

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

SEPTEMBER 24, 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 6:30 p.m. on September 10, 2019.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Emelie Eaton	Bill Mountsier
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OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer

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

Mayor Nelson asked the everyone present to observe a moment of silence.

ROLE CALL OF THE COUNCIL

MINUTES:

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 10, 2019, as presented, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Granting A Variance From The City's Zoning Ordinance To Allow An Outdoor Computer Controlled Variable Message Sign Within A Residential District.

Mayor Nelson stated this is the time and place set for the public hearing for Granting a Variance from the City's Zoning Ordinance to Allow an Outdoor Computer Controlled Variable Message Sign Within a Residential District.

Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing and asked staff to present the item.

Public Works Director, Kurt Markeguard, presented the item. He briefly went over the items included in the Council packet.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for public comment and stated that copies of the rules governing the public hearing were posted in the council chambers.

Mayor Nelson asked one (1) time if there were any proponents.

Roy Voss, 1024 13th Ave. came forward as a proponent for this item. He stated that he is a board member at the church requesting the variance. The sign is not capable of animation and will not have any flashing or scrolling. The sign will be shut-off during late night hours as not to disturb the neighbors. It will only have lit messages for the community that will be changed as needed.

Mayor Nelson asked two (2) additional times if there were any proponents. There were none.

Mayor Nelson asked three (3) times if there were any opponents. There were none.

Mayor Nelson stated that he would not have staff respond to questions as there were none.

Mayor Nelson closed the first public hearing.

2. Granting A Variance From The City's Zoning Ordinance To Disregard The Bufferyard Requirement, Sight-Obscuring Fence Requirement And Building Design Standards.

Mayor Nelson stated this is the time and place set for the public hearing for Granting a Variance from the City's Zoning Ordinance to Disregard the Bufferyard Requirement, Sight-Obscuring Fence Requirement and Building Design Standards.

Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing and asked staff to present the item.

Public Works Director, Kurt Markeguard, presented the item. He briefly went over the items included in the Council packet.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for public comment and stated that copies of the rules governing the public hearing were posted in the council chambers.

Mayor Nelson asked one (1) time if there were any proponents.

Chuck Henricks, 922 Westgate Dr, stated that he is with EEC. EEC is the engineering firm for the project. They are asking for the variance for multiple reasons. This is a pre-engineered building as it has multiple overhead doors. There are exposed fasteners, but you will not notice them unless you are parked next to the building. The bufferyard is still going to be there, however this variance request is to allow the business to not have to plant trees. The fence request is to allow the public to see the products.

Mayor Nelson asked two (2) additional times if there were any proponents. There were none.

Mayor Nelson asked three (3) times if there were any opponents. There were none.

Mayor Nelson stated that he would not have staff respond to questions as there were none.

Mayor Nelson closed the second public hearing.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims for the month of September 2019 in the amount of \$792,369.37.**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Clerk/Treasurer Financial Statements for the month of August 2019.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 9/8/2019 totaling \$206,503.39.**

The mayor asked if there was any separation of consent items. Council Member McGee stated the Financial Statements for the month of August 2019 would need to be separated from the consent agenda, as the auditors have requested some changes be made to the month end close process and this will affect the financial reports. The Clerk/Treasurer will bring July and August 2019 to the next Budget and Finance meeting.

Motion by Council Member McGee to approve the consent items as amended, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- **Review reports from Boards and Commissions.**
 - Laurel Chamber of Commerce Minutes of August 08, 2019.
 - City-County Planning Board minutes of September 5, 2019.
 - Budget and Finance Committee minutes of September 10, 2019.
 - Laurel Urban Renewal Agency minutes of September 19, 2019.

There were no questions or comments regarding the presented minutes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- 3. Appointment of Joe Lowther and Austin Hirsch to the Laurel Volunteer Ambulance Department.**

Motion by Council Member Klose to approve the appointment of Joe Lowther and Austin Hirsch to the Laurel Volunteer Ambulance Department, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- 4. Appointment of Michelle DeBoer as an advisory member to the Laurel Urban Renewal Agency.**

Motion by Council Member Stokes to approve the appointment of Michelle DeBoer as an advisory member to the Laurel Urban Renewal Agency, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- 5. Resolution No. R19-69 A Resolution Granting A Variance From The City's Zoning Ordinance To Allow An Outdoor Computer Controlled Variable Message Sign Within A Residential District.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R19-69, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- 6. Resolution No. R19-70 A Resolution Granting A Variance From The City's Zoning Ordinance To Disregard The Bufferyard Requirement, Sight-Obscuring Fence Requirement And Building Design Standards.**

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve Resolution No. R19-70, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- 7. Resolution No. R19-71 A Resolution Authorizing The Award of Grants From The Tax Increment Financing District Funds Pursuant To The LURA Small Grant Request Program For Eligible Applicants And Improvements.**

Motion by Council Member Stokes to approve Resolution No. R19-71, seconded by Council Member Klose. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- 8. Resolution No. R19-72 Resolution No. R19-72 A resolution Approving a Contract Between The City Of Laurel And the Montana Department Of Justice Natural Resource Damage Program.**

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve Resolution No. R19-72, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- 9. Resolution No. R19-73 A Resolution Approving A Task Order Authorizing Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, INC. For Services Relating To The Development Of Design Standards For Public Improvements.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R19-73, seconded by Council Member Klose. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- 10. Resolution No. R19-74 A Resolution Approving A Task Order Authorizing Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, INC. For Services Relating To The Assembling Of City Infrastructure Data Into A Single Source, Which Can Be Used To Track And Manage Assets.**

Motion by Council Member Klose to approve Resolution No. R19-74, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was no public comment, Council commented that future costs associated with upgrades still needed to be investigated. Council also wanted to know how utilities would be located if the internet was down, or there was a total loss of power. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: Financial Statements for the Month of August 2019.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: None.

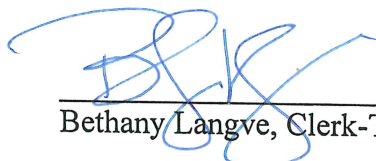
MAYOR UPDATES: None.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

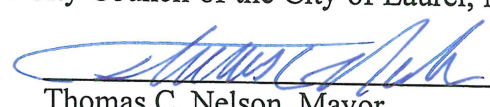
Motion by Council Member McGee to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Council Member Herr. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



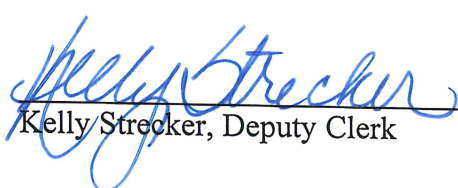
Bethany Langve, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 8th day of October 2019.



Thomas C. Nelson, Mayor

Attest:



Kelly Strecker, Deputy Clerk

