

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

NOVEMBER 24, 2020

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 Tom Nelson at 6:35 p.m. on November 2020.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Emelie Eaton	Heidi Sparks
Bruce McGee	Richard Herr
Richard Klose	Irv Wilke (@ 6:55 p.m.)

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Scot Stokes	Don Nelson
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OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Nick Altonaga, Planning Director

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

Mayor Nelson asked the Council to observe a moment of silence.

MINUTES:

Motion by Council Member McGee to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 10, 2020, as presented, seconded by Council Member Klose. 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:

- Beartooth RC&D November Correspondence.
- Laurel 2021 Urban Allocation Correspondence.

COUNCIL DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- Growth Management Plan

Mayor Nelson stated this is the time and place set for the public hearing on the City of Laurel's Growth Management Plan.

Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for public comment and asked that Staff present the item.

Nick Altonaga, Planning Director, stated this is the final version of the Growth Management Policy. This project started about a year ago, in January of 2020. Since then, he has put a lot of work into it. Various groups have reviewed this plan, including Beartooth RC&D and the City/County Planning Board. The goals and objectives are set up to move the City forward in the next 4 to 5 years. This plan should need updated in the future and not a full overhaul. KLJ has been very helpful throughout this process. They assisted with some of the background research.

Mayor Nelson stated that copies of the rules governing the public hearing were posted in the council chambers.

Mayor Nelson asked three times if there were any proponents.

Steve Simonson, Beartooth RC&D, stated he had reviewed this plan is in full support of the plan.

Mayor Nelson asked three times if there were any opponents. There were none.

Mayor Nelson asked Staff to respond to any relevant questions. There were none.

Mayor Nelson closed the public hearing.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Claims entered through November 20, 2020, totaling \$48,764.18**
A complete listing of the claims and their amounts is on file in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 11/1/2020 totaling \$198,495.03.**
- **Approval of Payroll Register for PPE 11/15/2020 totaling \$202,286.64.**
- **Council Workshop Minutes of November 17, 2020.**

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 Klose. 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:

- Budget/Finance Committee Minutes of October 27, 2020.
- Budget/Finance Committee Minutes of November 10, 2020.
- Tree Board Minutes of October 15, 2020.
- Public Works Committee Minutes of October 19, 2020.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (THREE-MINUTE LIMIT): None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- **Resolution No. R20-78: A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the submission of a Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Planning Project Grant Application and to Commit the Matching Funds Required by the Creating Agency.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R20-78, seconded by Council Member Klose. 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. R20-79: Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement With Beartooth RC&D Economic Development District.**

Motion by Council Member Herr to approve Resolution No. R20-79, seconded by Council Member Sparks. 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. R20-80: Resolution Of Intent By The City Council To Adopt The 2020 City Of Laurel Growth Policy Creating A Thirty (30) Day Public Comment Period.**

Motion by Council Member Sparks to approve Resolution No. R20-80, 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.

- **Resolution No. R20-81: A Resolution Granting A Variance To The Laurel Subdivision Ordinance Development Requirements To Approve The Proposed Krieghoff Loop As Currently Designed To Not Align And Continue The Existing Right-Of-Way For Mulberry Avenue Located South Of The Proposed Goldberg Sporting Estates Subdivision**

Motion by Council Member Klose to approve Resolution No. R20-81, seconded by Council Member Eaton.

Scott Aspenlieder, Performance Engineering, and representative for the developer, stated he would keep this short as they had a lengthy public hearing on this. This variance here, in particular, is most important to the layout of our development and our subdivision. We feel like we did the right thing in aligning that intersection with the large commercial approach as opposed to the dead-end street of Mulberry. We got adequate separation to not cause traffic interference with the crossing of lanes and those types of things. The way we feel is that it is the safest and does meet all the requirements outside the direct alignment with Mulberry. It will be best for the development, best for the neighbors, and best for the community from a safety perspective. He appreciates Council's consideration on this and hopes that Council approved this request.

Council asked for clarification if City/County Planning Board did not recommend approval for this variance. It was clarified that was what was brought forward in the public hearing.

Council questioned how much of a delay there would be should this variance not be approved. It was clarified that it would most likely delay the project about a month. Redesigning the water and sewer connections will be the most time-consuming adjustment.

A vote was taken on the motion. All six council members present voted nay. Motion failed 0-6.

- **Resolution No. R20-82: A Resolution Granting A Variance From The City's Subdivision Ordinance Development Requirements To Approve A Thirty (30) Foot Right-Of-Way Dedication Along Yard Office Road And A Fifty-Six (56) Foot Wide Private Internal Road For Goldberg Sporting Estates Subdivision 4th Filing.**

Motion by Council Member Eaton to approve Resolution No. R20-82, seconded by Council Member Klose.

Scott Aspenlieder, Performance Engineering and representative for the developer, stated as he outlined last time with respect to the 30-foot right-of-way dedication. As it's currently constituted, he doesn't feel like there is even a variance request here. Mr. Altonaga acknowledged there is an 80-foot right-of-way, which is your design standards and subdivision regulations for the classification of Yard Office Road technically and legally; I don't think there are any grounds for a variation as it sits. But what we are willing to do is dedicate an additional 30 foot; we want to make this a safe intersection and safe transaction as we enter our subdivision. It's only good for us as well as it is for the public. I think technically, legally, we do not have grounds to have to dedicate anything because we meet the requirements as it sits today. So, what we ask for today is a compromise. The Planning Department is asking for a 40-foot right-of-way dedication. What we have offered to give up is 30 feet because we know we can design Yard Office Road with all utilities and turn lanes that will be required to turn onto the property. We don't feel like there is a need for an additional ten. The want for one does not justify the request. And looking into the future does not justify what you are asking for. On that subject, we have given more than what we legally have to. He asks for your consideration on the 30-foot right-of-way dedication.

As for the internal road, the plan to build this road to City standards. A 56-foot wide road is plenty for two-way travel, plus street parking on both sides. Plus, it is done all over Yellowstone County and is easily navigable. We also do not want something that would be difficult to navigate, or the community navigate it would be a detractor for the people and the businesses we want to come here. Again, we want to do the right thing here. We ask that you waive it to make it a workable situation. What we have asked for does not create any problems or harm to the community. I would again request your approval and consideration for this variance request.

There was no 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 wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council gave their condolences to Riley Hutchens' Family.

Council asked for an update on West Railroad at an upcoming Council Workshop.

MAYOR UPDATES:

Mayor Nelson echoed Council and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Nelson stated there are no agenda items for next week's Workshop. Because there are no items to discuss, the Workshop and following Council meetings have been canceled.

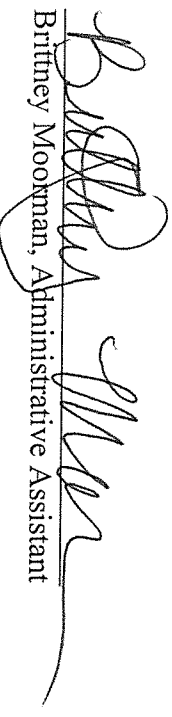
UNSCHEDULED MATTERS:

Mayor Nelson declared May 4, 2021, as Arbor Day and read the Arbor Day proclamation.

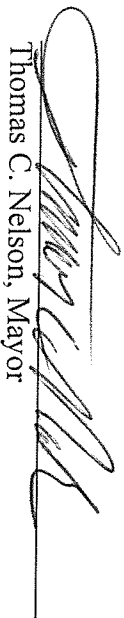
ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Eaton to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Council Member Klose. 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 7:13 p.m.


Britney Mookman, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Mayor and passed by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 22nd day of December 2020.


Thomas C. Nelson, Mayor

Attest:


Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer

