

**MINUTES
CITY OF LAUREL
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019**

A Council Workshop was held in the Council Chambers and called to order by Mayor Tom Nelson at 6:30 p.m. on June 11, 2019.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emelie Eaton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Sparks |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce McGee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Herr |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scot Stokes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irv Wilke |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Klose | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Mountsier |

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Courtney, Safety Officer
Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer
Stan Langve, Police Chief
Nick Altonaga, City Planner

Public Input:

There were none.

General Items

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

All appointments on this agenda are re-appointments of people who are already serving on these Boards and Committees. Mayor Nelson announced that the City/County Planning Board has four vacancies. Those who are interested in serving on any of the Boards/Commission can contact the City Clerk or Council Secretary.

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

There was no discussion.

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

There was no discussion.

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

There was no discussion.

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

There was no discussion.

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

Mayor Nelson stated that Clair Killebrew had served one term on the Library Board. She is requesting to be re-appointed to her second, and final, term. Mayor Nelson also stated that Council President Eaton was also interested in serving on this Board. One Council Member is allowed to serve on Library Board.

It was questioned if there was only one position open. It was clarified that is correct.

Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer, stated that the Library fund would be moved out of General Fund and into its own fund. The Library will be responsible for creating and maintaining its own budget. This is how they should have been set up to begin with. They will be allotted a mill value each year. This year it was calculated to be approximately 29 mills to mirror this year's budget. Once Council approves the mill value, they no longer have oversight over how the Library Board chooses to spend those funds. The Library Board will still have to report to the State in regards to their budget. The City is required to budget a minimum of 5 mills for the Library. For these reasons, the Council may consider appointing a Council Member to the Library Board. It is the Clerk/Treasurers opinion that a Council Member sits on this board as there is no direct oversight of the Library by Council. Before Council approved expenditures and provided oversight, this is no longer the case.

It was questioned if the State or the City fund the Library. It was clarified that the City funds the Library and will now do so by moving mills from the General Fund to Fund 2220.

It was questioned why it wasn't set up this way to begin and what triggered this change. It was clarified that in the review of the budgeting process, there is a lot of time that the Clerk/Treasurer and Mayor spend establishing the budget for the Library. Upon further review, it was determined that this should be done by the Library. This process is used in other City's, and it seems to work well for them. and it seems to work well for them.

Executive Review

7. Resolution: A Resolution Adopting A Safety Policy For The City Of Laurel.

Karen Courtney, Safety Officer, stated the current Safety Policy was written in 2004. It is antiquated and needed to be updated. This proposed policy was accepted by the Safety Committee in January of 2018. Department Heads reviewed and suggested changes. After those changes were made it was signed off on by Department Heads in November 2018. The City's insurance company reviewed and approved this policy. The City Attorney has also reviewed and approved this policy. This policy incorporates current OSHA standards.

Mayor Nelson stated that last time Council saw a policy this big was the personnel manual. At the time there was some angst in approving the policy without having the time to fully review the

document. Council has the option to not make a decision at next week's meeting and bring it back to the following Workshop if they need additional time to review the document.

The Safety Officer clarified the last Safety Policy was over 150 pages in length. This Safety Policy is a condensed version of a policy. There will be department specific policies. The safety needs of office personnel are different than those in Public Works.

It was questioned if the Safety Officer could address the major changes to this policy. It was clarified that responsibilities are better outlined, clarity in the chain of command, and where things need to be reported. It also states that the Safety Committee will review all accidents within the City; this was not previously stated and wasn't being done. This City was addressed via the Department of Labor & Industry as to why we weren't investigating accidents to prevent them from occurring in the future. The Safety Officer is to be notified of all accidents to track for any trends and can assign training to that department. The forms have been updated to protect privacy; they do not contain information such as social security numbers.

It was questioned if this policy will be updated regularly. It was clarified that this policy would be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The accident rate is decreasing throughout the City. How City's are rated is changing and will change the focus. The Safety Officer will work to identify any shortcomings and add those to this list.

It was questioned if each department will have its own safety policy. It was clarified that this policy is the basic policy that covers all employees. The department-specific policy will address the issues related to that departments needs. Each department has a representative on the Safety Committee. They will go over the department safety policy with each employee and have them sign off that they have been trained.

It was questioned after their initial training when they are hired, how often do they have to revisit the safety policy. The only time the employee will be required to read the policy is when there is an update. However, they have implemented "Toolbox Talks" that can be done at department meetings. There are 52 topics, and each is approximately 5 minutes in length before the City would use 30-minute videos from the 1970s.

