

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

March 7, 2006

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 March 7, 2006. Mayor Olson was absent from the meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Fritzler Doug Poehls
 Kate Hart Mark Mace
 Gay Easton Chuck Dickerson
 Jennifer Johnson Norm Stamper

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Mary Embleton Sam Painter
 Perry Asher Cal Cumin

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

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

MINUTES:

Motion by Alderman Stamper to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 21, 2006, as presented, seconded by Alderman Poehls. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Yellowstone County: Letter of February 17, 2006 regarding transportation services for the residents of the Laurel community.

Montana Department of Transportation: Letter of February 24, 2006 regarding railroad crossing project.

Cable Montana: Letter of February 22, 2006 regarding rates and services.

Montana/Wyoming Association of Railroad Passengers: Information regarding NARP Region 8 Meeting in Havre, Montana, on Sunday, March 25, 2006.

PUBLIC HEARING: Application for conditional use permit for 314 Pennsylvania Avenue.

President Easton asked Cal Cumin to explain the application.

Cal explained the request for conditional use from Jered Scherer, the owner of the Smith Funeral Home located on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Third Street. He would like to demolish the old house and to extend the parking lot northward. There was no opposition at the Planning Board's public hearing on the conditional use application. The Planning Board requested that a separation be placed between the parking lot and the adjacent lot, so he will install a fence or a hedge or some sort of demarcation between the parking lot and the residence next door.

President Easton opened the public hearing.

President Easton asked three times if there were any proponents. There were none.

President Easton asked three times if there were any opponents. There were none.

President Easton closed the public hearing.

The application for conditional use permit for 314 Pennsylvania Avenue will be on the council agenda on March 21, 2006.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims for the month of February 2006 in the amount of \$315,289.23.**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 02/262006 totaling \$136,561.33.**
- **Receiving the Committee Reports into the Record.**

--Budget/Finance Committee minutes of February 7, 2006 were presented.

--Council Workshop minutes of February 28, 2006 were presented.

President Easton 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 Alderwoman Hart. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: System of the Year Award.

At the Montana Rural Water Conference in Great Falls recently, the System of the Year Award was presented to Larry McCann for the City of Laurel. President Easton read the statement made at the presentation and the plaque was passed around for the council to see.

President Easton thanked Larry McCann, the staff, and the council for the efforts which resulted in receiving this award.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Confirmation of Appointments.**

Local CTEP Administrator:

This item was removed from the council agenda.

- **Resolution No. R06-15: A resolution of the City Council of Laurel declaring its support and adoption of the Yellowstone County Community Wildfire Protection Plan as an amendment to the Yellowstone County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.**

Motion by Alderman Poehls to approve Resolution No. R06-15, seconded by Alderman Mace. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R06-16: Resolution of the City Council to create a new position called the City Planner and to adopt a job description for the City Planner position.**

Motion by Alderman Fritzler to approve Resolution No. R06-16, seconded by Alderwoman Hart. There was no public comment.

Alderman Dickerson asked regarding the proposed salary and timeline to fill the city planner position.

Perry stated that further discussion is needed before the proposal is brought forward, and he has suggestions regarding the salary and the timing. The council will review the proposal after the details are worked out.

Alderman Poehls asked if the job description included the suggested changes received from the Planning Department in Billings.

Perry stated that the final job description was attached to his memorandum of March 6, 2006 regarding the City Planner II Position Description, which included three changes recommended by the Planning Department in Billings.

A vote was taken on the motion to approve Resolution No. R06-16. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R06-17: A resolution accepting the bid and authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with Industrial Communications and Electronics for an Enhanced 9-1-1 Dispatch System for the FAP building.**

Motion by Alderwoman Hart to approve Resolution No. R06-17, seconded by Alderman Poehls. There was no public comment.

Alderwoman Johnson recently toured the third floor of Granite Tour downtown Billings where 911 calls are received and she was quite impressed with the state-of-the-art electronic equipment.

A vote was taken on the motion to approve Resolution No. R06-17. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R06-18: Budget amendment resolution to increase revenues and appropriations for Enhanced 9-1-1 equipment purchase.**

Motion by Alderman Poehls to approve Resolution No. R06-18, seconded by Alderman Stamper. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R06-19: Resolution correcting Resolution No. R05-78, which selected JTL Group, Inc. for the completion of the East First Street improvements project and authorized the Mayor to sign a contract for completion of such project.**

Motion by Alderwoman Johnson to approve Resolution No. R06-19, seconded by Alderman Fritzler. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R06-20: A resolution adopting a Mission Statement including a City Motto, and a list of values for officials and employees of the City of Laurel.**

Motion by Alderman Stamper to approve Resolution No. R06-20, seconded by Alderman Poehls. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R06-21: Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with Zee Creative, a web design firm, for design, creation, launch and hosting of a City web site.**

Motion by Alderman Dickerson to approve Resolution No. R06-21, seconded by Alderman Stamper. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

- **Resolution No. R06-22: Resolution of the City Council approving the Development Agreement negotiated by city staff and Laurel School District No. 7.**

Motion by Alderman Mace to approve Resolution No. R06-22, seconded by Alderwoman Hart. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

- Review of Monthly Reports: Police, Fire, Ambulance, and Code Enforcement: None.

Alderman Poehls informed the council about a presentation on Foundations for Future Economic Success in Billings on March 17th. The *Billings Gazette* is sponsoring the presentation by Dr. Larry Swanson of the University of Montana.

Alderman Dickerson thanked Sam Painter for the information regarding flagpole annexations.

President Easton stated that the information on flagpole annexations would be discussed at the council workshop on March 14th.

At a recent Big Sky Economic Development Authority meeting, Alderwoman Johnson heard the Billings High School Planning Board give a presentation regarding space issues. The Board is considering moving the adult education program out of the Lincoln Center. Jim Reno, the commissioner, does not think that should happen. Alderwoman Johnson encouraged the council members to contact the Billings City Council members regarding this issue before a decision is made.

The Fourth of July Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 9th, will be rescheduled at a later date.

The Public Works Committee will not meet on March 13th.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Alderman Poehls to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Alderman Dickerson. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All eight aldermen/women present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Cindy Allen, Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 21st day of March, 2006.

Kenneth E. Olson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Mary K. Embleton, Clerk-Treasurer