

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

December 12, 2023

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 December 12, 2023.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Emelie Eaton	Heidi Sparks
Michelle Mize	Richard Herr
	Irv Wilke
	Jodi Mackay

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Casey Wheeler
Richard Klose

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Brittney Harakal, Administrative Assistant
Matt Wheeler, Public Works Director
Stan Langve, Police Chief
Ryan Welsh, KLJ
Jackson Booth, Police Officer
Hailey Swan, Police Officer
Ryan Sedgwick, Police Officer
Susan Canape, Dispatcher
Ryland Ratcliff, Police Officer
Gabe Seibert, Police Officer

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

MINUTES:

Motion by Council Member Wilke to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 28, 2023, as presented, seconded by Council Member Eaton. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Police Monthly Report - November 2023.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Maekay stated she sat in on the presentations regarding the court receivables. While sitting in on the presentations, she came to an opinion.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- Public Hearing For Ordinance O23-05: An Ordinance Amending Title 12, Chapter 12.32.050 Of The Laurel Municipal Code Related To The City Tree Board.

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

Council Member Mize, a Tree Board Member, stated this ordinance is to increase the Tree Board by one member as there has been increased interest in serving on this Board.

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.

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Mayor Waggoner stated that he would not have Staff respond to questions as there were none.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims entered through December 8, 2023.**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 11/26/2023 totaling \$287,210.29.**
- **Council Workshop Minutes of December 5, 2023.**

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

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR:

- **Sergeant Pinning Ceremony**

The ceremony was moved to later in the meeting after the appointment of Mr. LaFrombois.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- Budget/Finance Committee Minutes of November 28, 2023.
- Laurel Urban Renewal Agency Minutes of December 4, 2023.
- Tree Board Minutes of November 9, 2023.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Appointment of Nathan LaFrombois to the Laurel Police Department.**

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve the Mayor's appointment of Nathan LaFrombois to the Laurel Police Department, seconded by Council Member Sparks. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Judge Kerr swore in Mr. LaFrombois.

Police Chief Langve gave a brief speech on what it means to be a police officer. He presented Mr. LaFrombois with his badge.

Police Chief Langve called up Officer Booth to be formally pinned as Sergeant. He gave a brief speech on the importance of this role and becoming a good leader. Retired Officer Pitts pinned Sergeant Booth.

Both Sergeant Booth and Officer LaFrombois performed the Police Officer Code of Ethics.

- **Appointment of Dustin Hopkins to the Laurel Emergency Medical Services.**

Motion by Council Member Mackay to approve the Mayor's appointment of Dustin Hopkins to the Laurel Emergency Medical Services, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Appointment of David Gauslow to the Cemetery Commission for the Remainder of a Two-Year Term Ending June 30, 2025.**

Motion by Council Member Eaton to approve the Mayor's appointment of David Gauslow to the Cemetery Commission for the remainder of a two-year term ending June 30, 2025, seconded by

Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Appointment of Mardie Spalinger to the Laurel Urban Renewal Agency – Advisory for a Four-Year Term Ending December 31, 2027.**

Motion by Council Member Mize to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Mardie Spalinger to the Laurel Urban Renewal Agency – Advisory for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

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

Motion by Council Member Eaton to allow Council Member Wilke to be absent from the City of Laurel for more than ten days (LMC 2.12.060), seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or Council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Resolution No. R23-88: Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Understanding By And Between The City Of Laurel And Beartooth Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R23-88, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Resolution No. R23-89: A Resolution Of The City Council Authorizing The Mayor To Execute The Task Order And All Related Documents For The City Of Laurel Grant Support Services By And Between The City Of Laurel And Kij Engineering, Inc. Related To A Proposed New Water Tank.**

Motion by Council Member Mize to approve Resolution No. R23-89, seconded by Council Member Wilke. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Ordinance No. O23-05: An Ordinance Amending Title 12, Chapter 12.32.050 Of The Laurel Municipal Code Related To The City Tree Board. (Second Reading)**

Motion by Council Member Mackay to adopt Ordinance No. O23-05, 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, Herr, Wilke, Mackay, Mize, and Eaton voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

The Public Works Committee’s next meeting is Monday, December 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

The December Emergency Services Committee meeting has been canceled.

December 30, 2023, is the 80s Prom fundraiser for the library. Tickets are on sale.

Park Board met last Thursday. They followed up on some questions posed by the Council. There is no money set aside for these; however, the Park Board was looking at these as a donation-based attraction. The City often gets approached regarding planting a tree in honor of someone. This would be another option. The second question was regarding accessories for playing the games. The Park Board stated the resident would be responsible for bringing items to play the games. There is a group interested in placing these in the Parks.

MAYOR UPDATES:

The gun auction ended Sunday. The total sale ended at \$43,500. The City will receive a check for \$37,400.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

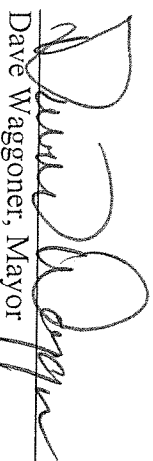
ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Herr to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Council Member Eaton. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six Council Members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.


Britney Harakal, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 26th day of December 2023.


Dave Waggoner, Mayor

Attest:


Kelly Streckler, Clerk/Treasurer

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