It was questioned how this policy works with MMIA and if it will affect the City's insurance rate. This policy will affect the City's insurance rates the City receives a rating. Two pieces that are part of that calculation is does the City have a safety policy and do they have a safety committee. Both are required by OSHA. The original template was from MMIA; they have also reviewed the final policy. The fact that training has been done and employees have signed off should help reduce the insurance rates. Recently the Safety Committee recommended the use of ice cleats, all employees were issued ice cleats, and it has reduced the slip and fall accidents.

It was questioned what resources were used in crafting this policy. The Safety Officer had attended Safety Fest used their distributed information, OSHA Standards, and the Montana Safety Culture Act. One thing that has already been implemented is the safety concern form. An employee doesn't need to put their name on the form, but they can report a safety concern both

to their supervisor or the Safety Officer. All safety concerns are reviewed and brought to the Safety Committee for discussion.

It was questioned if there were any identified safety concerns at this time. It was stated that the only ones currently are the buildings at City Shop, there was some leaking of the roof and other maintenance that needed to be addressed. During building inspections looked for items to make the buildings safer and have appropriate fire egress and ensuring everyone is out of the building.

8. 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.

Nick Altonaga, City Planner, took a brief moment to recap the events of the past few weeks regarding this issue. The request to raise the large grant cap to \$225k was to better serve the businesses within the district. There have been some communication gaps between the Council and LURA. He is working hard to bridge those gaps to the best of his ability. Historically there have been issues with bringing items to Council properly and reporting properly. Spoke with the Clerk/Treasurer about the reports Council is asking for, both are willing and able to draft any report necessary for Council that would include the funding that has been requested, what the budget looks like, and help bridge the communication gap.

Judy Goldsby, LURA Chair, gave a brief overview of how the TIF District works and that LURA has been able to do some incredible things so far. Last year LURA received over \$400k in requests. LURA was unable to grant all the grants, and even shuffled some of the projects into the small grants as it benefited the applicant more. She stated there are many more things the LURA Board could do if they had the funding available.

Steve Solberg, property owner within the District, stated he has been on the LURA Board for approximately five or six years. He has seen a lot of progress made during his time on the board. He stated it was his understanding that the TIF District was a tax increase that was created with the purpose of helping the businesses owners. Last year approximately \$800k worth of projects was submitted. The Large Grant is a 1:1, it is not a funding mechanism but rather an assist mechanism. He gave some examples of the work LURA has done around the TIF District, ranging from parking lot improvements to street paving to the improvement of the business appearance. His perception of LURA is not for infrastructure funding. The proposed project has not been on LURA's radar as a potential project. The increase of the Large Grant Program cap to \$225k would allow businesses to continue to make improvements.

Peggy Miller, 201 E. Main Street, stated that the grant program is wonderful. She and her husband did not opt to use the program until this last year. It allowed them to get going on renovating their building, where other circumstances would have limited the work they could do. They take great pride in the upgrades they have done. The upgrades also incentivize other businesses to do the same. This area is looking alive and new, which is not only good for the businesses but the community as well. Mrs. Miller stated she feels the funds should stay in the fund and be used to help businesses as it was designed for. Each business is grateful for every dollar they were able to receive. Mrs. Miller appreciates the Council, LURA, and the opportunities this program has brought business owners.

It was questioned if the Mayor was the grapevine that previous speakers had referred to, further what is going on with the street project. It was clarified that LURA would expire if a few years if a project is not bonded to extend the TIF District. There are two options; those funds can be spent on projects and let the TIF District expire or bond a project and extend the TIF District. It has always been the desire of the City to bond a project to extend the TIF District. A variety of projects have been discussed over the years. One was the Gateway project. This project would cost more than what LURA is able to contribute as well as it is a State highway. The goal was to increase traffic flow by installing a roundabout. However, having a roundabout butting up to a four-way stop does not help with the flow of traffic. The Mayor is investigating ways to have the underpass lanes widened when the railroad bridges are replaced. The project the Mayor spoke with LURA about a few months back addresses the streets in most disrepair within the TIF District. This project allows for the TIF District to be extended. Eventually, savings will be built up again to continue to do future grant funding or even bond a smaller project. Tax values typically increase over time. Once the TID District expires it is done, you do not create another TIF in the same location. The City needs to take advantage of the ability to extend the district.

Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer, clarified that the TIF District is not just a grant program; in fact, it is a lot more than a grant program. She stated she was disappointed in the lack of support for this project. The Mayor has brought forward an incredible project. The TIF District has had over a million dollars for over three years, there have been no complaints in that time. Now that a project is in the works, there are complaints. This project will bring streets and infrastructure to businesses and will assist those business in many facets. The prior staff did not educate this committee on how it should run. The new Planner is working hard to address those issues. There has been a request for an annual report. The Clerk/Treasurer asked what the Council would like to see in this report. It's known that Council wants to see revenue, expenditures, and what is handed out in grant money, but are there other items that Council would like a report on such as before and after pictures or a synopsis of the projects that received grant funding.

