

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

February 18, 2003

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 6:30 p.m. on February 18, 2003.

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 welcomed the members of the audience to the council meeting.

## MINUTES:

Motion by Alderman Easton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 4, 2003, as presented, seconded by Alderman Van Roekel. Motion carried 8-0.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

Montana Capitol Restoration Foundation: Letter of January 23, 2003 regarding restoration of the granite steps at the Montana State Capitol Building.

Air Pollution Control Board: Minutes of January 14, 2003; Activity Report for January 2003; Agenda for February 11, 2003.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- **Ordinance No. O02-32: City of Laurel Municipal Sign Code.** (First reading 06/18/02; public hearing on 07/16/02; 08/06/02 – set additional public hearing for 08/20/02; public hearing on 08/20/02; public hearing on 09/03/02; public hearing continued to 11/19/02; public hearing continued to 01/21/03; public hearing continued to 02/18/03)

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Mayor Johnson asked if there were any comments from proponents or opponents. There were none.

Alderman Dart announced that a task force would be formed and a council information session would be scheduled at a later date in order to allow an open forum for any interested persons in the public and the business community to provide input into this matter.

Motion by Alderman Dart to continue the public hearing of Ordinance No. O02-32, Laurel Municipal Sign Code, to August 5, 2003, seconded by Alderman Mears. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution of intention of the City of Laurel, Montana, to increase the rates and charges for the users of the Municipal Water System.**

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Mayor Johnson asked the audience to state their name and address at the podium if they wished to address the council.

Lorin Peterson, 1014 West Maryland Lane, asked how a 22% increase in water bills over the next three years could be justified. The increase is greater than a cost of living increase. Lorin works in Billings, and the economy is really slow now and he does not get similar increases for his household income. He understands the justification for the river project, the need to divert the water, and the

expenses involved. He feels that a 22% increase is going to prevent a lot of people from moving to Laurel, and he does not see that the population of Laurel is going to grow very much. The economy in Laurel will be hurt tremendously because people are not going to want to move here. He has never addressed the council before, and he asked if he could ask specific people questions.

Mayor Johnson stated that this was really not an informational meeting, but it is a public hearing for citizens to provide comments. Mayor Johnson stated that he would answer his primary question in a very guarded fashion. This rate increase is not based on anything other than the needs that are at the river. That is the basic need, and it has nothing to do with any cost increases or anything like that other than a 1% increase. The rate increase proposal is 10% the first year and 6% each subsequent year for two years, and the only cost increase that we are looking at in those is 1%.

Lorin asked if the rest was to cover the bond and to pay for the diversion of the dam.

Mayor Johnson stated that it was for the intake to provide water.

Lorin asked if there would be any kind of a permanent solution to this, or if this is just a temporary solution.

Mayor Johnson responded by telling Lorin to take a drive across the Yellowstone Bridge to see what is going on. The work that is being done is the solution, and that is what the rate increase is all about.

Lorin asked if this would go away in three years after this is paid for.

Mayor Johnson again stated that this really is not an informational session, but the Montana Code does not provide for an increase of a specific surcharge for a specific thing. The only avenue that we have been able to determine is that, if we need a certain amount of dollars, we need to increase rates to cover that.

Lorin again questioned whether there is no guarantee that this is going to go away eventually. Mayor Johnson agreed.

Dick Metzger, 315 West Avenue, served as a city employee for several years. He asked how a million dollar bid above the engineer's estimates could be justified without even trying to get another bid.

Mayor Johnson stated that he would be happy to share the process that the council went through if Dick would call him and visit with him.

Dick asked why there were no meetings prior to this. He read in the newspaper that the council had passed the resolutions, but there was never a public hearing for it. Mayor Johnson stated that this is the public hearing. Dick suggested that it is already decided.

Mayor Johnson stated that the council has not voted yet and the hearing this evening is to public input.

Dick stated that he is strictly opposed to spending a million dollars over the engineer's estimates. He has several neighbors that agree, and he attended this meeting to find out what is going on.

Mayor Johnson invited Dick to give him a call.

