

AGENDA CITY OF LAUREL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP TUESDAY, MAY 06, 2025 6:30 PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Public Input: Citizens may address the Council regarding any item of City business that is not on tonight's agenda. The duration for an individual speaking under Public Input is limited to three minutes. While all comments are welcome, the Council will not take action on any item not on the agenda. Because of the Rules that govern public meetings, Council is not permitted to speak in response to any issue raised that is a non-Agenda item. The Mayor may provide factual information in response, with the intention that the matter may be addressed at a later meeting. In addition, City Council may request that a particular non-Agenda item be placed on an upcoming Agenda, for consideration. Citizens should not construe Council's "silence" on an issue as an opinion, one way or the other, regarding that non-Agenda matter. Council simply cannot debate an item that is not on the Agenda, and therefore, they must simply listen to the feedback given during public input. If a citizen would like to speak or comment regarding an item that is on tonight's agenda, 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.

Be advised, if a discussion item has an upcoming public hearing, we would request members of the public to reserve your comments until the public hearing. At the public hearing, the City Council will establish an official record that will include all of your comments, testimony, and written evidence.

General Items

- 1. Poppy Day Proclamation
- 2. Municipal Summit 2025

Executive Review

<u>3.</u> Public Works: Resolution - 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.

Council Issues

- 4. Boards/Committees/Commissions Recommendation Process Discussion
- <u>5.</u> Document Center Training

Other Items

Attendance at Upcoming Council Meeting

Announcements

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. 5100, or write to City Clerk, PO Box 10, Laurel, MT 59044, or present your request at City Hall, 115 West First Street, Laurel, Montana.

1. Poppy Day Proclamation

Poppy Proclamation

- WHEREAS, America is the land of freedom, preserved and protected willingly and freely by citizen soldiers;
- WHEREAS, Millions who have answered the call to arms have died on the field of battle;
- WHEREAS, A nation at peace must be reminded of the price of war and the debt owed to those who have died in war;
- WHEREAS, The red poppy has been designated as a symbol of sacrifice of lives in all wars; and
- WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary has pledged to remind America annually of this debt through the distribution of the memorial flower;
- THEREFORE, I, Dave Waggoner of the City of Laurel, County of Yellowstone, Montana, do hereby proclaim this 23rd day of May 2025, as POPPY DAY and ask that all citizens pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by wearing the Memorial Poppy on this day.
- IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of City of Laurel, Montana this 13th day of May 2025.

	CITY OF LAUREL
	Dave Waggoner, Mayor
Attest:	
Kelly Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer	

2. Municipal Summit 2025

WELCOME TO THE 2025 MUNICIPAL SUMMITS



The Municipal Summits are statewide educational and networking events that bring together stakeholders in local and state government to share ideas and discover resources, coordinated by Montana League of Cities and Towns (League), the Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA), and the MSU Local Government Center (LGC).

9:00 AM

Introductions - MMIA, League, MSU Local Government Center

9:30 AM

Legislative Overview - League

Reviewing the legislative session & discussing bills that will have impact on municipalities and what that means for cities and towns moving forward.

10:30 AM

BREAK

10:45 AM

Building Stronger Communities Through Effective Communication - League In today's interconnected world, effective communication is crucial for local governments to build trust, foster transparency, and engage with their communities. During this presentation we'll cover practical strategies and tools to enhance your municipality's communication efforts. We'll delve into the power of social media for community outreach, learn how to craft compelling talking points for key initiatives, and explore proven techniques for boosting community engagement.

11:45 AM

LUNCH

12:15 PM

Collaborative Governance - MSU LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER Understanding the shared powers and responsibilities of the legislative and executive branches.

2:15 PM

The Power of Pooling - MMIA

Discuss the positive impact pooling has on your operations and how MMIA is a member-owner driven operation.

3:15 PM

Risk Ready - MMIA

Explore municipal risk and discover how MMIA's expertise in municipal risk management can help you become 'risk ready'.

