

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Present for Roll Call: Carlson, Erickson (online), Hrebec, Jenich-Laplander (online), Schneiderhan and Sullivan.

Absent: Djerf.

Guests: Kalen Carlson, Kurt Erkkila, Robert Kyllonen, Diana Lewitzke, Kim Robbins Jr, Daniel Woirol and six unidentified online.

The meeting was called to order in the village council chambers and the GoToMeeting website by President Sullivan at 6:00PM.

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

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Hrebec to approve the **minutes** of the December 21, 2021, council meeting. Carried 6-0.

The **prepaid bills** for December/January and the January **merchandise accounts** were not complete at the time of the meeting. A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Hrebec to hold a special meeting to approve the bills on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 6:00PM. Carried 6-0.

Communications to the Council

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Schneiderhan to appoint Kurt Erkkila as **Police Chief** upon the retirement of Robert Kyllonen at the end of January 2022. Yes – Carlson, Hrebec, Jenich-Laplander, Schneiderhan and Sullivan. Abstain – Erickson. Carried 5-0. A plaque was presented to Kyllonen for his service to the Village of Laurium.

Kalen Carlson, **Planning Commission** chairperson reported that the MEDC has approved a \$20,000 technical matching grant, \$5000 of which the Village will be responsible. This will be included in the 2022-23 budget. Requests for proposals for consultants have gone out and next month one will be selected. There are virtual training sessions next month from the Michigan Association of Planning which members and the council can attend. A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Hrebec to appoint Daniel Woirol and Mike Lehman to the planning commission. Carried 6-0.

Committee Reports

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Carlson to take Hrebec off the Recreation/Parks/Community Relations committee and add Erickson. Erickson will not be on the Property/Building/Ordinance committee. Carried 6-0.

Finance: Village Manager Lewitzke is getting acclimated to her new position.

Recreation/Parks/Community Relations: The CHS/SHHS All School Reunion committee is looking to have a few events in Laurium. A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Erickson to approve a concert at Daniell Park on Friday, July 15, 2022. Half of the proceeds will be returned to the village for the parks and recreation. Carried 6-0. On Thursday, July 14th, a

movie night is being planned at Daniell Park. More details of this event will be known next month. There will also be a Medallion hunt in Laurium during the reunion. A roller-skating party will be held at the George Gipp Arena on Sunday, July 17th. June 24th-26th, a regional softball tournament is being planned at the ballfields. Access to the George Gipp Arena will be needed. The committee will be looking at what events can take place during the tournament. Erickson would like to have the Arena cooling system serviced in the summer when other area rinks are utilizing a common company rather than wait until shortly before the season starts. He would also like to learn the operation of the plant & Zamboni so that not just one person is knowledgeable.

Public Safety – Police: Erkkila and Lewitzke are working on a grant from the State, which we are qualified to receive, for police training and recruitment. The deadline to apply is February 15th and all expenditures would need to be made by September 30th to receive reimbursement. Erkkila also spoke with the village attorney regarding the yard maintenance ordinance procedure.

Schneiderhan had to leave the meeting at 6:40PM.

Public Safety – Fire: The annual report from the department was received from Chief Dan Zubiena. A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Hrebec to approve the departments officers: Chief – Daniel Zubiena, 1st Assistant – Sean Jacques, 2nd Assistant – Dylan Parske, Secretary – Jason Lund and Treasurer – Jesse Caron. Carried 5-0.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: The department is still looking for dump trucks at auctions but there are not many to be had.

Property/Building/Ordinance: Hrebec has been working on the rental ordinance. The City of Bessemer has a simple ordinance that she would like to model after for now. A rental would be defined, landlords would need to register and be in compliance with code. She will have a draft available for the February meeting.

Beautification: No report.

Unfinished Business

President Sullivan feels the council needs to become more informed about marijuana issues and how the community feels about having businesses in Laurium.

New Business

Village Manager Lewitzke is teaching a class at Finlandia and is not in the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:00pm-5:00pm. The **hours** the office is closed need to be posted. Due to the rise in COVID cases, the village office has been locked. There were complaints that it was difficult to conduct business so a sign will be put on the door with the phone number & email for the manager and possibly installing a doorbell outside. A new phone system with caller id and answering capabilities will be up and running soon.

Jenich-Laplander indicated that there should be 2 or 3 administrators for the **Facebook account**, and they should follow a style guide for posting and responses. Herself, Hrebec and Lewitzke will be the administrators. Discussion was held on content and turnaround time for posting. Quotes for building a new website with village management will be available at the February meeting.

Due to the increases in transfer station charges, fuel costs and other expenses, an increase is being considered in the quarterly **garbage fees**. More information will be available at the February meeting.

The extra granola bars and Chex mix that were donated for Halloween and holiday celebrations are expired or close to date. These will be donated to groups at the school.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium