

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

MAY 12, 2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, was held virtually via Zoom and called to order by Mayor Tom Nelson at 6:34 p.m. on May 12, 2020.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:           Emelie Eaton           Heidi Sparks  
  Bruce McGee           Richard Herr  
  Scot Stokes           Irv Wilke  
  Richard Klose        Don Nelson

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:       None

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:           Levi Vandersloot, Interim Ambulance Director  
  Stan Langve, Police Chief

Mayor Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Mayor Nelson asked the Council to observe a moment of silence.

## MINUTES:

Motion by Council Member McGee to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 28, 2020, as presented, seconded by Council Member Eaton. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Klose, Nelson, Stokes, McGee, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

- Laurel Airport Authority Minutes of February 24, 2020.
- STIP Correspondence 2020-2024

**COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

## CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims enter through 4/10/2020 totaling \$247,216.21, 4/24/2020 totaling \$125,312.52, and 5/8/2020 totaling \$592,467.74.**
- **Clerk/Treasurer Financial Statements for the month of February 2020.**
- **Clerk/Treasurer Financial Statements for the month of March 2020.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 3/22/2020 totaling \$190,913.95.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 4/5/2020 totaling \$199,986.56.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 4/19/2020 totaling \$217,219.28.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 5/3/2020 totaling \$206,123.59.**
- **Approval of Workshop Minutes of April 21, 2020.**

The Mayor asked if there was any separation of consent items. There was none.

Motion by Council Member Eaton to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Klose, Nelson, Stokes, McGee, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.



**CEREMONIAL CALENDAR:** None.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

- Budget/Finance Committee minutes of April 28, 2020.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):**

The Council Secretary read into record the attached public comment from Patricia Smith of 409 Maple Avenue, Laurel, MT.

**SCHEDULED MATTERS:**

- **Appointment of Police Commission for a term ending April 30, 2023.**

Motion by Council Member McGee to appoint Bill Mountsier to the Police Commission for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023, seconded by Council Member Klose.

Mayor Nelson asked for any public comment.

Bill Mountsier gave a brief overview of his experience in law enforcement. He thanked Council for their consideration in the matter.

The Council Secretary read into record the attached public comment from Jessica McCartney, 3030 Union President.

Mayor Nelson aske for any Council discussion.

A Council Member commented that they support the nomination of Bill Mountsier. They are excited to see a new perspective brought to the Police Commission. They acknowledged that candidate Rick Musson was also an outstanding candidate and thanked him for his service on the Police Department.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Wilke, Klose, Nelson, Stokes, McGee, and Eaton voted aye. Council Member Herr voted nay. Motion carried 7-1.

- **Appointment of Amber Beck to the Laurel Volunteer Ambulance Service.**

Motion by Council Member Nelson to approve the Mayor's appointment of Amber Beck to the Laurel Volunteer Ambulance Service, seconded by Council Member Wilke.

Levi Vandersloot, Interim Ambulance Director, stated that Miss Beck is a great asset to the Ambulance Service. Miss Beck is currently in nursing school and a very qualified individual.

There was no council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Klose, Nelson, Stokes, McGee, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R20-25: A Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing The Disposal Of City Records.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R20-25, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Klose, Nelson, Stokes, McGee, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R20-26: A Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing The Disposal Of City Records.**

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve Resolution No. R20-26, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Klose, Nelson, Stokes, McGee, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.



- **Resolution No. R20-27: Resolution Approving Change Order #1 To The City's Contract With Hardrives Construction, Inc. Authorizing Additional Work For City Of Laurel's 2020 Pavement Maintenance Project And To Authorize the Mayor To Sign Change Order Documents On The City's Behalf.**

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve Resolution No. R20-27, seconded by Council Member Klose. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Klose, Nelson, Stokes, McGee, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O20-02: An Ordinance Amending Title 2 Chapter 2.60 Of The Laurel Municipal Code Relating To The City's Police and Police Commission. (1<sup>st</sup> reading)**

Motion by Council Member Stokes to adopt Ordinance No. O20-02, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Klose, Nelson, Stokes, McGee, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:** None.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT):** None.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Council commented on the amount of street work being completed within the City.

Council President Eaton noted that Budget/Finance had a lot of material to cover during their meeting and were able to complete their entire agenda within 45 minutes. It was a very quick and efficient meeting.

