

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

October 21, 2008

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 October 21, 2008.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:           Emelie Eaton                   Doug Poehls  
  Kate Hart                       Mark Mace  
  Chuck Dickerson  
  Norm Stamper

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:           Alex Wilkins

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:               Mary Embleton               Bill Sheridan  
  Nancy Rohde                 Kurt Markegard

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 Poehls to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 7, 2008, as presented, seconded by Council Member Mace. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

Laurel Chamber of Commerce: Minutes of September 25, 2008; Agenda of October 9, 2008.

Montana Department of Commerce: Letter of October 6, 2008, regarding Joint Housing Workshop and Consolidated Plan Public Meeting in Billings on October 16, 2008.

Cable Montana: Service Reports for September 2008.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

## CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Clerk/Treasurer Financial Statements for the month of September 2008.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 10/05/2008 totaling \$144,062.44.**
- **Receiving the Committee Reports into the Record.**
  - Budget/Finance Committee minutes of October 7, 2008 were presented.
  - City-County Planning Board minutes of October 2, 2008 were presented.
  - Insurance Committee minutes of October 14, 2008 were presented.
  - Council Workshop minutes of October 14, 2008 were presented.

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

Motion by Council Member Mace to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Council Member Hart. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

**CEREMONIAL CALENDAR:** None.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** None.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT):** None.

**SCHEDULED MATTERS:**

- **Confirmation of Appointments:** None.

- **Fire Department: Report on fire hall mill levy**

Mayor Olson stated that representatives from the Fire Department were unable to attend the meeting and the report would be scheduled for the next regular session.

- **Ordinance No. O08-09: Ordinance creating the Laurel Urban Renewal Agency pursuant to MCA § 7-15-4232 and to codify the ordinance as Title 18 of the Laurel Municipal Code. Second reading.**

Motion by Council Member Hart to adopt Ordinance No. O08-09, seconded by Council Member Eaton. There was no public comment or council discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Resolution No. R08-117: A resolution to modify the previously approved compensation levels for the Volunteer Ambulance Service.**

Motion by Council Member Poehls to approve Resolution No. R08-117, seconded by Council Member Mace. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Resolution No. R08-118: A resolution approving Change Order No. 1 with COP Construction LLC, for labor and materials to assemble and install fire hydrants on the 2008 South Laurel Stormwater and Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project and authorizing the Mayor to execute the attached Change Order No 1 on the City's behalf.**

Motion by Council Member Eaton to approve Resolution No. R08-118, seconded by Council Member Hart. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Resolution No. R08-119: A resolution approving a contract between the City of Laurel and G & G Contractors Services Inc. for asphalt patching work to be performed on City of Laurel streets.**

Motion by Council Member Stamper to approve Resolution No. R08-119, seconded by Council Member Dickerson. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Resolution No. R08-120: A resolution authorizing the disposal of city records.**

Motion by Council Member Dickerson to approve Resolution No. R08-120, seconded by Council Member Stamper. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:** None.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT):** None.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Mayor Olson thanked Sam Painter, who was absent, for providing legal representation. Mayor Olson stated that Nancy Rohde attended for Sam and he thanked her.

Mayor Olson stated that one of the City of Laurel's biggest supporters, Gay Easton, passed away on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Gay was a member of many organizations, including the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department from 1948 to 1978, serving as fire chief for 14 years. He served as Ward 3 council

member on the Laurel City Council from 1974 to 1978 and again from 1990 to the present, and was currently serving as the council president. Gay was currently the supervisor and treasurer of the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District. He also served on the Beartooth RC&D, the Yellowstone River Council, and the City of Laurel Tree Board. Gay was a member of the Laurel Centennial Committee and co-authored the Laurel history book, *The Centennial*, with Emelie Eaton. The walking bridge across the Big Ditch was recently dedicated to Gay in honor of his work for the City of Laurel and Yellowstone County. Gay was very active and well respected. Mayor Olson stated that there was business to attend to in that regard.

As the Mayor of the City of Laurel, he declared that there is a vacancy in the Ward 3 council position. As per Laurel City Code, the vacancy should be filled within thirty days. The vacancy will be posted and advertised in the *Laurel Outlook*. Letters of interest in the Ward 3 council position should be submitted to the council secretary. With Gay's passing, there are other vacancies to be filled. Mayor Olson asked the council for a recommendation from the council to select a council president by the next scheduled council meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The following positions also need to be filled: Public Works Committee chairman; Budget/Finance Committee member; Tree Board member; Big Sky Economic Development Authority Nominating Committee; and the Yellowstone Soil Conservation Board member. Council members interested in serving on the Budget/Finance Committee should contact the mayor or council secretary.

Mayor Olson stated that Gay will be missed, and he asked if any council member wished to speak.

Council Member Hart stated that she hopes that, when she is in her 80's, she will still be contributing to the City of Laurel and can have a week where she attends meetings, such as Gay did the week before he passed away. She stated that Gay was a class act and something to emulate and she will miss him.

Council Member Dickerson stated that Gay encouraged him to run for the city council again and offered support. The short period of time he served with Gay was very educational and quite an honor.

Council Member Mace stated that one thing that strikes him is that the council will be able to fill that seat but probably not those shoes.

Mayor Olson talked with Larry Tanglen earlier today about his view of this part of history. When Larry asked about the biggest change, Mayor Olson summed it up in one word, guidance. He stated that it will be difficult to go forward, but we will.

Council Member Stamper stated that Gay has been an inspiration and an educator to him, and he agreed that we cannot fill those shoes. He stated that he will not be able to attend the meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Eaton stated that Gay was a mentor to all and his guidance will certainly be missed.

Mayor Olson stated that Gay would have wanted city business to go forward. He asked the council for a moment of reflection at this time.

Mayor Olson asked the council for any other discussion pertinent with the city business at hand.

Council Member Poehls stated that the Emergency Services Committee would be notified if a meeting will be scheduled on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Dickerson asked that the presentation on the fire hall levy be scheduled on the workshop agenda on October 28<sup>th</sup>, instead of at the council meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. He also asked that an explanation regarding the disposition of the millings at the city shop be added to the October 28<sup>th</sup> council workshop agenda.

Council Member Stamper stated that the Cemetery Commission had a good meeting last week. He will give a presentation on the proposed master plan at next week's council workshop. At the council workshop on November 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be further discussion before it is presented for council approval, as recommended by the Cemetery Commission, at the council meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Eaton stated that the Yellowstone County Historic Preservation Board met today. The City of Laurel is officially on its 2009 agenda for help with the formation of the downtown historic district. City Planner Caniglia applied for and received a Preserve America Grant to help with the research.

At last week's council workshop, Council Member Eaton commented on information she received at the League of Cities and Towns Conference. She had mentioned a gentleman who had a flare gas generator and spoke about possibly working on a cooperative effort with Cenex. She stated appreciation to staff, who already arranged a meeting with the man on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. The man has also been in contact with environmental engineers at Cenex.

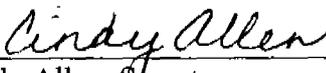
Mayor Olson stated that the funeral services for Gay Easton will be held at the Methodist Church on Friday at 11:00 a.m.

**UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:** None.

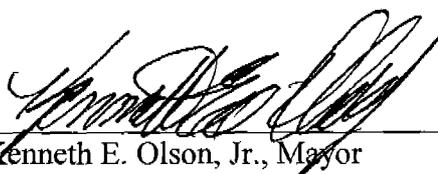
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Council Member Mace 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 six council members present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

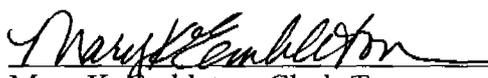
There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

  
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Cindy Allen, Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2008.

  
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Kenneth E. Olson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

  
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Mary K. Embleton, Clerk-Treasurer