

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

September 13, 2022

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 6:30 p.m. on September 13, 2022.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Emelje Eaton	Heidi Sparks
	Michelle Mize	Richard Herr
	Casey Wheeler	Irv Wilke
	Richard Klose	Bill Mountsier

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Michele, Braukmann, Civil City Attorney

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

MINUTES: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Ambulance Monthly Report – June 2022
- Police Department Monthly Report – August 2022
- K. Dan Koch Resignation Letter

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- Public Hearing: An Ordinance Amending Certain Chapters Of Title 14 Of The Laurel Municipal Code Relating To The Adoption And Enforcement Of Building Codes For The City Of Laurel As Required By The State Of Montana

Mayor Waggoner opened the public hearing and asked Staff to present the item.

Michele Braukmann, Civil City Attorney, stated that this ordinance adopts the residential building codes.

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

Mayor Waggoner asked three (3) times if there were any proponents. There were none.

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

Mayor Waggoner stated that he would not have Staff respond to questions as there were none.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims entered through September 9, 2022.**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Registers through PPE 8/21/2022 totaling \$217,920.27.**

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

DW

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 August 23, 2022.
- Park Board Minutes of September 1, 2022.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):

Barb Emineth, 501 Alder Avenue, read the attached letter into the record.

The Civil City Attorney stated the City is aware of the significance of the issues, and the City is exploring all options.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Resolution No. R22-63: Resolution Of The City Of Laurel City Council Granting A Variance For Goldberg Sporting Estates Subdivision, First Filing, For The Use Of A Low-Pressure Sewer System**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R22-63, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment.

Council voiced their concerns with the City ultimately having to accept maintenance responsibilities for a system that didn't work.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Herr, Mountsier, Klose, and Wheeler, voted aye. Council Members Sparks, Wilke, Mize, and Eaton voted nay. Mayor Waggoner broke the tie vote with a nay vote. Motion failed 4-5.

- **Ordinance No. O22-03: An Ordinance Amending Certain Chapters Of Title 14 Of The Laurel Municipal Code Relating To The Adoption And Enforcement Of Building Codes For The City Of Laurel As Required By The State Of Montana (2nd Reading)**

Motion by Council Member Eaton to adopt Ordinance No. O22-03, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparkes, Herr, Wilke, Mountsier, Klose, Wheeler, Mize, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O22-04: An Ordinance Amending Section 2.20.010 Of The Laurel Municipal Code Relating To The City Court Clerk For The City Of Laurel (1st Reading)**

Motion by Council Member Mountsier to adopt Ordinance No. O22-04, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparkes, Herr, Wilke, Mountsier, Klose, Wheeler, Mize, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O22-05: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1.01 (Code Adoption) Of The Laurel Municipal Code Relating To The General Provisions (1st Reading)**

Motion by Council Member Wilke to adopt Ordinance No. O22-05, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparkes, Herr, Wilke, Mountsier, Klose, Wheeler, Mize, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT):

Council Member Klose thanked the Mayor for speaking at the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony.

This Friday is the National POW/MIA Recognition Day. There will be a ceremony at 10 a.m. in Thomson Park.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Public Works Committee will meet Monday, September 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

A Council Member noted that the yellow lines at the stadium had been painted blue. The Mayor stated he would look into it.

MAYOR UPDATES:

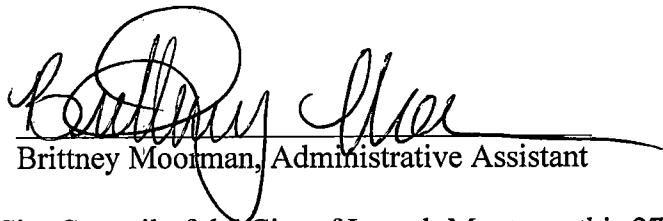
Mayor Waggoner stated that he had met with Rural Water today; the Garbage rates do not need a rate study, and a rate increase will be brought forward soon. In Water, they are looking at implementing a tiered system.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

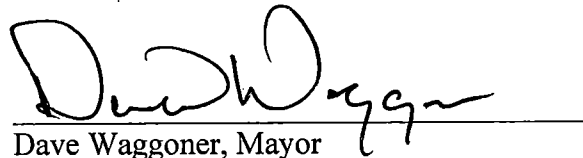
ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Wheeler to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Council Member Eaton. 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 Moomman, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 27th day of September 2022.


Dave Waggoner, Mayor

Attest:


Kelly Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer

Hello, My name is Barb Emirett and I live at 501 Laurel Aldenth here in Laurel.

As some of you may know there was a big fire in the backyard of 506 Birch yesterday. If this fire would've taken place in the middle of the night and the wind was blowing South the closest neighbor could've died in her bed! Actually it could've caught any of the houses around it on fire, as it was it burned the garage to the ground, destroyed the 30 ft. motor home on their driveway, burned the fences on both sides, as well as a shed.

In my opinion it doesn't even matter what the cause was, it is only the latest incident in a long list of them happening through the years at this residence.

The city needs to be able to declare someone an irresponsible home owner when they've had to respond to hundreds of calls over a 30 year period!

The city also needs to be able to declare a house uninhabitable when the water has been shut off for long periods, something I've heard is against state law.

They have no water to even try to fight the fires that seem to happen and likely no insurance to cover the damage done to their neighbors property.

By allowing Michelle Herren to remain in that house the city is putting everyone who lives around her at risk physically, mentally, and financially!

The city needs to obtain access to inspect the inside of that house. The situation has escalated from them neglecting the yard and bringing our property values down to endangering their neighbors property as well as lives!

Please stop the insanity and figure out a way to CONDEMN + DEMOLISH this property so the rest of us can sleep at night! Sincerely,
Bullock A S E