Marvin Carter, 307 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, sometimes wishes the Public Service Commission were still in charge. Since they left, some cities have run rampant. Marvin stated that the council has won some firsts: first for having the highest priced water in the State of Montana; first for having the highest priced sewer in the State of Montana; and first for having the most brown lawns in the State of Montana. He stated that the rate increase says a unit, but as you add up the totals, somewhere the unit has been obliterated and we are paying a base fee and there is no unit there. Every other city that has a unit has more in their unit that we have in ours, and yet Laurel is by far the highest rate. If Billings would come out to the west and provide a line, we could get water a lot cheaper from Billings than we get it from Laurel, Montana. Marvin agrees with Dick Metzger that a million dollars over the engineer's estimate is an awful lot. He would like to know where the grants went, or if our grant applications were not followed through for approval to get grants to help with this water project. There are always grants available for water projects, and he cannot understand why we have

not been a part of it. When adding up the figures that were sent out, it starts with 10%, then 6%, and suddenly the 6% goes to a plus 6% because three or four pennies were added on to that 6%. Then you add a couple more figures and you do not carry the figure down, you throw another penny in. He cannot understand why it is not a straight 6% increase. Marvin asked about the previous bond issue. There was a big increase for a water project several years ago, and he stated that it should be paid for by now. He also questioned where the excess money from that bond issue is and where it is going. If the people of Laurel could be told that no further increases would be needed after the next three years, then you could win over some confidence. It does not make sense to him to keep adding 6%, 6%, and 6% increases. Marvin stated that our water unit is really down in comparison to other cities, and it is really sad that we have gotten so carried away that those are the choices that have to be made.

Mayor Johnson asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Louis Metzger, 601 West 8<sup>th</sup>, is strongly opposed to the water rate increase, not only for himself, but also for the retired citizens in the City of Laurel. He thinks that increasing water rates will run people and businesses out of Laurel, and there will be no income coming in for the citizens of Laurel. Louis stated that the citizens on a fixed income cannot afford their water bills now, and he asked how they would afford the bills with the increases. He wants to know where the money went or where it is going. If water rates keep rising, there will be no lawns in the City of Laurel. It will all be gravel and sand. He knows that he is not going to be able to water his lawn this year with the water rate increase, and he is strongly thinking about putting in gravel. He questioned what that would look like to people coming to Laurel to buy houses. He also questioned what is happening to his property values. If water rates keep rising, he thinks that his property value will be nothing, and houses and property values in Laurel will be worth nothing, too. He is tired of it, and stated that it is time for somebody to sit down and take a strong stand against what is happening to this town. He strongly stated the need to get it cleaned up and get it straightened out, and to do something with our streets. He then stated that these increases are ridiculous, and some of the other things that are going on in town are completely ridiculous, especially with the nuisance vehicles. Mr. Metzger then asked for Mayor Johnson's resignation tonight.

Mayor Johnson asked twice if there was any further comment.

Tom Canape, 102 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated that the sign ordinance is his big concern and said that the council would get to it later. The improvements for entryway zoning include so many parking spots for business, shrubbery, vegetation, and trees, but only so much peat moss and decorative rock is allowed. It does not make any sense to him why the water rate increases are so high, but the council expects these people to comply with the improvements of the property. As a citizen here, he has seen some big changes and it has not been good. Personally, he does not like it. He stated that it is time to make a difference, and if it means going to the meetings to find out what is going on and what can be done, that is what will have to be done. Things with which he does not agree are being done, but he will have to handle those at another time. Tom was here about the signs more than anything, but the water rate increases just add to it. The city is placing restrictions on what is done for businesses, such as adding in shrubbery and not being able to put in rock.

Shawn Derby, 2113 Atchison, moved in six or seven years ago. At that time, the water bill was \$35 a month and now it is up to \$70 per month. Now there will be a 10% increase this year and 6% for the next two or three years. Shawn is considering buying a home, but he does not think it is going to be in Laurel if the water prices keep rising. He questioned if the rates would be \$100 in five or six years. He also questioned where all the money has gone from the previous increase that was needed, and then stated that they did not need it.

Sue Carter, 307 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated that the city needed to get the organizational programs in order. If you are going to have hearings, they should be done before the fact and before all the cranes get down in the river. Obviously, this has been a problem for several years. If you want to have help from people and have them working together, it is necessary to get the organizational part together right.

Mayor Johnson asked twice if there were any other comments.

Dick Metzger, 315 West Avenue, asked what all the money would be used for if the increase is approved. He questioned if the money would be used definitely for the pier at the water plant or if the city would buy five or six more new pickups. Dick also questioned why we have to furnish a pickup for employees that live in Billings, or halfway between Billings and Laurel, and halfway

between Park City and Columbus. If a person is called out from the City of Billings, it is just like it was in the past. The individual gets paid from the time of the call out, and if he is living in Billings, it is going to take him twenty-five to thirty minutes to get here. Dick questioned why we have to pay those kind of wages for them to travel up here when there are people that would take the job right here in Laurel. He again questioned how many new pickups would be purchased out of the money that is supposed to be used for the water plant.

Mayor Johnson asked twice if there were any further comments.

Lorin Peterson, 1014 West Maryland, asked if the City of Laurel considered putting a pipe all the way across the river and putting different entrances in instead of having to divert the whole river over. He questioned if that would be a cheaper and if other options were considered besides diverting the water flow.

Mayor Johnson stated that the short answer is yes.

Mayor Johnson asked twice if there was any further comment. There was none.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

- **Clerk/Treasurer Financial Statements for the month of January 2003.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 02/02/03 totaling \$115,348.71.**
- **Receiving the Committee Reports into the Record.**

--Budget/Finance Committee minutes of January 21, 2003 were presented.

--Emergency Services Committee minutes of January 27, 2003 were presented.

--City-County Planning Board minutes of February 6, 2003 were presented.

--Council Workshop minutes of February 11, 2003 were presented.

- **Resolutions.**

**Resolution No. R03-17: Resolution accepting an agreement with Beartooth RC&D Economic Development District.**

**Resolution No. R03-18: A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign Change Order No. 1 for the new water intake and pump station.**

**Resolution No. R03-19: Accepting the low bid for a new garbage truck and authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract to purchase from Tri-State Truck & Equipment, Inc.**

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 Dart. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Johnson stated that there could have been some input regarding the sign ordinance, and that the public hearing was held just before the water rate increase public hearing. At that hearing, the council announced that they are forming a task force, and a public information meeting will be scheduled. Notification will be made and input would be welcome. The public hearing on the sign code was continued to August 5, 2003.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** None.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT):** None.

**SCHEDULED MATTERS:**

- **Confirmation of Appointments:** None  
Current Board/Committee vacancies: Board of Appeals – two positions  
Police Commission – one position
- **Wastewater Facilities Plan: Scott Murphy, Morrison-Maierle**

Scott Murphy distributed the Final City Council Presentation Summary of Recommendations of the 2002 Wastewater Facilities Plan. A copy of the summary is attached to the original council minutes.

This is the third time that Scott has addressed the council as part of the Wastewater Facilities Plan process, and he is here tonight to summarize their final recommendations. The facility plan process involves developing tools for effective decision making in order to set project priorities and to develop project cost estimates. It has been over twenty-five years since the City did a wastewater facilities plan, and the most recent major improvements, which included the treatment plant, are nearly twenty years old. With completion of this study, the City is in a position to be eligible for low-interest loans and state and federal grants for subsequent fixes, improvements, or upgrades at any of the wastewater facilities.

The scope of the facility plan included assessing the current situation, assessing the future situation, developing and evaluating alternatives, developing a Draft Implementation Plan for public information and comment, submitting the plan and incorporating comments to MDEQ, and preparing the final facility plan for City adoption. Comments, which were minor in nature, were received from the MDEQ in January.

The major issues addressed in the Wastewater Facility Plan include: the collection system; the pumping stations; the treatment plant; future regulations; and the service area growth to 2022.

The recommended near-term improvements for the collection system include: 1) replace trunk mains in fields and open spaces prior to treatment plant to reduce peak flows; 2) replace “one-month” lines; 3) replace the aging Main/Elm Street lift station; 4) rehabilitate the aging Village Sub lift station; 5) begin a comprehensive program for replacing six-inch and eight-inch clay tile mains during the next thirty years.

The recommended near-term improvements for the Wastewater Treatment Plant include: 1) replace plant drain pump station; 2) rehabilitate deteriorating headworks facility; 3) eliminate primary clarifier hydraulic bottleneck; 4) improve plant water systems; 5) miscellaneous major maintenance items; 6) disinfection upgrade. The total cost for the Phase 1 improvements would be \$2,880,000, and the project is TSEP Grant eligible.