4:15 PM

ADJOURN

3. Public Works: Resolution - 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.

RESOLUTION NO. R25-

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.

WHEREAS, the current water and wastewater rates and charges in effect at the present time are not adequate to provide revenues with which to defray the increased costs of operation, maintenance, and capital of the City's water and wastewater distribution facilities and systems;

WHEREAS, the provision of the water and wastewater systems and facilities is essential to the preservation of the public's health and welfare;

WHEREAS, the new rates, must before taking effect, be approved by the City Council after advertising and conducting a public rate hearing pursuant to the City's Charter at Article I, Section 1.03(2) and MCA Section 69-7-111;

WHEREAS, current budgetary requirements with respect to the operation of said facilities in addition to on-going and future projects require the proposed rates to become effective on or about July 10, 2025, to enable the City to proceed as expeditiously as possible to accomplish the objectives herein above recited; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its Charter and Montana law, the City Council has determined that a public rate hearing must be advertised and held to gather documents, testimony, and other evidence regarding the proposed increases in water and wastewater rates and charges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, MONTANA:

- 1. That the City Council considers it both advisable and necessary to increase the municipal water and wastewater rates and charges for all users and proposes to increase the rates and charges as specifically contained on the rate and charge schedule marked "Exhibit A" that is attached hereto and hereby incorporated into this Resolution by reference.
- 2. That a public rate hearing shall be held on June 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, at City Hall, Laurel, Montana, for the purpose of gathering and receiving testimony, input, and comments from all interested or affected users, citizens, persons, associations, corporations and/or companies.
- 3. Notice of the public rate hearing shall be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in the *Yellowstone County News*, a newspaper that conforms to the requirements of MCA § 7-1-4127, and the first such publication shall not

be more than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the hearing and the last publication shall be not less than three (3) days prior to the hearing, in a form substantially similar to the Notice of Public Hearing marked and attached hereto as "Exhibit A".

	4.	Additionally, the notice of the (7) days and not more than the who are served by the City's the amount the customer's average.	nirty (30) days prior to utilities. The notice sh	the hearing to all persons all contain an estimate of
		uced at a regular meeting, 2025 by Council Me	•	on the day of
of		ED and APPROVED by the Ci, 2025.	ty Council of the City of	f Laurel on the day
	APPR	OVED by the Mayor on the	day of	, 2025.
			CITY OF LAUI	REL
			Dave Waggoner	; Mayor
ATTI	EST:			
Kelly	Strecke	er, Clerk-Treasurer		
APPF	ROVED	AS TO FORM:		
Mich	ele L. Bı	raukmann, Civil City Attorney		

City of Laurel's Proposed Water and Wastewater Utility Service Rates and Charges and Notice of Public Rate Hearing

OFFICIAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Laurel City Council will hold a public hearing on June 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall regarding proposed municipal water and wastewater rate increases. The Clerk/Treasurer will receive protests or objections, if any, in writing before the Council meeting up to and including the City Council meeting of June 24, 2025.

The City of Laurel is proposing an increase in water and wastewater rates to ensure the long-term reliability, safety, and sustainability of its utility services. Prior to last year's increase in the consumption of water and sewer volumetric usage rates, the City had not had rate increases since 2015. The cost of maintaining and operating the City's water and wastewater systems has significantly increased. Rising energy prices, labor costs, and the need for upgraded equipment have strained the current revenue levels.

Additionally, much of Laurel's water and wastewater infrastructure is aging and in need of critical repairs and replacements. This includes water lines, sewer mains, and the City's only water reservoir which was installed in 1968. To continue delivering potable water to our citizens, a new water reservoir is urgently needed. It is essential for the City of Laurel to deliver clean water and manage wastewater effectively. Without increased funding, the City is restricted to taking care of infrastructure needs or plan for future growth.

The City is proposing to modify the existing water rates as follows:

Based upon the average monthly usage by user from 2022 to 2024, the rate structure is estimated to increase the monthly water charge by the following amounts, based upon water meter size.

Water Rate Structure

TTULE	i Nate S	tiactaic										
Wat er Met er Size	Existing Rate	Existing Capital Surchar ge	FY 25- 26 Propose d Base Rate	FY 25-26 Propose d Capital Surcharg e	FY 26-27 Propose d Base Rate	FY 26-27 Propose d Capital Surcharg e	FY 27- 28 Propose d Base Rate	FY 27-28 Propose d Capital Surcharg e	FY 28-29 Propose d Base Rate	FY 28-29 Propose d Capital Surchar ge	FY 29- 30 Propose d Base Rate	FY 29-30 Propose d Capital Surcharg e
3126	Nate	ge	Nate		Nate		Nate	•	Nate	ge	Nate	•
			16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	4%	4%	4%	4%
3/4"	\$24.61	\$8.00	\$28.55	\$9.28	\$33.12	\$10.76	\$38.42	\$12.48	\$39.96	\$12.98	\$41.56	\$13.50
1"	\$41.79	\$14.32	\$48.48	\$16.61	\$56.24	\$19.27	\$65.24	\$22.35	\$67.85	\$23.24	\$70.56	424.17
1.25	\$63.33	\$22.24	\$73.46	\$25.80	\$85.21	\$29.93	\$98.84	\$34.72	\$102.79	\$36.11	\$106.90	\$37.55
1.5"	\$89.86	\$32.00	\$104.24	\$37.12	\$120.92	\$43.06	\$140.27	\$49.95	\$145.88	\$51.95	\$151.72	\$54.03
2"	\$158.16	\$57.12	\$183.47	\$66.26	\$212.83	\$76.86	\$246.88	\$89.16	\$256.76	\$92.73	\$267.03	\$96.44
3"	\$350.86	\$128.00	\$407.00	\$148.48	\$472.12	\$172.24	\$547.66	\$199.80	\$569.57	\$207.79	\$592.35	\$216.10
4"	\$624.26	\$228.56	\$724.14	\$265.13	\$840.00	\$307.55	\$974.40	\$356.76	\$1013.38	\$371.03	\$1,053.9 2	\$385.87
6"	\$1,401.1 7	\$514.32	\$1,625.3 6	\$596.61	\$1,885.42	\$692.07	\$2,187.0 9	\$802.80	\$2,274.5 7	\$834.91	\$2,365.5 5	\$868.31
10"	\$3,869.5 8	\$1,422.2 4	\$4,488.7 1	\$1,649.80	\$5,206.90	\$1,913.77	\$6,040.0 0	\$2,219.97	\$6,281.6 0	\$2,308.7 7	\$6,532.8 6	\$2,401.12

Volume Rate, \$ per 1,000 gallons

Volume Rate, \$ per 1,000 gallons											
Threshold	Existing Rate	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30					
Residential			16%	16%	4%	4%					
0-1,000 gal	\$2.17	\$2.17	\$2.52	\$2.92	\$3.04	\$3.16					
1.001-5,000 gal	\$2.17	\$2.17	\$2.52	\$2.92	\$3.04	\$3.16					
5,001-10,000 gal	\$2.71	\$2.71	\$3.14	\$3.64	\$3.79	\$3.94					
10,001-20,000 gal	\$3.26	\$3.26	\$3.78	\$4.38	\$4.56	\$4.74					
Over 20,000 gal	\$4.34	\$4.34	\$5.03	\$5.83	\$6.06	\$6.30					
<u>Commercial</u>											
First 1,000 gal	\$3.27	\$3.27	\$3.79	\$4.40	\$4.58	\$4.76					
Over 1,000 gal	\$3.27	\$3.27	\$3.79	\$4.40	\$4.58	\$4.76					
Industrial											
First 1,000 gal	\$4.02	\$4.02	\$4.66	\$5.41	\$5.63	\$5.86					
Over 1,000 gal	\$4.02	\$4.02	\$4.66	\$5.41	\$5.63	\$5.86					

The City is proposing to modify the existing **wastewater rates** as follows:

Based upon the average monthly usage by user from 2022 to 2024, the rate structure is estimated to increase the monthly water charge by the following amounts, based upon water meter size.

Wastewater Rate Structure

Wat er Met er Size	Existing Rate	Existing Capital Surchar ge	FY 25- 26 Propose d Base Rate	FY 25-26 Proposed Capital Surcharg e	FY 26-27 Propose d Base Rate	FY 26-27 Propose d Capital Surcharg e	FY 27- 28 Propose d Base Rate	FY 27-28 Propose d Capital Surcharg e	FY 28-29 Propose d Base Rate	FY 28-29 Propose d Capital Surchar ge	FY 29- 30 Propose d Base Rate	FY 29-30 Propose d Capital Surcharg e
			0%	0%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	5%	5%
3/4"	\$19.24	\$10.00	\$19.24	\$10.00	\$20.97	\$10.90	\$22.86	\$11.88	\$24.92	\$12.95	\$26.17	\$13.60
1"	\$34.44	\$17.90	\$34.44	\$17.90	\$37.54	\$19.51	\$40.92	\$21.27	\$44.60	\$23.18	\$46.83	\$24.34
1.25	\$53.49	\$27.80	\$53.49	\$27.80	\$58.30	\$30.30	\$63.55	\$33.03	\$69.27	\$36.00	\$72.73	\$37.80
1.5"	\$76.96	\$40.00	\$76.96	\$40.00	\$83.89	\$43.60	\$91.44	\$47.52	\$99.67	\$51.80	\$104.65	\$54.39
2"	\$137.37	\$71.40	\$137.37	\$71.40	\$149.79	\$77.83	\$163.21	\$84.83	\$177.90	\$92.46	\$186.80	\$97.08
3"	\$307.84	\$160.00	\$307.84	\$160.00	\$335.55	\$174.40	\$365.75	\$190.10	\$398.67	\$207.21	\$418.60	\$217.57
4"	\$549.69	\$285.70	\$549.69	\$285.70	\$599.16	\$311.41	\$653.08	\$339.44	\$711.86	\$369.99	\$747.45	\$388.49
6"	\$1236.94	\$642.90	\$1236.94	\$642.80	\$1348.26	\$700.76	\$1469.60	\$763.83	\$1601.86	\$832.57	\$1681.95	\$874.20

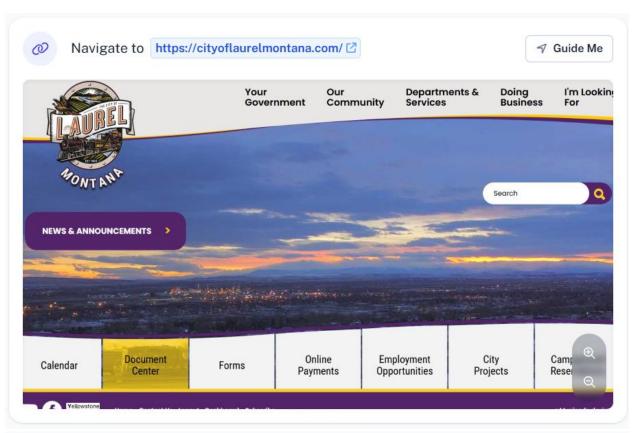
Volume Rate, \$ per 1,000 gallons

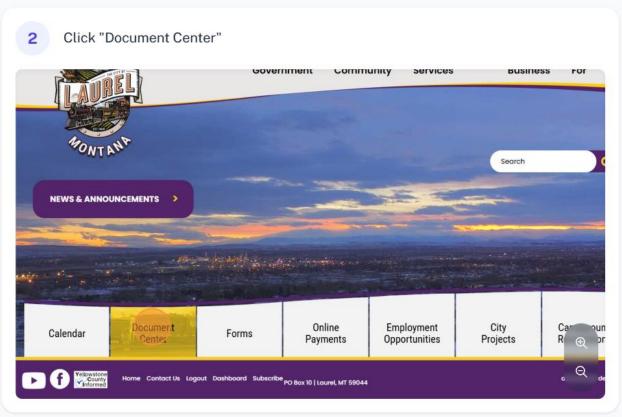
Billable Water Volume	Existing Rate	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30
			9%	9%	9%	5%
(1)	\$8.45	\$8.45	\$9.21	\$10.04	\$10.94	\$11.49

