

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

JUNE 18, 2019

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 Tom Nelson at 6:38 p.m. on June 18, 2019.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce McGee	Heidi Sparks
Scot Stokes	Richard Herr
Richard Klose	Irv Wilke
	Bill Mountsier

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Emelie Eaton

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer

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 June 4, 2019, as presented, seconded by Council Member Klose. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Yellowstone County for the re-appointment of Mr. Benner and to the Laurel City/County Planning Board; Letter from Yellowstone County for the re-appointment of Mr. Klasna to the Laurel City/County Planning Board.
- Resignation letter from Ken Gomer.
- Chamber of Commerce minutes of May 10, 2019; Laurel Chamber of Commerce agenda of June 13, 2019.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims for the month of June 2019 in the amount of \$248,580.70**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 6/2/2019 totaling \$186,340.84.**
- **Receiving the Committee/Board/Commission Reports into the Record.**
 - Budget/Finance Committee minutes of June 4, 2019, were presented.
 - Council Workshop minutes of June 11, 2019, were presented.

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

Motion by Council Member McGee 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 seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: None.

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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):

Chris Vogele, 306 E. 4th Street, stated he recently witnessed and emergent event near his home where an ambulance was unable to respond. He stayed with the caller while waiting for an ambulance from Billings to respond. They waited 23 minutes for the ambulance to arrive. Mr. Vogele spoke in support of full-time EMT services.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Re-appointment of Roger Giese to the City/County Planning Board for a two-year term ending June 30, 2021.**

Motion by Council Member Stokes to approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Roger Giese to the City/County Planning Board for a two-year term ending June 30, 2021, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Re-appointment of Brock Williams to the Laurel Airport Authority for a five-year term ending June 30, 2024.**

Motion by Council Member Klose to approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Brock Williams to the Laurel Airport Authority for a five-year term ending June 30, 2024, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Re-appointment of David Gauslow to the Cemetery Commission for a two-year term ending June 30, 2021.**

Motion by Council Member Mountsier to approve the Mayor's re-appointment of David Gauslow to the Cemetery Commission for a two-year term ending June 30, 2021, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Re-appointment of Richard Klose to the Cemetery Commission for a two-year term ending June 30, 2021.**

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Richard Klose to the Cemetery Commission for a two-year term ending June 30, 2021, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Re-Appointment of Phyllis Bromgard to the Tree Board for a three-year term ending June 30, 2022.**

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Phyllis Brogmard to the Tree Board for a three-year term ending June 30, 2022, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Re-Appointment of Clair Killebrew to the Library Board for a five-year term ending June 30, 2024.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve the Mayor's appointment of Clair Killebrew to the Library Board for a five-year term ending June 30, 2024, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment.

Motion by Council Member Herr to amend the appointment to Council Member Eaton as a representative on the Library Board, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment on the amended motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Mountsier, and Klose voted aye. Council Members Stokes and McGee voted nay. Motion carried 5-2.

- **Resolution No. R19-22: A Resolution Of The City Council To Amend The Large Grant Request Program Pursuant To The Recommendation Of The Laurel Urban Renewal Agency.**

Motion by Council Member McGee to approve Resolution No. R19-22, seconded by Council Member Sparks.

Chris Voge, 306 E. 4th Street, owns two businesses in the City of Laurel. He is disappointed that there are no LURA members present at this meeting. He thanked the Mayor and Council Member Herr for attending the last LURA meeting. Asked that Council view projects as an investment so that there is a return. He is unsure that this project will increase the tax base as there will not be new businesses going into that area. He asked what the return will be on this investment. This could hurt the City in the long run in terms of an increase in taxes coming back to the City.

Council Member McGee stated that the question before Council is to approve the Large Grant Increase. It is unfortunate that future considerations that are not on the table for tonight's discussion is the focus on the discussion.

Motion by Council Member Herr to amend Resolution No. R19-22 to a cap of \$175,000, seconded by Council Member Sparks.

Chris Voge, 306 E. 4th Street, stated that raising the limit to \$225,000 is not enough, especially with the vacant storefronts along Main Street.

Council Member McGee stated that the Council has the potential to miss a great opportunity to support the business owners who fund the TIF. The future concerns are unwarranted. If in the future the Large Grant program needs to reduce their funds, those applying should understand. He stated that this should be moved back to the original ask from LURA of \$225,000.

A roll call vote was taken on the amended motion. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, and Mountsier voted aye. Council Members Klose, Stokes, and McGee voted nay. Motion failed 4-3.

There was no further public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Herr, Wilke, Klose, Stokes, and McGee voted aye. Council Members Sparks and Mountsier voted nay. Motion carried 5-2.

- **Resolution No. R19-24: A Resolution Adopting A Safety Policy For The City Of Laurel.**

Motion by Council Member McGee to approve Resolution No. R19-24, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R19-25: A Resolution Approving The Agreement Between The City Of Laurel And The Laurel Airport Authority, Said Agreement Relating To Fire Protection**

Motion by Council Member Stokes to approve Resolution No. R19-25, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R19-26: A Resolution Approving An Agreement Between The City Of Laurel And Yellowstone Boys And Girls Ranch, Relating To Fire Protection.**

Motion by Council Member Klose to approve Resolution No. R19-26, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R19-27: A Resolution To Authorize The Mayor To Sign Agreements With Laurel Public Schools, District 7 And 7-70, Continuing The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program For The Laurel High School.**

Motion by Council Member Mountsier to approve Resolution No. R19-27, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R19-28: A Resolution To Authorize The Mayor To Sign Agreements With Laurel Public Schools, District 7 And 7-70, Continuing The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program For The Laurel Middle School.**

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve Resolution No. R19-28, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R19-29: A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Execute Agreements With Zuercher Technologies LLC, A Tritech Software Systems Company, For Equipment And Support For The City's 911 Service.**

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve Resolution No. R19-29, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R19-30: A Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing The Mayor To Sign A Contract With Christison's Roofing For Roof Repairs On The Jaycee Hall.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R19-30, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R19-31: A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Contract For The City Prosecutor Position Between The City Of Laurel And Attorney Teague Westrope.**

Motion by Council Member McGee to approve Resolution No. R19-31, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. Mr. Westrope introduced himself to the Council. There was no council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT):

Chris Voge, 306 E. 4th Street, gave a reminder that the Fourth of July is just around the corner. Residents should take a moment to make sure their yards are taken care of as there are people who will be coming to town who have not been here. This is an opportunity to make a good impression.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Council Member Klose requested to be placed on the next Council agenda as he will be absent for more than ten days.

The Will Smith Gallery Tournament for American League Baseball starting at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. There will be teams from Washington, Idaho, Colorado, North and South Dakota in town.

There will be an open house at the Water Treatment Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant on July 22, 2019. A Ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 6:00 p.m.

MAYOR UPDATES:

The City received a letter, see attached, from the County Election Administration noticing the City that there will not be Primary Election this year. Primary Elections are only needed when more than three people are running for one seat.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member McGee to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.



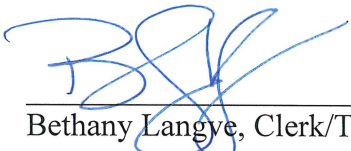
Brittney Moorman, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 2nd day of July 2019.



Thomas C. Nelson, Mayor

Attest:



Bethany Langye, Clerk/Treasurer



Yellowstone County

Election Administrator

(406) 256-2740
(406) 254-7940 (FAX)

P.O. Box 35002
Billings, MT 59107-5002

brutherford@co.yellowstone.mt.gov

June 18, 2019

RE: Municipal Primary

Dear City Clerk,

In accordance with 13-14-115 MCA, I am writing to inform you that the September 10, 2019 Municipal Primary Election for the City of Laurel has been cancelled for all races due to the lack of candidates. The governing body may still require that a primary election be held if it passes a resolution not more than 10 days after the close of filing. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bret Rutherford

Bret Rutherford
Election Administrator
Yellowstone County