

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

November 17, 2015

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 Mark Mace at 6:32 p.m. on November 17, 2015.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Emelie Eaton Doug Poehls
 Chuck Dickerson Richard Herr
 Bill Mountsier

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce McGee Scot Stokes
 Tom Nelson

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: None

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

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

MINUTES:

Motion by Council Member Dickerson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 3, 2015, as presented, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Laurel Chamber of Commerce: Minutes of October 8, 2015; Agenda for November 12, 2015.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS.

PUBLIC HEARING.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Clerk/Treasurer Financial Statements for the month of October 2015.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 11/08/2015 totaling \$182,876.05.**
- **Receiving the Committee/Board/Commission Reports into the Record.**
 - Budget/Finance Committee minutes of November 3, 2015 were presented.
 - Park Board minutes of November 5, 2015 were presented.
 - City-County Planning Board minutes of November 5, 2015 were presented.
 - Council Workshop minutes of November 10, 2015 were presented.
 - Emergency Services Committee minutes of October 26, 2015 were presented.
 - Laurel Library Board minutes of September 8, 2015 were presented.
 - Laurel Airport Authority minutes of June 23, 2015 were presented.
 - Laurel Airport Authority minutes of July 28, 2015 were presented.
 - Laurel Airport Authority minutes of August 25, 2015 were presented.



--Laurel Airport Authority minutes of September 22, 2015 were presented.

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

Motion by Council Member Eaton to approve the consent items as presented, seconded by Council Member Poehls. 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.**
- **Presentation regarding fiber optics by USA Communications**

Richard Miller, Vice-President of Operations for USA Communications in Kearney, Nebraska, came tonight to answer any questions or any concerns about their proposal for a permit to start putting some underground cable in town.

Mayor Mace asked if there was anything regarding the Public Works Department.

Richard stated that nothing has been brought to his attention. They would like to get started and they sent in an application for a permit to start burying fiber down the main drag here in town. When he arrived yesterday, he got the Public Works card. He is not that familiar with Laurel right now and has been doing some driving around to try to understand the city, as this is his first time to Montana.

Mayor Mace stated that he assumed the Public Works Department has something on that, so he should check that out.

Richard stated that they do.

Council Member Herr asked if USA Communications was putting in the fiber optics for the school system.

Richard was not sure but said it did not sound familiar. He is only aware that they are doing the fiber line that goes down the main street in town to offer faster internet for the City of Laurel.

Mayor Mace asked if there were any other questions from the council.

Richard stated that he would provide his business card and he encouraged anyone to contact him with questions.

- **Resolution No. R15-108: A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with the City's Local 303 Union.**

Motion by Council Member Mountsier to approve Resolution No. R15-108, 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.

- **Resolution No. R15-109: A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Lease Agreement with Laurel Chamber of Commerce for the Laurel Chamber building.**

Motion by Council Member Poehls to approve Resolution No. R15-109 with an annual lease amount of \$100.00, seconded by Council Member Mountsier. 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.

- **Resolution No. R15-110: A resolution to approve a non-exclusive franchise agreement between the City of Laurel and USA Communications for installation, construction,**

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reconstruction, operation, and maintenance of a telecommunications system within the City of Laurel, Montana.

Motion by Council Member Dickerson to approve Resolution No. R15-110, seconded by Council Member Poehls. 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.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (ONE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Council Member Poehls stated that the Emergency Services Committee will meet on Monday, November 23rd, to discuss how to go forward with the mill levy issues.

Council Member Dickerson stated that, it has been brought to his attention that a couple of articles in the *Laurel Outlook* in the past couple weeks made the city look irresponsible and that failing to sign some papers caused the city to lose some grants. Apparently Dan Villa was called after the council meeting on November 3rd and he made some statements. Council Member Dickerson understands that not everything is as it was printed, which he stated is not the *Outlook's* fault. He requested that, at the next council workshop, the CAO or Mayor respond to the allegations of the missed deadlines and misunderstandings in order to give residents some peace of mind that the city is doing its best to reconcile the issues.

Council Member Eaton asked for an update regarding the fire and ambulance director position at the next workshop.

UNSCHEDULED MATTERS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Herr 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.

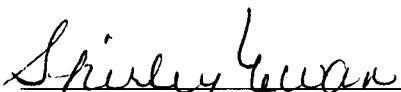
There being no further business to come before the council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.


Cindy Allen, Council Secretary

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 1st day of December, 2015.


Mark A. Mace, Mayor

Attest:


Shirley Ewan, Clerk/Treasurer