

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

March 1, 2011

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 March 1, 2011.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Kate Hart     | Doug Poehls     |
| Chuck Rodgers | Mark Mace       |
| Tom Nelson    | Chuck Dickerson |
|               | Norm Stamper    |

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Emelie Eaton

**OTHER STAFF PRESENT:**

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Brooke Baracker | Kurt Markegard |
| Shirley Ewan    |                |

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

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

**MINUTES:**

Motion by Council Member Rodgers to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2011, as presented, seconded by Council Member Hart. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

- **Claims for the month of February 2011 in the amount of 176,870.99.**  
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 02/20/2011 totaling \$155,261.64.**
- **Receiving the Committee Reports into the Record.**
  - Budget/Finance Committee minutes of February 15, 2011 were presented.
  - Council Workshop minutes of February 22, 2011 were presented.
  - Tree Board minutes of October 21, 2011, November 18, 2010, and January 20, 2011 were presented.

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

Motion by Council Member Hart to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Council Member Mace. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members 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. R11-17: A resolution awarding a three-year contract with Olness and Associates for auditing services through fiscal year ending 2013 and authorizing the Mayor to sign said contract for the City of Laurel.**

Motion by Council Member Hart to approve Resolution No. R11-17, seconded by Council Member Nelson. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R11-18: A resolution of the City Council authorizing the City to participate in a Surplus Purchase Program with the State of Montana Property and Supply Bureau.**

Motion by Council Member Poehls to approve Resolution No. R11-18, seconded by Council Member Mace. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R11-19: A resolution awarding the bid and authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with Titan Machinery for the purchase of a street sweeper for the City of Laurel's Public Works Department.**

Motion by Council Member Mace to approve Resolution No. R11-19, seconded by Council Member Hart. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Resolution No. R11-20: A resolution of the City Council authorizing the Laurel Urban Renewal Agency to procure and retain an architect/engineering firm to assist with the Façade and Technical Assistance Programs.**

Motion by Council Member Dickerson to approve Resolution No. R11-20, seconded by Council Member Poehls. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Ordinance No. O11-03: An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, adopting a technical amendment to Ordinance No. O11-01 to resolve a typographical error in the previously adopted ordinance. First reading.**

Motion by Council Member Nelson to adopt Ordinance No. O11-03, seconded by Council Member Rodgers. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

The public hearing of Ordinance No. O11-03 will be on the council agenda of March 15, 2011.

**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.

Council Member Poehls asked that two items from the Emergency Services Committee be put on the March 8<sup>th</sup> council workshop agenda. The items are the fireworks issue and a change in the animal ordinance.

Council Member Mace thanked the city for putting on the work session last Saturday. He stated that Dan Clark and his assistant did a great job and it was one of the better sessions he has attended.

Mayor Olson stated that Dan Clark and Betsy Webb tried to help the council find the answers to the issues, rather than providing the answers for the council.

Council Member Dickerson agreed with Council Member Mace's comments about the workshop. He suggested that it would be beneficial to have two or three sessions each year.

Council Member Nelson also stated that the retreat was good and a lot of information was presented.

Mayor Olson thanked those that participated and used their time for the benefit of the city on Saturday. One thing that came out of the session was that the council needs to have representatives from the Department of Commerce present information before going forward with the water discussion. Mayor Olson will contact the two individuals to determine some dates to schedule another Saturday session for further discussion.

Mayor Olson asked if the council members had successfully used the new city e-mail accounts. Some have accessed their accounts and others will be doing so soon. If there are any problems, council members should contact the city. The council secretary will continue to send information to the current and new e-mail accounts for a few weeks.

Council Member Nelson explained how to put contacts into the new e-mail accounts.

Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative sent an invitation for a breakfast on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. If a council member is available, the RSVP is due by March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Articles for the *Laurel City Voice* need to be submitted this week. The Park Board and Emergency Services Committee plan to submit articles.

Council Member Nelson stated that, at a recent LURA meeting, a gentleman from the U.S. Department of Agriculture mentioned that \$7,500 grants are available for low-income assistance for energy improvements for homes for the citizens of Laurel. One percent low-interest loans are also available. The gentleman said he could provide some beneficial information, which Council Member Nelson will try to get for the *Laurel City Voice*.

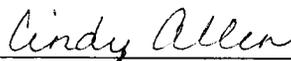
Mayor Olson reported on the progress of the CAO position. A committee is preparing the advertisement for the CAO position, and the advertisement should be published within the next month. Applications will be due in the first or second week of April. Mayor Olson would like the council president and vice-president to participate in the interview process, as well as some community members. The interview process would probably take two to four days, but it would be a positive investment for the city. The candidate should be selected by the middle of May, which would allow the individual six weeks to report for work at the beginning of the budget cycle in the first week of July.

**UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:** None.

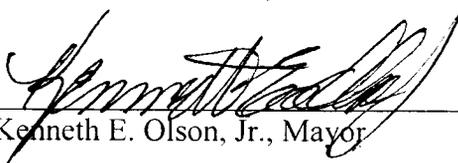
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Council Member Stamper to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Council Member Dickerson. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All seven council members present voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

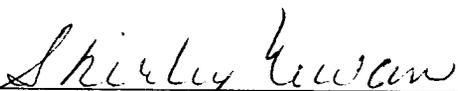
There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

  
Cindy Allen, Council Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011.

  
Kenneth E. Olson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

  
Shirley Ewan, Clerk/Treasurer