

**MINUTES
CITY OF LAUREL
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

A Council Workshop was held in Council Chambers and called to order by Mayor Dave Waggoner at 6:31 p.m. on September 20, 2022.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emelie Eaton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidi Sparks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Mize	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Herr
<input checked="" 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
Kurt Markegard, Public Works & Planning Director
Jared Anglin, Sergeant

Public Input:

There were none.

General Items

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

There was no discussion.

2. Appointment of Gabriel Seibert to the Laurel Police Department.

Chief Langve briefly introduced Mr. Seibert to Council.

Executive Review

3. Resolution - A Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing The Addition Of City Of Laurel Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Amber Hatton To All City Accounts.

There was no discussion.

4. Ordinance No. O22-04: An Ordinance Amending Section 2.20.010 Of The Laurel Municipal Code Relating To The City Court Clerk For The City Of Laurel

There was no discussion.

5. Ordinance O22-05: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1.01 (Code Adoption) Of The Laurel Municipal Code Relating To The General Provisions

There was no discussion.

Council Issues

6. City Vision Discussion

The City Attorney drafted a City Vision to begin this discussion.

Council noted that they would like a statement regarding working with the County Commissioners to advocate for a ramp on the Westend exit.

Council noted they would like a section about being a family-friendly community.

Council noted that they would like a statement about civic pride and fostering that as a community.

A draft with those changes will be brought back to the next Workshop.

7. Possible New Committees Discussion (Revenue Advisory Board and Parking Advisory Board)

The Civil Attorney stated that Billings had successfully used advisory boards. They are for a finite amount of time and are a great place to brainstorm ideas to solve a problem. It could be a Citizen only board, or it could also have Council Members.

Two areas that could use advisory boards would be revenue and parking.

It was questioned if this would be one or two advisory boards. It was clarified they would be separate. It was further questioned how large these boards would be. It was clarified that they would be limited.

8. City's Official Statement Regarding Parking within the City of Laurel.

See the attached memo.

9. Press Release Regarding Extra-Territorial Zoning Issues.

See the attached memo.

10. Garbage Rates Discussion

Kurt Markegard, Public Works & Planning Director, briefly reviewed the attached documents. This year the dumping fees are expected to be close to \$270,000.

The City should survey its commercial customers to see their usage. He will work with the Clerk/Treasurer to establish the spreadsheet needed for the exhibit. Right now, if the City paid

for a new garbage truck with cash, it would deplete the reserves, and the City would be forced to take a loan.

It was questioned if the City could charge a fee at the Container Site. It was clarified that the City could charge a flat fee or install a scale and charge accordingly.

It was questioned who determines what is considered construction materials, and it was clarified the Container Site operator makes the determination. That fee is to recover the cost of the tonnage once hauled to the landfill. A scale would cost approximately \$300,000 to \$500,000. They would need to be able to process credit cards. Other things to consider with a scale are how long it will take to break even and how much maintenance will be. The scale would need to be certified by the State.

It was questioned about what happens if we do not have a Container Site and everyone hauls their trash to Billings. It is expected that people would dump those items in their cans, and the City would still be responsible for hauling them to the dump.

One option would be to charge every vehicle that comes to the Container Site. Just because someone has a Laurel zip code does not mean they are within the City limits.

Staff asked if Council would like to see a five-year proposal brought forward or a three year. It was recommended that a five-year proposal be brought forward. Staff will propose what they feel is fair and equitable; if Council doesn't like it, the figures can be reworked. Staff also recommends a capital improvement surcharge to be added to Solid Waste.

There will be a letter that is sent out to each customer as well as a public comment period.

Other Items

Attendance at Upcoming Council Meeting

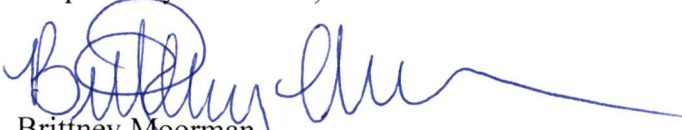
Council Members Wheeler and Eaton will be absent from next week's meeting.

