

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

April 8, 2025

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 6:32 p.m. on April 8, 2025.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Canape	Heidi Sparks
Michelle Mize	Jessica Banks
Casey Wheeler	Irv Wilke
Richard Klose	Jodi Mackay

## COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

## OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Kurt Markegard, CAO  
Brittney Harakal, Administrative Assistant  
Michele Braukmann, Civil City Attorney

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 March 25, 2025, 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:

- Resignation Letter from Shane Linse
- Police Monthly Report - March 2025.
- Fire Monthly Report - March 2025.

## COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX-PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

## PUBLIC HEARING: None.

## CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims entered through April 4, 2025.**  
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 3/30/2025 totaling \$267,566.04.**
- **Council Workshop Minutes of March 4, 2025.**
- **Council Workshop Minutes of March 18, 2025.**
- **Council Workshop Minutes of April 1, 2025.**

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 March 25, 2025.

## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):

DW

Peggy Miller, read the attached comment into the record.

**SCHEDULED MATTERS:**

- **Appointment of Gary Blaine to the Laurel Airport Authority for the remainder of a five-year term ending June 30, 2025.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve the Mayor's appointment of Gary Blaine to the Laurel Airport Authority for the remainder of a five-year term ending June 30, 2025, 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. R25-24: A Resolution To Submit Regularly Elected Officers To The Electorate And Notifying The Yellowstone County Election Administrator Of The City Of Laurel's Desire To Conduct The Primary (If Held) And The General Elections By Mail-In Ballot In Accordance With Mont. Code Ann. § 13-19-202.**

Motion by Council Member Canape to approve Resolution No. R25-24, 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. R25-25: A Resolution Of The City Council To Accept Studies Of The City's Existing Water And Wastewater Rate Structures And Recommendations For Any Necessary Modifications To The Existing Rate Structures Prepared By Raffetis Financial Consultants, Inc.**

Motion by Council Member Mackay to approve Resolution No. R25-25, 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. R25-26: A Resolution Of The City Council Approving The Sublease Agreement By And Between Laurel High School District No. 7 And American Legion Baseball Post #123 Laurel Dodgers.**

Motion by Council Member Mize to approve Resolution No. R25-26, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment.

It was clarified that there is a name change that needs to be addressed on the signature page, all other instances had been replaced throughout the document.

Council asked for a brief overview of this resolution since it was removed from the last Workshop.

The High School is currently practicing and using the field for games. The School has provided insurance while the sublease was signed. The lease with the American Legion states the City will not disallow a sublease.

It was questioned if both teams would need the use of the field at the same time. It was clarified that the seasons do not overlap. Many of the players compete for both teams.

It was questioned if the lease and the sublease have the same length. It was clarified that the sublease mirrors the length of the lease. Both will come due at the same time.

A Council Member noted that the High School games are well attended, as the parking lots are full during games.

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.

*RLW*

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:** None.

**MAYOR UPDATES:**

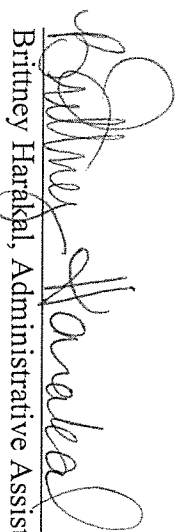
Loves has closed on the property. DEQ has approved the water and sewer extensions. This project is moving forward.

**UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:** None.


**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Council Member Banks to adjourn the Council meeting, seconded by Council Member Mize. 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 7:00 p.m.

  
Brittney Harakal, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2025.

  
Dave Waggoner, Mayor

Attest:

  
Kelly Srecker, Clerk/Treasurer



April 8, 2025

Good evening Mr. Mayor and Honorable Council Women and Men,

My name is Peggy Miller, and I have been a Laurel resident for 42 years.

I am coming tonight to address our Laurel Public Library Public Room for meetings.

I personally have been there several times throughout the years and asked about renting or reserving it. I was told the room was being used to store extra books, and they were going to be sorted and cleaned up for the public.

I would stop by sometimes to see if it was still being used for storage and left. I should have come sooner, but felt it would have been cleaned up. I have also been out of state helping with ill family members the past few years and working, so my schedule has not worked until today.

I have had to use the Billings Public Library many times because it is open to the public, and ours is not available.

It is unfortunate that this room has been closed to the public for years. I used to reserve it and use it years ago.

I visited the Library on January 16, 2025, to see the condition.

Still, and even worse, the back meeting room is filled. This prevented me, along with other citizens and organizations who did not know there was such a room, from reserving it again.

I was in the building again on March 10, 2025, only to see that the room was in the same condition—not fit for the public to use.

As the photos show, it is being used to store many things it should not, and “cats” are roaming the facility.

I am coming here tonight to ask that you review the Library policy, remove the items, and restore the building meeting room to function for the community, organizations, and those of us who pay city taxes.

You may contact me for further questions or discussions,

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Peggy Miller  
Laurel Resident Since 1983  
PO Box 186  
Laurel, MT 59044  
406-671-0047

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Laurel Public Library January 16 and March 10, 2025

