

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

November 18, 2014

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 Mark Mace at 6:34 p.m. on November 18, 2014.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Emelie Eaton Doug Poehls
 Bruce McGee Richard Herr
 Chuck Dickerson Scot Stokes

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Nelson Bill Mountsier

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Markegard, Public Works Director

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

Mayor Mace asked the council to observe a moment of silence.

MINUTES:

Motion by Council Member Stokes to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 4, 2014, as presented, seconded by Council Member Dickerson. There was no public comment.

Council Member McGee stated that he discovered that Police Officer Travis Pitts actually had 18 years of service, not 15, (as listed on the November 11th Council Workshop Agenda).

A vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS.

PUBLIC HEARING.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Clerk/Treasurer Financial Statements for the month of October 2014.**
 - **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 11/09/2014 totaling \$176,343.75.**
 - **Receiving the Committee/Board/Commission Reports into the Record.**
- Budget/Finance Committee minutes of November 4, 2014 were presented.
- Park Board minutes of November 6, 2014 were presented.
- City-County Planning Board minutes of November 6, 2014 were presented.
- Council Workshop minutes of November 11, 2014 were presented.
- Emergency Services Committee minutes of October 27, 2014 were presented.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of June 26, 2012 were presented.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of August 27, 2012.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of October 23, 2012.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of November 27, 2012.

MAM

- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of March 24, 2013.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of March 26, 2013.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of April 23, 2013.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of May 28, 2013.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of June 24, 2013.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of May 27, 2014.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of June 24, 2014.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of July 22, 2014.
- Laurel Airport Authority minutes of September 30, 2014.

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

Motion by Council Member Eaton to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Council Member Poehls. 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: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Confirmation of Appointments.**
- **Resolution No. R14-82: A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign Change Order No. 3 with Williams Brothers Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project constituting an increase of \$28,438.35 for additional work.**

Motion by Council Member McGee to approve Resolution No. R14-82, 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.

- **Resolution No. R14-83: A resolution approving the attached Task Order No. 34 authorizing Great West Engineering to provide engineering services for the 2015 "Small Caps" Project.**

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve Resolution No. R14-83, seconded by Council Member Poehls. 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.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Council Member Poehls stated that the Emergency Services Committee will meet on Monday, November 24th, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers. There will be a tour of the FAP building and discussion regarding the safety mill levy issue.

Council Member McGee asked regarding the Police Policy. The Police Policy will be on the November 25th council workshop agenda.

Council Member Eaton asked for a discussion item on next week's council workshop agenda. Members of the general public have contacted her and other council members with questions regarding the purchase of the boat that is being used to gather information for the intake valve on the river. At tonight's Budget/Finance Committee meeting, it was mentioned that the fire department also purchased a boat. She asked for information regarding both watercraft purchases.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Resolution No. R14-84: Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute contracts or agreements necessary to immediately resolve the City's plugged water intake to provide an immediate remedy to the City's inability to provide water for the citizens and businesses who rely upon the City's provision of water.**

Motion by Council Member Dickerson to approve Resolution No. R14-84, seconded by Council Member Poehls. There was no public comment.

Council Member Poehls asked for information from Public Works Director Kurt Markegard.

Kurt explained that this morning he was made aware that slush ice got jammed into the intake structure last night. The operator tried to start the pumps to fill or maintain the reservoir and capitated a pump. The chief operator was called in and they were air scouring. The air scour system requires a compressor to build up a large amount of air in an air tank, which is released into the intake to push the slush ice off, theoretically. With the 2011 flood event, there is more ice due to the elevation drop because of the scour. As the river has come down in the fall for the last three years, the city has been dealing with slush ice in there. In the past, the city has dammed it to get the elevation back up. This year the river is a lot wider and it is not feasible to do that. Last year, the city put in a diversion ditch to the old intake. This year's spring runoff put a tremendous amount of wood against the railroad structure and it took out an island above the intake and put it underneath the bridge where the sediment had just been put back.

Last spring, Kurt talked to the engineers about purchasing a bypass pump in case something happened to the intake. The city has been waiting for the pump to be delivered and it should arrive on Friday. After last night's slush issues, it is necessary to get into the river and start building a sump for the pump. Last night, the plant was running at full capacity trying to get the air scours working. Staff had to shut the refinery off and put them on treated water. Every time they would air scour, it pushed the ice off but was still being drawn, so it immediately went right back onto the screens. In order to get rid of the suction, the refinery had to be shut off. Staff worked for four hours pushing as much air out to the intake as possible in order to get rid of the slush. After coming back online, the plant has more water than last week, which is good news.

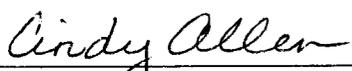
Kurt explained that the council's approval of the resolution would allow staff to contract or ask for assistance from other agencies, including CHS Refinery, in order to provide the City of Laurel with water. A picture of the intake was distributed to the council, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

A vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Poehls 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 6:52 p.m.


Cindy Allen, Council Secretary

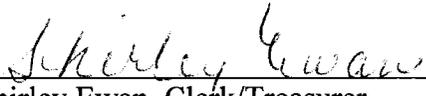
MAM

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 2nd day of December, 2014.



Mark A. Mace, Mayor

Attest:



Shirley Ewan, Clerk/Treasurer