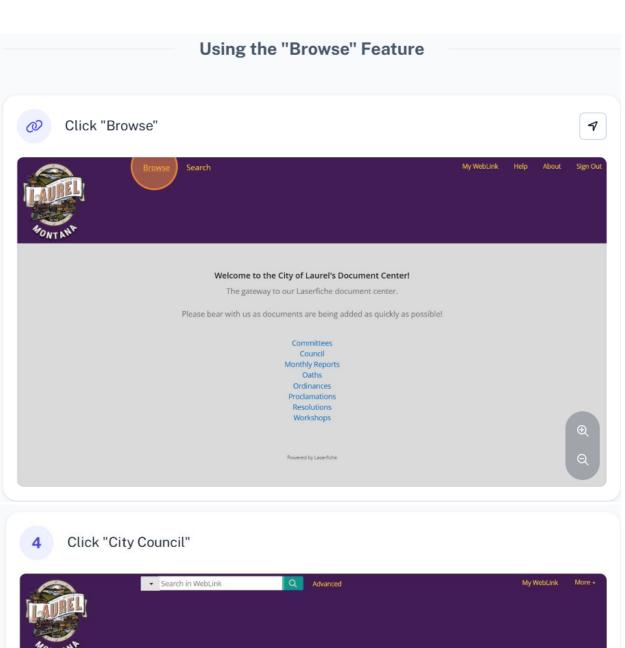
⁽¹⁾ Based on water use average from October through April.

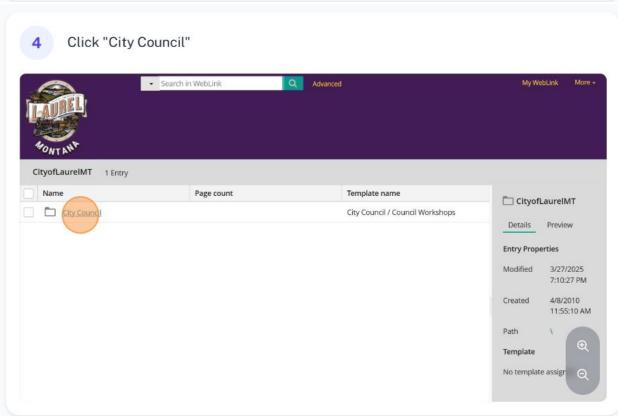
The increase for the water and wastewater base rates, volume rates, and the capital improvement surcharge will be raised annually on July 10th of each year through FY 2029-2030.

