



**AGENDA
CITY OF LAUREL
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023
5:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

NEXT RES. NO.
R23-51

NEXT ORD. NO.
O23-03

WELCOME . . . By your presence in the City Council Chambers, you are participating in the process of representative government. To encourage that participation, the City Council has specified times for citizen comments on its agenda -- once following the Consent Agenda, at which time citizens may address the Council concerning any brief community announcement not to exceed one minute in duration for any speaker; and again following Items Removed from the Consent Agenda, at which time citizens may address the Council on any matter of City business that is not on tonight's agenda. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes, unless the time limit is extended by the Mayor with the consent of the Council. Citizens may also comment on any item removed from the consent agenda prior to council action, with each speaker limited to three minutes, unless the time limit is extended by the Mayor with the consent of the Council. If a citizen would like to comment on an agenda item, we ask that you wait until the agenda item is presented to the Council by the Mayor and the public is asked to comment by the Mayor. Once again, each speaker is limited to three minutes.

Any person who has any question concerning any agenda item may call the City Clerk-Treasurer's office to make an inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Your City government welcomes your interest and hopes you will attend the Laurel City Council meetings often.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of the Council

Approval of Minutes

Correspondence

Council Disclosure of Ex Parte Communications

Public Hearing

Consent Items

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

*The Consent Calendar adopting the printed Recommended Council Action will be enacted with one vote. **The Mayor will first ask the Council members if any Council member wishes to remove any item from the Consent Calendar for discussion and consideration.** The matters removed from the Consent Calendar will be considered individually at the end of this Agenda under "Items Removed from the Consent Calendar." (See Section 12.) The entire Consent Calendar, with the exception of items removed to be discussed under "Items Removed from the Consent Calendar," is then voted upon by roll call under one motion.*

Ceremonial Calendar

Reports of Boards and Commissions

Audience Participation (Three-Minute Limit)

Citizens may address the Council regarding any item of City business that is not on tonight's agenda. Comments regarding tonight's agenda items will be accepted under Scheduled Matters. The duration for an individual speaking under Audience Participation is limited to three minutes. While all comments are welcome, the Council will not take action on any item not on the agenda.

Scheduled Matters

- 1.** Resolution No. R23-50: A Resolution Of The City Council To Amend The Ballot Language Previously Approved By Resolution No. R23-22 And Submit The Question To The Electorate Authorizing The City To Impose A New Mill Levy For The City Of Laurel Emergency Response Services Of A New 50.06 Mills To Fund Ems Services, Including Staffing, Volunteer Compensation, Training, And Ancillary Operations

Items Removed From the Consent Agenda

Community Announcements (One-Minute Limit)

This portion of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for citizens to address the Council regarding community announcements. The duration for an individual speaking under Community Announcements is limited to one minute. While all comments are welcome, the Council will not take action on any item not on the agenda.

Council Discussion

Council members may give the City Council a brief report regarding committees or groups in which they are involved.

Mayor Updates

Unscheduled Matters

Adjournment

The City makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in this meeting. Persons needing accommodation must notify the City Clerk's Office to make needed arrangements. To make your request known, please call 406-628-7431, Ext. 2, or write to City Clerk, PO Box 10, Laurel, MT 59044, or present your request at City Hall, 115 West First Street, Laurel, Montana.

DATES TO REMEMBER

File Attachments for Item:

1. RESOLUTION NO. R23-50: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE BALLOT LANGUAGE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY RESOLUTION NO. R23-22 AND SUBMIT THE QUESTION TO THE ELECTORATE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO IMPOSE A NEW MILL LEVY FOR THE CITY OF LAUREL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES OF A NEW 50.06 MILLS TO FUND EMS SERVICES, INCLUDING STAFFING, VOLUNTEER COMPENSATION, TRAINING, AND ANCILLARY OPERATIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R23-50

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE BALLOT LANGUAGE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY RESOLUTION NO. R23-22 AND SUBMIT THE QUESTION TO THE ELECTORATE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO IMPOSE A NEW MILL LEVY FOR THE CITY OF LAUREL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES OF A NEW 50.06 MILLS TO FUND EMS SERVICES, INCLUDING STAFFING, VOLUNTEER COMPENSATION, TRAINING, AND ANCILLARY OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, the City may impose a property tax levy for any public or governmental purpose not specifically prohibited by law;

WHEREAS, the City is a public body and is authorized pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 15-10-425, as amended, to impose a new mill levy or exceed the mill levy limit provided for in Mont. Code Ann. § 15-10-420, by conducting an election authorizing such new mill levy for purposes determined by the City and the electors of the City approving any new levy;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined additional EMS Services, including specifically related to staffing, volunteer compensation, training, and ancillary operational costs are needed for the residents of the City;

WHEREAS, the City has decided to pass a Resolution pursuant to, in part, Mont. Code Ann. § 15-10-425 to submit the question of a new mill levy to the qualified electors of the City of Laurel;

WHEREAS, the City has determined that there is a need for a permanent levy increase of 50.06 mills (hereinafter “the EMS Supplemental Levy”) to increase funding for EMS Services, to be adjusted annually subject to the limits established in Mont. Code Ann. § 15-10-420(1)(a), for inflationary and new growth allowed in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, Mont. Code Ann. §§ 15-10-420 and -425 authorize the City to request of the voters in the City limits, as amended, an increase in mill levies over and above current limitations;

WHEREAS, the new and separate mill levy will be for a total of 50.06 mills, which has a current approximate value of Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$450,000), and the duration shall be perpetual;

WHEREAS, the annual supplemental EMS levy will be used to pay the ongoing and permanent costs associated with delivering additional EMS services (currently anticipated to be used for the hiring of approximately three (3) to four (4) additional EMS providers, the increase of wages for EMS providers, additional, fair, and equitable compensation for EMS

Volunteer Personnel, and helping to fund a portion of the costs of training and operational needs of the EMS Department; and

WHEREAS, the new mill levy level being requested will have an anticipated impact upon property taxes for homes valued as follows: 1) for a home valued for property tax purposes at One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Five Dollars and Sixty Three Cents (\$5.63) per month, adjusted as permissible by law; 2) for a home valued for property tax purposes at Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Eleven Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents (\$11.26) per month, adjusted as permissible by law; 3) for a home valued for property tax purposes at Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Sixteen Dollars and Eighty-Nine Cents (\$16.89) per month, adjusted as permissible by law; and 4) for a home valued for property tax purposes at Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Thirty-Three Dollars and Seventy-Eight Cents (\$33.78) per month, adjusted as permissible by law;

WHEREAS, the foregoing was approved by the City of Laurel City Council on April 11, 2023, pursuant to Resolution No. 23-22;

WHEREAS, since approval of the proposed Mill Levy Ballot Language, the Montana Legislature passed House Bill 543, which requires additional disclosure statements in the Ballot specifically related to rental costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel City Council now wishes to amend its original Ballot language to meet all statutory requirements of House Bill 543.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, as follows:

1. Calling of the Election. The City Council hereby calls and directs a mill levy election for the EMS Supplemental Levy to be held on November 7, 2023 for the purpose of voting on the following question: “Shall the City of Laurel, Montana, be authorized to permanently raise approximately 50.06 mills or approximately \$450,000 annually for the purpose of funding additional EMS services, increasing compensation for EMS Personnel, including Volunteer EMS Personnel, as well as to fund training and operational expenses for the City of Laurel EMS Department? The permanent 50.06 mills will be adjusted annually, subject to the provisions of Mont. Code Ann. § 15-10-420(1)(a), after the first year, allowing for inflationary growth and newly taxable growth. The impact of the EMS Supplemental Levy on a residential home will be as follows: 1) for a home valued for property tax purposes at One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Five Dollars and Sixty Three Cents (\$5.63) per month, adjusted as permissible by law; 2) for a home valued for property tax purposes at Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Eleven Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents (\$11.26) per month, adjusted as permissible by law; 3) for a home valued for property tax

purposes at Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Sixteen Dollars and Eighty-Nine Cents (\$16.89) per month, adjusted as permissible by law; and 4) for a home valued for property tax purposes at Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Thirty-Three Dollars and Seventy-Eight Cents (\$33.78) per month, adjusted as permissible by law.”

2. Authorization of Election and Ballot. The City Council hereby requests the Election Administrator to place the issue of whether the City shall be authorized to impose a new mill levy to cover the costs incurred in providing EMS Services as set forth above during the election held on November 7, 2023, to the electors of the City of Laurel.

3. Form of Ballot. The Election Administrator is hereby authorized to prepare the ballot to be submitted to the electors in substantially the following form:

OFFICIAL BALLOT
CITY OF LAUREL EMERGENCY SERVICES MILL LEVY ELECTION

Shall the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana be authorized to impose a new mill levy of 50.06 mills (or approximately \$450,000 annually) to fund emergency services, including hiring an anticipated 2-3 additional EMS providers, increasing wages for existing EMS providers, paying EMS Volunteers additional compensation for their hours of service, and funding training and ancillary operational costs. The foregoing mill levy is permanent and in addition to any other mill levy authorized by Charter or law.

The impact of the Levy on a residential home will be as follows: 1) for a home valued for property tax purposes at One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Five Dollars and Sixty Three Cents (\$5.63) per month, adjusted as permissible by law; 2) for a home valued for property tax purposes at Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Eleven Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents (\$11.26) per month, adjusted as permissible by law; 3) for a home valued for property tax purposes at Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Sixteen Dollars and Eighty-Nine Cents (\$16.89) per month, adjusted as permissible by law; and 4) for a home valued for property tax purposes at Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000), the additional property taxes that will be imposed are Thirty-Three Dollars and Seventy-Eight Cents (\$33.78) per month, adjusted as permissible by law. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

_____ YES -- FOR AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF LAUREL TO EXCEED THE STATUTORY MILL LEVY PROVIDED FOR IN MONT. CODE ANN. § 15-10-420 BY PERMANENTLY AND ANNUALLY

LEVYING UP TO 50.06 MILLS (APPROXIMATE CURRENT VALUE OF \$450,000 FOR CITY OF LAUREL EMERGENCY SERVICES) FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPROVING EMS SERVICES

_____ NO – AGAINST AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF LAUREL TO EXCEED THE STATUTORY MILL LEVY PROVIDED FOR IN MONT. CODE ANN. § 15-10-420 BY PERMANENTLY AND ANNUALLY LEVYING UP TO 50.06 MILLS (APPROXIMATE CURRENT VALUE OF \$450,000 FOR CITY OF LAUREL EMERGENCY SERVICES) FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPROVING EMS SERVICES

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of August, 2023, by Council Member _____.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Laurel the _____ day of August, 2023.

APPROVED by the Mayor the _____ day of August, 2023.

CITY OF LAUREL

Dave Waggoner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kelly Strecker, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michele L. Braukmann, Civil City Attorney