The Phase 2 Wastewater System recommendations for 2005 and beyond include: 1) disinfection upgrade to address regulatory change; 2) annual collection system replacement program; 3) collection system trunk main expansion; 4) treatment plant upgrade and expansion for growth.

An example of the project cost for service area customers was included in the information.

The steps needed to finish the process are: 1) council approval of the Final Wastewater Facilities Plan via resolution; 2) Morrison-Maierle incorporates the council resolution into the document and submits it to MDEQ; 3) MDEQ sends a final approval letter to the City of Laurel; 4) Morrison-Maierle binds the final document and submits the proper number of copies to the City of Laurel.

Mayor Johnson asked if the council had any questions.

Alderman Dart stated that a noteworthy point of interest is that folks in the audience have questioned some of the challenges that this council faces with the infrastructure of this city. The numbers that were shown in the Wastewater Facilities Plan did not happen overnight and neither did the problems with the water system, the streets, or anything else with this infrastructure. We have to remember prior administrations and what was done or what was not done and where we are now. It is a difficult pill to swallow sometimes, but this council has been left with it.

Alderman Poehls furthered Alderman Dart’s comments, and stated that the council has gone through the necessary process. Some citizens questioned why the public hearing for the water rate increase was held at the end of the process. The council has been going through this process with the engineers and everything else on almost a weekly basis throughout the past year. Alderman Poehls

stated that the council has gone through the process to try to make the best decisions possible for the City of Laurel.

Mayor Johnson thanked Scott for the information.

- **Jan Faught: Laurel Volunteer Ambulance Year-End Report**

Jan Faught, Director of the Laurel Volunteer Ambulance, distributed information regarding the current LVA crew, the total responses from 1996 – 2002, the hours not covered from 1996 – 2002, and the 2002 yearly stats.

Jan stated that several crewmembers live outside the Laurel area. One of those crewmembers has been an attendant for three years and has had a place to stay while he was in town on call. Other than the ambulance office, the crewmembers do not have a place to stay, and that makes it difficult for them to put in hours and cover scheduled times. Many EMT's would like to come to Laurel to volunteer their time. If there were a place for people to stay, it would help keep people on the roster and keep hours covered. That is a big concern every year. There will be some crew changes soon. One attendant from Billings will be resigning, and some other crewmembers will be leaving. Jan stated that it is important to have trained reserves that are ready to step forward. She said that we need to think outside of the city limits, especially when there are qualified and trained people available, and we need to find a solution to have a place for the attendants to spend time.

Daytime coverage is still the weakest area, and weekends are the second weakest area to cover. Total ambulance responses from 1996 to 2002 were shown on a graph. Jan started on the ambulance crew in 1996 and became the director in 1999. There were 250 calls in 1996, and 611 calls were received in 2002. The ambulance is working hard to answer every call that is received. In 1996, 4,901 hours were not covered because either one attendant or no attendant was on call, and, therefore, the ambulance could not leave the bay. In 2002, only 168 hours were not covered. As of September 12, 2002, there were only thirty-one hours with no coverage or one-person coverage. The rest of the no coverage hours happened after September when school started and some people were on vacation, which changed the daytime and weekend coverage to single person coverage. In order to cover one week, the ambulance service needs 336 volunteer hours – that means two people on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Even though 168 hours is not very many, Jan would like to see that number at zero.

The ambulance receives many diverse calls. The highest number of calls was received for motor vehicle collisions in March 2002, and July was the second highest month. December is the biggest month for falls. Because attendants never know what kind of call will be received, it is important to keep training levels peaked. An attendant cannot let their training or skills slide. Since all skills are not used consistently, it is important for the ambulance to have a dedicated training area. Jan stated that it should be obvious how badly a training area is needed.

The Laurel Volunteer Ambulance transported 346 patients in 2001 and 370 patients in 2002. So far this year, there were 75 ambulance responses in January and 46 responses in February. In 2002, there were 169 no transports, which means that the ambulance responded, treated the patients at the scene, and a decision was made not to transport the patient.