Announcements

A Council Member stated they received a complaint about Mr. Cotter's property. This person was concerned that their property values would decrease due to the state of the property.

The council workshop adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brittney Moorman
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.

CITY HALL
115 W. 1st. St.
PUB WORKS: 628-4796
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WATER OFFICE: 628-7431
WTR FAX: 628-2289
MAYOR: 628-8456

City of Laurel

P.O. Box 10
Laurel, Montana 59044



DEPARTMENT

CITY OF LAUREL STATEMENT

Regarding Parking Obligations of the City of Laurel/Issues Raised by Constituents

16 September 2022

The City of Laurel (hereinafter “the City” or “Laurel”) has been posed with various constituent concerns and complaints regarding parking the City of Laurel. These issues have been, at different times, raised by way of Public Comment at City of Laurel City Council Meetings. In addition, certain members of the community have reached out directly to City Staff Members to ask that the City address various parking issues, as well as implement further expansion plans to “open up” more parking in the City, and most specifically, in the downtown area of Laurel.

The City acknowledges and understands that many Laurel residents would like to see better parking options available to both residential members of the community, as well as business members. As has been discussed at prior City Council Meetings, these issues have been ongoing in the City of Laurel for many years. Simply put, the City’s historical infrastructure, design, and implementation of streets/roadways, as well as parking spaces, did not necessarily adequately prepare for the existing needs of residents, as well as visitors to the City.

The City is committed to continuing to evaluate all options available to it, that are fiscally-sound and viable, within the City’s limited budget and resources. In that light, the City is evaluating setting up a Parking Advisory Board, whereby citizen members can help to define issues, create solutions, find funding options for more and expanded parking, and propose various solutions to the Mayor, City Council, and City Staff. If you are interested in potentially serving on a City Parking Advisory Board, please contact Kurt Markegaard, the City of Laurel Public Work’s Director, and indicate your interest in the same. Mr. Markegaard’s email address is: kmarkegaard@laurel.mt.gov.

In the meantime, it is important to recognize what the City’s obligations *are*, as it relates to parking, as well as what they *are not*.

Montana law does *not* require that a municipality provide parking for City residents. Montana law provides that a municipality *may* provide parking, although the extent and scope of that is not defined by law. *See e.g.*:

7-14-4501. Acquisition, construction, and maintenance of parking areas. A city or town council *may*:

- (1) acquire by lease, gift, purchase, or condemnation pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, lots or lands for use as parking areas for motor vehicles;
- (2) construct and maintain on the acquired land or on any premises owned or under lease by the city or town suitable parking facilities for the use of the public and for general traffic control; and
- (3) charge for the use of parking facilities.

The provision of parking, by a Montana municipality, is elective, not prescriptive. In addition, there are limitations on how much and to what extent a Montana municipality can install, maintain, and enforce parking meters. *See e.g.* Mont. Code Ann. § 7-14-4512. As a general matter, these are issues that have to be approved by the citizens of the community, before any Ordinances can be passed related to “pay for parking” options. While the City recognizes that what is elective legal authority is not the only consideration at issue, the City asks its constituents to understand what a City’s legal obligations *are*, versus what they *are not*.

Limited parking options are a “real and present issue” for many Cities, including most of the Cities in the State of Montana. Most Montana Cities were not originally designed to accommodate the number of drivers and vehicles that residents and visitors utilize, in our present “day and age.” Therefore, many Montana cities have limited parking options, especially in the more historic and downtown areas of the Cities. Laurel is no exception to that. These are issues that have faced all but the most-sprawling municipalities in this State.

The City will continue to evaluate options available to best serve Laurel constituents. These options may include metered parking, permitted parking lots, and eventually, even a parking facility/garage. In the meantime, the more that Laurel residents can be active in proposing solutions – both as to ideas of ways to address traffic flow and parking issues – as well as propose funding options for these expansion opportunities, the better able that we will all be able to “work in partnership together.” Any growth and development in the City of Laurel, especially the downtown and historic areas, will require a balancing of not just needs and demands, but also of costs involved, space available, and impact upon both residential community members and businesses.

