

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

November 26, 2024

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 November 26, 2024.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jessica Banks

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Michèle, Braukmann, Civil City Attorney
Britney Harakal, Administrative Assistant
Kelly Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer

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

MINUTES: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Beartooth RC&D Correspondence.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Mize stated she called the City's auditors, Olness & Associates, regarding paying for the fire truck. She stated she was told any contracts will reduce what the City can borrow.

Council Member Mize, also stated that she spoke to an employee who thought they should have had the opportunity to apply for the Chief Administrative Officer position.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- Budget Amendment

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

Kelly Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer, briefly reviewed the budget amendment. This amendment is for the unexpected increase in revenue from the donations from the Splash Park.

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 November 22, 2024.**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 11/10/2024 totaling \$255,111.77.**

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. With no objection, the Consent Agenda of November 26, 2024, as presented, were approved. There was no public comment or Council discussion.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- Budget/Finance Committee Minutes of November 12, 2024.
- Park Board Minutes of November 7, 2024.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):

Dennise Hammer, 508 6th Avenue, stated that she spent some time at the Library Book Sale recently. The library is understaffed. She has concerns about adding a CAO when the library is understaffed.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Appointment of Doug Myers to the Laurel Airport Authority for the remainder of a 5-year term ending 6/30/2026.**

Motion by Council Member Canape to approve the Mayor's appointment of Doug Myers to the Laurel Airport Authority for the remainder of a 5-year term ending 6/30/2026, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven Council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R24-93: A Resolution Of The City Council Approving Amendments To Appropriations And Revenues For The City Of Laurel's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.**

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve Resolution No. R24-93, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R24-94: A Resolution Of Intent To Increase The City Of Laurel's Water And Sanitary Sewer Rates And Charges To Become Effective On January 10, 2025, And Setting A Date And Time For A Public Rate Hearing.**

Motion by Council Member Mize to approve Resolution No. R24-94, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Council Members Sparks, Wilke, Mackay, Klose, Wheeler, Mize, and Canape voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R24-95: A Resolution Of The City Council Directing The City Of Laurel Mayor To Recommend Appointment Of A Chief Administrative Officer And To Negotiate A Written Contract For Approval By The City Council.**

Mayor Waggoner stated he was pulling this resolution from the agenda. The job will be posted internally, and an applicant will be brought forward to the Council. The corresponding compensation package will be brought forward as well.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

This Saturday is Small Business Saturday. Sunday is the Christmas Stroll.

It was questioned if the City would move forward with an interim CAO while posting the job internally. It was clarified that this was correct.

Happy Thanksgiving

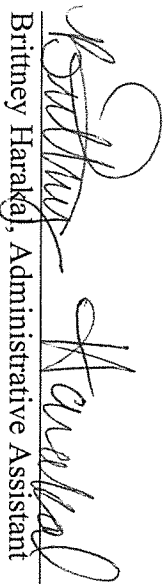
MAYOR UPDATES: None.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

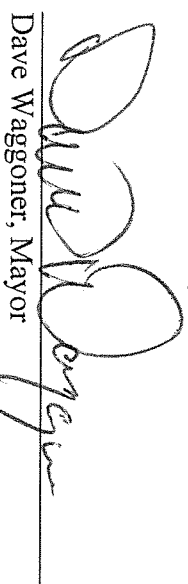
ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Mackay to adjourn the Council meeting, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.


Britney Haraka, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 10th day of December 2024.


Dave Waggoner, Mayor

Attest:


Kelly Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer



