

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

September 2, 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 President Gay Easton at 6:30 p.m. on September 2, 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

President Easton asked the council to observe a moment of silence.

President Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

MINUTES:

Motion by Alderman Oakes to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 19, 2003, as presented, seconded by Alderman Poehls. Motion carried 8-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Montana League of Cities and Towns: Memo of August 14, 2003, regarding Conference Update, Entitlement Payments and Fire Emergencies.

Cable Montana: Service Reports for July 2003.

Montana Department of Commerce: Memo of August 18, 2003 regarding Draft Application Guidelines for the Treasure State Endowment Program.

Bruce R. Teeters: August 21, 2003 letter of resignation from the Board of Adjustments.

Montana Department of Commerce: Memo of August 25, 2003 regarding Public Review of the Draft Annual Action Plan, April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005.

Yellowstone County Air Pollution Control: Letter of August 15, 2003 to Robert Schessler at Schessler Ready-Mix; Yellowstone County Air Pollution Complaint Report.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- **Ordinance No. 002-32: 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; continued to 09/03/02; continued to 11/19/02; continued to 01/21/03; continued to 02/18/03; continued to 08/05/03; continued to 09/02/03)

President Easton opened the public hearing.

President Easton asked if anyone wanted to speak. There was no one.

Motion by Alderman Mace to continue the public hearing on the City of Laurel Sign Code to October 7, 2003, seconded by Alderman Dart. Motion carried 8-0.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims for the month of August 2003 in the amount of \$337,436.69.**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 08/17/03 totaling \$120,525.96.**
- **Receiving the Committee Reports into the Record.**

--Budget/Finance Committee minutes of August 5, 2003 were presented.

--Board of Adjustments minutes of August 12, 2003 were presented.

--Board of Adjustments minutes of August 20, 2003 were presented.

--Council Workshop minutes of August 26, 2003 were presented.

- **Resolutions.**

Resolution No. R03-83: A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign Change Orders No. 1-8 for the Temporary Water Intake.

Resolution No. R03-95: Being a resolution levying and assessing all of the property embraced within the City of Laurel, Montana, for street maintenance for the fiscal year 2003-2004.

Resolution No. R03-96: A resolution regarding settlement of a discrimination complaint.

President Easton 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.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Alderman Oakes attended the Air Pollution Control Board meeting on August 26th. The biggest part of the meeting was about the budget and how they are going to get it settled. The County Commissioners will finalize the budget at their meeting tonight. Fox Lumber Company is almost in compliance with his control system. Russ Boschee is going to write a letter to Schessler Ready-Mix to give them three months to correct their dust problem. The next meeting of the Air Pollution Control Board is scheduled on September 9th. The board consists of eight members. Alderman Oakes stated that he got the impression that there will be a change in operation of the board and how the duties are performed.

President Easton said that it is good to have representation on the board, and he thanked Alderman Oakes for attending.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Confirmation of Appointments:** None.

Current Board/Committee vacancies

Board of Appeals: three positions – two-year terms to begin immediately

Drug and Alcohol Task Force Chairman

City-County Planning Board – one position to fill a term expiring 06/30/04

Board of Adjustments – one position to fill a term expiring 06/30/05

- **Special Review for Sharon Mohr (Kober) Veterinary Hospital located at 20 7th Avenue.**

Planning Board has recommended approval of the special review, subject to no animals being kept outdoors and her landscaping plan become part of the approval. As there were no people present to speak at the public hearing, and the business fits within the Central Business District zoning, the Board also recommends that the City Council not hold a second public hearing.

Motion by Alderman Poehls to approve the Special Review for Sharon Mohr (Kober) Veterinary Hospital located at 20 7th Avenue, subject to no animals being kept outdoors and her landscaping plan becoming part of the approval, seconded by Alderman Van Roekel. Motion carried 8-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Alderman Poehls stated that the YMCA office is now located in the Ben Franklin building. The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and two AARP ladies share the secretarial duties.

The City-County Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Alderman Van Roekel received a phone call from a gentleman this evening. The individual talked about the cemetery and told him that irrigation pipes had been laid through the flowers on his wife's grave. The man spoke with someone at City Hall about the problem. When Alderman Van Roekel asked him if he was treated decently, he said that he had been. Since the gentleman's call to City Hall, the pipes have not been laid through flowers. Alderman Van Roekel stated that this is one time when someone called in and had respectful, positive treatment.

Alderman Olson stated that it is nice for the council to hear this, but it would be beneficial if it could be passed down to Steve and Mike so that it gets to the right people. It is an example of our community coming forward and saying something that should be communicated to the employees.

Alderman Van Roekel stated that he would inform Steve of the positive remarks.

Alderman Mace stated that an extraordinary job has been done to keep the cemetery green this summer. He has heard some comments but failed to bring them forward. The employees should know that they did a good job.

Alderman Easton mentioned that it is hard to get water up to the cemetery, and the employees deserve a lot of credit for the good job.

- Review of Committee Minutes: None.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Resolution No. R03-97: A resolution approving Alderman Easton's absence from the City of Laurel.**

Motion by Alderman Olson to place Resolution No. R03-97 on the council agenda, seconded by Alderman Dart. Motion carried 8-0.

Motion by Alderman Poehls to approve Resolution No. R03-97, seconded by Alderman Oakes. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Budget/Finance Committee**

Alderman Easton asked if a council member would be interested in attending the Budget/Finance Committee meeting during his absence.

Alderman Mears stated that he would be available and willing to do so. Alderman Easton told him to contact Mayor Johnson.

The next Budget/Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15th, at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Cindy Allen, Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 16th day of September, 2003.

John E. Johnson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Mary K. Embleton, Clerk-Treasurer