As informed constituents likely realized the course of the past several weeks, as the City worked hard to create a balanced budget, Montana law simply does not create great revenue streams for municipalities in this State. City demands are largely served only by way of limited property

taxes. And those property taxes, for a City the size of Laurel, do not cover excess expenditures. Budget limitations within the City have required being very careful about use of funds, and where monies are spent. When the City is forced to evaluate funding related to public services such as emergency response, the Laurel Police Department, Fire, and other necessary and important resources – the City, very unfortunately, does not have significant funds left-over for improvements related to services such as parking. That is where constituent involvement is very important – as active citizens in this community, proposing solutions, grant fund options, partnerships with private enterprises, and other resources for revenue-streams – can make an enormous difference in what funds might be available to better expand these services.

The City also invites and encourages interested Laurel community members to speak directly with your State Representatives about exploring different funding options for municipalities in this State, including the City of Laurel, which will make more revenue resources available to our community.

CITY HALL
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MAYOR: 628-8456

City of Laurel

P.O. Box 10
Laurel, Montana 59044



DEPARTMENT

CITY OF LAUREL PRESS RELEASE

Regarding Extra-Territorial Zoning Issues

16 September 2022

The City of Laurel (hereinafter “the City” or “Laurel”) hereby issues this Press Release regarding issues involving extra-territorial zoning outside City limits.

The City understands and appreciates that varying and divergent views have been expressed throughout the course of this year, related to whether and to what extent the City can zone properties that are outside City boundaries. The City also appreciates that there are varying “stakeholders” and opinions in relationship to these issues, as well as both support and concerns raised by various individuals.

The City has prepared and issued a Legal Opinion regarding these matters. While this Press Release certainly does not encompass all of the issues raised in that Legal Opinion, it attempts to “simplify” the City’s obligations in relationship to extra-territorial zoning issues.

1. At the present time, no Zone Change Application by any County resident is in front of City Council for consideration. The City of Laurel City Council has no authority to act on any extra-territorial zoning issue, at this time.
2. The City itself does not have legal authority to exercise extra-territorial zoning control over County properties, as the County has not ceded this authority to the City of Laurel, by way of an Interlocal Agreement between the County and the City. While the City respects and recognizes that these complicated legal issues can be difficult for many City residents to understand, simply put, the only way that a municipality can legally zone properties outside of its City boundaries is if the surrounding County has ceded those legal duties to the municipality. There is long-standing law on this issue in

Montana, which has been upheld on appeal to the Montana Supreme Court, and the City of Laurel is bound and required to follow that law. Unless and until Yellowstone County formalizes a clear and present intent to have the City of Laurel zone extra-territorial County properties, the City would be acting improperly to do so.

3. Therefore, at the present time, the City cannot take any legal action to consider, evaluate, enforce, or otherwise assess zoning issues for County residents and properties.

If any City of Laurel residents have any questions regarding this issue, they may contact the City of Laurel Civil Attorney and request a copy of the City's Legal Opinion at the following email address: civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov.

CITY HALL
115 W. 1ST ST.
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City Of Laurel

P.O. Box 10
Laurel, Montana 59044



Office of the Public Works
Director

September 20, 2022

Mayor Waggoner,

Solid waste rates for residential and commercial must be the same annual rate as per the following Laurel Municipal Code

8.04.130 - Minimum commercial rate. The minimum rate for each business, commercial, educational, and other nonresidential building and other institution shall not be less than the minimum annual residential rate.

(Ord. No. O21-04, 10-12-2021)

To calculate the annual residential rate, you would take the \$14.00 per month multiplied by 12 months for the annual rate. This equates out to \$168.00 per year for a residential account. Each residential customer is assumed to have 100 gallons of trash per week. 100 gallons per week multiplied by 52 weeks equates out to 5,200 gallons of trash picked up at the residential lot. To determine a rate for commercial customers we need to take the annual rate for a residential customer and divide the annual amount of trash of a residential property. This would be \$168.00(annual rate) divided by the 5200 gallons which equals a \$.032 per gallon rate for a residential property.

The \$.032 rate is then the commercial rate per gallon of service. Any increase in the residential rates would equate to the same price per gallon rate for the commercial customers. The increases to commercial accounts would depend on the amount of service they are requesting. Currently we offer 1/3 of a can (100 gallons), 2/3 of a can (200 gallons), and a full can (300 gallons) all for six day a week pickup. Some commercial customers are only on Fridays for a full can (300 gallons) or a 90 gallon can. All the commercial rates are determined by the amount of service the commercial customer needs and need to be calculated by the \$.032 per gallon.

To understand how rates will change we will need to gather all the residential property accounts and all the commercial account information. We will need to make sure all the solid waste cans out in the city are accounted for and are being properly billed as well. In talking with Kelly, she should be able to pull that information up in the next week or so and we then can build a spreadsheet for the City Council consideration on solid waste rates and what will be needed to cover expenses.

Respectfully,


Kurt Markegard

RESOLUTION NO. R14-34

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAUREL CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE
PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE USERS OF
THE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT
TO BE EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1, 2014.**

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel, Montana (the "City") has determined the current solid waste rates and charges in effect at the present time are not adequate to provide revenues with which to defray the continual increased costs of operation, maintenance, and capital of the City's solid waste system and facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to increase the rates and charges for the services provided by the System in order to collect sufficient revenues to pay costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the System; and

WHEREAS, current budgetary requirements with respect to the operation of said facilities as well as on-going and future projects contemplate the proposed rates becoming effective by July 1, 2014, to enable the City to proceed as expeditiously as possible to continue providing System debt service, maintenance and improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby finds and declares that maintaining and improving the System is essential to the preservation of the health, safety and welfare of its residents and users of the System; and

WHEREAS, under MCA § 69-7-101 the City has the power and authority to regulate, establish, and change, as it considers proper, rates, charges, and classifications imposed for utility services to its inhabitants and other persons served by the System so long as rates, charges, and classifications are reasonable and just; and

WHEREAS, a notice of public hearing was mailed to all users of the City's System notifying them that pursuant to Resolution No. R14-27 adopted May 20, 2014, it was the intention of the City to increase the rates and charges for solid waste services and notice of public hearing was published as required by Section 69-7-111, M.C.A. A public hearing was held on June 17, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Laurel, Montana, for the purpose of gathering public comments and evidence regarding the proposed rate and charge increase; and

WHEREAS, every individual who attended the public hearing was given the opportunity to speak, present argument and/or to submit written comment into the hearing record and based upon the record created, the City Council is prepared to issue its decision pursuant to MCA § 69-7-112.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, MONTANA:

1. Approval. The proposed increase in the rates and charges for the users of the municipal solid waste system is hereby approved and attached hereto and labeled Exhibit A; and

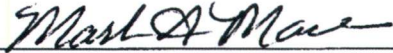
2. Effective date. This resolution shall be immediately filed with the City Clerk/Treasurer and shall become final and effective not less than 10 days after such filing or on July 1, 2014.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council on June 17, 2014, by Council Member Mountsier.

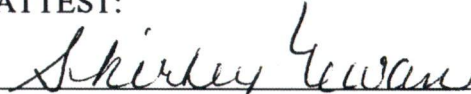
PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Laurel this 17th day of June, 2014.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 17th day of June, 2014.