It was stated that every time LURA comes in, it seems they are unaware of what the bondable project is. They are an advisory committee, but they need to be able to advise. It was clarified by the LURA Chair that the only mechanism they had to spend money was via the grant programs. They did not have a presentation of what the bondable project would be. The grant increase request came from the desire to use some of the funds that LURA had sitting in their account. LURA would like the bondable projects to be presented so that LURA can advise on the project.

It was stated that LURA has a million dollars that have accumulated over the past few years. The City now has a bondable project that this reserve will be used to extend the life of the district. The TIF District will continue on with the same amount of income. It was questioned if this is correct. It was clarified that that was indeed correct. The revenue should increase annually. Part of the annual revenue will be used to make their debt service payments.

It was questioned if Council does not approve the Large Grant Program increase will LURA be able to continue their grant programs have they have in previous years. It was clarified that that is correct. When entered into the bondable project, the district will be extended another 25 years.

If the Council chooses to approve the cap to \$225k, they should still be able to bond a project. It was further clarified that LURA is not required to disburse funds up to their cap.

The Planner clarified that he would be working on performance measures to help objectively score each of the grant applications. After discussions with LURA members, it is clear that there is miscommunication. LURA was under the impression this was in the conceptual stage and not the design stage. The Planner is working to clear those lines of communication. Mayor Nelson clarified further that the only conceptual project he had seen was the Gateway project. That the City is to the point where they need to get this project bonded to extend the TIF District so as not to let it expire. Business owners have come forward, asked for various issues to be addressed. This is the Goldilocks project; it is in the district, the area is blighted, it assists the businesses in the area, and is affordable.

It was stated that LURA receives over \$600k each year in revenue, and the expected debt service payment will be \$200k. It was clarified they are budgeting a debt service payment of \$350k each year. It was questioned if raising the limit to \$225k wouldn't there still be funds left over. It was clarified that the \$225k does not include the Technical Assistance or Façade grant programs. LURA has the ability to spend up to \$5k before they need Council approval. It was questioned what will be left over after the debt service payment. It was clarified that the project could bond out higher than expected. The Clerk/Treasurer has taken the conservative approach during the budgeting process.

At the last Workshop, it was stated that the Council could raise the amount by \$50k or \$75k and re-evaluate in a year or two if raising the cap to \$225k if feasible. No one is saying the grant program cannot continue or that an increase can't be given. What is being said is raising the limit to \$225k with the unknowns of how much the debt service payments will be is cutting it close. There is a very good possibility that the District may end up bonding more than anticipated, given the condition of the infrastructure. A Council Member felt that raising the cap at this juncture is putting the cart before the horse. It is terrible to tell business owners within the District that there is \$225k available and then turn around and not have the funds to give that amount out in grants. This Council Member would rather increase by a smaller amount, get hard figures for what the debt service is going to be before increasing to \$225k.

It was clarified that this is not a Public Works Project to bond the TIF District, but rather a project within the TIF District. The TIF District was created to address blight. Taxes were increased and set aside to address those issues. There are four conditions listed in LMC 20.04.030, see attached. This is not a diversion of TIF funds to do a Public Works project, but rather the TIF District addressing blight in one of its areas.

Mayor Nelson stated that the LURA Board is full of volunteers. They had done a good job since 2007 when the TIF District was created. They do rely on Staff for guidance and information. They will continue to rely on Staff as they grow. He has faith that this District will continue to see growth within the District.

The question before Council is to increase the cap for the Large Grants to \$225k. Council has two options. First is to motion, second, and approve. Second is to motion, second, motion to amend, then approve.

9. Resolution: A Resolution Approving The Agreement Between The City Of Laurel And The Laurel Airport Authority, Said Agreement Relating To Fire Protection
Mayor Nelson stated that each year, the agreement between the City of Laurel and the Airport Authority would come before Council. This year there was a 2% increase from last year. This contract is for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

It was questioned if a Council Member sits on the Airport Authority. It was clarified that no Council Member sits on the Airport Authority, but there is also no legal provision allowing a Council Member to sit on that Board.

10. Resolution: A Resolution Approving An Agreement Between The City Of Laurel And Yellowstone Boys And Girls Ranch, Relating To Fire Protection.
Mayor Nelson stated that this agreement is similar to the previous agenda item but in regards to the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch. Both the Airport and the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch have the potential to have changes in structures, unlike the other Fire Districts. For this reason, they are on a yearly rotation instead of a two-year [corrected: three-years] rotation.

