

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LAUREL  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2024**

A Council Workshop was held in Council Chambers and called to order by Mayor Dave Waggoner at 6:30 p.m. on September 3, 2024.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Canape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Sparks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Mize	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Banks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Casey Wheeler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irv Wilke
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Klose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jodi Mackay

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kurt Markegard, Planning Director  
Kelly Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer

**Public Input:**

There were none.

**General Items**

**Executive Review**

1. Resolution - A Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing A Xeriscape Landscape Area For Development Located At The Corner Of South 4th Street And 8th Avenue South.

Alan Rapaz, representing Home Front, recently did a remodel of the exterior of their building. Their goal was to provide a Xeriscape landscaping of the property. Xeriscaping can save maintenance and water and make the property more valuable. During the process of upgrading the property, the City also did the S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street project. It moved the sidewalk closer to the buildings. In doing so, it left a small grassy area. The ask is to remove the grass on S. 4<sup>th</sup> and install mulch to match the rest of the property.

It was questioned who would be paying the cost for this project. It was clarified that the property owner would be covering the cost of this project.

The Planning Director clarified that LMC states that the boulevard shall be kept with trees and grass. In order to install Xeriscaping they must get permission from Council.

It was questioned if any trees were removed from this boulevard. It was clarified there were no trees on that half block.

Home Front is working on remodeling all the apartments within the property. This property has not been well maintained in the past. Home Front recently acquired the property.

2. Resolution - A Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing The Mayor To Approve A Change Order For In Control, Inc. For The Project Known As The City Of Laurel WWTP Upgrades

It was questioned if this was budgeted. It was clarified that it is budgeted. This is part of the SCADA project for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

### **Council Issues**

3. Discussion - Food Trucks

There have been some brick-and-mortar businesses that have had issues with food trucks and where they can be.

In Billings, food trucks are not allowed to park on the streets. Food trucks took off in correlation to the breweries that did not serve food. Anytime there is a closure of the public right of way, a permit is needed. For example, the Farmers Market put on by the Chamber of Commerce does require a permit for the use of the public right of way.

It was questioned if food trucks are required to get a business license. It was clarified they are required to get a business license annually. In order to get their business license they must show proof of a passed health inspection.

The biggest complaint is that food trucks are operating on the street. It was clarified that it is a zoning issue and will need to be addressed with the zoning ordinance.

Council noted many food trucks are based out of Laurel.

4. Discussion - Park Board Recommendation to Remove White Shower House.

Park Board made the recommendation to remove the white shower house at Riverside Park as it is not useable and not cost-effective to repair. The idea was to do a vault system and bypass the septic system entirely.

It was questioned if this is budgeted. It was clarified that the cost would be for landfill fees.

It was questioned if we could install an RV dump station down there. There is no sewer there, and it would need a lift station to get water back to the sewer plant. It would be very costly to install a lift station.

Council asked that this be on next week's agenda for a vote.

5. Discussion - Cover The Shooting Range With 2 Feet Of Reclaimed Dirt To Make It A Usable Space.

Park Board would like to have the ground be useable for more campground spots eventually.

It was noted that this would be affected by the National Registry of Historic Places. It was also noted that this park is located in the floodplain and will affect where the water goes during a flood.

#### 6. Discussion - National Registry of Historic Places

What is the benefit of going onto the registry? It was clarified that it does open the City up to funding opportunities.

The Planning Director briefly reviewed the historical timeline of Riverside Park. Four years ago, the City asked the State for a nomination for the Historic Places Registry. The State has spent the last four years gathering pertinent information for the national application process.

#### 7. Follow Up on Planning Changes

The Planning Director gave a brief overview of the changes. The Civil Attorney is still working on the clarification Council previously requested.

#### **Other Items**

There were none.

#### **Attendance at Upcoming Council Meeting**

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

#### **Announcements**

The next Tree Board meeting will be Thursday at 4:30 in the Council Conference Room.

The next Park Board meeting will be Thursday at 5:30 in Council Chambers.

Hunter's Stafey is starting soon; if anyone is interested, there is still time to sign up.

The council workshop adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brittney Harakal  
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.**