

Village of Laurium  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 20, 2022

**Present for Roll Call:** Carlson, Erickson, Galbraith, Hrebec, Jenich-Laplander & Sullivan.

**Guests:** Kalen Carlson, Kurt Erkkila, Kara Galbraith, Wesley Pietila, and Ian Raymond and an unidentified person online.

The meeting was called to order in the village council chambers and the GoToMeeting website by President Sullivan at 6:05PM.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Galbraith to approve the **agenda** as presented. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Erickson to approve the **minutes** of the regular November 15, 2022 council meeting and the December 12, 2022 special meeting. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Erickson to approve the **prepaid bills** for November/December 2022 in the amount of \$98,289.58 and approve the payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$38,553.28. Carried 6-0.

#### **Communications to the Council**

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Galbraith to appoint Wesley Pietila to the **vacant council seat**. Carried 6-0. Trustee Pietila was sworn in by the clerk and took his seat.

**Chris Holmes** from UP Engineers & Architects gave more detailed information regarding the EGLE grant for the inventory of the village water lines. Project plans should be in place by May or June. He will attend the January meeting to discuss the planning.

Joshua Harju from UP Engineers & Architects was not present to provide information about the **Spark grants** available for recreation.

Kalen Carlson gave the council an update on the progress of the **Planning Commission**. A first draft of the master plan by Beckett & Raeder was reviewed by the commission. The final version should be ready by February. Communication between the Treasury department and MEDC has been constructive. The RRC status cannot be completed until documents can be posted on the new village website. An application has been submitted for a fellow to help with the implementation of zoning, master plan and economic development. The cost will be covered by grants and fundraising.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Pietila to approve Ian Raymond and Josh Harju to serve as **members** of the planning commission. Carried 7-0. Raymond was sworn in by the clerk.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** In order to not miss bills and for the ease of the new manager, an Excel spreadsheet should be set up to track bills from month to month. The budget for DPW repairs and parts needs to be reviewed to make sure spending is on track.

**Recreation/Parks:** Part time employees are being sought for a few shifts at the arena. Erickson would like to see the arena cleaned well before the mite tournament at the end of January/beginning of February. Floor replacement was discussed. Due to the money that has been built up in the Multi-Rec fund, a motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Pietila to have the Multi-Rec fund reimburse the General fund for plowing at the arena based on the Schedule C rates. Carried 7-0. The Skate with Santa event was well attended and received.

**Public Safety-Police/Fire:** Additional reports with more detail on complaints were available. The grant for training and recruitment will be discussed by the committee. Recommendations will be given at the January meeting.

**Streets/Equipment/Sanitation:** The DPW has concerns with cars being parked on the street overnight and people blowing snow in the street. The department will start looking for equipment to purchase with the millage funding.

**Property/Building/Ordinance:** No report.

**Beautification:** The hanging flower baskets will need to go to Sleeman in April.

**Community Relations:** If anyone needs information posted on social media, requests should be made to Hrebec and Jenich-Laplander. They will discuss with the accounts clerk about posting as well.

### **Unfinished Business**

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Galbraith to increase **garbage rates** to \$12.00/month for residential service effective January 1, 2023. The rate will be reviewed annually. Carried 7-0. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Pietila to appoint Ian Lewis as **village manager**, as soon as he is able to relocate but no later than January 16, 2023. Until the 2023-24 budget is in place, his salary will be covered through the ARPA funds and installment payments to the Water Fund. Carried 7-0.

### **New Business**

In order to generate more revenue, ballot wording for the May election will be written for a **Headlee override** for the General fund operating millage. It will be presented and discussed at the January, 2023 meeting. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Carlson to opt out of **PA152**. It will be addressed during union negotiations next year. A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Carlson to approve the **Credit Card policy** and **Conflict of Interest policy**. Carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

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