

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

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 Tom Nelson at 6:30 p.m. on September 10, 2019.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bruce McGee  
Richard Klose

Heidi Sparks  
Richard Herr  
Irv Wilke

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Emelie Eaton  
Scot Stokes

Bill Mountsier

**OTHER STAFF PRESENT:**

Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer  
Stan Langve, Chief of Police Department  
Jessica McCartney, Union 303 President

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

Mayor Nelson asked the everyone present to observe a moment of silence.

**ROLE CALL OF THE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES:**

Motion by Council Member McGee to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 3, 2019, as presented, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all five council members present voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- Special Improvement District No. 119 Levy of Special Assessments on Property Within the District for the Purpose of Financing the Cost of Certain Local Improvements.

Mayor Nelson stated this is the time and place set for the public hearing on the City of Laurel's Special Improvement District No. 119 Levy of Special Assessments on Property Within the District for the Purpose of Financing the Cost of Certain Local Improvements.

Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing and asked staff to present the item.

Bethany Langve, Clerk-Treasurer, stated that this is the same thing that the Council has seen for the past three weeks. This is the final approval of the assessments so that they may be put on the tax rolls. She stated that nothing has changed, none of the amounts and this is the last time Council would see this item.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for public comment and stated that copies of the rules governing the public hearing were posted in the council chambers.

Mayor Nelson asked three (1) time if there were any proponents.

Mike Baney, 116 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street, he stated that all seems fair as this is the SID that totals \$69,000 and each person pays their share. He wanted to let the Council know that he took care of the repairs to his property himself so he should not have any assessment on his property. He stated that the contractor did a good job however there is not 6" of asphalt on top of 20" of gravel like the Public

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Works Director said they would get. It compacted and there is only about 3 ½" of asphalt. He stated that nobody said anything to him about the diagonal parking out in front of the park. He asked if anyone has looked into what that has done to the traffic patterns.

Mayor Nelson asked three (2) additional times if there were any proponents. There were none.

Mayor Nelson asked three (3) times if there were any opponents. There were none.

Mayor Nelson stated that he would not have staff respond to questions as there were none.

Mayor Nelson closed the public hearing.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

- **Claims for the month of August and September 2019 in the amount of \$323,972.60.**  
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Clerk/Treasurer Financial Statements for the month of July 2019.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 8/25/2019 totaling \$151,230.30.**

The mayor asked if there was any separation of consent items. There was none.

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment.

A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 5-0. The mayor stated that the consent items would be on the next meeting's agenda.

**CEREMONIAL CALENDAR:** None.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

- **Review reports from Boards and Commissions.**
  - Budget & Finance Committee minutes of August 20, 2019
  - City-County Planning Board Minutes of August 1, 2019.
  - Park Board Minutes of August 1, 2019.
  - Public Works Committee minutes of August 19, 2019
  - Library Board minutes of August 13, 2019
  - Laurel Urban Renewal Agency minutes of August 19, 2019
  - Safety Committee minutes of July 16, 2019

The Mayor stated that the Library Board minutes of August 13, 2019 were not in the Council packet as they were not provided to staff in time for inclusion.

There were no questions or comments regarding the presented minutes.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):** None.

**SCHEDULED MATTERS:**

- **Resolution No. R19-67: A Resolution of the City Council Approving Certain Revisions to the CBA Through a Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Laurel and Local Union Local 303, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME.**

The Mayor stated that this item had not been brought before Council before and asked if anyone would like to motion to have this item brought before Council.

Motion by Council Member Sparks to have Resolution No. R19-67 brought before Council for discussion, seconded by Council Member Wilke.

