

Board Meeting Minutes
Board of Alderman
June 11, 2024, 6:00 PM
City of Laurie

Mayor, Hugh Smith, called the meeting to order at 6:00PM and then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were as follows: Mayor Hugh Smith, Aldermen Pam Folker, Gary Sundstrom, Justin Chorpening, Heather Link, Chief of Police Mike Nienhuis, Sergeant Steve McQueen, George Roberson, Nick Shoemate, EMA Bill Dimarsico, Jerry Swearingen, Parks Director James Bryant, City Clerk Cathy Daniels, City Attorney Andrew Renken, Code Enforcement Jim Russell, Brenda Carroll, Vicky Martin.

Citizens' Communications

N/A

Mayor's Communications

N/A

Consent Agenda

Mayor Hugh Smith asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Alderman Pam Folker made the motion. It was seconded by Alderman Heather Link. Motion carried.

Department Head Reports

EVENTS-Events Coordinator James Bryant reported the garage sale event at the park was not well attended by vendors or customers. He suggested it not be done next year.

The bathrooms at the park were closed again due to vandalism. There will now be passcodes for regular park users. Hydrants will be locked and if someone needs to purchase water, they will need to go to the Public Works office between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday. He also reported individuals were dumping personal trash at the park and he will be working on a solution to this problem. He said he did have a family at the park that were helping clean up debris around the area and was using the shower facilities. Alderman Gary Sundstrom questioned if they would be covered under the city's insurance in case of an accident.

Met with Joe's Ole Fashioned Fun Carnival on new location for the fair.

Met with Tony Shaw who is the Pastor of First Baptist Church and the church is going to sponsor and help with the children's games at Hillbilly Hollow this year at the fair and starting Friday, June 14 they will be showing Christian-based movies free of charge on the main stage at the park.

James met with Tri-County Lodging for a funding request for the Enchanted Village of Lights in the amount of \$5,000. They agreed to make the donation if the city would apply a lodging tax for the City of Laurie's campers.

James was uncertain whether he would make the deadline for the recycled park bench grant. He felt confident he would be better informed when the next grant cycle came around and would apply then. Alderman Pam Folker question whether the grant could be used to place benches around the Freedom Rock. He was also going to explore surface grants for the park.

James also stated he met with the insurance adjuster at the park for the hail damage. There were nine buildings that were examined with six of the building needing roofs to be replaced and three buildings that the city would receive partial payment.

The cook shacks are de-winterized and had several broken water lines and a bad water heater. They are in the process of being repaired and cleaned out.

James stated public works had notified him and the RV sewer project would more than likely be done in the fall. Mayor Hugh Smith corrected him and stated the Public Works Department would begin soon on the project.

Water- Public Works Manager Dean Smith was absent from the meeting but delivered his report to the mayor to distribute. In the report it stated there had been a leak on Bass Point and Wood Crest repaired. The chlorine scale in well #3 had failed and needed to be replaced. He reported the public works department was going to replace the fire hydrant on the ballpark property due to a faulty valve. Customer Gary Bartley had a faulty meter discovered when his utility bill had increased.

Sewer-Dean's report stated there had been four red lights, three residential grinders and one lift station with issues. Christian Church needed a new start kit and Subway needed a new motor and floats. There was a home on Highway O that needed a new start kit. 135 overload tripping that was not set correctly. Enviornline Company repaired it all.

Streets-Dean's report reflected the consent to proceed had been sent to Capital Paving for the asphalt project. There was ditch erosion on Elks Road causing roadway to be undermined. The Elks Lodge reached out to public works because the issue was undermining their overflow parking lot as well. They donated all the rock to re-line the ditch with the street department spreading the rock.

Code Enforcement-Jim Russell reported he had received six calls with one being from the golf course.

Collections-

Kristal Davidson was absent from the meeting, and due to the software issues with the utility billing, there were no reports to give.

Police Chief Nienhuis-

Chief Nienhuis briefly reviewed his statistics for the month of May with 211 calls, ninety-three stops, fifty-four citations, thirty-nine warnings, seven lockouts, and two male and zero female arrests. He also reported the City of Laurie was now a National Weather Service weather city station.

