



**AGENDA
CITY OF LAUREL
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026
6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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.

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. Letter of Interest Larry McPhail.
2. Letter of Interest Kris Vogele.
3. Letter of Interest, Nathan Herman

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.

File Attachments for Item:

1. Letter of Interest Larry McPhail.

Kelly Strecker

From: Larry McPhail <breakthrough2k2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 11:04 AM
To: City Clerk; Ward 1A; Ward 1B; Ward 2A; Ward 2B; Ward 3A; Ward 3B; Ward 4A; Ward 4B
Subject: Mayoral candidate

I am writing this email as my formal declaration and request to be entered as a candidate for the vacant Mayor's seat. If further information is needed prior to interviews, please let me know as soon as possible so that all necessary information is present as needed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Larry McPhail
breakthrough2k2@hotmail.com
406-970-5251

File Attachments for Item:

2. Letter of Interest Kris Vogele.

Kris R. Vogele
306 E. 4th Street
Laurel, Montana 59044

June 12, 2026

Laurel City Council
City of Laurel
P.O. Box 10
Laurel, Montana 59044

Re: Letter of Interest - Mayor of Laurel, Montana

Dear Members of the Laurel City Council:

Please accept this letter as my formal expression of interest in serving as Mayor of the City of Laurel.

Laurel is not just where I live. It is home. It is where my wife, Beth, and I have invested our lives, raised our family, built businesses, served in schools and community organizations, supported local events, and watched our children and grandchildren become part of the life of this community. Our family gives me a daily reminder that the decisions made by city leadership are not abstract. They affect families, neighborhoods, schools, small businesses, public safety, city employees, and the future our children and grandchildren will inherit.

My interest in serving as Mayor is rooted in community and a sense of obligation. I believe Laurel needs calm, steady, practical, and unifying leadership during an important time in the city's history. The next mayor should be someone who understands that city government is not about personal ambition or politics. It is about service, trust, communication, fiscal responsibility, and making decisions that protect the long-term well-being of the entire community.

Over the past several decades, my life and work have centered on leadership, service, and people. I have served in leadership roles in education, youth services, residential care, behavioral health, nonprofit management, and small business. I have supervised large teams, worked through difficult personnel and budget challenges, supported children and families, helped strengthen organizational culture, and been responsible for practical decision-making in complex environments. I understand that leadership requires listening, patience, consistency, accountability, and the ability to make hard decisions without losing sight of the people those decisions affect.

My professional background and educational pursuits can be reviewed in the attached resume.

These experiences and coursework taught me that organizations function best when people are respected, expectations are clear, communication is honest, and leadership is present. Those same principles apply to city government. City employees need support and direction. Citizens need transparency and confidence. Council members need a mayor who will work with them in good faith. The community needs leadership that brings people together rather than driving them apart.

My family and I have also tried to support Laurel in practical ways. That includes community sponsorships, youth activities, school involvement, local events, sports, rodeo, chamber events, public safety organizations, and efforts that bring people together. I have served as a public school board trustee, a board member for Grace Montessori Academy, a coach, a youth leader, and a volunteer in programs serving children, families, and young people. These experiences have shaped the way I view leadership. A healthy community is built through service, relationships, accountability, and people willing to step forward when they are needed.

If appointed Mayor, my priorities would be straightforward:

To help restore trust, stability, and confidence in city leadership.

To support city staff and promote a healthy, respectful, and accountable workplace culture.

To work cooperatively with the City Council while respecting the role and voice of each council member.

To communicate honestly and openly with the public.

To approach city finances, contracts, staffing, infrastructure, planning, and growth with fiscal responsibility and common sense.

To protect Laurel's character while preparing responsibly for the future.

To help ensure that major decisions affecting the community are made transparently, carefully, and with meaningful public involvement.

I do not believe Laurel needs a mayor who comes in with all the answers. Laurel needs a mayor who is willing to listen, ask good questions, respect the people who live and work here, make decisions based on facts, and keep the good of the community at the center of every discussion. I would approach this role with humility, seriousness, and a strong sense of responsibility to the people of Laurel.

This is a city with a deep history, strong families, dedicated workers, generous volunteers, local businesses, churches, schools, youth programs, service organizations, and people who care deeply about where they live. Laurel deserves leadership that honors that foundation and helps move the city forward in a steady, respectful, and responsible way.

Thank you for considering my letter of interest. I would welcome the opportunity to visit with the Council, answer any questions, and discuss how I may be able to serve Laurel during this important time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kris R. Vogele". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kris R. Vogele

KRIS R. VOGELE

306 E. 4th Street, Laurel, Montana 59044

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced executive leader, business owner, investor, and community servant with more than three decades of leadership experience in business operations, education, youth services, residential care, nonprofit management, staff supervision, budgeting, organizational culture, and community development. Background includes senior executive leadership in education, behavioral health, residential treatment, youth development, small business ownership, public & private school board service, and local civic engagement.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Member / Investor | 2017-Present

Portable Restroom Service, LLC dba URAPEEIN PORTA POTS, Laurel, MT

- Participate in ownership, strategic planning, and consultation for a portable restroom service company serving residential, commercial, industrial, construction, agricultural, and event customers.
- Provide consult to management and operations staff with business development, marketing, customer service, pricing, contracts, scheduling, and route-service planning.

Member / Investor | 2013-2025

VUE, LLC dba The VUE and BREW, Laurel, MT

- Participated in ownership and business operations of a local theater, coffeehouse, and community gathering space in downtown Laurel.
- Participated in local economic development by investing in a downtown Laurel business and supporting community activity in the city center.
- Worked through business challenges involving staffing, customer traffic, costs, facility needs, and changing market conditions.

Owner | 2013-2016

The Bargain Loft, Laurel, MT

- Owned and operated a retail and online arbitrage business, including customer service, inventory management, purchasing, pricing, sales, and daily online operations.
- Managed business finances, vendor relationships, marketing, merchandising, and customer relations.
- Oversaw scheduling, staffing needs, product display, store organization, and retail operations.
- Developed practical small-business experience in budgeting, cash flow, customer service, and local market conditions.
- Maintained responsibility for business decision-making, problem solving, and public-facing service.

Chief Operating Officer | 2008-2013

Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility, Yellowstone Academy, Billings, MT

- Served in a senior executive leadership role overseeing complex youth, behavioral health, education, residential treatment, group-home, and farm/ranch operations.
- Provided operational leadership for facilities and programs serving children, youth, and families with significant treatment, educational, behavioral, and residential needs.
- Supervised and supported senior staff, program leaders, department directors, and multidisciplinary teams.
- Assisted with budgeting, staffing, compliance, quality assurance, risk management, facility operations, and organizational planning.
- Helped maintain compliance with licensing, accreditation, safety, treatment, education, and regulatory requirements.
- Worked with clinical, educational, residential, administrative, and support departments to improve coordination and service delivery.
- Addressed personnel issues, fiscal stewardship, employee culture, organizational structure, program performance, and operational efficiency. Implemented organization-wide measures to eliminate a \$1.5 million deficit and the repayment of a fully drawn \$2 million line of credit in less than three years.
- Participated in strategic planning, policy development, leadership meetings, and problem-solving for a large service organization.

The Milton Hershey School – 1999-2008

The Milton Hershey School - Hershey, Pennsylvania

Senior Div Director for Home Life 2003-2008)

Houseparent (1999-2003)

- Served in a senior leadership role within the Home Life division of a residential school serving 1,400 children and youth.
- Performed Interest Based Bargaining in collective bargaining meetings and managed grievance processes and arbitrations.
- Responsible for oversight, supervision, and training of 128 full-time staff and 115 part-time staff.
- Oversaw residential-life programming, student support, houseparent/staff supervision, student development, and day-to-day living environments. Also collaborated with Career & Technical Education to broaden the classroom to the home, shop and farm.
- Provided leadership for staff teams responsible for student care, safety, discipline, personal development, and residential programming.
- Assisted with policy implementation, training, staffing, performance management, and program improvement.
- Worked with educational, counseling, residential, and administrative teams to support student success and healthy living environments.
- Addressed student behavior, family communication, staff development, crisis response, and residential-program quality.
- Also I served with my wife Beth as MHS Houseparents for 12 boys in a home year-round.

Dean of Student Development | 1997-1999

Central Methodist University, Fayette, MO

- Provided leadership in student affairs, career development, athletics, dining services, student government, intramurals, campus security, and campus activities. Served as guest pastor for engagement with local churches.
- Worked with students, faculty, staff, and administrators to support student success, retention, discipline, and campus culture.
- Assisted with policy development, student conduct processes, crisis response, and student support services.
- Helped create programs designed to strengthen student engagement, responsibility, leadership, and personal growth.
- Supervised 45 staff and 25 student leaders involved in residence life and student development functions for a campus of 2,400 students.

Executive Director | 1996-1997

Boys and Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County, Billings, MT

- Served as executive leader for a youth-serving nonprofit organization.
- Oversaw daily operations, staff supervision, youth programming, budgeting, fundraising, board communication, and community partnerships.
- Worked to provide safe, positive, structured programming for children and youth.
- Managed organizational priorities, donor relationships, public relations, and program development.
- Supported staff and volunteers in delivering youth development, recreation, mentoring, and after-school programming.
- Represented the organization within the community and helped strengthen relationships with families, schools, donors, and local partners.

Graduate Resident Director | 1995-1996

Montana State University, Bozeman MT

- Served in a residence-life leadership role while completing graduate-level work.
- Supervised student resident assistants and supported residential students in university housing.
- Assisted with student conduct, crisis response, conflict resolution, programming, and residence-hall operations.
- Helped develop community standards and supported student safety, accountability, and personal development.
- Worked with university staff to address student concerns, housing issues, and campus-life matters.