Chief Langve presented the resolution to the City Council. He stated that this memorandum of understanding is an adjustment to the union contract and that they are pretty simple adjustments. The first one is an adjustment to the start and close of the day. The second is to change the dispatcher three from a part-time position to a full-time position. He stated that for the past year and a half the department has been trying to hire a part-time dispatcher. The closest they have gotten to hiring someone is getting a background investigation completed and then the candidate decided they did not want the job. It's a hard position to fill because that person has to be available 24/7 on a moment notice. The department is getting busier and busier as last month they had 881 calls. This



MOU would change the two dispatcher I (1) positions to full-time cover positions and they will be bid just like the other full-time positions. This will remove the variable shifts and give stability to the dispatcher pool. Historically when a dispatcher is hired full-time, they stay with the City and all the training and time spent on that employee is paid back with dividends. Just like an Officer, it takes time to gain knowledge and be fluent in the dispatcher position. The Chief stated that this change is long past needed. The dispatcher I position will be an entry level position, dispatcher II will be an intermediate position per MLEA standards and dispatcher III will be the advanced position per MLEA standards. With accepting this MOU none of the dispatchers would be reduced in their positions. The Chief has reviewed the MOU and he feels it's essential for the continued growth of the department. He stated this is not just for the Police Department but also for the Fire and Ambulance Departments.

The Mayor stated that this MOU had been given to the City Attorney for review and he did approve of it prior to the MOU being presented to Council. The Mayor also stated that this would allow for there to be times when two dispatchers could be on duty at the same time. Chief Langve agreed that this would allow for opportunities to schedule two dispatchers on duty at the same time. The TAC or dispatcher III could work on her TAC duties while the other dispatcher answers calls. The Mayor asked the Chief how many applications he received this time, now that the position is full-time. The Chief stated that they were receiving 5-6 applications previously and this time they received 23

Motion by Council Member McGee to close the discussion on Resolution No. R19-67, seconded by Council Member Sparks.

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R19-67, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all five council members present voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- **Resolution No. R19-68: A Resolution Relating to Special Improvement District No. 119; Final Levy of Special Assessments on Property Within the Districts for the Purpose of Financing the Cost of Certain Local Improvements**

Motion by Council Member McGee to approve Resolution No. R19-68, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was a roll call vote of the Council. Council Members Sparks, Herr, Wilke, Klose and McGee voted aye, no Council Members voted nay, and Council Members Mountsier, Stokes and Eaton were absent. There was no public comment or council discussion. The motion carried 5-0.

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

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT):** None.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Council Vice President McGee stated that the Emergency Services Committee will meet at their regularly scheduled time this month.

Council member Klose stated that tomorrow 09/11/2019 there will be a 09/11 Ceremony in the Firemen's Park across the street from City Hall at 11:00am, and everyone is invited.

Council member Sparks stated that the Public Works meeting, which is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, has been cancelled this month. The open house at the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants will be next Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm before the Council Workshop. Meet at City Hall to catch the bus down to the plants. The 1<sup>st</sup> Interstate Bank branch will be closed tomorrow at noon as they are having a volunteer day company wide.

Council member Herr thanked the Council for allowing him to be gone in order to attend to his family. The Mayor and Council voiced their support for Council Member Herr and his family.

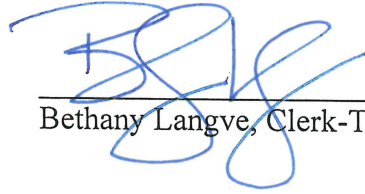
**MAYOR UPDATES:** The Mayor reminded everyone that next week would be a Council Workshop. The Update to Office 365 should be coming soon and Council members would need to leave their devices with staff in order to get those updated.

**UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

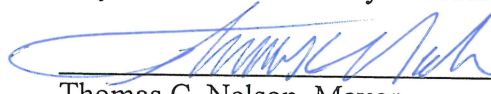
Motion by Council Member Klose to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Council Member Herr. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and all five council members present voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



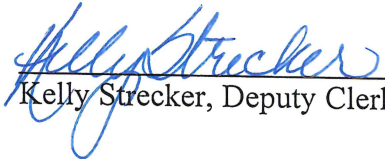
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Bethany Langve, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 10th day of September 2019.



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Thomas C. Nelson, Mayor

Attest:



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Kelly Strecker, Deputy Clerk

