

Board Meeting Minutes
Board of Alderman
April 9, 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, Jeff Chorpening, Cecilia Bish, Justin Chorpening, Heather Link, Public Works Manager Dean Smith, Chief of Police Mike Nienhuis, Sgt. Steve McQueen, Parks Director James Bryant, City Clerk Cathy Daniels, City Attorney Andrew Renken, EMA Bill DiMarsico, Code Enforcement Jim Russell, Brenda Carroll, Judge Grantham and Tara, Joyce and Chuck Chorpening, JJ LaPlant, Tony Edgar, Randy Washburn, Curt Kempf, Kevin Mathis, Dave Gash and Assistant City Clerk, Krystal Davidson.

Citizens' Communications

Mayor's Communications

J.J. LaPlant was present and gave a very detailed presentation about putting up a scoreboard on the soccer field. He is trying to obtain his Eagle Scout badge. He stated it would be no cost to the city. Alderman Bish made the motion to let him proceed. It was seconded by Alderman Folker. All were in favor and motion carried.

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 Cecilia Bish. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

1. Kyle from Bartlett & West sent a letter to the board on reducing the size of the public works building to reduce the cost.
2. The CDBG grant is \$500,000. The PAR report came in from Bartlett & West for \$1,140,000. The city will not be able to cover the difference, so City Clerk Cathy Daniels agreed to consult with Kyle and have him prepare another PAR within the \$500,000 range.
3. Two of the attorneys from the gaming machines sent in their ordinance suggestion to accommodate the city so they may continue to operate. The board had not had a chance to look over the ordinances, so a decision was tabled.

Mayor Hugh Smith entertained the first reading of Ordinance 2024-5 which declares the results of the Municipal Election held on April 2, 2024. Alderman Pam Folker made the motion to accept the election results. It was seconded by Alderman Gary Sundstrom. The vote was as follows: Alderman Pam Folker-yea, Alderman Cecilia Bish-yea, Alderman Gary Sundstrom-yea, Alderman Jeff Chorpening-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Hugh Smith entertained the second reading of Ordinance 2024-5 which declares the results of the Municipal Election held on April 2, 2024. Alderman Gary Sundstrom made the motion to accept the election results. It was seconded by Alderman Pam Folker. The vote was as follows: Alderman Pam Folker-yea, Alderman Cecilia Bish-yea, Alderman Gary Sundstrom-yea, Alderman Jeff Chorpening-yea. Motion carried.

At this time Judge Grantham was present and swore in Hugh Smith as Mayor and Justin Chorpene as Ward I Alderman.

Mayor Hugh Smith asked for a motion to appoint Heather Link to the vacant seat of Ward II Alderman. Gary Sundstrom made the motion. It was seconded by Alderman Pam Folker. All were in favor and motion carried.

Department Head Reports

EVENTS-Events Coordinator James Bryant reported the Easter Egg Hunt was a success with a few glitches. He stated he had kids come from Warsaw to do clean-up at the park. He also stated there would be a small rendezvous in April. He said plans were moving forward on the fair preparation and the garage sale event already had several spaces sold. He had received bids from Public Works Manager Dean Smith to install sewer lines and connections for camp sites at the city park with the cost being approximately \$6,400. The waterwheel repairs would be about \$200.00, and the public works department agreed to do it. James reported he had attempted to contact Roof Masters again to repair the roof on the main stage. Alderman Pam Folker made the motion to move forward with the sewer at the camp sites. Alderman Gary Sundstrom seconded the motion. All were in favor. Alderman Heather Link made the motion to move forward with the water wheel repair. Alderman Pam Folker seconded the motion. All were in favor. Alderman Pam Folker made the motion to replace the remaining lights at the park. Alderman Gary Sundstrom seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Water- Public Works Manager Dean Smith distributed his report. He said there had been a water leak on Laurie Heights Drive where they had to cut the blacktop to make repairs. He also stated there were two leaks on Bass Point that were scheduled for repair.

Sewer-Public Works Manager Dean Smith told the board they had three red lights in residential grinders this month with one needing a new grinder motor, one had a start kit replaced and one needed a new float. Enviornline Company replaced the grinder motor and public works repaired the remaining two. He stated they were still waiting on parts for the drum filter and progress is still being made on maintenance issues. They are emptying digester #2 for baffle repairs for the aeration system.

Streets-Public Works Manager Dean Smith said the bid package had been completed and is currently under review by City Attorney Andrew Renken with bid opening on May 8th at 11:00 am. He will also have the winning bidder patch asphalt on Laurie Heights as well.

Code Enforcement-Jim Russell reported the construction on Mayerling was now in compliance and they were moving forward.

Collections-

Kristal Davidson reported thirty past dues and door hangers with only one shut-off due to the customer passing away.

Police Chief Nienhuis-

Chief Nienhuis briefly reviewed his statistics for the month March with 210 calls, 120 stops, sixty-six citations, fifty-nine warnings, five lockouts, two female arrest and 2 male arrests. Officer Shoemate and K-9 Jan searched a vehicle that exposed drugs. The case has been moved to Federal Court.

New Business

1. Jim Rogers was present at the meeting with concerns about two large dogs that had been caught on a video on his property between 3-5 am. He showed the video to the council where the two dogs had killed his cat. The property is 606 N. Main. He also stated the dogs had done other damage to the property. He wanted to bring the issues to the attention of the board.

2. Dave Gash and Kevin Mathis with Classic Outdoor Advertising were present at the meeting to consult with the board about a new 3-sided, electronic billboard they were wanting to construct in the parking lot of Ozark Bait and Tackle. Code Enforcement Jim Russell stated they would not be in compliance with the City of Laurie's current Ordinances, with each face of the billboard being considered one billboard. City Attorney Andrew Renken stated the current Ordinance could be modified, with a Conditional Use Permit being approved until the Ordinance could be approved by the board. Alderman Pam Folker made the motion. It was seconded by Alderman Justin Chorpening. Motion carried.

City Clerk-

City Clerk Cathy Daniels reviewed the financials with the board. The sales tax figures were down \$33,609.32 collectively for the month of February, with that amount coming back for month of March.

Andrew Renken, City Attorney-

N/A

Board Reports-

Enhancement- Alderman Pam Folker let the board know the Patriot Rock was placed.

Tree City- She told the board the City of Laurie was officially Tree City Certified, and the city would be receiving a wall hanging.

Mayor's Report-N/A

At 7:15 PM Alderman Pam Folker made the motion to go into closed session. It was seconded by Alderman Gary Sundstrom. The vote was as follows: Alderman Pam Folker-yea, Alderman Justin Chorpening-yea, Alderman Gary Sundstrom-yea, and Alderman Heather Link-yea.

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

Cathy Daniels
City Clerk

Hugh Smith
Mayor