Director of Residence Life | 1992-1995

Rocky Mountain College, Billings, MT

Resident Director (1989-1992)

- Directed residence-life operations for a private college campus.
- Supervised residence-hall staff, student leaders, housing assignments, student conduct, and residential programming.
- Supported student development, campus safety, conflict resolution, crisis response, and community-building efforts.
- Developed and implemented residence-life policies, staff training, and student-support programs.
- Worked closely with college administrators, faculty, staff, students, and families to support student success and campus culture.
- Managed housing-related operations, student concerns, discipline matters, and residence-life planning.

EDUCATION

Duquesne University Graduate School - Leadership and Business Ethics | 2003-2006

Relevant or representative coursework and areas of study: Theories and Models of Leadership, Organizational Communication, Conflict Resolution, Leading People, Ethical Leadership, Business Ethics, Organizational Behavior, Executive Leadership, Change Management, Budgeting and Finance for Leaders, Innovation, Decision-Making, and Organizational Strategy, Leadership Character, Adversity, Ethical Decision-Making, Politics of Civic Problems and Social and Public Policy Analysis.

Temple University Graduate School - Educational Psychology | 2002

Relevant or representative coursework and areas of study: Educational Psychology, Development and Learning Across the Lifespan, Applied Research Methods in Educational Settings, Developmental Psychopathology.

Central Methodist University Graduate School - Adult Education | 1998-1999

Relevant or representative coursework and areas of study: Adult Learning Theory, Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment and Evaluation, Professional Development and Training, Leadership in Organizations.

Rocky Mountain College – B.S. Psychology, Religious Studies, and Business | 1989-1992

Relevant or representative coursework and areas of study: Psychology: Human Development I, Human Development II, Educational Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Behavior Management, Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Psychology and Law, Research Methods in Psychology, Psychological Testing and Assessment, Internship / Applied Psychology. Religious Studies / Philosophy: Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics, Christian Ethics, Theology and Culture, Values, Beliefs, and Cultural Identity, Moral Reasoning and Ethical Decision-Making, Business/Finance: Principles of Management, Probability & Statistics.

North Central Bible College - Theology and Youth Ministry | 1986-1989

Relevant or representative coursework and areas of study: Biblical Studies, Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies, Biblical Interpretation, Theology, Church History, Christian Ministry, Pastoral Ministry, Youth Ministry, Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Spiritual Formation, Christian Leadership, Church Administration, Ministry Internship / Practical Ministry Experience, Counseling and Helping Skills in Ministry, Sociology and Psychology of Youth and Family Systems, Ministry Leadership, Discipleship, and Mentoring.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Role	Location / Organization	Years
Board Member	Grace Montessori Academy	2026
Community Sponsorships	Fall Festival, Chief Joseph Run, Rock the Block, Laurel Chamber Brewfest, Battle of the Badges, Hometown Troops, Laurel Little League, Laurel Recreational Soccer, Laurel Dodgers, Laurel Fire & EMS, Burlington Little League, Holiday Nights at ZooMontana, Montana Renaissance Faire, NILE/Billings Rodeo, Jim Bridger Days Rodeo, Bridger Youth Rodeo, Bridger Little League.	2013-2026
Government Relations	Laurel C.A.R.E.D.	2025-2026
Public School Board Trustee	Laurel and Yellowstone Academy	2023-2024; 2010-2012
Legion and High School Baseball Coach	Hershey, Pennsylvania; Billings; Laurel	2000-2003; 1997; 1991-1993
Church Youth Leader	Moline, Illinois; Laurel	1988-1991
Inner-City Basketball Camps	Minneapolis, Minnesota	1986-1988
YMCA Summer Sports Camp Director	Billings	1990
Camp Counselor	Clydehurst Christian Ranch	1987

File Attachments for Item:

3. Letter of Interest, Nathan Herman

Dear Laurel City Council,

I am writing to express my interest in being considered for the appointment of Mayor for the City of Laurel.

As a lifelong resident of Laurel, this community has always been my home, and I care deeply about its future and continued success. I have had the privilege of working for the City of Laurel for 22 years, which has given me valuable experience and a strong understanding of city operations and the needs of our residents.

During my time with the city, I have served several positions, including Relief Dispatcher, Relief Operator at the Water Treatment Plant, Operator at the Water Treatment Plant, Chief Operator at the Water Treatment Plant, and Utility Plants Superintendent. These roles have allowed me to work closely with city departments, employees, and community members while gaining firsthand knowledge of the responsibilities and challenges involved in serving the public.

Public service has long been important to my family. Over the years, several members of my family have served the City of Laurel as members of the City Council and as Mayor. Their dedication to our community has inspired my own commitment to serving the people of Laurel.

Throughout my years of service, I have remained committed to helping our community grow while preserving the values that make Laurel special. I believe my experience, dedication, leadership, and deep roots in the community would allow me to serve effectively in the role of Mayor.

I would be honored to be considered for this appointment and appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you for your continued service to the City of Laurel.

Sincerely,

Nathan Herman
1128 7th Avenue
Laurel, MT 59044
406-690-6167