type of well draws large quantities of water and can have much larger wellhead protection areas. Zone classifications have been created to manage land use within the wellhead protection area. They are defined as:

A. Wellhead Protection (WHP) Zone 1 is the surface area extending in a one-hundred and fifty (150) foot radius around the wellhead.

WHP Zone 1 Requirements:

1) Parcels of land within a WHP Zone 1 wellhead protection area will be preserved in a natural condition with the exception of impervious surface limited to building and access associated with the well and distribution and treatment facilities and their maintenance.

2) Aboveground Storage Tanks: Aboveground storage tanks for materials used in the treatment facility operation are permitted, with spill containment.

3) Underground Storage Tanks: Underground storage tanks are prohibited.

4) Stormwater Runoff: Stormwater runoff will be diverted away from the wellhead. Stormwater infiltration practices designed to handle runoff are prohibited.

5) Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems: On-site Wastewater and Disposal Systems shall not be permitted.

B. Wellhead Protection (WHP) Zone 2 is the remaining surface area of the wellhead protection area outside Zone 1. Land use restrictions within Zone 2 are required to insure adequate protection of public drinking water supply.

WHP Zone 2 Requirements:

1) Impervious cover: Wellhead Protection Areas with Zone 2 should not exceed 30% impervious cover. New development in this Zone may exceed the 30% impervious cover threshold within Wellhead protection Areas, but shall in no case exceed 50% impervious cover, provided the applicant submits an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. Any Environmental Impact Assessment Report is subject to review and approval by the Town, Town’s Engineer and DNREC. No property located within Zone 2 shall be subdivided or otherwise altered in size and shape in a manner that creates a property that violates the provisions of this section.
2) Stormwater: Stormwater shall be treated by an approved stormwater quality management practice in accordance with current requirements of the Delaware Sediment and Stormwater Regulations dated October 11, 2006 or as later revised.

3) Roof Drain Discharge: For all new construction, all structures shall be required to discharge roof drains onto permeable surfaces.

4) Underground Storage Tanks: Underground storage tanks with a capacity greater than 110 gallons containing petroleum, and Residential and Agricultural USTs with a capacity greater than 1,100 gallons containing heating fuel or motor fuel shall be permitted in a designated wellhead area if the USTs are designed, constructed, maintained, and operated in accordance with the Delaware Regulations Governing Underground Storage Tank Systems, or as later revised. Regulated USTs must be constructed with secondary containment of the tanks and piping and must have continuous monitoring for releases.

Underground storage tanks with a capacity greater than 110 gallons containing a hazardous substance as defined in CERCLA shall be permitted in designated wellhead area if the USTs are designed, constructed, maintained and operated in accordance with the Delaware Regulations Governing Underground Storage Tank Systems. Regulated USTs must be constructed with secondary containment of the tanks and piping and must have continuous monitoring for releases.

5) Aboveground Storage Tanks: Aboveground storage tanks with a capacity greater than 12,499 gallons containing petroleum or hazardous substances, and ASTs with a storage capacity greater than 39,999 gallons containing diesel, heating fuel or kerosene shall be permitted in a delineated wellhead area if the ASTs are designed, constructed, operated and maintained with the applicable requirements in of the Delaware Regulations Governing Aboveground Storage Tanks.

6) Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems: On-site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems shall not be permitted.


A. Impervious Cover: The excellent ground-water recharge potential area should not exceed 30% impervious cover. New development in this Area may exceed the 30% impervious cover threshold within the excellent ground-water recharge potential area, but shall be no more than 50% impervious cover, provided the applicant is able to demonstrate that there will be no reduction in groundwater recharge via an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. Any Environmental Impact Assessment Report is subject to review and approval by the Town, Town’s Engineer and DNREC. No property located within a designated excellent ground-water recharge potential area shall be subdivided or otherwise altered in size and shape in a manner that creates a property that violates the provisions of this section.
B. Stormwater: Stormwater shall be treated by an approved stormwater quality management practice in accordance with current requirements of the Delaware Sediment and Stormwater Regulations dated October 11, 2006 or as later revised. For all new construction, all structures shall be required to discharge roof drains onto permeable surfaces.