CITY OF LAUREL


Mark A. Mace, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shirley Ewan, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to form:


Sam S. Painter, Civil City Attorney

Residential Rate Increase over 5 Years

Total Residential Clients = 2949

Fiscal Year	Current Cost		Increased		Monthly	Yearly	Increase/Yr	Revenue Raised
	Per Gallon	Increase	Total	% Increase				
13-14	\$ 11.80	1	\$ 11.80		\$ 11.80	\$ 141.60		
14-15	\$ 12.80	0.25	\$ 12.80	7.8%	\$ 12.80	\$ 153.60	\$ 12.00	\$ 35,388.00
15-16	\$ 13.05	0.25	\$ 13.30	1.9%	\$ 13.30	\$ 159.60	\$ 6.00	\$ 17,694.00
16-17	\$ 13.30	0.25	\$ 13.55	1.9%	\$ 13.55	\$ 162.60	\$ 3.00	\$ 8,847.00
17-18	\$ 13.55	0.25	\$ 13.80	1.8%	\$ 13.80	\$ 165.60	\$ 3.00	\$ 8,847.00
18-19	\$ 13.80	0.2	\$ 14.00	1.4%	\$ 14.00	\$ 168.00	\$ 2.40	\$ 7,077.60
							\$ 26.40	\$ 77,853.60

Residential Customers
Total Increase over 5 Years

Commercial Rate Increase over 5 years.

Total Users 71, same as residential customers

Fiscal Year	Current Cost		Increased		Monthly Charge	Yearly Charge	Increase/Yr	Revenue Raised
	Per Gallon	Increase	Total	% Increase				
13-14	\$ 11.80	1	\$ 11.80		\$ 11.80	\$ 141.60		
14-15	\$ 12.80	0.25	\$ 12.80	7.8%	\$ 12.80	\$ 153.60	\$ 12.00	\$ 852.00
15-16	\$ 13.05	0.25	\$ 13.30	1.9%	\$ 13.30	\$ 159.60	\$ 6.00	\$ 426.00
16-17	\$ 13.30	0.25	\$ 13.55	1.9%	\$ 13.55	\$ 162.60	\$ 3.00	\$ 213.00
17-18	\$ 13.55	0.25	\$ 13.80	1.8%	\$ 13.80	\$ 165.60	\$ 3.00	\$ 213.00
18-19	\$ 13.80	0.2	\$ 14.00	1.4%	\$ 14.00	\$ 168.00	\$ 2.40	\$ 170.40
								\$ 1,874.40

Commercial 1 - 90 Gallon can picked up once per week.
Total Increase over 5 Years

Commercial Rate Increase over 5 years.

Total Users - 66, 300 gallons picked up 6 days per week.

Fiscal Year	Current Cost		Increase	% Increase	Monthly Charge	Yearly Charge	Increase/Yr	Revenue Raised
	Per Gallon	Increase						
13-14	0.0272				\$ 212.16	\$ 2,545.92		
14-15	0.0296	.0024 Cents/Gal		7.8%	\$ 230.88	\$ 2,770.56	\$ 224.64	\$ 14,826.24
15-16	0.0302	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.9%	\$ 235.56	\$ 2,826.72	\$ 56.16	\$ 3,706.56
16-17	0.0308	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.9%	\$ 240.24	\$ 2,882.88	\$ 56.16	\$ 3,706.56
17-18	0.0314	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.8%	\$ 244.92	\$ 2,939.04	\$ 56.16	\$ 3,706.56
18-19	0.0320	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.4%	\$ 249.60	\$ 2,995.20	\$ 56.16	\$ 3,706.56
								\$ 29,652.48

Commercial 2 - 300 Gallon Can picked up 6 times per week.
Total Increase over 5 Years

Commercial Rate Increase over 5 years.

Total Users -19, 200 gallons picked up 6 days per week.

Fiscal Year	Current Cost		Increase	% Increase	Monthly Charge	Yearly Charge	Increase/Yr	Revenue Raised
	Per Gallon	Increase						
13-14	0.0272				\$ 141.44	\$ 1,697.28		
14-15	0.0296	.0024 Cents/Gal		7.8%	\$ 153.92	\$ 1,847.04	\$ 149.76	\$ 2,845.44

15-16		0.0302	.0006 Cents/Gal			1.9%	\$ 157.04	\$ 1,884.48	\$ 37.44	\$ 711.36
16-17		0.0308	.0006 Cents/Gal			1.9%	\$ 160.16	\$ 1,921.92	\$ 37.44	\$ 711.36
17-18		0.0314	.0006 Cents/Gal			1.8%	\$ 163.28	\$ 1,959.36	\$ 37.44	\$ 711.36
18-19		0.0320	.0006 Cents/Gal			1.4%	\$ 166.40	\$ 1,996.80	\$ 37.44	\$ 711.36
										\$ 5,690.88

Commercial 3 - 200 Gallon Can picked up 6 times per week.
Total increase over 5 Years

Commercial Rate Increase over 5 years. Total Users -62, 100 gallons picked up 6 days per week.

