

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

June 27, 2023

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, was held in the Council Chambers and called to order by Mayor Dave Waggoner at 6:30 p.m. on June 27, 2023.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:      Emelie Eaton      Heidi Sparks  
   Michelle Mize      Richard Herr  
   Casey Wheeler      Irv Wilke  
   Richard Klose      Jodi Mackay

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:      None

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:      Michele, Braukmann, Civil City Attorney  
   Brittney Moorman, Council Administrative Assistant

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

## MINUTES:

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 13, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

- Esther Graesser Correspondence
- Jon Klasna Reappointment to City/County Planning Board.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

## CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims entered through June 23, 2023.**  
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 6/11/2023 totaling \$236,564.23.**

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

Motion by Council Member Klose to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: None.

## REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- Budget/Finance Committee Minutes of June 13, 2023.
- Public Works Committee Minutes of May 15, 2023.
- Tree Board Minutes of April 20, 2023.
- City/Council Planning Board Minutes of May 17, 2023.
- Emergency Services Committee Minutes of May 22, 2023.
- Library Board Minutes of March 14, 2023.
- Library Board Minutes of April 11, 2023.
- Library Board Minutes of May 9, 2023.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

DW

Cheryl Hill, Amy Mullaney, and Cami Nelson announced that Billie Riddle Splash Park was awarded the T-Mobil Hometown Grant of \$50,000. This project was one of 25 awarded projects. There were 600 applications. This project also received the largest award of the 25 projects awarded. There will be a check presentation on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at Firemen's Park.

The Mayor and Council thanked them for their hard work in fundraising for the Billie Riddle Splash Park.

Steve Krum, 249 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue W., urged the City and Council to request an Environmental Impact Statement over an Environmental Assessment. Requests are due by July 30, 2023, to the DEQ. Mr. Krum shared his letter, see attached, to the DEQ.

#### **SCHEDULED MATTERS:**

- **Motion to allow Council Member Sparks to be absent from the City of Laurel for more than ten days. (LMC 2.12.060)**

Motion by Council Member Mackay to allow Council Member Sparks to be absent from the City of Laurel for more than ten days. (LMC 2.12.060), seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R23-43: A Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing Adopting The City Of Laurel Capital Improvement Plan.**

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve Resolution No. R23-43, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment.

It was questioned if the tennis courts are demolished, will that become grass, or are there other plans for that area. It was clarified this is a living document, and the City can make changes as needed. The plan, for now, is to make that area grassy. At one point, the Park Board was approached by a group that wanted to bring Pickle Ball courts to town. The City has not received an update on that project.

It was questioned whether the new garbage truck needed to be replaced via this plan. It was clarified that the age and repair costs associated with a vehicle would determine replacement.

A vote was taken on the motion. All eight Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

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

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

#### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Recently Council Member Klose attended the Montana American Legion Conference in Lewistown. While there, he saw the attached display depicting the 660 veterans lost each month due to suicide. He had the opportunity to bring this display to Laurel before it travels to North Dakota. The display will be placed in Firemen's Park tomorrow through Saturday.

Mayor Waggoner stated he contacted local, new agencies to help bring more light to the number of veterans lost each month.

Anyone interested in helping set up this display can arrive at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

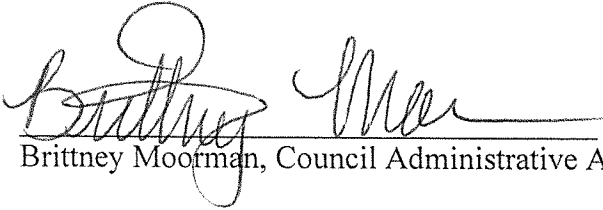
#### **MAYOR UPDATES:**

Mayor Waggoner stated that the Water Plant was closed as a precautionary measure until more information available on the impact of the derailment was known. The Refinery offered to test the water every 30 minutes and never saw any chemicals enter our water plant. All staff handled this situation very well.

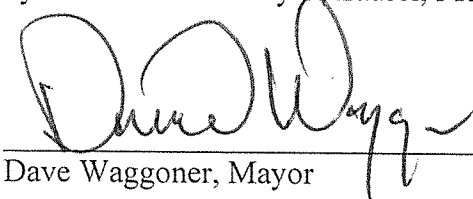
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Council Member Eaton to adjourn the Council meeting, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

  
Brittney Moorman, Council Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023.

  
Dave Waggoner, Mayor

Attest:

  
Kelly Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer



**June 25, 2023**

**Send Comments to :DEQ-ARMB-Admin@mt.gov**

**Mr. Mayor Council Members,**

**I am here asking you all as a group or individuals to consider sending in comments requesting the DEQ to do and EIS review instead of an EA as the issues involving this plant are much greater than the EA covered. An EIS " Environmental Impact Statement" goes into greater detail and depth of the impact a plant of this site would have on community and all those downwind of this plant site.**

**A request from the City Council and Laurel would carry much more weight and give our community a greater chance to get all the facts about this plant and the possible impacts to us all.**

**Please consider putting in a comment on or before July 3 and request and EIS to be done. Below are my comments to the DEQ.**

**Steve Krum  
249 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Laurel, Montana 59044**

**JMerkel@mt.gov DEQ:**

**"Comments on the Environmental Assessment for Laurel Generating Station (MAQP: #5261-00),"**

**Judge Moses was correct in issuing the injunction to stop the illegal building of the Laurel generating station by NWE because the DEQ failed to consider and address the impact of greenhouse gases, lighting, and other significant impacts on the community. There are more GHG's involved then just CO2.**

**Because the original EA was done with very little notice to the community of Laurel and the Safety and Health of the community was never addressed locally by either NWE or the DEQ, per Judge Moses' injunction, the DEQ needs to explain to the community why a plant that is designed to convert a regulated greenhouse gas, creates hazardous cancer causing chemicals in that process, plant then becomes classified as a "Major Source of Hazardous Air Pollutants" was never addressed in the EA, or an EIS completed.**

**How a plant emitting regulated greenhouse gases, PM<sup>2.5</sup> PM<sup>10</sup>, 200+ tons of PM's and cancer-causing Hazardous Air Pollutants never required and Environmental Impact Statement.**

**The DEQ also allows NWE's plant to be out-of-spec with air emissions the equivalent of ~565 days of time in a 12-month period, does this added additional pollution to the community create an even greater risk to our families than currently being stated? Will the plant emit even more than the stated 5 times the single source HAP emissions and more than 4 times the combined source emissions of HAP's while**

may make the taxpayer liable for any losses NWE incur because of DEQs' failure to do a complete review, an EIS.

All of these issues should have required an EIS, Environmental Impact Statement. We all have the right to know the "True Impact" of this plant on our community, our Children and Our Grandchildren and should be allowed to see the results of a proper review, EIS. Or are the communities of Laurel and Billings and everyone downwind and around the plant going to be sacrificed for NWE profits by the DEQ?

Will this plant create an increase in cancer in our community because of Green House Gas, HAP's and PM's?

Will the neighborhoods around the plant live with excessive lighting forever which can and will cause health issues because of the massive plant size?

Will we never have peace and quiet in our community again because the DEQ failed to require complete data of this plant's noise making potential?

Are Our children, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, grandparents, and the most vulnerable being sacrificed for money by the DEQ?

DEQ, please do a complete review on these issues and get the real facts and impacts of this plant by doing an "Environmental Impact Statement, EIS", not a quick office desk "Environmental Assessment, EA" review with only data from the owner that does not address these issues at ALL.


Where's the facts, where is the real data, the Laurel and Billings Communities have the right to know.

Steve Krum  
249 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Laurel, Montana 59044



# FLAGS FOR FORGOTTEN SOLDIERS

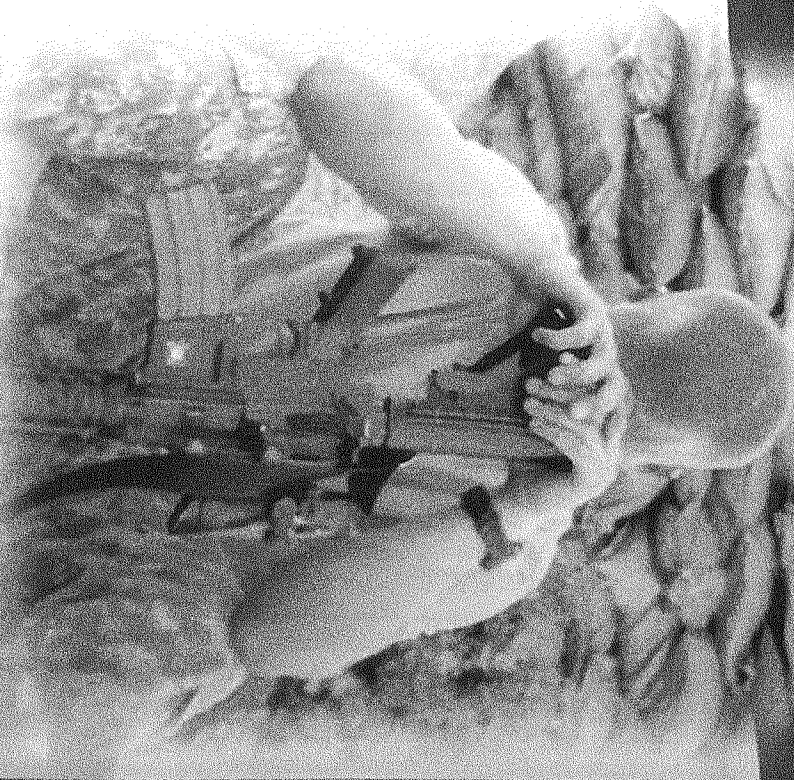
THESE 660 FLAGS  
REPRESENT THE  
NUMBER OF VETERANS  
WHO DIE BY THEIR OWN  
HAND EVERY MONTH

 Veterans  
Crisis Line  
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Text to  
838255



Scan the QR code to learn more about the program



Come help us celebrate!!!!



July 6th 5:00pm

Fireman's Park (108 E Main St)