



**AGENDA
CITY OF LAUREL
LAUREL RENEWAL AGENCY
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020
11:00 AM
LAUREL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Public Input: *Citizens may address the committee regarding any item of business that is not on the agenda. The duration for an individual speaking under Public Input is limited to three minutes. While all comments are welcome, the committee will not take action on any item not on the agenda.*

General Items

1. Roll Call

Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00AM

Don Smarsh
Sam Langmo
Janice Lehman
Dean Rankin
Judy Goldsby
Linda Frickel

Nick Altonaga (City of Laurel)
Steve Simonson (Beartooth RC&D)
Diane Lehm (Big Sky EDA)

2. Approve Meeting Minutes: December 16, 2019

Members reviewed the meeting minutes from December 16, 2019.

Don motioned to approve minutes from December 16, 2019.

Dean seconded.

Motion carried.

3. Big Sky EDA Update

Steve Simonson from Beartooth RC & D was present.

- Stillwater county has a total of 12 wind farms in progress
- 1 under construction
- 1 front of Public Service Commission
- 10 in preparation stages.

Dean: When does the tax incentive terminate?

- The project in southern Carbon County needs to be operational by December of 2020.
- Beartooth has been in touch with Senator Tester's office to discuss the timeframe

Diane from Big Sky EDA discussed a new grant program.

Space to Place Grant Program: Small placemaking grants to help activate areas

- \$500-\$5,000 for individual grants
- MT Firefighters Memorial received funding in 2019 for benches
- Would like to see boosted community engagement for young residents including cub scout groups, etc.
- Projects could include:
 - Could be community garden,
 - Painting projects
- Any applications with something creative are welcome.
 - Installation of musical instruments at parks. Fashioned to look like flowers. (Wise wonders in Billings)
- Applications that discuss gathering spaces, walkability are encouraged

Members discussed possible projects. Beautifying the Overpass and the last time it was done (Approx. 2010).

New Business

4. Discussion: Growth Management Plan - Economic Development Priorities

Don mentioned the HGTV opportunity “Home Town Takeover” to update storefronts, homes, etc. Could be an interesting way to get a big boost to upgrade the city and especially the downtown Application looks simple and easy to do.

Could we possibly get video and photos together?

Judy mentioned that there was some previous drone footage taken

Cami at the Chamber is interested in the application. But up until recently was busy with their annual meeting.

The Laurel chamber is busy at the moment

Nick provided his opinion on some of the items included on the Goals for Economic Development.

Members discussed the goals and asked questions

Old Business

Other Items

Don asked about the status of the grant he submitted in December.

- Nick will be putting together the information to be processed.

Members discussed the old lighting project for SE 4th Street. Has this project every come back up in conversation? The last time LURA had heard of it, the old Admin Assistant was looking into lighting bids. Has been around 5 years since the project has been discussed at length and worked on.

- Nick will look at the minutes and documents to check the status of this project.

5. Budget

Members reviewed the budget. They discussed the anticipated funding amounts, whether the Large Grant will remain at \$225,000, and what impact the bonding should have on their ability to support grants.

- The bonding should come in lower than initially anticipated.
- Nick will check the status of the Large Grant funding.

Discussion on TIF Districts

- Steve let the board know that he had been in touch with the City Attorney for information on TIF Districts and resources for local stakeholders.
- Diane discussed how Jenna Cornish had been brought in previously to help develop the TIF and explain the TIF and its purpose.
- Kelly Lynch with MLCT is a great resource for information on how to develop a TIF and the legal background.

Announcements

6. Next Meeting: February 24, 2020

Don Motioned to adjourn

Dean Second.

Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:38AM

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DATES TO REMEMBER