Fiscal Year	Current Cost Per Gallon	Increase	Increase	% Increase	Monthly Charge	Yearly Charge	Increase/Yr	Revenue Raised
13-14	0.0272				\$ 70.72	\$ 848.64		
14-15	0.0296	.0024 Cents/Gal		7.8%	\$ 76.96	\$ 923.52	\$ 74.88	\$ 4,642.56
15-16	0.0302	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.9%	\$ 78.52	\$ 942.24	\$ 18.72	\$ 1,160.64
16-17	0.0308	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.9%	\$ 80.08	\$ 960.96	\$ 18.72	\$ 1,160.64
17-18	0.0314	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.8%	\$ 81.64	\$ 979.68	\$ 18.72	\$ 1,160.64
18-19	0.0320	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.4%	\$ 83.20	\$ 998.40	\$ 18.72	\$ 1,160.64
								\$ 9,285.12

Commercial 4 - 100 Gallon Can picked up 6 times per week.
Total increase over 5 Years

Commercial Rate Increase over 5 years. Total Users -12, 300 gallons picked up once a week.

Fiscal Year	Current Cost Per Gallon	Increase	Increase	% Increase	Monthly Charge	Yearly Charge	Increase/Yr	Revenue Raised
13-14	0.0272				\$ 35.41	\$ 424.97		
14-15	0.0296	.0024 Cents/Gal		7.8%	\$ 38.54	\$ 462.47	\$ 37.50	\$ 449.97
15-16	0.0302	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.9%	\$ 39.32	\$ 471.84	\$ 9.37	\$ 112.49
16-17	0.0308	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.9%	\$ 40.10	\$ 481.22	\$ 9.37	\$ 112.49
17-18	0.0314	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.8%	\$ 40.88	\$ 490.59	\$ 9.37	\$ 112.49
18-19	0.0320	.0006 Cents/Gal		1.4%	\$ 41.66	\$ 499.97	\$ 9.37	\$ 112.49
								\$ 899.94

Commercial 5 - 300 Gallon Can picked up once a week.
Total increase over 5 Years

Year 1 Increase	\$ 59,004.21
Year 2 Increase	\$ 23,811.05
Year 3 Increase	\$ 14,751.05
Year 4 Increase	\$ 14,751.05
Year 5 Increase	\$ 12,939.05