**MAYOR UPDATES:**

Mayor Nelson stated he is hoping to have a COVID update soon.

**UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:** None.

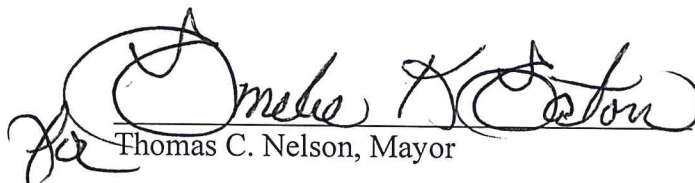
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Council Member Klose to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Klose, Nelson, Stokes, McGee, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

  
Brittney Moorman, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.

  
Thomas C. Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer



Laurel City Council  
115 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Laurel, MT 59044

May 8, 2020

Good evening,

Mr. Mayor and Council Members,


As the President of Local Union 303, I am writing this letter regarding the open seat on the Police Commission Board. Local Union 303 believes that the Police Department and the Union have a vested interest in who is appointed to serve on the Board. The individual appointed will have a direct effect on the hiring of any Police Officer for the Laurel Police Department and the potential to have an effect on a disciplinary action involving a police officer.

Local Union 303 believes that both candidates are qualified for the position, both having had previous law enforcement experience and understanding of the inner workings of the City and the Police Department. We would like to express our sincere thanks to both individuals for showing an interest in the position.

By majority vote, the Local Union 303 is recommending Bill Mountsier, as the preferred candidate for the open position on the Police Commission Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica L. McCartney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'M'.

Jessica L. McCartney  
Local 303 Union President  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO



## **Brittney Moorman**

---

**From:** Laurel MT via Laurel MT <noreply@cityoflaurelmontana.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:11 AM  
**To:** Brittney Moorman  
**Subject:** Patricia Smith

Submitted on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 - 11:10am Submitted by anonymous user: 72.174.115.140 Submitted values are:

Name: Patricia Smith

Address: 409 Maple Ave, Laurel

Public Comment: Two questions please. Can we do anything about the ever growing length of Rail

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fcityoflaurelmontana.com%2fnode%2f16092%2fsubmission%2f291&c=E,1,yI8KpmsH6p\\_MfJaHOkEtkepvb3orxQ74QSF0T5bzXv32dzTuRKtkXgKhktu3tzEE33U4O-FE0hTznZ7Z5i6SOU2Llp2vcwg7vymTasnMywD-0So\\_idUZ2w,,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fcityoflaurelmontana.com%2fnode%2f16092%2fsubmission%2f291&c=E,1,yI8KpmsH6p_MfJaHOkEtkepvb3orxQ74QSF0T5bzXv32dzTuRKtkXgKhktu3tzEE33U4O-FE0hTznZ7Z5i6SOU2Llp2vcwg7vymTasnMywD-0So_idUZ2w,,&typo=1)

## **Brittney Moorman**

---

**From:** Laurel MT via Laurel MT <noreply@cityoflaurelmontana.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:12 AM  
**To:** Brittney Moorman  
**Subject:** Patricia Smith

Submitted on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 - 11:12am Submitted by anonymous user: 72.174.115.140 Submitted values are:

Name: Patricia Smith

Address: 409 Maple Ave

Public Comment: Wasn't finished. The train horns are getting way more often and longer, at 3am to blow horn for 60 seconds is ridiculous!

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fcityoflaurelmontana.com%2fnode%2f16092%2fsubmission%2f301&c=E,1,r1HyLRF-WZGeZoTs1cF02C7q\\_PDvkxVTPGE2\\_AJ7ThBb8jQ6ZJYLBTVWBOA\\_280MbeHRzIKMpuJJeM6A2stw9CuxoR9IRSFJe47P98iGs9qtxn0whNeKeJXe&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fcityoflaurelmontana.com%2fnode%2f16092%2fsubmission%2f301&c=E,1,r1HyLRF-WZGeZoTs1cF02C7q_PDvkxVTPGE2_AJ7ThBb8jQ6ZJYLBTVWBOA_280MbeHRzIKMpuJJeM6A2stw9CuxoR9IRSFJe47P98iGs9qtxn0whNeKeJXe&typo=1)