He also reported there had been some issues on Water Fall Dr. and Hemi Lane behind Fastlane where the driveway was being blocked by a parked vehicle. Alderman Pam Folker inquired if the Memorial Holiday was busy, and the Chief reported there was heavy traffic but not many calls.

EMA Bill DiMarsico distributed the Local Emergency Operations Plan on a thumb drive for the board.

Unfinished Business-

1. Bartlett & West sent in a report for the CDBG grant for the maintenance building with a new cost of \$601,000. After discussion, Alderman Justin Chorpene made the motion to table a decision until

bids could be obtained outside of the grant. Alderman Pam Folker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Alderman Pam Folker brought back the discussion from May's board meeting concerning the few establishments still in the city that allowed smoking in their buildings. She cited a few statutes concerning this issue, but City Attorney Andrew Renken stated if the city adopted an Ordinance, it would override the statutes.

Alderman Heather Link stated that she was torn with this issue stating she felt the business owners should be able to do what they wanted if they owned the business.

3. Kyle from Bartlett and West had sent a request to have a public hearing on June 18, 2024, about the upcoming drinking water project. There are several customers they need to obtain easements from so the project can begin. He wanted the board to agree on an amount that could be offered to the individuals signing the easements, if need be. Alderman Gary Sundstrom made the motion to offer \$3,000 per acre if the customer requested the easement to be purchased. It was seconded by Alderman Heather Link. Motion carried.

Gary Sundstrom made the motion to have the contractors stay in the right-of-way easement. It was seconded by Alderman Justin Chorpening. Motion carried.

4. The board began the discussion of a possible pickleball court for Laurie Park. Events coordinator, James Bryant, had several suggestions. Extend the concrete of the teen pavilion by several feet and eventually build a civic center over the courts. Alderman Heather Link questioned if there were any grant funds available at this time. James reminded the board there was \$100,000.00 left over from the sale of the ballpark. There was no decision made at this time.

New Business

1. Mayor Hugh Smith executed the first reading of Ordinance 2024-7 which is an Ordinance amending Article II of Chapter 405-zoning regulations of the municipal code to add a new zoning classification of section 405.155 Laurie Recreation District. Alderman Pam Folker made the motion. It was seconded by Alderman Gary Sundstrom. The vote was as follows: Alderman Justin Chorpening-yea, Alderman Heather Link-yea, Alderman Pam Foler-yea, and Alderman Gary Sundstrom-yea.
2. Mayor Hugh Smith executed the second reading of Ordinance 2024-7 which is an Ordinance to amending Article II of Chapter 405-zoning regulations of the municipal code to add a new zoning classification of section 405.155 Laurie Recreation District. Alderman Gary Sundstrom made the motion. It was seconded by Alderman Justin Chorpening. The vote was as follows: Alderman Justin Chorpening-yea, Alderman Heather Link-yea, Alderman Pam Foler-yea, and Alderman Gary Sundstrom-yea.
3. Shawn Keber from KRMS had contacted City Clerk Cathy Daniels to inquire about live broadcasting the City Council meetings. None of the aldermen were interested in this concept at this time.

2024 Merchant/Liquor Licenses-

City Clerk-

City Clerk Cathy Daniels reviewed the financials with the board and there were no questions.

Andrew Renken, City Attorney-

City Attorney Andrew Renken informed the board there were several things Omnigo Software was still trying to correct, which is the software the police department was using for their citations.

Board Reports-

Enhancement- Alderman Pam Folker stated the last enhancement meeting was on May 3, 2024. The artist that would begin painting the rock sometime in October. Pam is still working on getting a gazebo to cover the rock once it is done. She also mentioned there was a Go Fund Me page where tickets for a gun raffle could be purchased that would benefit the rock.

Tree City-**Mayor's Report-**

With no other business to come before the Aldermen, Alderman Pam Folker made the motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Alderman Heather Link. All were in favor and motion carried.

Cathy Daniels
City Clerk

Hugh Smith
Mayor