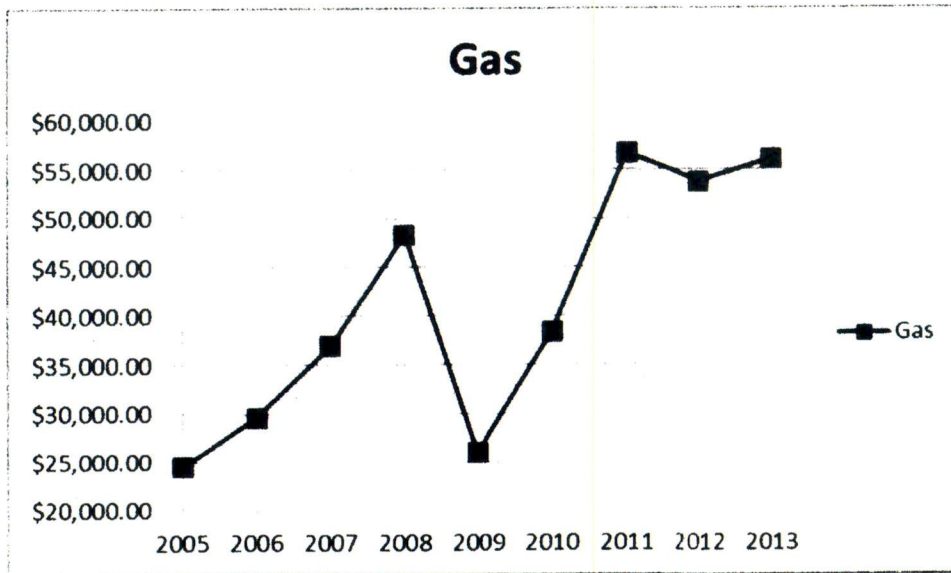
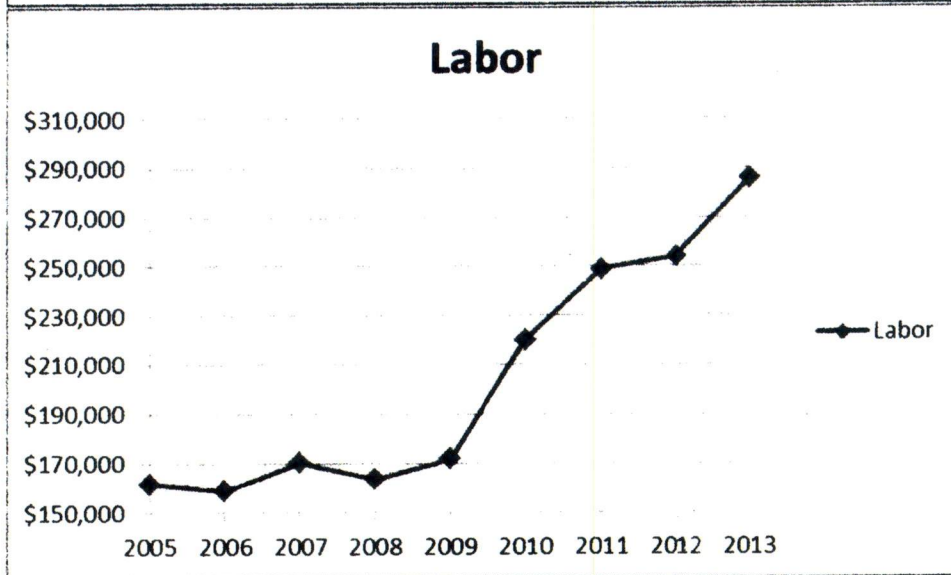
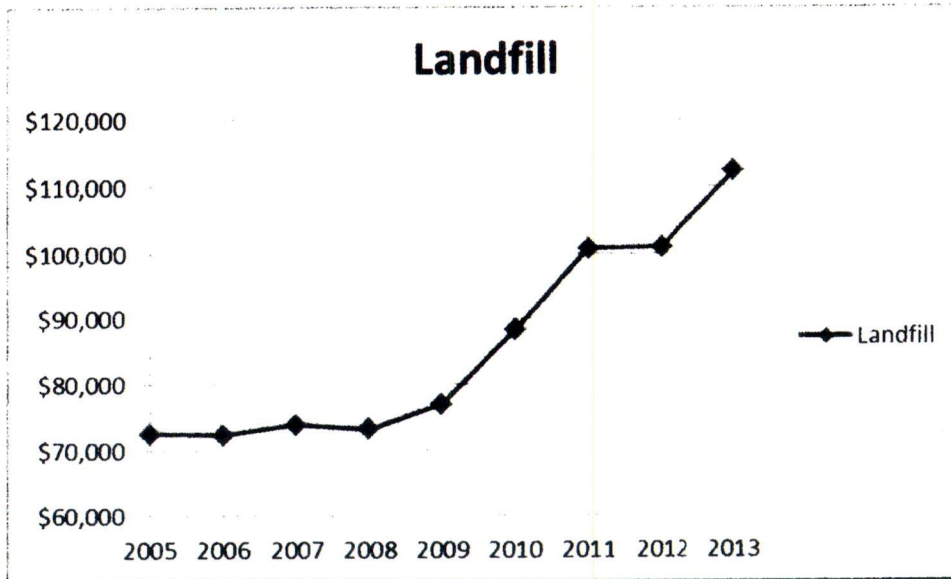
\$125,256.42 Total Increase over the next 5 years.

