

**MINUTES
CITY OF LAUREL
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022**

A Council Workshop was held in Council Chambers and called to order by Mayor Dave Waggoner at 6:30 p.m. on August 16, 2022.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emelie Eaton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Sparks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Mize	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Herr
<input type="checkbox"/> Casey Wheeler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irv Wilke
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Klose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Mountsier

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michele Braukmann, Civil Attorney
Brittney Moorman, Administrative Assistant
Stan Langve, Police Chief

Public Input:

There were none.

General Items

1. Motion to allow Council Member Klose to be absent from the City of Laurel for more than ten days. (LMC 2.12.060)

There was no discussion.

2. Appointment of Casey Wheeler to the Board of Health for the remainder of a three-year term ending December 31, 2024.

There was no discussion.

3. Appointment of Jodi MacKay to the Laurel Urban Renewal Agency for a four-year term ending December 31, 2025.

Jodi MacKay, the owner of Molly and Friends, briefly introduced herself to Council.

Executive Review

4. Resolution - Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Understanding By And Between The City Of Laurel And Local Union Local 303, American Federation Of State, County, And Municipal Employees, AFSCME

This MOU is to help address some of the issues with Public Works and Planning. One of the areas defined was an overlap with the Officer who has been dealing with parking and barking.

This MOU includes weed control or minor nescience-type issues. There is an increase in pay for doing the additional duties. The Union has approved this MOU.

It was questioned if this will be complaint-driven or if an infraction is noticed, it will be addressed. It was clarified that primarily this will be complaint-driven but will also be proactive.

5. Resolution - Resolution Approving The Encroachment Permit By And Between The Billings Bench Water Association And The City Of Laurel

Recently the Public Works Director found an issue with this encroachment. There were flawed legal documents in the early 1900s. There is a right of way that legally exists by the Billings Bench Water Association. This encroachment permit will allow the City to service the water line that is in the right of way. The City had sought an easement with CHS. Nobody knew that this was Billings Bench Water Association property. This encroachment permit fixes those issues. There is a one-time fee associated with this encroachment permit.

6. Resolution - Resolution Approving Agreement Regarding School Resource Officer Program By And Between The City Of Laurel And Laurel Public Schools, District 7 & 7-70

The Civil City Attorney has reviewed the existing contract. There were quite a few changes as the document had not been revised in approximately 20 years. This contract will continue to the SRO program using the same financial model.

It was questioned why an SRO would be needed at the Middle School. It was clarified that both the City and the School District had recognized the need. The School District asked for a second Officer. This is a huge benefit to both the School District and the City, and it is a substantial financial commitment by the School. The Middle School SRO also covers all of the elementary schools. It also is an additional resource to fill in as needed.

It was questioned if the Police Department was short-staffed right now. It was clarified that the Department should have more staff for the number of calls. For example, Red Lodge has a part-time Administrative Assistant to assist in the function of the Department. Chief Langve does not have an assistant, and he has been the backup to a very skeleton crew right now.

It was further clarified that the City would lose two officers if the SROs are not in the schools. It is a benefit and adds additional coverage. There is a lot of data supporting the need for an SRO in the Middle School setting.

7. Ordinance - 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

This ordinance updates the building codes as required by the State of Montana. There will be more ordinances coming down the pipeline.

Council Issues

8. Police Commission Oversight Committee Discussion

Council Member Mountsier stated he has sat on Council for the last ten years. He has yet to see a report from the Police Commission, and he also sat on the Commission for a year and was never contacted. He feels there should be an oversight committee put in place.

It was clarified that the Police Commission was established by MCA. They have two primary functions, to address any grievances brought before them and oversee the applicants for hire. They do not have a very active role. It was further clarified that the Police Commission does not touch misconduct.

9. Budget Update

The Mayor gave a brief update on how the Budget prep is going. The Mayor would like Council to have input in this process.

Other Items

Attendance at Upcoming Council Meeting

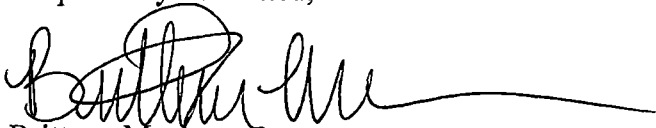
All present plan to attend next week's City Council meeting.

Announcements

Emergency Services Committee's next meeting is Monday, August 22, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

The council workshop adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brittney Mookman
Administrative Assistant

NOTE: This meeting is open to the public. This meeting is for information and discussion of the Council for the listed workshop agenda items.