The ambulance is available and is very busy. Jan has been amazed by the increase in call volume. There have only been eight times when both rigs were out on calls at the same time. A third call was received during two of those times, but there was no way to respond to the third call, and Billings did take the third call. It is exciting to know that enough crewmembers are available and ready to man the second rig, as the second rig is not scheduled. The ambulance crew is very dedicated, and Jan is happy with the statistics. Jan stated that the ambulance service keeps improving every year.

Matt Erikson stated that federal regulations would be coming soon regarding personal health information. Cathy and Jan have been working hard to get the proposals together. The proposals will be presented to the council for review within the next month in order to be in place in April. The policies will prevent personal patient information from being published in the newspaper.

Alderman Dart spoke with some Laurel senior citizens today. An elderly gentleman mentioned that he had utilized the ambulance service recently, and he had nothing but praise for our ambulance service. Alderman Dart echoed that sentiment by saying that Laurel is very blessed to have dedicated volunteers in the fire department and the ambulance service. He stated that we owe a great deal of thanks to Jan.

Alderman Oakes asked regarding paid employees in the ambulance service. Jan is the only full-time employee, and the volunteer attendants receive a stipend for their service. Alderman Oakes said that it says a great deal for the humanity end of it. If it were not for all of the volunteers, both of the ambulances would not be worth much.

Mayor Johnson stated that there was a strong feeling within the council a few years ago that an ambulance service was a very needed and desired service in the community. At that time, the council provided a paid position for Jan, and that has proven to be part of the reason that the graphs and statistics have changed so much. Mayor Johnson has the impression that the community values the ambulance service, and Jan has made efforts to make it of value to the community. He said that there have been several presentations over the last few years to show the critical issue of shortage of space for the ambulance service. The city is in the process of coming forth with a couple of alternatives and proposals for review. Jan and the department heads in the FAP are working together to address the critical need for space. One cannot expect people to volunteer without some facilities.

Alderman Olson reminded the council of a previous ambulance presentation regarding the lack of space. To maintain the morale of volunteers with a limitation of space is difficult. He cannot believe the dedication of the crewmembers. Alderman Olson applauds the administration for the opportunity to have a feasibility study with Myhre-Atwood come forth so that consideration can be made as to the priority of space for the ambulance. He stressed the importance of making this a priority. Even though an individual is being paid, you do not pay for morale over there; you have to put out to get it. Alderman Olson stated that he appreciates all the efforts. It is just amazing to be able to keep the morale up to where you can put nineteen people in twelve square feet of space and still have those people answer the call every time. He applauded Jan's efforts.

Mayor Johnson thanked Jan.

- **Steve Klotz: Public Works Department Year-End Report**

Steve Klotz gave a Power Point presentation of the Public Works Department 2002 Annual Report.

Steve showed a chart of the operational flow of the department. The Public Works Director supervises and directs the Public Works Divisions and functions and is responsible for the following: a combined budget of approximately \$2,000,000; floodplain administration; building, plumbing, and zoning plan review; City civil plan review and inspection; design and implement street remediation plan; human resource management and training; City/union contract negotiations; and serves as emergency contact in an on-call stand-by status approximately thirteen weeks per year.

The Public Works Secretary is the primary contact for public interaction. The secretary maintains records and files Public Works documents; maintains and records committee minutes; implemented and maintains city address file system; records, posts, and proofs payroll; implemented the current phone protocol; serves as the Public Works dispatch; and processes and prepares planning functions.

The Code Enforcement Inspector enforces the building codes, the fire code, and the Laurel Municipal Code. The inspector completes approximately 300 annual fire code inspections, 200 annual LMC inspections, and numerous building code inspections. The Code Enforcement Inspector also serves as an emergency contact in an on-call stand-by status approximately thirteen weeks per year.

The Maintenance Superintendent supervises the operation of the Solid Waste, Parks/Cemetery, Streets, and City Shop Divisions of Public Works. He directs and schedules the day-to-day operations of the divisions, and he serves as the safety officer for the public works crews. The Maintenance Superintendent also serves as an emergency contact in an on-call standby status for approximately thirteen weeks per year.