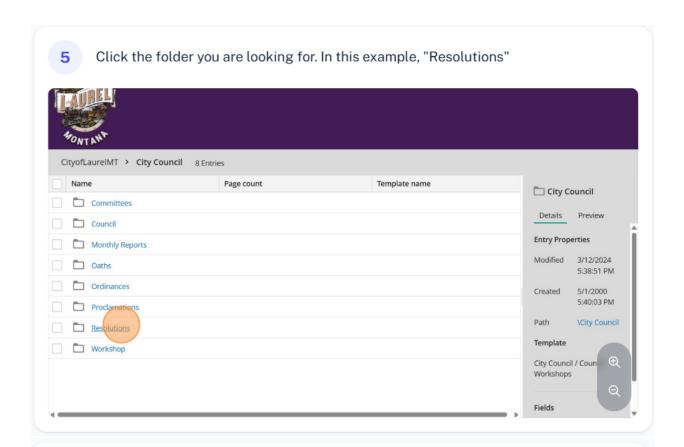
5. Document Center Training



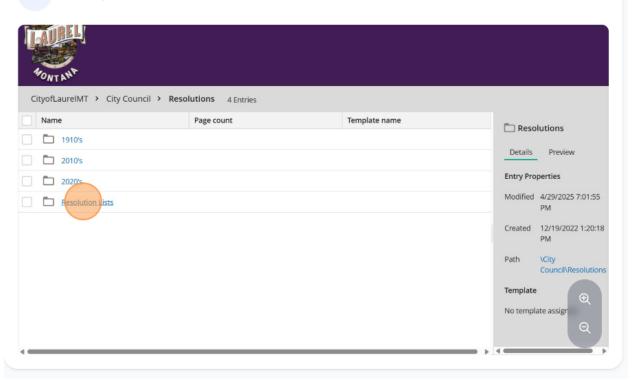




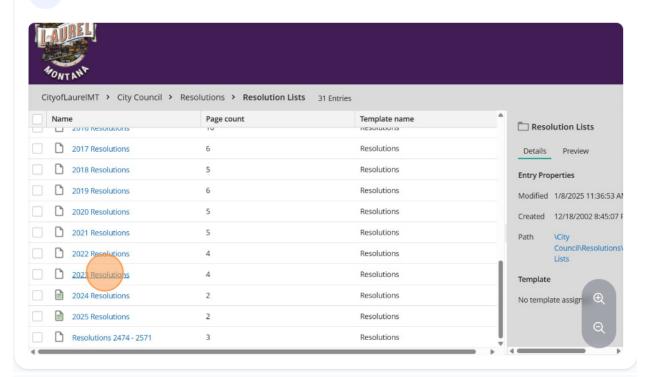




6 Example: Click "Resolution Lists"

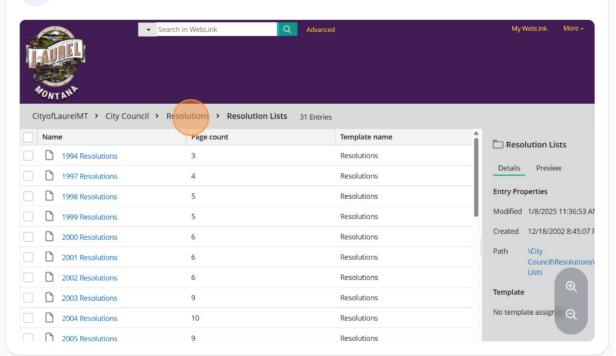


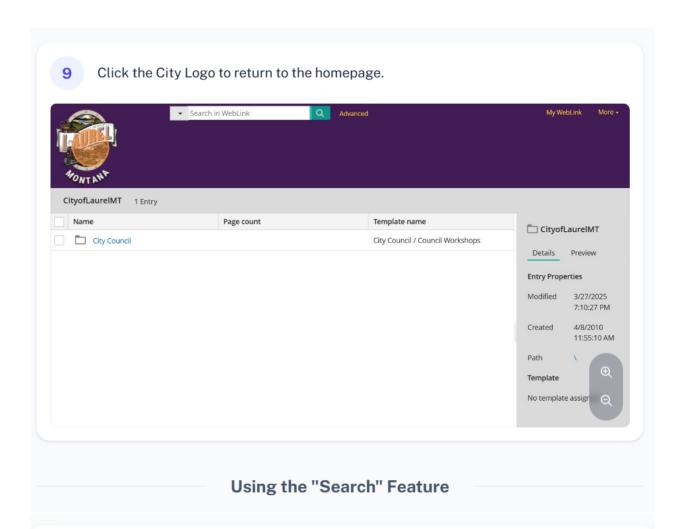
7 Example: Click "2023 Resolutions"



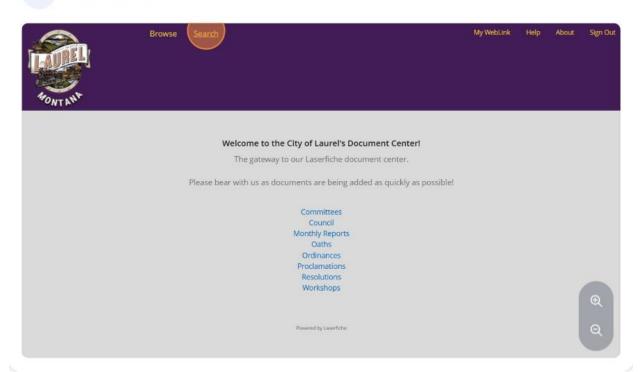
(i) You can click the path to navigate to a previous page.