Fiscal Year	Dumping Fees	Tons Dumped	Cost per Ton	Wages per Year	Fuel per Year
05-06	\$ 85,525.45	7437	\$ 11.50	\$ 257,374.00	\$ 28,670.00
06-07	\$ 72,639.05	6316	\$ 11.50	\$ 244,871.00	\$ 33,052.00
07-08	\$ 73,837.25	6421	\$ 11.50	\$ 260,835.00	\$ 44,477.00
08-09	\$ 71,752.40	6239	\$ 11.50	\$ 232,213.00	\$ 34,596.00
09-10	\$ 83,204.55	6051	\$ 13.75	\$ 288,610.00	\$ 33,141.00
10-11	\$ 93,528.40	6802	\$ 13.75	\$ 343,052.00	\$ 47,161.00
11-12	\$ 104,212.30	5790	\$ 18.00	\$ 395,921.00	\$ 56,309.00
12-13	\$ 99,819.20	5546	\$ 18.00	\$ 386,262.00	\$ 50,434.00
13-14	\$ 105,413.00	6268	\$ 18.50	\$ 386,510.00	\$ 61,941.00
	123%	84%	161%	150%	216%
		Decrease			

Percentage Increase over the Last 9 Years

What will the additional revenue be used for:

- 1 Building to House Garbage Trucks
- 2 Land Purchase to build garage on.
- 3 New Garbage Trucks
- 4 Increased Wages
- 5 Scales - Hang Tags
- 6 Recycling



City of Laurel
P O Box 10
Laurel MT 59044
Phone 628-7431
Fax 628-2289



May 27, 2014

RE: Proposed Solid Waste Rate Increase

Dear Customer,

Greetings from the City of Laurel. This letter is to inform you of an intent to raise the cost of disposing garbage for all residential and commercial users in the City of Laurel.

The City Council will hold a Public Hearing on June 17th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall to hear citizen comments. The Council welcomes any and all comments in regards to the future rate structure.

Following is the Current Rate and Proposed Rate Structure for Solid Waste for the next 6 years:

Current:

Residential

July 13-June 14 \$11.80/month

Proposed:

Proposed Residential

July 14-June 15 \$12.80/month
July '15-June '16 \$13.05/month
July '17-June '18 \$13.30/month
July '18-June '19 \$13.55/month
June'19-July '20 \$13.80/month
July '20-June '21 \$14.00/month

Commercial

July 2013-June 2014 \$.0272/gallon

Proposed Commercial

July 2014-June 2015 \$.0296/gallon
July 2015-June 2016 \$.0302/gallon
July 2016-June 2017 \$.0308/gallon
July 2017-June 2018 \$.0314/gallon
July 2018-June 2019 \$.0320/gallon
July 2019-June 2020 \$.0325/gallon

These rates quoted above are calculated on the following percentages for all users:

Year 1	July 2014-June 2015	8.47% Increase
Year 2	July 2015-June 2016	1.95% increase
Year 3	July 2016-June 2017	1.92% increase
Year 4	July 2017-June 2018	1.88% Increase
Year 5	July 2018-June 2019	1.85% increase
Year 6	July 2019-June 2020	1.45% increase

The transfer site rates will remain the same.

The rate increase is due to increases in dumping fees at the landfill (up 123% since last rate increase), fuel costs (up over 216% since last rate increase) and an increase in labor costs.

Due to the frugal control of the Solid Waste Department the City has not raised the rates for the residential customers since 2000 and commercial customers since 2009.

Thank you for your patronage over the last few years and please come voice your opinion at the Public Hearing on June 17th, 2014. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to comment on the subject you may forward your comments to City of Laurel, P O Box 10, Laurel, MT 59044 or e-mail your comments to cityclerk@laurel.mt.gov.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Mace
Mayor, City of Laurel