

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

May 31, 2005

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, was held in the Council Chambers and called to order by Mayor Ken Olson at 6:35 p.m. on May 31, 2005.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:            Dick Fritzler            Doug Poehls  
   Kate Stevenson        Mark Mace  
   Jennifer Johnson      Daniel Dart

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:            Gay Easton

## **RESOLUTION NO. R05-54: A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE NON-RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE RATES.**

Motion by Alderman Mace to approve Resolution No. R05-54, seconded by Alderman Dart.

Mayor Olson stated that Resolution No. R05-39, the resolution of intent to increase non-residential solid waste rates, was approved by the council on May 3, 2005. The public hearing was held on May 17, 2005. At the public hearing, Public Works Director Steve Klotz proposed an amendment to the rate schedule, which is included in the rate schedule for approval with Resolution No. R05-54.

The change in the rate schedule is under Volume of Use and reads as follows: (4) "Low volume users may be assigned a 90-gallon rollout container for pickup once per week. The Public Works Department shall have sole discretion in determining whether a user qualifies for this category. Adjustment of the volume of use variable is available pursuant to section (5)."

The amendment to the rate schedule resulted from comments received from the small business owners prior to and after the public hearing. Steve visited with the twenty-two multi-can commercial customers regarding the rate increase, but the small users were not contacted individually.

Mayor Olson stated that before continuing with the council discussion, he would allow comment from the audience on this issue.

Gerald Barta, owner of Big Sky Woodcrafters at 305 West Main, stated that most of the waste from his business is natural wood. While at the landfill recently, he saw pallets, tree branches, and old fencing, and a monthly burn was being done. He could eliminate having two containers and probably have only a half can for miscellaneous garbage if he could take the excess wood to the landfill to be burned.

Steve explained the plan to provide a composting option for woodchips and sawdust. A lot of municipalities that compost sell the compost to local nurseries. Ash provides a good component to the compost, as it helps balance the compost. The city is currently burning any unpainted wood products.

Gerald stated that he would like to be able to take advantage of that and dispose his wood products at the landfill as well.

Steve explained that residents can take garbage to the transfer site at no cost. Most commercial customers pay by the volume for their waste when they haul it to the landfill. Commercial customers can dispose of cardboard at no fee because there is no cost to the city. However, the city charges commercial customers for the additional service if the business goes over what is provided in the container.

Steve stated that DEQ issues regarding the burn pile make it questionable as to whether burning can continue. DEQ may put the city into another level of transfer site to allow certain amounts of burn. Burns are not done once a month, but a controlled burn is done as needed when the pile gets to a certain size and the fire department is available. Steve is looking at some other options as well. There are also some runoff issues with DEQ. The issues are being explored to determine if burning

can continue at the container site. That is why he cannot answer all of the questions and there may be a fee for the service.

Mayor Olson stated that the appeal process is outlined at the end of the rate schedule. The appeal process would go to the Public Works Committee.

There was discussion regarding non-residents using the garbage containers, the possibility of using private garbage carriers within the City of Laurel, cost effectiveness of the service, the commercial and residential fees, possible composting and recycling capabilities at the transfer site, and the need to report violators to the police department.

Upon approval of the resolution, the rates for the non-residential garbage disposal will increase annually over a five-year period so that base rates of residential and non-residential users shall be equal after that time.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All six aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Alderman Poehls to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Alderman Fritzler. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All six aldermen/women 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 7:02 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2005.

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Kenneth E. Olson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

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Mary K. Embleton, Clerk-Treasurer