It was questioned the timeframe of this contract. It was clarified that this contract is for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

11. Resolution: 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.
Stan Langve, Police Chief, stated this resolution is for last year's contract and this year's contract. There are no real changes, except the variables such as wages. There are some language clarifications that the School Districts legal staff requested. There were no changes, but more clearly stated how this program has always operated.

It was questioned if Chief Langve could give a brief summary of the SRO program. Chief Langve stated that this partnership had been the most tangible, successful partnership between the City of Laurel and the School District. Between the commitment from the City to first provide one officer, and then rapidly a second officer for this program along with the School Districts commitment with their financial challenges and growth issues. When this program began, the SRO's were addressing very different things than they are today. The SRO position has grown into an opportunity to not only be a law enforcement presence, but also a teaching opportunity. The SRO is there for security and education.

It was questioned if there have been discussions about bring an SRO to the grade school level. It was clarified that that request has not to be brought forward. The two officers are assigned a primary focus school; they are available to the grade schools if the need arises. The SRO's try to visit the grade school, especially for special events. The greatest need for the SRO presence is in the Middle School and High School.

It was questioned why the dollar amount between the FY18-19 and FY19-20 for the High School were so different. It was clarified that Officer Anglin began working in the High School in January, due to the circumstances the City is not charging the School for the full year.

12. Resolution: 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.

Agenda item discussed with a previous agenda item.

13. Resolution: 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.

Stan Langve, Police Chief, this project is to replace the near failure 911 center to a next generation 911 center. House Bill 71 requires all 911 centers to be brought up to a next generation 911 systems. This includes moving away from copper wire to internet based. This project has been in the works for a while when Chief Langve took over this past fall moved forward on this project. This is a critical need. The proposals first came in the summer of 2017. Zuercher has been in business for 25 years; they are a national company. The City of Laurel currently uses them for their Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD) for the past four years. Their customer service has been good in that timeframe. This system does have options for customization. There were two proposals. Zuercher was the low proposal, it will work seamlessly with the CAD software, and when the GIS Mapping needs to be updated, it will plug into this system without issues.

It was questioned if someone locally is contracted with this company to address any hardware maintenance issues. It was clarified they do have someone local who can assist in addressing any hardware issues, they understand this is a 911 dispatch center. This proposal came in under the budgeted amount.

Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer, stated that this was budgeted for via the CIP. It was budgeted for \$160k. It came in at \$128,326.68, which is significantly under budget.

14. Resolution: A Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing The Mayor To Sign A Contract With Christison's Roofing For Roof Repairs On The Jaycee Hall.

Mayor Nelson stated that part of the roof at Jaycee Hall blew off in a windstorm. This is the repair of that roof.

It was questioned if insurance would be paying for this repair. It was clarified that the City's deductible is \$2,500, which is approximately half the cost of the repair. Each claim effects the premium the City pays it made more sense to repair to roof ourselves than submit an insurance claim.

It was questioned if this is for an entire roof replacement or just the damage that was done. It was clarified that this is a repair for the damage that was done.

It was questioned if the work had been completed and why the contract had already been signed. It was clarified that the City is required by the lease to fix any issues with the roof if the roof goes without repair and causes damage to the inside of the building the City would also need to pay to fix those issues as well. In an effort to not have any additional damage occur, the Mayor authorized work to begin. Two quotes were obtained, there was a \$3k difference between the quotes.

15. Resolution: A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Contract For The City Prosecutor Position Between The City Of Laurel And Attorney Teague Westrope.

For years the City has had a contract with Elk River Law to provide prosecuting services for the City Court. Elk River Law choose to terminate its contract with the City. The City Civil Attorney sent out the position on the attorney listserv. There were approximately eight responses. This individual came highly recommended by the City Civil Attorney as well as the Judge.

It was questioned if this individual is local since the notification went out statewide. It was clarified that Mr. Westrope is local.

Mayor Nelson stated that there had been questions if one person to do both jobs (civil and prosecuting) would be better. Finding someone to do both sides would be difficult. Currently, the attorneys are able to get their work done at this time, having one person in both roles is not the best option for the City.

Council Issues

16. Ordinance Discussion

There are no ordinances to discuss this evening. However, this agenda item will be brought forward to Workshops that are lighter than this evenings. Need to identify the ordinances that need to be addressed. Do not want to overwhelm staff along the way.

It was questioned if changes in ordinances need to be publicly notified. It was clarified that they do. It was further questioned what that process looks like. It was stated that clarification would be made under other items.

Other Items

Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer, addressed a recent statement made by the Laurel Outlook, see attached. In the June 6, 2019 edition of the Laurel Outlook an article titled "Laurel City Council fails to amend large grant program" approximately halfway down states "Notice for the public hearing was not printed in the Outlook by the city." The Clerk/Treasurer went on record stating the City followed MCA 7-1-4127, see attached. The Clerk/Treasurer wants to make it clear to the public, Council, and staff that the public hearing was noticed properly. The affidavit of publication is available in the Clerk/Treasurers office, see attached.

It was questioned if this was fake news. It was clarified that someone reading that statement could read it as the City violated MCA 7-1-4127. The City did not violate MCA 7-1-4127.

It was questioned if resolutions needed to be publicly noticed because there is an opportunity for the public to speak prior to Council approving it. It was clarified this was in reference to the creation of SID No. 119 and required a public hearing. Those residents who are directly affected by SID No. 119 got certified mailing and had an opportunity to protest the SID.

Review of Draft Council Agendas

17. Review Draft Council Agenda for June 18, 2019.

There were no changes.

Attendance at Upcoming Council Meeting

All in attendance will be attending next week's Council meeting.

Announcements

18. Employee/Volunteer Recognition:

Mayor Nelson recognized the following Employees and Volunteers. He thanked them for their years of service.

Employee Recognition:

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------------|
| Brian Kline | 14 years | City Shop |
| William Brew III | 13 years | Police |
| Daniel Griffin | 10 years | Police |
| Raymond Ezell III | 2 years | Public Works |

Volunteer Recognition:

| | | |
|----------------|---------|-----------|
| Riley Hutchens | 5 years | Ambulance |
| Morgan Ecklund | 2 years | Ambulance |
| Shaun Klunder | 3 years | Fire |
| Shane Willis | 3 years | Fire |

The council workshop adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brittney Moorman
Administrative Assistant

NOTE: This meeting is open to the public. This meeting is for information and discussion of the Council for the listed workshop agenda items.

**Ordinance Regulations for LURA
Laurel Municipal Code 20.02.060 Sections A, B & C
And 20.04.030 and 20.04.040**

20.02.060 Agency authority and duties.

A. In accordance with MCA Section 7-15-4232(2), the city council shall assign the agency the appropriate powers . . . The agency shall act in an advisory capacity to the city council . . . The city council may modify the Laurel Urban Renewal Plan

B. Annual report. On or before September 30 of each and every year, the agency shall provide the city council a written report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year. The report shall contain a complete financial statement setting forth all appropriate expenditures, income, assets, liabilities and operating expenses. At the time of filing the report, the agency shall publish notice, in a newspaper of general circulation, that the report has been filed with the city council and is available for inspection at the office of the city clerk/treasurer during business hours and if applicable, the agency's office.

C. Annual work program and budget. The agency shall also prepare an annual work program (AWP) and proposed budget that provides a list of planned activities for the fiscal year along with the estimated costs of the planned activities. The AWP must also contain the proposed methods of financing the planned activities. . . . All budgets and revised budgets shall be reviewed and approved by the city council as required by Montana Law.

20.04.030 Existence of blight.

The city council hereby finds the following conditions of blight exist in the urban renewal district as defined in MCA Section 7-15-4206:

- A. "Blighted area" means an area that . . . constitutes an economic or social liability or is detrimental or constitutes a menace to the public health, safety, welfare . . . by reason of:
 - 1. The substantial physical dilapidation . . . whether residential or nonresidential
 - 2. Inadequate provisions for . . . sanitary facilities
 - 3. Defective or inadequate street layout
 - (a) Street improvements
 - 4. Unsanitary or unsafe conditions.
 - (a) Public safety. Certain areas do not have street lights, sidewalks, curbs, gutters or sidewalks. The installation of these types of infrastructure is vital for the public safety.

20.04.040 Effective date.

This title shall become effective the 27th day of December, 2007.

Inside:
West school students
earn awards



The Laurel Outlook

\$1 • Volume 110, Number 49 • Thursday, June 6, 2019



Relay team breaks 33-year-old school record

The Home of...
Vera Valatkas, subscriber.

Rock the Block Friday!

Spur of the Moment brings their Old-timey Americana sound to the first Rock the Block in the Laurel Town Square from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. tomorrow evening. The Laurel Little League will be the food vendors and the event is sponsored by Dynamic Designs. There will be plenty of fun for folks of all ages.

Community Calendar...