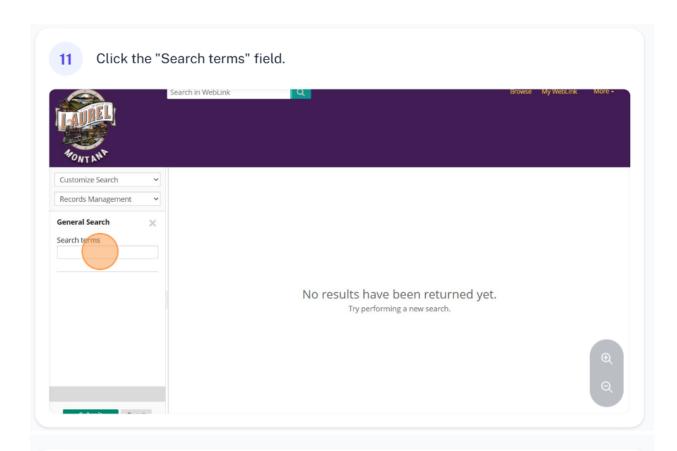
8 Example: Click "Resolutions"





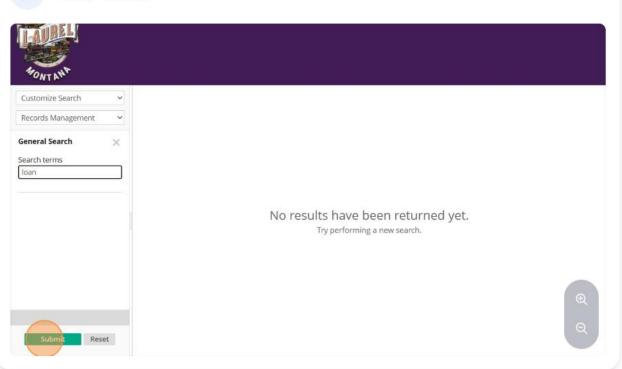
10 Click "Search"



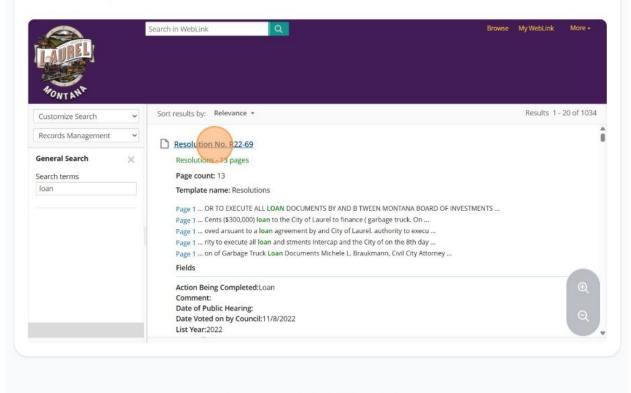


- 12 Type in the search term. Example: "loan"
- (i) Search Tip: Use specific and unique search terms to improve your results. For example, a common term like "Laurel" will yield numerous results, making it harder to find what you're looking for. Additionally, using a single, focused keyword can often lead to simpler and more efficient searches when looking for documents.

