

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

October 10, 2023

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, was held in the Council Chambers and called to order by Council Vice President Irv Wilke at 6:30 p.m. on October 10, 2023.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Emelie Eaton  
Michelle Mize Richard Herr  
Casey Wheeler Irv Wilke  
Jodi Mackay

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Klose Heidi Sparks

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Brittney Harakal, Administrative Assistant  
Corey McIlvain, Fire Captain

Council Vice President Wilke led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

MINUTES:

Motion by Council Member Mackay to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 26, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Eaton. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Police Monthly Report - September 30, 2023.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- Council Workshop Minutes of October 3, 2023.

The Council Vice President asked if there was any separation of consent items. There was none.

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Council Member Eaton. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- Budget/Finance Committee Minutes of September 26, 2023.
- Emergency Services Committee Minutes of September 25, 2023.
- Tree Board Minutes of September 7, 2023.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

Shawn Mullaney, 1629 Cove Lane, commented on the momentum Laurel has in getting projects done. S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street is looking very nice, and the splash park is moving along as well. He noted that during the S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street project, they hauled a lot of fill out, and he would like that fill used to improve the shoreline of Lions Park improved. There are grant funding opportunities for this type of project. He would also like to see landscaping addressed between the railroad tracks and W. Railroad Street.

*[Handwritten signature]*

Council Minutes of October 10, 2023

**SCHEDULED MATTERS:**

- **Appointment of Mykal Kurchera to the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department.**

Corey McIlvain, Fire Captain, introduced Mr. Kurchera to the Council.

It was questioned if Mr. Kurchera planned to stay in Laurel for a while. Mr. Kurchera stated that he grew up in Billings but does plan to stay in Laurel.

Motion by Council Member Wheeler to approve the Mayor's appointment of Mykal Kurchera to the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department, seconded by Council Member Mize. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Appointment of Bridget Coleman to the Tree Board for the remainder of a three-year term ending June 30, 2025.**

Motion by Council Member Mize to approve the Mayor's appointment of Bridget Coleman to the Tree Board for the remainder of a three-year term ending June 30, 2025, seconded by Council Member Eaton. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Appointment of Kurt Markegard to the Big Sky EDA for a five-year term ending December 31, 2028.**

Motion by Council Member Eaton to approve the Mayor's appointment of Kurt Markegard to the Big Sky EDA for a five-year term ending December 31, 2028, seconded by Council Member Mackay. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:** None.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT):**

This week is National Fire Prevention Week. Tomorrow evening, from 6 to 9 p.m., there will be an open house at the Fire House. There will be many family-friendly activities. For more information regarding fire safety, check out [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org).

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

The Public Works Committee's next meeting is October 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Council thanked the Public Works Director and Public Works Department for getting those two alleys taken care of so quickly.

Council asked for an update on when the speed bumps and stop sign will be installed on S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street at the next Workshop.

Council asked for a discussion on making S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street and West Avenue a 4-way stop on the next Workshop agenda.

A Council Member was asked who Fred Graff was and why a school was named after him. They did some research and found that Mr. Graff was the first superintendent in Laurel, starting in 1921. He spent 37 years in the position. During his tenure as superintendent, Laurel grew from one school to six. He is buried in the Laurel Cemetery.

**MAYOR UPDATES:** None.

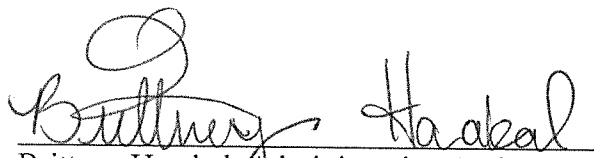
**UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**


Motion by Council Member Mackay 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 six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

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There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

  
Brittney Harakal, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.

  
Dave Waggoner, Council Vice President

Attest:

  
Kelly Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer



