

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

April 2, 2013

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 April 2, 2013.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Emelie Eaton Bruce McGee	Mark Mace Chuck Dickerson Bill Mountsier
COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:	Scot Stokes Tom Nelson	Doug Poehls
OTHER STAFF PRESENT:	Kurt Markegard	Chad Hanson

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

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

MINUTES:

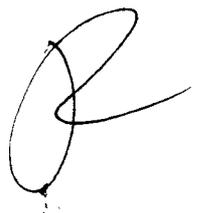
Motion by Council Member Eaton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 19, 2013, as presented, seconded by Council Member McGee. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All five council members present voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PUBLIC HEARING.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims for the month of March 2013 in the amount of \$187,959.50.**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 03/17/2013 totaling \$165,200.85.**
- **Receiving the Committee Reports into the Record.**
 - Budget/Finance Committee minutes of March 19, 2013 were presented.
 - Park Board minutes of March 7, 2013 were presented.
 - Public Works Committee minutes of March 11, 2013 were presented.
 - Cemetery Commission minutes of March 21, 2013 were presented.
 - Council Workshop minutes of March 26, 2013 were presented.
 - Lease Task Force minutes of March 18, 2013 were presented.
 - Tree Board minutes of December 20, 2012 were presented.
 - Library Board minutes of November 13, 2012 were presented.
 - Library Board minutes of December 11, 2012 were presented.
 - Library Board minutes of January 8, 2013 were presented.
 - Library Board minutes of February 12, 2013 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 Dickerson. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All five council members present voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

CEREMONIAL CALENDAR: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Confirmation of Appointments.**
- **Great West Engineering – Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Update**

Chad Hansen, Great West Engineering, distributed some handouts to the council and stated that he was asked to present an update on the wastewater treatment plant upgrade project.

The Wastewater Facilities Plan was first developed in 2003 and was updated in 2009. The original facilities plan evaluated the existing wastewater system, identified deficiencies, looked at alternatives, developed cost estimates and provided recommendations. In 2010, Great West Engineer took over the project and did a white paper to summarize everything that had been done to that date. Since so many costly improvements were needed, the project was broken into phases. Phases 1A and 1B, which were completed in 2004 and 2006 respectively, replaced a major trunk line that runs to the Wastewater Treatment Plant through the agricultural fields south of the interstate. A lot of infiltration and groundwater was being collected, and the two projects reduced the flows to the wastewater treatment plant by a million gallons per day during the summer irrigation season. It was a big deal because the city was paying to treat the irrigation water. Phase 2A1 was completed in 2010 and included replacing the Elm Lift Station, rehabilitating the Village Lift Station, installing a new water main to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in anticipation of extending it further to the east and providing fire flows, and improved grit removal at the head works facility at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The completed phases were done with a compilation of available grants and loans through the State Revolving Fund, and they were broken down to be the most advantageous. The next phases are Phase 2A2 and Phase 2B. Phase 2A2 includes retrofitting the existing rotating biological contact chambers to a full biological nutrient removal facility (BNR). This includes the addition of high speed turbo blowers, which are more efficient and provide for a better process. A rotary drum thickener needs to be added for the sludge because the sludge with the BNR is lighter and fluffier and has to be thickened in order to utilize the existing digesters. Great West recommended adding Phase 2B for ultraviolet disinfection in order to meet the pending permit limits sooner rather than later. The July 1, 2013 deadline will not be met, but it will be close. Phase 2C, as identified in the facilities plan, included maintenance work that staff has worked on steadily and the majority of it is done.

Chad explained the biggest driver of the \$6 million upgrades at the treatment plant. He referred to a DEQ letter that summarized the violations of the city's discharge permit since 2007. The city is essentially in violation every month and cannot meet the existing discharge permit limits or the pending effluent limits on E. coli. Great West designed the improvements to address future nutrient removal limits that are not in the current permit, which is total nitrogen of 10 parts per million and total phosphorus of 1. Great West is confident that any pending and future regulations in a 20-year window could be met. Currently, the 10 in 1 DEQ nutrient removal limit has to be reevaluated every three years because the limits of technology will not treat beyond that now. The long design process has been completed and the bidding process has begun. Pre-bid is on April 11th and the bid opening is on April 25th.

Chad reviewed some excerpts from the specs and plans, including: Grading and Paving Plan & Yard Process Piping Plan Index Sheet; Anaerobic-Anoxic Basin Plan; Aeration Basin Lower Level Plan; Blower Building Upper Level Improvement Plan; Blower Building Lower Level Improvements Plan; UV Disinfection Channel Improvements Plan; Thickener Building Lower Level Plan; and Thickener Building Upper Level Plan.

Chad explained that the project is behind schedule as DEQ approval took longer than anticipated. Plans were initially submitted to DEQ last June and the process has been back and forth. The project received approval, the general contractors have already been prequalified, and the bidding process should be somewhat streamlined.

There was discussion regarding the city's eligibility for a 25% reduction in the annual fee, the design of the project to meet possible future regulations and the 20-year growth projection, the 20-year lifespan from 2015 to 2035, DEQ penalties, cost savings by refurbishing some existing buildings, the pre-bid and bidding process, and the expectation that construction will begin after July 4th.

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

Council Member Mace met with Jolene Reich, the engineer that worked on the previous Park Master Plan. The Park Board wants to proceed with bringing new parks into the city, providing maintenance funds for the parks, and finding out the public's opinions and ideas. The Park Board will meet on Thursday at the swimming pool at 5:30 p.m.

Council Member Dickerson asked for updates regarding the left turn signal on Main Street to First Avenue and the speed limits on East Railroad at the next council workshop.

Council Member Mountsier stated that a neighbor approached him about putting some crosswalks on Maryland Avenue for the children. He asked how to approach that issue.

Mayor Olson suggested that he contact the Public Works Director and the CAO.

Council Member McGee stated that the Lease Task Force met last night and the minutes should be available for discussion at the next council workshop.

Council Member Eaton asked who put up the sign on Town Pump's property at the corner of Southwest 4th and South First Avenue.

Mayor Olson stated that the police department put the reader board sign there.

Council Member Eaton commented that she was happy with the sign because it implies that all Cenex traffic should be diverted to Railroad.

Council Member Eaton mentioned that the maps at the council tables are five years old and asked if the maps could be updated.

There was discussion regarding the Local Government Review Commission's redistribution of election wards in 1996, the current maps dated February 2007 and March 2008, and the need to get updated maps.

Mayor Olson spoke regarding today's conference call with FEMA. As soon as the CLOMAR is finalized, it will be submitted to FEMA for review. FEMA will make modifications before funding the project for stabilization of the south bank.

Mayor Olson asked Kurt Markegard to update the council regarding the temporary diversion ditch project.

Kurt stated that, in the last couple weeks, Donnes, Inc. removed the sediment underneath the bridges and built a ditch or canal to feed the old intake. The work was completed last Wednesday. The city tested it and backed up the water and there was water going to the old intake. Because the old intake was high and dry, groundwater had seeped in and frozen solid. Over the last couple days, the staff started cracking it open and bringing a little bit of water in to feed through there and into the treatment plant, so it is online. Since the intake was decommissioned in 2003, it has had ice in there until late June. The city is using the 2003 intake and the 1950 intake at the same time. The city originally had an Army Corps mandate to remove the rock diversion on the south bank by January

23rd, but that could not happen because of the ice jam. Great West requested an extension and it was granted until March 23rd. Since then, the city requested an extension until May. Now it is early April and Donnes wanted to start removing the riprap on the south bank today, so the city allowed them to remove a little bit of it. A change order will be presented to the council soon. Donnes removed a significant amount of sediment, which is now located at the city's container site north of town. The city has requested permission from the Army Corps to leave the rock at the bottom of the river because of the extreme drought and the concerns regarding flow. The 2003 intake is good at cleaning itself with air scour, but the old intake required staff to clean it four times a shift. Kurt wants to keep the 2003 intake viable as long as possible and does not want to operate the old intake under the 1950 technology. The city is trying to ensure that there will be plenty of water coming down the ditch.

Mayor Olson stated that staff has been working to prepare the management budget for the council's consideration and hope to have it completed before June 30th.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

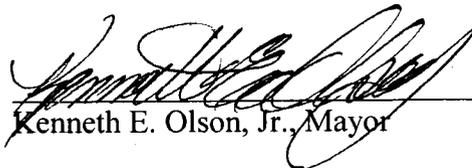
ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Dickerson to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Council Member Eaton. There was no public comment or council discussion. A vote was taken on the motion. All five council members present voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

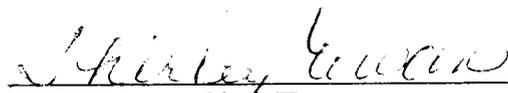
There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.


Cindy Allen, Council Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 16th day of April, 2013.


Kenneth E. Olson, Jr., Mayor

Attest:


Shirley Ewan, Clerk/Treasurer