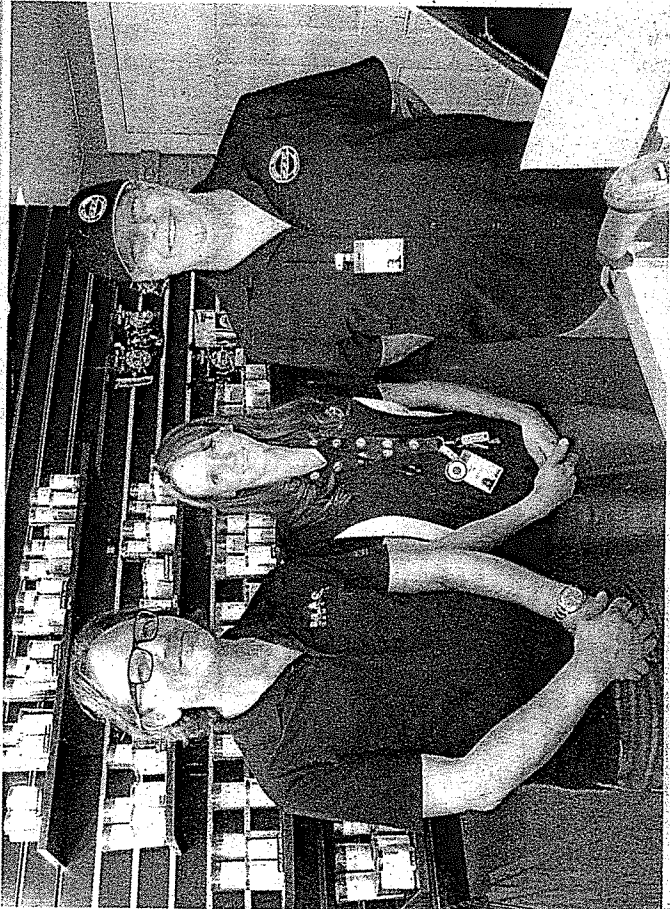
Sunday, June 9
District 4 Fiddlers
Music Jam, Fort Rockvale restaurant, South of Laurel, 1 p.m.

See Page 6 for more calendar events and Page 7 for sports.

Dodger action!

The Laurel Dodgers host the Miles City Mavericks in a double header starting at 5 p.m. at Thomson Park.

Summer reading



Clerk Jessica Hoth standing between M.A.C. owners Jason Smith and Richard Ambromett at their new location just east of Laurel.

New location makes getting

Laurel City Council fails to amend large grant program

By KATHLEEN GILLULY
Outlook editor

During a brief Laurel City Council meeting Tuesday evening, the council with five members present held a public hearing and passed several resolutions they discussed at the workshop May 30th. Heidi Sparks, Scot Stokes and Bruce McGee were absent.

Resolutions R19-18, R19-19, R19-20, R19-21 relating to pavement repair and replacement projects all passed unanimously.

Resolution R19-22 to amend the Laurel Urban Renewal Agency's large grant program to allow larger grants died after a motion was made to pass it by Council President Emilie Baton. There was no second, so the motion died. Mayor Tom Nelson said it would be presented again at next Tuesday's workshop.

During the public hearing on the intent to create a special improvement district to pay for the sidewalks which will be rebuilt on East 6th St. as part of the street replacement project, no one spoke either in favor or against the proposal. The resolution to pass SID 119 passed.

meas in Laurel easier

Montana Advanced Caregivers opens third dispensary

By KATHLEEN GILLULY
Outlook editor

When the owners of Montana Advanced Caregivers requested a zoning variance to open a Laurel store a few years ago they were shot down by the city council. Despite the delay that caused, the company, which provides all types of medical marijuana and CBD oils, has expanded and opened in a new location to serve local customers. Rich Ambrose and Jason Smith celebrated the grand opening of their third store at 11010 S. Frontage Road, just outside the city, east of the TA Truckstop, May 10. Their other stores are in Billings and Columbus.

The new satellite store is ideally located for folks in Laurel and points nearby like west Billings and is easily visible from I-90.

"This is about people not having to travel for their medicine," Ambrose said. "There's a CVS or other pharmacy in almost every community and we have a lot of Laurel customers."

In fact, the new location is so popular with area medical marijuana cardholders that the company has been signing up new or transferring patients regularly.

"We've averaged about 40 new clients a month," Smith said. "That's because we have good products for treating a number of different conditions and we're easily accessible."

M.A.C. carries a number of indica, sativa and hybrid marijuana flowers for smoking, including varieties with names like Thriller, Glue, Bruce Banner and Gorilla Grill. They also have preloaded cartridges with marijuana distillates, infused teas, edibles and accessories.

"We have capsules which are good for folks with debilitating diseases and salves and creams which are good for shingles or psoriasis," Smith said. The selection of CBD products is just as varied. CBD



The new dispensary at 11010 S. Frontage Rd. provides easy access for Laurel-area medical marijuana patients. The building has been retrofitted with a number of security devices in addition to steel gates and cameras.

oil begin at \$15. Folks that aren't medical marijuana card holders are welcome to visit the store for CBD, as well.

"We even have CBD dog treats," Smith said. There are also bath bombs and drink mixes.

Ambrose said the company is in complete compliance with the State of Montana's program, including new rules imposed by the 2019 Legislature. Currently, providers have to be able to track their products from seed-to-sale through METRC. No new dispensaries will be licensed until all providers are compliant, according to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Service's website.

"The state has been a great help," Ambrose said. "They were instrumental in

Laurel police capture man brandishing gun

According to a press release provided by Detective Joel Sauter of the Laurel Police Department, on Sunday, June 2 in Billings officers received a report of a male on a Honda motorcycle who had pulled a handgun on a female driver and then fired a shot into the air.

Several hours later the same unknown male on the same motorcycle, milled a

handgun on a female driver with two children in the vehicle in Park City and threatened their lives. Later in Laurel, the same suspect followed a female driver and confronted her when she parked, pulling a handgun and pointing the weapon at her before fleeing the scene.

Officers located the motorcycle in the Laurel city limits. After an investigation



Ryan Allan Good



Have something positive to share, drop it by the Outlook or email it to: news@laureloutlook.com.

Notice for the public hearing was not printed by the city.

At the end of the meeting, Chris Vogele addressed the council.

"Downtown is dying," he said. He went on to point out the empty buildings downtown and noted that the building across the street had just sold for only \$38 a square foot, which decreased all the property values in the area. He also mentioned that he thought LURA funds should be used for their intended purpose.

According to the Laurel Urban Renewal Plan on the city's website the goal of funds raised in the TIF district are:

- "To create a vibrant and cohesive extension of the core Laurel area.
- Improve Traffic patterns to further enhance the business experience for the owner and the consumer.
- Create a Destination Place where people will want to repeat-visit.
- Have state of the art, updated utilities and infrastructure.
- Provide infrastructure for high tech businesses.

The goals and objectives of the group were defined thusly:

- Goal: An economically and culturally vibrant Downtown Laurel.
- Objectives: Preserve and promote economic development of Downtown Laurel.
- Create a strong central core for our community. Establish downtown as a recognizable landmark.

Road construction continues

Construction and paving on the US Highway 212/310 Rockvale to Laurel Project has resumed. Approximately three to four weeks of construction activity remains, weather dependent.

Temporary detours will remain on the north and south ends of the route, and work will continue on the south end of the project as connections between the old road and new road are constructed. Motorists are asked to plan for short delays throughout the week, likely no greater than 15-minutes.

For direct updates, text "rock-laurel" to 553888 or email rock-laurel@kjing.com. There is a construction hotline that can answer frequently asked questions and/or take a message: 1-800-956-3935.

MCA Contents / TITLE 7 / CHAPTER 1 / Part 41 / 7-1-4127 Publication of ...

Montana Code Annotated 2017

TITLE 7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS
Part 41. Municipalities

Publication Of Notice -- Content -- Proof

7-1-4127. Publication of notice -- content -- proof. (1) When a municipality is required to publish notice, publication must be in a newspaper, except that in a municipality with a population of 500 or less or in which a newspaper is not published, publication may be made by posting in three public places in the municipality that have been designated by ordinance.

(2) The newspaper must:

- (a) be of general circulation;
- (b) be published at least once a week;
- (c) be published in the county where the municipality is located; and
- (d) have, prior to July 1 of each year, submitted to the city clerk a sworn statement that includes:
 - (i) circulation for the prior 12 months;
 - (ii) a statement of net distribution;
 - (iii) itemization of paid circulation and circulation that is free; and
 - (iv) the method of distribution.

(3) A newspaper of general circulation does not include a newsletter or other document produced or published by the municipality.

(4) In the case of a contract award, the newspaper must have been published continuously in the county for the 12 months preceding the awarding of the contract.

(5) In a county where a newspaper does not meet the qualifications in subsection (2), publication must be made in a qualified newspaper in an adjacent county.

(6) If a person is required by law or ordinance to pay for publication, the payment must be received before the publication may be made.

(7) The notice must be published twice, with at least 6 days separating each publication.

(8) The published notice must contain:


- (a) the date, time, and place of the hearing or other action;
- (b) a brief statement of the action to be taken;
- (c) the address and telephone number of the person who may be contacted for further information on the action to be taken; and
- (d) any other information required by the specific section requiring notice by publication.

(9) A published notice required by law may be supplemented by a radio or television broadcast of the notice in the manner prescribed in **2-3-105** through **2-3-107**.

(10) Proof of the publication or posting of any notice may be made by affidavit of the owner, publisher, printer, or clerk of the newspaper or of the person posting the notice.

(11) If the newspaper fails to publish a second notice, the municipality must be considered to have met the requirements of this section as long as the municipality submitted the required information prior to the submission deadline and the notice was posted in three public places in the municipality that were designated by ordinance and, if the municipality has an active website, was posted on the municipality's website at least 6 days prior to the hearing or other action for which notice was required.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 455, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 354, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 97, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 279, L. 2013.