13 Click "Submit"



Scroll through the results and click on the document you are trying to locate. In this example, click "Resolution No. R22-69"



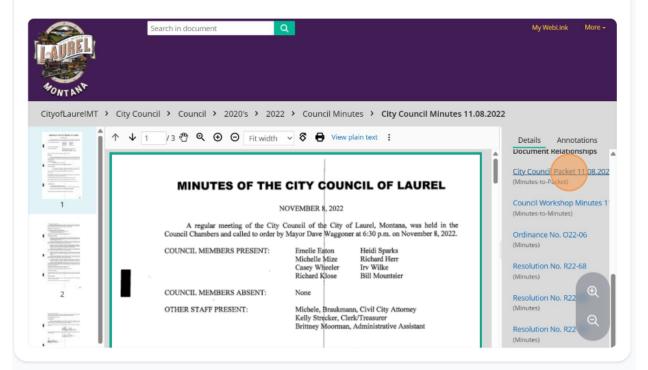
Related documents are linked and displayed at the bottom of the right pane, allowing for quick and efficient navigation between them.

Scroll down on the right pane and locate the "Document Relationship" section. For this example, click "City Council Minutes 11.08.2022"

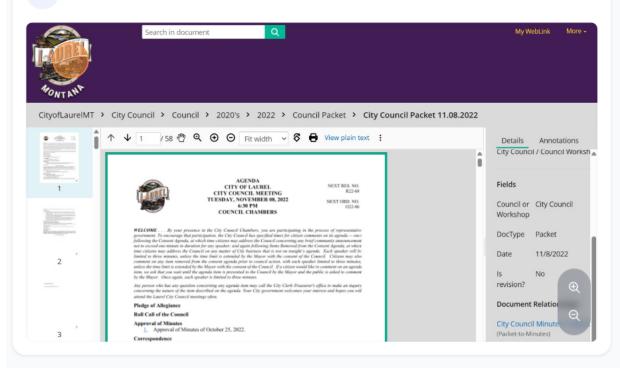


Scroll down on the right pane and locate the "Document Relationship" section. For this example, you can see many documents to navigate to.

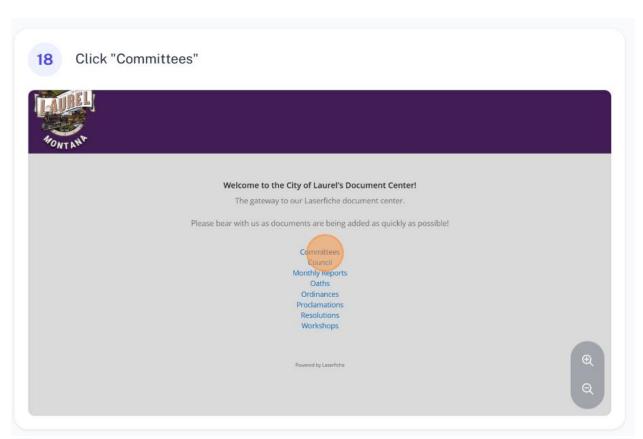
Click "City Council Packet 11.08.2022"

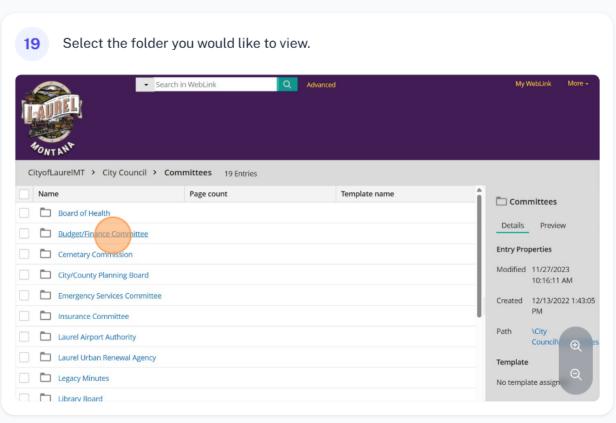


17 Click the City's Logo to return to the homepage.



Navigating from the Quick Reference Links







Staff are currently in the process of adding the necessary metadata to the Resolutions and Ordinances folders. We appreciate your patience as we work to complete this update.