



**MINUTES
CITY OF LAUREL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025**

The Public Works Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00pm on Monday, October 20, 2025, by Chair Heidi Sparks.

Members Present: Heidi Sparks- Chair, Jodi Mackay - Vice Chair, Irv Wilke, Jessica Banks, Mullaney

Others Present: Matt Wheeler- Public Works Director, Ryan Welsh- KLJ, Lori McCurry, Joel Dennett, and Jon Rutt- Saddleback Ridge Estates

Public Input: None

General Items:

1. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2025. Irv made a motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2025. Motion was seconded by Jodi. Motion carried 5-0 to approve the minutes.
2. Emergency Call Out Report- Report attached
 - i. Water and Sewer plant issues- These were primarily due to a power outage that occurred at the plants
 - o Irv asked about the incident on 10/6- clean up after a car wreck. Took sweeper to clean up debris
3. KLJ Report
 - i. Ryan stated nothing new to report on current projects. Biggest thing taking place right now is the water and sewer line extension out to Love's. Jodi asked about timing- Ryan said should be done within the next 2 weeks

New Business:

Old Business:

4. West Railroad- Matt stated he invited Ryan to discuss the West Railroad project with the state. The issue with the project right now is the stormwater and how to handle that. The infrastructure is not there under Woodland to handle the stormwater. The city has presented there is a triangle shaped piece of city property that could be used, but it is in the 100-year flood plain.
 - i. To utilize Woodland, this would add roughly \$1 million to the project since the stormwater infrastructure is not there
 - ii. Shaun asked about the CHS project to make their water go up to 8th Ave- Matt did state that they have a meeting coming up to discuss. CHS is willing to pay for the upgrade to the storm water drainage ditch that runs under the interstate, but nothing is approved or guaranteed at this time.
 - iii. Ryan stated we are coming to the end of the budget for the analysis and planning
 - iv. Matt is interested in having the city eliminate the state from this project, but that would remove the access to the Urban Route Funds that have been earmarked for this project. If the city did this project, Matt does not want to address the stormwater and leave that as is, would also eliminate the curb, gutter and sidewalk from the project
 - v. Meeting next week with the state, and still discussing the stormwater issue. Could potentially run the stormwater to Main Street to tie into the stormwater line under there. This would need to be engineered by KLJ

Other Items:

5. Jon Rutt provided a handout on the background on Saddleback Ridge Estates, and reviewed this with the committee. This subdivision is located north of the golf course.
 - i. The only other city that is using something similar to this subdivision for wastewater is Circle, MT. This causes some issues with the permit renewal due to unfamiliarity
 - ii. The golf course clubhouse was annexed and has water and sewer lines running to it. Part of the subdivision is fairly close to the golf course. Would like to open the conversation to being able to tie into the existing city infrastructure within the next 5-10 years. The houses are on septic systems, and still maintain their own water system.
 - iii. Ryan asked about the storage tank- there are 6- 6,000 gallon tanks with a booster station on those
 - o Current city policy is to tie into city services must be annexed. The septic tanks would need to be removed, since those are not allowed within city limits.
 - o Ryan also stated the Cherry Hill booster station is near capacity, but the existing booster station in the Saddleback Ridge Estates could help alleviate that issue.
 - iv. Shaun asked about the water discharge- currently discharging 20,000 gallons/day which includes treatment of the water. There is a pit that the water is discharged into
 - v. Next steps- Jodi and Irv would like to see this come before the city council for awareness.
 - o Jodi moved that the committee request a conversation be initiated between invested parties regarding this, Irv seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Announcements

Next Meeting will be Monday, November 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm

Saddleback Ridge Estates Background Information

October 20, 2025

- Saddleback Ridge Estates was established over 20 years ago.
- It was originally designed for 100 lots with cisterns and septic tanks. Before construction began the design was changed to include a central potable water system.
- The subdivision is almost fully built with 95 homes.
- Water is used for domestic purposes, and the irrigation is accomplished with ditch water.
- We have 2 wells with water rights of 50 gpm each, but the water is defined as Class III ground waters having a natural specific conductance that is greater than 2,500 and less than or equal to 15,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (at 25°C). Class III groundwater is low quality and supports limited beneficial uses.
- We operate a water plant that cleans the water to a level consistent with City of Laurel Water.
- Our wastewater from that water plant operates under a Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System Permit that is renewed every 5 years.
- Over the last 20 years the nitrates in the entire valley have gradually increased and we are planning for the future to deal with the limiting contaminant in our wastewater.
- We do not have an emergency and have some options to deal with this.
 - Increase the size of our wastewater outfall
 - Treat wastewater to concentrate the nitrates
 - Look to the future growth of Laurel and work together to plan a beneficial way to accomplish that growth.

Jon Rutt

406-861-7169

Lori McCurry

Mark Russell

Emergency Overtime Callout List

1-1-25

TO

7-1-25

Maintenance Shop 406-628-4773

City Dispatch 406-628-8737

Response Code	X In Column Not accepting Overtime /NA = Not Available /Y = Responding /B=Phone Busy												
Employee Name	Telephone												
Shop Callout		9-24	9-24	10-6									
Kevin Budge		NA1	NA1	NA1									
Jay Hatton		NA2	NA2	NA2									
Keith Guy		Y8	Y10	9									
Wade Spalinger		NA3	NA3	NA3									
Brandon Gonzales		NA4	NA4	Y10									
Aaron Fox		Y9	7	6									
Joel Barnhardt		NA5	N5	4									
Bridger Fornier		Y10	8	7									
krista gauslow		6	NA6	5									
Anthony Woodard		7	Y9	8									
Colton Folts				11									
Distribution		7-4	7-13	7-25	8-19	9-7	9-10	9-24	9-24	9-26	10-2	10-12	10-13
Justin Baker			y3	2	Y3	y3	2	NA2	NA1	NA1	y3	2	1
Kevin Hoffman			1	na1	1	na1	Y3	Y3	Y3	2	1	y3	2
Daniel Nauman			2	y3	2	na2	1	NA1	Y2	Y3	2	1	y3

Elm Lift Station 628-7773 Village Lift Station 628-5918 Dial 9 after tone to acknowledge alarm

Wastewater Treatment Plant-628-6474

Autodailer- 628-4866

Response Code	NO= In 1st Column Not accepting Overtime / NA = Not Available / Y = Responding												
Employee	Telephone	7-20	7-28	9-10	9-24								
Thomas Henry		y4	3	2	Y4								
Cindy Caswell		1	Y4	3	2								
Corey Nicholson		2	1	Y4	3								
Norman Stamper		3	2	1	NA1								

Water Treatment Plant 628-4410

Response Code	NO= In 1st Column Not accepting Overtime / NA = Not Available / Y = Responding												
Employee	Telephone												
HP Nuernberger													
Dylan Ceaser													
Josh Sawyer													
Sam Waggoner													
Joe Waggoner													
TJ Worbel													
Daniel Waggoner													

Matt Wheeler Cell# 208-1885 8 One Call Locate - 1-800-424-5555 (City Job # 25663)

Kurt Markegard Cell# 860-5785 Hm 208-2356 SCHESSLER 628-4221 HESTON 281-0811

Mayor 406 633 3809 Dwight Ace Electric 406 697 2037

Travis Ace Electric 406 850 0612

MDU 1-800-638-3278 / MDT 252-4138

Pace Construction 252-5559 (sewer backups)

SanitarySystemOverflows call DEQ withing 24 hours at406-444-3080

Call Out - Date and Incident Location

6-5 H2O BREAK S 8TH ALL NIGHT	7-20 alarms sewer plant	9-24 SEWER BACKUP
6-7 walmart lift	7-25 h2o shutoff	9-24 UNLOCK SEWER PLANT
6-7 walmart lift	7-28 STORM DAMAGE SEWER PLANT	9-26 EMERGENCY LOCATE
6-16 FLOODING	8-19 LEAK FIRE DEPT	10-2 village lift fail
6-17 H2O TURN ON	9-7 emergency locate	10-6 CLEAN UP CAR WRECK
6-23 water plant problems	9-25 SEWER PLANT POWER OUT	10-12 h2o leak
6-30 update	9-25 LIFT STATION POWER OUT	10-13 h2o shutoff
7-13 village lift problems	9-24 WATER BREAK	