Created by **LAWSON** 

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MONTANA

County of Yellowstone

Jonathan McNiven

Being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he is the Legal Advertising Clerk of Yellowstone County News, a newspaper of general circulation published weekly in the Town of Huntley, in the County of Yellowstone, State of Montana, and that the (8) folio legal **Notice of Passage of Resolution**, a true copy of which is hereto **Included**, was published in said newspaper on the following dates:

May 17, 2019; May 24, 2019;

making in all (2) publication(s).

STATE OF MONTANA

County of Yellowstone

On this 24th day of May 2019, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State of Montana, personally appeared Jonathan McNiven, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal that day and year first above written.

Victoria Walker

Victoria Walker

NOTARY PUBLIC for the State of Montana, residing
at Worden, MT.

My commission expires: June 30, 2022

NOTICE OF PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
NO. 119 AND TO ISSUE THE CITY'S
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
NO. 119 BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE
PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$69,000
SECURED BY THE CITY'S SPECIAL
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT REVOLVING
FUND
CITY OF LAUREL, MONTANA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 7, 2019, the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana (the "City"), adopted a Resolution of Intention to Create Special Improvement District No. 119 (the "District") for the purpose of financing the costs of certain local improvements and paying costs incidental thereto, including costs associated with the sale and the security of special improvement district bonds of the City drawn on the District (the "Bonds"), the creation and administration of the District, and funding a deposit to the City's Special Improvement District Revolving Fund (the "Revolving Fund").

A complete copy of the Resolution of Intention (the "Resolution") is on file with the City Clerk-Treasurer's office which more specifically describes the nature of the Improvements (as defined below), the boundaries and the area included in the District, the location of the Improvements and other matters pertaining thereto and further particulars. A map of the proposed District is available upon request.

The Improvements consist of the design, engineering and construction of sidewalk improvements, including construction and installation of sidewalks, ADA-compliant ramps, drive and alley approaches and related improvements (collectively, the "Improvements") to benefit certain property located on East 6th Street in the City. The total estimated costs of the Improvements and all associated costs are \$102,500, a portion of which is to be paid from funds contributed by the City and a portion of which is to be paid from proceeds of the Bonds in the amount of \$69,000. The Bonds are to be payable primarily from special assessments to be levied against property in the District, which property will be specially benefited by the Improvements in an amount not less than \$69,000.

The City would issue the Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$69,000 to finance the costs of the Improvements and incidental costs. Principal of and interest on the Bonds will be paid from special assessments levied against properties in the District in the aggregate principal amount of \$69,000 and will be secured by the Revolving Fund. Subject to the limitations of Montana Code Annotated, Section 7-12-4222, the general fund of the City may be used to provide loans to the Revolving Fund or a general tax levy may be imposed on all taxable property in the City to meet the financial requirements of the Revolving Fund.

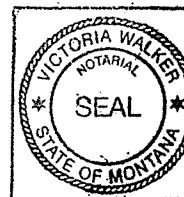
Each lot, tract, or parcel of land in the District to receive new sidewalks and/or drive approaches as part of the Improvements will be assessed for their proportionate share of the costs of the Improvements and associated incidental costs thereof based on the frontage method of assessment set forth in Section 7-12-4163, M.C.A. Each property shall be assessed for the square footage costs of concrete sidewalks and concrete drive approaches being installed with respect to such property, and its proportionate share of associated incidental costs thereof.

On June 4, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at 115 West First Street, in Laurel, Montana, the City Council will meet to hear and pass upon all written protests against the creation or extension of the District, or the making of Improvements that may be filed in the period hereinafter described.

Written protests against the creation of the District and the making of the Improvements may be filed by an agent, person, firm or corporation owning real property within the proposed District whose property is liable to be assessed for the Improvements. Such protests must be delivered to the City Clerk-Treasurer's office at 115 West First Street, in Laurel, Montana not later than 5:00 p.m., M.T., on June 3, 2019. As provided by law, such protest must be in writing, identify the property in the District owned by the protestor and be signed by all owners of the property. The protest must be delivered to the City Clerk-Treasurer or the Deputy Clerk, who shall endorse thereon the date of its receipt by him or her.

Full information regarding the proposed District of the Bonds or other matters may be obtained from Kurt Marksgard, Public Works Director, at (406) 627-4756 or by email at kmarksgard@cityoflaurel.mt.gov

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, MONTANA
Bethany Langve
City Clerk-Treasurer



Victoria Walker
NOTARY PUBLIC for the
State of Montana
Residing at Worden, Montana
My Commission Expires
June 30, 2022