

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

May 13, 2025

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 May 13, 2025.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Canape	Heidi Sparks
Michelle Mize	
Casey Wheeler	Irv Wilke
Richard Klose	Jodi Mackay

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jessica Banks

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer  
Kurt Markegard, CAO  
Brittney Harakal, Administrative Assistant

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 April 22, 2025, 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:

- Police Monthly Report - April 2025.
- Burwell Thank You Card
- Fire Monthly Report - April 2025
- Floodplain Permit Correspondence
- Beartooth RC&D Correspondence May 2025

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX-PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims entered through May 9, 2025.**  
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 4/27/2025 totaling \$262,821.61.**

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 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.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR:

- Poppy Day Proclamation

May 23, 2025, was declared as Poppy Day.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- Budget/Finance Committee Minutes of April 22, 2025.
- Public Works Committee Minutes of April 21, 2025.
- Laurel Airport Authority Minutes of December 3, 2024.

DW

- Emergency Services Committee Minutes of March 24, 2025.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):**

Bea Ann Melchar and Lori Pool with ARA of YC noted a few notable entries in the Prime Connections circulation, see attached.

Council noted that the City partners with ARA of YC to provide transportation for Seniors in Laurel.

**SCHEDULED MATTERS:**

- **Resolution No. R25-29: A Resolution Of The City Council To Accept Studies Of The City's Existing Water And Wastewater Rate Structures And Recommendations For Any Necessary Modifications To The Existing Rate Structures Prepared By Ratfelis Financial Consultants, Inc., And Amending Previous Resolution No. R25-25.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R25-29, 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. R25-30: A Resolution Of Intent To Increase The City Of Laurel's Water And Wastewater Rates And Charges To Become Effective On July 10, 2025, And Setting A Date And Time For A Public Rate Hearing.**

Motion by Council Member Canape to approve Resolution No. R25-30, 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:**

The next Public Works Committee meeting is Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The next Emergency Services Committee meeting is Monday, directly after the Public Works Committee meeting in Council Chambers.

The next Cemetery Commission meeting will be on Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room.

The Community Clean Up had a very good turnout. The next one will be around the 4 of July.

**MAYOR UPDATES:** None.

**UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Council Member Mize 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 6:47 p.m.

  
Britney Haraka, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Waggoner, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Stuecker, Clerk/Treasurer







# Celebrating 40 Years of Preparing Meals for Seniors

In May of 1985, Mary Sickle was hired as a part time assistant cook for the Laurel Senior Dinner Program which is located in the Laurel Senior Citizens Center. Little did she realize what a positive impact she would have on the lives of thousands of Yellowstone County Seniors. Mary's dedication in the Laurel kitchen paid off. As Earl retired and Diana became the cook, Mary was promoted to full-time assistant cook. This exciting new chapter began just as she celebrated her son turning one. She remembers that during her early days, she would always find a stack of pans waiting to be washed when she started her shift.

One of the things that attracted her to this job was having most of the afternoon and weekends to be with her kids. They have been central to her life. Her daughter says that Mary is a great mom and she taught all of her kids how to be excellent parents.

Mary truly valued the people she cooked for, whether at the meal sites or through Meals on Wheels. Her connection with them was evident in her knack for remembering nearly everyone's name and even those little details, like exactly which vegetable would be left untouched on their plate. Over the course of her 40 years of preparing meals, she estimates that she has prepared well over 1 million meals. What an amazing accomplishment!

Mary took on the position of Assistant Cook in Billings when the kitchen was opened at the Billings Community Center where she worked with Margaret and Joyce learning the secrets of making delicious meals for large numbers of people. This isn't as easy as doubling your recipe for a home holiday meal. In 1995, she moved back to Laurel, but in the position of head cook, site coordinator, and MOW coordinator.

During this time, the kitchen in Billings was closed and the meals were prepared by ARAMARK. At Mary's suggestion the Laurel kitchen did a 3-month trial of preparing the meals for the South Park Senior Center and after a successful run, Mary and two other ladies began preparing the meals for all the meal sites in Billings and Billings Meals on Wheels which were transported from Laurel. Holiday meals were a blur of activity at that small kitchen as the staff would prepare over 1000 meals for those special dinners.

When the new kitchen was completed at 1505 Ave D, Mary returned to Billings to help there, including making special entrees for a monthly fundraiser. In April of 2015, Mary returned to Laurel to complete her 40 years of preparing meals.

Beyond the kitchen, Mary's kindness extended into the lives of those who lacked support. On her own time, she'd go the extra mile, whether it was helping someone secure a place to live, track down furniture, or simply checking in to offer a friendly face and ensure they were settling in. She also gave her time to help out both the Laurel Senior Center and Alliance with fundraising efforts.

When COVID-19 changed everything, Mary didn't miss a beat. She kept the Meals on Wheels service running in Laurel and quickly adapted to serve the regulars from the Laurel Center, organizing a curbside pickup system so they could still get their meals safely. As life resumed its normal rhythm, she found immense joy in watching her family grow and enjoyed her role as grandma as much as she cherished being a mother.

You have made history as being the longest-serving staff member at Alliance!

Thank you Mary for serving the seniors of Yellowstone County for 40 years!!







# Executive Directors through the Years

**George Sheckleton MD**  
*appointed by the County Commissioners*

**Norma Fägen** ..... 1987\*

**Bea Ann Melichar** ..... 1988

**Earl Welty** ..... 1984

**Mike Larson** ..... 2019

**Ray Linder** ..... 1985

**Erika Purington** ..... 2024

## Board Members through the Years

\* indicates served as chairman

*Since 1975 the County Commissioners have appointed the following people to serve on the Board of Directors for The Yellowstone County Council on Aging. Thank you to these individuals who gave their time, knowledge and commitment to the organization as it has evolved over 50 years of service to the Yellowstone County residents.*

Robert (Bob) Hamilton \* • John Laitinen • Sue Carter • Al Howell • Evelyn Lucero • Martin Oleson • Hattie Martin  
Joe Allard • Robert (Bob) Giddings \* • JL McArthur • Lois Shorey • Agnes Crow • Lou Hagerman • Stan Rogers \*  
Frank Sindelar • Robin Grinstead • Dorothy Rosselot • Water Timonen • Jim Wallman • Francis Dewing • Ed Batt  
Charles DeGroat • Vera Gerke \* • Bev McBride • Barry Nolan\* • Maurice (Maury)Colberg • Everett Devoir  
Artie Markegard\* • Vic Miller • Ken Jacobson • Patricia (Pat) McAllister • Paulette Grubbs Sprvill • Jack Dempsey  
Ben Gumm • Fay Marsh\* • Ed Gillig\* • Jean Jaques • Cheryl Carter Bass \* • Ken Chase • Jack Johnson\*  
Marion Coleman\* • Linda Lam • Ralph Brewington • Bill Bradford\* • Joanne Dodd • Jan Siems • Mary Lou Croft  
Gladys Stahl • Marvin Carter • Sherill Frickle • Michelle Reed \* • Rev Jay Wallace • Sharon Ille \* • Jim Gaasterland\*  
Jim Ronquillo • Terry Naccoreato • Sharon Pearson • Shirley Phillips • Diane Boyett\* • Jaydee Wilken • Keith Wallace\*  
Pat Clark • Marilyn Tapia • Carol Muessig • Audrey Earhart • Joan Grauman • Kathy Bracko • Nibs Moessmer \*  
Rae Ann Mall\* • Brent Cromley \* • Rod Ostermiller \* • Wanda Grinde • Richard Klose Sr • Zach Winkelman  
Sandra Loendorf • Sue DeVries • Ben McKee • Kelli Skaggs • Brian Macy • Duane Loken\* • Mike Testa  
Kalyn Briggs • Heather Hirsch • Pam Hofferber • Linda Roers • Brian McHugh • Cole Catlin  
Jon Stepanek • Kevin Sider • Scooter Gates • Becky Rosenleaf



# Stronger Together: A Merger for Mission

Two rivers flowing side by side serve their purpose well, but when they come together, they create a stronger, deeper current—one that carries more, reaches farther, and sustains life in even greater ways. That is the vision behind an exciting new chapter for Big Sky Senior Services and the Adult Resource Alliance.

For nearly 50 years, both organizations have been dedicated to supporting older adults in living well, independently, and with dignity. Recognizing that the needs of seniors in our community are growing, we have been working closely together to explore how we can have a greater impact. Over the past several months, alongside our boards and leadership teams, we have been laying the groundwork to merge our organizations—combining our strengths to enhance services, streamline resources, and better advocate for the seniors who work with us and depend on us.

This merger for mission is about ensuring that older adults have access to the essential care, nutritious meals, and

With Deep Gratitude,



*Ciska Livingston*  
Executive Director  
Adult Resource Alliance

*and*



*Tyler Amundson*  
Executive Director  
Big Sky Senior Services

social connections they need to thrive. By uniting our programs, staff, and expertise, we can expand services, improve accessibility for those seeking help, and create a sustainable foundation for the future.

While change requires adaptation, it also brings opportunity. We honor the histories of both organizations and the dedicated individuals who built them of the past 50 years, while shaping a stronger and more resilient future for our work. By embracing new ways of working and listening to the voices of those we serve, we ensure that our impact continues to grow, making a lasting difference for seniors in our community.

We are grateful for your trust, your support, and your partnership as we take this important step forward. Together, we will continue to ensure that every older adult in our community has the opportunity to live well, independently, and with dignity.