MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

MARCH 22, 2022

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 March 22, 2022.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Emelie Eaton

Heidi Sparks

Michelle Mize Scot Stokes Richard Herr Irv Wilke

Richard Klose

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Mountsier

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Michele Braukmann, Civil City Attorney

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

Mayor Waggoner asked the council to observe a moment of silence.

MINUTES:

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2022, as presented, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE:

• Beartooth RC&D March 2022 Correspondence.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- Claims entered through March 18, 2022.

 A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 3/6/2022 totaling \$198,799.95.

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 Stokes. 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.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- Budget/Finance Committee Minutes of March 8, 2022.
- City/County Planning Board Minutes of January 19, 2022.
- Public Works Committee Minutes of February 23, 2022.
- Public Works Committee Minutes of December 20, 2022.
- Library Board Minutes of December 14, 2021.
- Library Board Minutes of January 11, 2022.
- City/County Planning Board Minutes of February 16, 2022.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):

Barb Emineth, 501 Alder Ave, read the attached statement into the record.

The Mayor and Civil City Attorney stated that City Staff has a meeting this week to address issues concerning 506 Birch.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

 Appointment of Troy Charbonneau and Rebeca Weaver to the Laurel Volunteer Ambulance Service.

Motion by Council Member Mize to approve the Mayor's appointment of Troy Charbonneau and Rebeca Weaver to the Laurel Volunteer Ambulance Service, seconded by Council Member Klose. 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.

• Appointment of Jamie Swecker to the Emergency Services Committee.

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jamie Swecker to the Emergency Services Committee, 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. R22-10: A Resolution Of The City Council Adopting The Laurel Transportation System Coordination Plan.

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve Resolution No. R22-10, 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.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Public Works Committee recommends moving forward with a water study to include tiered rates.

Emergency Services Committee's next meeting is Monday, March 28, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Tomorrow at 2:00 p.m., the Governor will present accommodation to five area vets, including Laurel's David Gauslow.

The public meeting regarding S. 4th Street has been postponed indefinitely.

MAYOR UPDATES:

Kit Sherman, Uniquities, spoke regarding his concerns about the sweeping of Main Street. He also spoke of his concerns about the lack of parking for downtown businesses.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Eaton 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 6:57 p.m.

Council Minutes of March 22, 2022

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 12th day of April 2022.

Attest:

3/22/2032

Hello, my name is Barb Emineth. I live at 501 Alder Avenue.

After I appeared in front of council A times last year about my neighbors across the alley, finally in October a nuisance code was passed which gave the city of Laurel the power of abatement, which means you can legally clean up a homeowners property who, after being cited, does not do so. I understand this would likely take a court order.

One of the people staying at 506 Birch started a fire in their backyard that damaged Mary Holzingers garage who lives next door a few months back. The crew who put new siding up could hardly stand the stink while working on the back of it to get the job done.

The people living at 506 Birch are now throwing kitchen garbage into the backyard so there's rotting food on top of all the junk! The warmer it gets the worse it's going to smell. It will also attract varmits.

When is enough enough?

Our code enforcer Joel Sauders filed his report recommending that Micheale Herren be charged with maintaining a public nuisance. Juliane Lore our city Prosecutor has been waiting for paperwork to come through and now our newly hired city attorney Michele Bauchman has told police chief Langvey that there might be a better way to deal with this situation! With all due respect attorney Bachman I have dealt with this situation for over 20 years. I have lost all patience for the process! It is currently a serious health hazard and the people who live around this property should not have to put up with it any longer!

I am frustrated and I am disappointed. This is a complicated case that needs to be presented to a judge as soon as possible. The property owner is physically and mentally disabled. Nobody knows if she has a

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I am frustrated and I am disappointed. This is a complicated case that needs to be presented to a judge as soon as possible. The property owner is physically and mentally disabled. Nobody knows if she has a

guardian or not but if she was made to appear in court chances are one would be appointed to her. She is a hoarder, who is burying herself alive with garbage because she cannot tell what to keep and what to throw. Hoarding is a mental illness. The people who come and go throw the garbage into the yard to make space to be in the house. There has to be a judge somewhere that will look into this case and realize the scope of it, but she has to be charged first for that to happen. Although none of us knows what a judges decision would be in this case, what I would like to see happen is #1 Micheale be placed in a long term care facility, #2 the city pay to have the 506 Birch property cleared, and #3 the house be inspected and possibly condemned. I think instead of second guessing the legal system we should give it a chance to work, I am however open to any ideas that would get that dump of a yard cleaned up!

There have already been neighbors move out because of the situation. Our property values are being affected. Our physical and mental health has also been affected. So I would really like to hear what the plan is. My number is 598-4629. Thanks for your time. Boulary a. S. Emineth-501 Alder

I would be happy to attend any

meeting that happen about this issue.

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