The Solid Waste Division provides weekly pick-up and disposal services to 2,335 residential customers, and approximately 100 gallons of waste per week per customer are collected. Daily pick-up and disposal service is provided to 222 commercial customers, and approximately 40,000 gallons of waste are collected per day. The transfer site provides waste drop off and disposal service to city and non-city residents. Roll off services to set, pick up, and haul waste are provided for construction sites, special events, and community services. Recycling services for metal scrap, paper scrap, and Christmas trees are also provided by the Solid Waste Division. Revenues for 2002 totaled \$523,500,

and expenditures totaled \$488,100. The \$35,400 in reserves will be used for a tree chipper and replacement trucks and containers.

The Parks/Cemetery Division is responsible for cemetery operations, maintenance of the seventeen parks within the city, and the municipal swimming pool. Park maintenance includes snow removal, watering, mowing, weed control, equipment maintenance and safety, tree maintenance, and development of Ponderosa Park and the Lions Family Park. Cemetery operations include watering, mowing, weed control, leveling, and burials and cremations. Because of major maintenance costs at the swimming pool in recent years, the expenses have been much greater than the revenues. The filter system, the chlorinator, and the automated pH system have been replaced.

Street Division responsibilities include street maintenance, street sweeping, winter road maintenance, signage and markings, minor construction, and major contracted construction. Street maintenance includes patching, crack sealing, gravel street blading, alley blading, the storm water system, service cut repairs, debris removal, and alley cleanup of the 37 miles of pavement and 16 miles of gravel roads within the city. Street sweeping includes the state contract, the sweeping district, residential services, and the winter sanding cleanup. The street division is on call twenty-four hours a day for winter road maintenance. The division maintains approximately 2,000 signs, replaces or repairs approximately 100 signs annually, and maintains the crosswalk and parking markings.

Recycled asphalt material was used on a minor construction project on the 500 block of Hazel Avenue last year, and more gravel streets will be paved this coming summer. A major contracted construction project was completed with the chip seal project in the Cherry Hills Subdivision, an area that qualified for preventative maintenance. Preventative maintenance costs about \$1/per unit and street reconstruction costs about \$7/per unit. In order to save money, the crews did some of the work on this project.

The City Shop Division is responsible for routine maintenance, major mechanical repairs, and the parts and equipment inventory. A fire restoration project is near completion in the city shop. About \$56,000 worth of electrical, smoke, and fire damage was suffered from the fire at the shop several months ago. We served as the general contractor on the project in order to keep down the costs of the restoration. A different type of insulation was used to provide more light in the shop, the light fixture types were changed in order to provide more candles per square foot and better distribution of the light, and an improved overhead door system was installed.

Alderman Olson asked regarding clear vision marking. Steve explained that clear vision marking addresses the areas that need to be clear in order to provide safety at intersections. Landscaping issues are involved, but it generally addresses where parking starts at intersections. Once the striping of the curbs is done, there should not be much more impact. Landscaping violations can be addressed as a nuisance through the Laurel Municipal Code.

Mayor Johnson asked if there were any further questions.

Mayor Johnson thanked Steve.

- **Request for annexation from Teresa and Tige Ekle for Lots 1-5, Block 1, Mathis Subdivision: Set public hearing date for March 18, 2003.**

Motion by Alderman Poehls to set the public hearing date for March 18, 2003, for the annexation request from Teresa and Tige Ekle for Lots 1-5, Block 1 of Mathis Subdivision, seconded by Alderman Mears. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Request for annexation from Kathy Simanton for Lot 1, Block 6, High Point Subdivision: Set public hearing date for March 18, 2003.**

Motion by Alderman Mace to set the public hearing date for March 18, 2003, for the annexation request from Kathy Simanton for Lot 1, Block 6 of High Point Subdivision, seconded by Alderman Dart. Motion carried 8-0.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:** None.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):** None.



**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Alderman Poehls mentioned that the YMCA Auction is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at St. Anthony's. Any donations can be made at the YMCA office. Alderman Poehls asked if the council wanted to consider buying a table at a cost of \$250.

Peterson Typewriter loaned several chairs for the council to try for a month. The current chairs in use in the council chambers were purchased in the 1970's.

Matt Erikson mentioned that information on parliamentary procedure was distributed to the council in January. He offered to review some of the procedures with the council during council meetings or workshops, and the council agreed to do so during council workshops.

**UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:**

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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Cindy Allen, Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003.

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John E. Johnson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

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Mary K. Embleton, Clerk-Treasurer