C. Underground Storage Tanks: Underground storage tanks with a capacity greater than 110 gallons containing petroleum, and Residential and Agricultural USTs with a capacity greater than 1,100 gallons containing heating fuel or motor fuel shall be permitted in a excellent ground-water recharge potential area if the USTs are designed, constructed, maintained and operated in accordance with the Delaware Regulations Governing Underground Storage Tank Systems. Regulated USTs must be constructed with secondary containment of the tanks and piping and must have continuous monitoring for releases.

Underground storage tanks with a capacity greater than 110 gallons containing a hazardous substance as defined in CERCLA shall be permitted in designated wellhead area if the USTs are designed, constructed, maintained and operated in accordance with the Delaware Regulations Governing Underground Storage Tank Systems. Regulated USTs must be constructed with secondary containment of the tanks and piping and must have continuous monitoring for releases.

D. Aboveground Storage Tanks: Aboveground storage tanks with a capacity greater than 12,499 gallons containing petroleum or hazardous substances, and ASTs with a storage capacity greater than 39,999 gallons containing diesel, heating fuel or kerosene shall be permitted in a delineated excellent ground-water recharge potential area if the ASTs are designed, constructed, operated and maintained with the applicable requirements in of the Delaware Regulations Governing Aboveground Storage Tanks.

E. Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems: On-site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems shall not be permitted in an excellent ground-water recharge potential area.

§170-31. Boundary Determination for SWPA

A. All subdivision and land development plans depicting development or land disturbance submitted for Town review shall be evaluated for the existence of source water protection areas. All such areas are as depicted on Source Water Protection Area maps located in Town Hall as adopted as part of the update and implementation of the 2009 update to the Town of Laurel Comprehensive Plan. These maps are also available in GIS overlays. Maps/overlays are available from Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Water Resources, Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP). If a SWPA exists within a proposed development site, the boundaries of these areas shall be delineated on the plan by the applicant's State of Delaware Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist.
B. DNREC SWAPP may, when based on sound science and information, revise and update the overlay maps of wellhead protection areas.

C. The Delaware Geological Survey (DGS) may, when based on sound science and information, revise and update the overlay maps of excellent ground-water recharge potential areas.

D. When there appears to be a conflict between the mapped boundary and actual site conditions, the applicant may engage the services of Professional Geologist to prepare a report intended to determine more accurately the precise boundary of the Source water Protection Area. The Report shall include:

1) A detailed topographic layout of the subdivision and/or area to be developed and prepared by a State-registered professional land surveyor or Professional Geologist; Evidence derived from a site-specific investigation that may include aquifer testing, test borings, test pits, observation wells, groundwater elevations, and topography surveys as appropriate for the type of source water protection area that clearly demonstrate that the area in question does not meet the definition of a source water protection area as defined.

2) Any challenges to the delineations of the excellent ground-water recharge potential areas must follow the methods used in the Delaware Geological Survey publication: Report of Investigations No. 66, Ground-Water Recharge Potential Mapping in Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware. The challenge must be approved by DGS and DNREC SWAPP.

3) Notwithstanding any other section of this Chapter, if an owner initiates a precise boundary delineation pursuant to this section, any and all time review limitations shall be stayed pending the submission of the complete report contemplated by this section. Following submission of the report and all supporting documents, the Department shall have ninety (90) days to finally approve or disapprove the exploratory sketch plan submission or such further time as deemed necessary by the Department, but not to exceed an additional ninety (90) days.

§170-32. Redevelopment.

A. Impervious Cover Restrictions: Site Modifications that require Site Plan Approval should attempt to maintain or reduce the amount of impervious cover on the site when compared to pre-redevelopment conditions, as feasible.

B. Stormwater: Sites that do not meet the impervious cover restrictions must employ infiltration practices, where feasible. Stormwater shall be treated by an approved stormwater quality management practice in accordance with current requirements of the Delaware Sediment and Stormwater Regulations dated October 11, 2006 or as later revised.
C. Abandoned or Vacant Property: Impervious cover restrictions in this section do not apply to vacant or abandoned property. These properties must comply with the source water protection area zoning district regulations.


New development in Laurel may exceed the 30% impervious cover threshold within Excellent Ground Water Recharge Potential Areas and WHP Zone 2, but be no more than 50% impervious, provided the applicant submits an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, including a climatic water budget, and includes in the development plan systems to augment recharge that assure water quality as well as quantity. The environmental impact assessment must document that post-development recharge will be no less than predevelopment recharge when computed on an annual basis. Any Environmental Impact Assessment Report is subject to review and approval by the Town, Town’s Engineer and DNREC. No property located within WHP Zone 2 or within a designated excellent ground-water recharge potential area shall be subdivided or otherwise altered in size and shape in a manner that creates a property that violates the provisions of this section.

The loss of recharge due to impervious cover may be offset by constructing recharge basins that convey pretreated rooftop runoff for infiltration to ground water. Refer to the document entitled Ground-Water Recharge Design Methodology for the details of how to design recharge facilities in Delaware source water protection areas.

A. Where required by the terms of this section, a Delaware Registered Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist shall prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, containing the following elements of planning, design, construction, and maintenance of ground-water recharge facilities, as determined applicable by the Town:

1) Site description of proposed development within the water resource protection area

2) Climatic water balance comparing predevelopment and post-development recharge potential

3) Subsurface exploration including borings, test pits, and infiltration tests

4) Drawings of pre-development and post-development conditions

5) Design of ground-water recharge facilities that assure water quality as well as quantity

6) Construction and maintenance considerations

7) Recommended ground-water monitoring plan

8) Water management agreement between the applicant and the town, city, or county providing for monitoring and maintenance of the recharge system. The applicant will
§170-34. Nonconforming uses.

Nonconforming uses may continue in wellhead protection area, and excellent ground-water recharge potential areas in the form in which they existed at the time of the adoption of this ordinance, unless they pose a direct hazard to the city's water supply, as determined by the water and waste water department upon advice from the Delaware Division of Public Health, or are causing some foreign substances (oil, salts, chemicals, or other substances) to be introduced into the city's water supply, as determined by the water and waste water department upon advice from DNREC's Division of Air and Waste Management and/or Division of Water Resources. In the latter case, the building department shall issue a mandatory cease and desist to stop the offending activity within the area. Nonconforming existing underground or above-ground storage of oil, petroleum, and petroleum products shall require secondary containment pursuant to the State of Delaware regulations governing underground storage tanks or for above-ground storage of petroleum products secondary containment facilities capable of capturing the material stored on the site, for existing facilities that are proposed either to be upgraded or replaced.

§170-35. Wells.

A. The replacement of any existing public water supply well that was not required to meet this wellhead protection requirement at the date of its original installation and that has failed shall be exempt from meeting this wellhead protection requirement.

B. No private potable water well or private agricultural well will be permitted within the boundaries of the Town of Laurel, as established in Article VIII of this Chapter. Private wells are permitted for geothermal heating and cooling and must be approved by DNREC and Town of Laurel prior to installation. Only closed-loop geothermal wells shall be permitted in the Town of Laurel, provided said wells are grouted, well loops are welded, and any coolant used in the operation of the geothermal system contains no toxic substance.

C. Development plans (conceptual, preliminary, final) that have been submitted to the Town of Laurel’s Planning & Zoning Commission prior to adoption of this ordinance shall attempt compliance with the spirit of the ordinance as deemed practical.
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS Ordinance shall become effective upon its enactment following the Second Reading.

Date of First Reading: October 5, 2009
Date of Second Reading: October 19, 2009

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager be and is hereby directed to cause a notice which shall consist of a true copy of this ordinance, in full or by title only, to be published in The Star, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Laurel, if the ordinance is passed following the Second Reading.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
LAUREL, DELAWARE

By: [Signature]
John J. Shwed, Mayor

Attest: [Signature]
William J. Fasano, Jr.
Town Manager