

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

November 15, 2005

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 Ken Olson at 6:30 p.m. on November 15, 2005.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Fritzler Doug Poehls
 Kate Stevenson Mark Mace
 Gay Easton Daniel Dart
 Norm Stamper

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Johnson

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

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

Mayor Olson asked Alderman Stamper to introduce Ryan Caron and Robert Stamper, two members of Boy Scout Troop 414. The boys are working on their citizenship and community merit badge, which is an Eagle required merit badge. One of the requirements is to attend a public meeting. Some boys attended the school board meeting last night and these boys chose to attend the council meeting tonight.

Mayor Olson welcomed Ryan and Robert to the meeting and encouraged them to ask questions at the appropriate time.

MINUTES:

Motion by Alderwoman Stevenson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 1, 2005, as presented, seconded by Alderman Fritzler. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Laurel Chamber of Commerce: Agenda for November 3, 2005; Minutes of October 27, 2005; Distinguished Service Award's Banquet information.

Laurel Chamber of Commerce: Letter of November 4, 2005 regarding positions on the Board of Directors; Letter regarding changes in the by-laws; Letter regarding Distinguished Service Award's Banquet; Information regarding Christmas decorations.

MMIA: Risk Management Bulletin #2-06 regarding impact of worldwide disasters on next year's insurance rates.

Kadmas, Lee & Jackson: Letter of November 4, 2005 regarding Laurel Municipal Airport.

Montana Department of Revenue: Application for Transfer of Ownership of Montana Retail On-Premises Consumption Beer/Wine License No. 03-044-9569-301, Shotgun Willies, 3422 South Frontage Rd, Laurel, Yellowstone County, Montana.

County of Yellowstone: Letter of November 8, 2005 regarding Maryland Lane West.

Project HELP: Thank you note from Project HELP Committee.

Laurel Chamber of Commerce: Agenda for November 17, 2005: Minutes of November 3, 2005

PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance No. O05-13: Ordinance amending Table 17.16.020 (setbacks) of the Laurel Municipal Code relating to corner residential lots. (First reading – 10/18/2005)

Mayor Olson asked Cal Cumin to present the issue.

Cal Cumin stated that this public hearing is being held to receive public comment on the Planning Board's proposal to change the rear yard setbacks for corner lots in residential subdivisions. The proposal would change Table 17.16.020 of the Laurel Zoning Code. Currently, the setback for rear yards on corner lots is twenty (20) feet, and the setback on side lots is also twenty (20) feet. The current setback requirements do not leave very much building space on a corner lot and complaints have been received from different developments recently and in the past. The Planning Board agreed with the suggestion that it should be changed. No protests were received at the Planning Board's public hearing, and the board has recommended approval to change the back yard setback on corner lots to five (5) feet from twenty (20) feet. This does not violate any fire codes, as fire codes require ten (10) feet between buildings.

Mayor Olson opened the public hearing.

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

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

Mayor Olson closed the public hearing.

The second reading of Ordinance No. O05-13 will be on the council agenda on December 6, 2005.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Clerk/Treasurer Financial Statements for the month of October 2005.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 11/06/2005 totaling \$131,790.96.**
- **Receiving the Committee Reports into the Record.**

--Budget/Finance Committee minutes of October 18, 2005 were presented.

--Cemetery Commission minutes of November 3, 2005 were presented.

--Council Workshop minutes of November 8, 2005 were presented.

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

Motion by Alderman Mace to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Alderman Poehls. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Confirmation of Appointments:** None.
- **Resolution No. R05-111: Resolution of the City Council to accept a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to purchase fire department equipment for the City.**

Motion by Alderman Stamper to approve Resolution No. R05-111, seconded by Alderman Dart. There was no public comment.

Alderman Poehls congratulated the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department, and particularly Scott Wilm, for the work on this grant and stated that it is greatly appreciated.

Mayor Olson stated that it is very rewarding to have a \$218,000 grant coming to our community through the efforts of the fire department. He thanked the fire department for their efforts.

A vote was taken on the motion. All seven aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R05-112: Resolution of annexation of Maryland Lane extension.**

Motion by Alderman Easton to approve Resolution No. R05-112, seconded by Alderwoman Stevenson.

Mayor Olson stated that three references to “Attachment A” in the draft resolution were changed to “Exhibit A” in the final resolution.

Chuck Dickerson, 501 West 13th, asked regarding Maryland Lane and Woods Way.

Cal Cumin explained that the current Maryland Lane will be extended westward to the Big Ditch. When it crosses the Big Ditch, it is proposed in the platting process as Woods Way. However, this is not good planning policy for the city long-term. The problem is that a half block to the south of it is the current West Maryland Lane, which has eleven dwelling units on it with West Maryland Lane addresses. As the county GIS and emergency services started accessing and codifying numbers to make them uniform throughout the county, several people, including the planning board chairman, have had their address changed. This is a county problem, and the county has sent the council a letter asking for its suggestion. The county has written letters to the residents on Maryland Lane, and the ones that responded were vehemently opposed to changing the name of the street. Cal stated that it is not a dead issue because eventually water and sewer will be extended out there, and these people are in areas with sewage treatment system problems. When West Maryland extends westward, it is part of the City of Laurel’s adopted Bicycle-Pedestrian Path Plan.

A vote was taken on the motion. All seven aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Alderman Mace mentioned that Dan Mears, a former Ward 4 alderman, passed away today.

Robert Barron, the owner of the pot-bellied pig, recently contacted Alderman Easton regarding a change to the ordinance to allow a pot-bellied pig as a pet. Alderman Easton will contact the attorney for legal counsel and the issue will be presented at the council workshop on November 29th.

The council retreat is scheduled for this Friday evening and all day on Saturday at the Laurel Library. Department heads will attend the sessions on Saturday.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

Mayor Olson selected a task force to review the contracts for the city’s park facilities. Alderman Easton will serve as the chairman, and Alderman Mace, Alderman Stamper, and Perry Asher, staff representative, will serve on the task force.

Alderman Easton stated that the task force would meet soon after the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Emergency Services Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, November 28th, has been cancelled. Since the regular date for the December meeting would be on Monday, December 26th, another date will be scheduled soon.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Alderman Dart to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Alderman Stamper. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Cindy Allen, Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 6th day of December, 2005.

Kenneth E. Olson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Mary K. Embleton, Clerk-Treasurer