

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

December 3, 2002

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 Bud Johnson at 7:00 p.m. on December 3, 2002.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren Van Roekel Doug Poehls
 Ken Olson Mark Mace
 Gay Easton Daniel Dart
 Dan Mears John Oakes

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

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

Mayor Johnson stated that the council workshop on December 10th would be held at 6:30 p.m., and the council meeting on December 17th will be held at 7:00 p.m. The time for council meetings will change to 6:30 p.m. beginning with the January 7, 2002 council meeting.

MINUTES:

Motion by Alderman Olson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2002, as presented, seconded by Alderman Dart. Motion carried 8-0.

Motion by Alderman Easton to approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 22, 2002, as presented, seconded by Alderman Poehls. Motion carried 8-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Laurel Outlook: Letter of November 19, 2002 from Larry Tanglen regarding Internet and E-mail Policy.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation: Letter of November 14, 2002, regarding Groundwater and Salinity Management Feasibility Analysis.

Nancy Hollingshead: Letter of November 15, 2002 to Montana Rail Link regarding lack of lighting under railway bridge.

Laurel Chamber of Commerce: Letter of November 22, 2002 regarding Distinguished Service Awards nominations.

Yellowstone City-County Health Department: Invitation to Annual Open House on Wednesday, December 4th from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Montana Municipal Insurance Authority: Letter of November 25, 2002 requesting approval of Revised and Restated Program Agreement(s) to Permit Participation in Interstate Group Reinsurance and Excess Insurance Program; Questions and answers concerning participation of MMIA in Government Entities Mutual, Inc. (GEM).

PUBLIC HEARING:

- **Ordinance No. 002-44: Ordinance amending Chapter 2.84 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to City Cemetery.**

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Mayor Johnson asked three times if there were any proponents. There were none.

Mayor Johnson asked three times if there were any opponents. There were none.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims for the month of November 2002 in the amount of \$140,638.10.**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 11/24/02 totaling \$88,462.80.**
- **Receiving the Committee Reports into the Record.**
--Budget/Finance Committee minutes of November 4, 2002 were presented.
--Council Workshop minutes of November 26, 2002 were presented.
- **Resolutions.**
Resolution No. R02-81: Resolution pertaining to entering into a Memorandum of understanding with the City of Billings.
Resolution No. R02-82: Resolution regarding an agreement with Automotive & Industrial Distributors of Billings.

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

Motion by Alderman Olson to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Alderman Van Roekel. Motion carried 8-0.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Confirmation of Appointments.**

Board of Appeals:

Mayor Johnson appointed Dick Fritzler to a two-year term, ending December 31, 2004, on the Board of Appeals.

Motion by Alderman Oakes to approve the appointment of Dick Fritzler to a two-year term, ending December 31, 2004, on the Board of Appeals, seconded by Alderman Poehls. Motion carried 8-0.

Transportation Oversight Committee:

Mayor Johnson appointed Judy Goldsby and Bob Wiens to the Transportation Oversight Committee.

Motion by Alderman Poehls to approve the appointments of Judy Goldsby and Bob Wiens to the Transportation Oversight Committee, seconded by Alderman Mace. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Request for approval to proceed with annexation process for less than required amount of land: Tige and Teresa Ekle**

Motion by Alderman Poehls to approve the request by Tige and Teresa Ekle to proceed with the annexation process for less than the required amount of land, seconded by Alderman Olson. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-36: Ordinance amending Chapter 12.04 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to sidewalk repair.** Second reading.

Motion by Alderman Mace to adopt Ordinance No. O02-36, seconded by Alderman Poehls. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-37: Ordinance amending Chapter 12.12 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to bond required.** Second reading.

Motion by Alderman Dart to adopt Ordinance No. O02-37, seconded by Alderman Mace. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-38: Ordinance amending Chapter 12.16 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to authority to remove obstruction.** Second reading.

Motion by Alderman Oakes to adopt Ordinance No. O02-38, seconded by Alderman Van Roekel. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-39: Ordinance amending Chapter 16.12 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to application requirements.** Second reading.

Motion by Alderman Van Roekel to adopt Ordinance No. O02-39, seconded by Alderman Olson. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-40: Ordinance amending Chapter 16.16 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to minor plat application requirements.** Second reading.

Motion by Alderman Olson to adopt Ordinance No. O02-40, seconded by Alderman Easton. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-41: Ordinance amending Chapter 16.40 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to mobile home parks.** Second reading.

Motion by Alderman Easton to adopt Ordinance No. O02-41, seconded by Alderman Mears. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-42: Ordinance amending Chapter 16.52 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to monumentation.** Second reading.

Motion by Alderman Mears to adopt Ordinance No. O02-42, seconded by Alderman Mace. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-43: Ordinance amending Chapter 2.10 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to Meetings.** Second reading. (Public hearing waived.)

Motion by Alderman Poehls to adopt Ordinance No. O02-43, seconded by Alderman Van Roekel. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-45: Ordinance amending Chapter 2.92 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to travel expense reimbursement.** Second reading. (Public hearing waived.)

Motion by Alderman Mace to adopt Ordinance No. O02-45, seconded by Alderman Van Roekel. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Ordinance No. O02-46: Ordinance amending Chapter 10.20.20 of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to school zone.** First reading.

Motion by Alderman Dart to adopt ordinance No. O02-46, seconded by Alderman Mears. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

The public hearing for Ordinance No. O02-46 will be on the council agenda on December 17, 2002.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mayor Johnson mentioned that the council reviewed the proposed platform of the Yellowstone Legislative Coalition at a recent council workshop. Background material on some of the initiatives was distributed at this meeting. Any feedback would be appreciated.

The Annual Open House at the Yellowstone City-County Health Department is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Alderman Poehls asked regarding the MMIA information distributed as correspondence. The information will be discussed at the council workshop on December 10th, and additional background information will be distributed. Any questions about the information should be directed to Mary Embleton or Mayor Johnson in order to obtain answers from the MMIA before the workshop.

Alderman Mace will attend the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting on December 10th, and he will invite Jay Hatton, the School Resource Officer, to attend the meeting.

Regarding the Yellowstone County Terrorism Response Plan, Mayor Johnson stated that none of the city's responders are included in the plan. Jim Kraft has indicated that he would be willing to address those concerns with the committee after the first of the year and then the plan could possibly be amended.

Alderman Mace mentioned the availability of federal grant funding for terrorism for cities.

Alderman Olson thanked those responsible for the fantastic Christmas to Remember activities on Sunday.

Alderman Van Roekel informed Kim Womboldt that more research would be done regarding the chamber building.

Alderman Poehls has recently spoken with business owners regarding the Entryway Zoning District issue, and he has encouraged them to participate in the public hearing of the sign code ordinance, which was continued to January 21, 2003.

Alderman Van Roekel mentioned the lack of funding in Helena, which might affect probation officers in Hardin, Red Lodge, and Columbus. Those three officers might be reduced to one position. He reminded the council to review information and to talk with legislators before the session starts in Helena.

Mayor Johnson stated that it might be prudent for the city to consider using the services of a lobbyist in Helena in order to receive feedback and information.

Alderman Olson suggested inviting the legislators to a workshop to discuss policies and procedures and to voice opinions of the council. Alderman Olson stated that the Coalition and the League of Cities and Towns are great organizations, but he feels it is also important to air our opinions at the city level.

Alderman Mace mentioned that an agenda of legislative bills was made available to the council in the past.

Alderman Poehls is involved with an organization that has a lobbyist who charges an hourly fee for services.

Alderman Olson stated that the council would need to research whether there was any legislation that the council really supports as a group in order to get a lobbyist to promote that. He stated that the idea of a lobbyist would be valid in order to take an issue that the city has had problems with at the local level, to make a bill out of it, and to get legislation enacted.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:

Alderman Dart congratulated Larry Tanglen on the resilience of the University of Montana Grizzlies and wished them success.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Cindy Allen, Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 17th day of December, 2002.

John E. Johnson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Mary K. Embleton, Clerk-Treasurer