

Village of Laurium  
Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

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

**Guests:** Antonia Burich, Sediq Edo-Abdi, Kurt Erkkila, Erik Lee, Dale Ninko, Alicia Roundtree, Ben Schekel, and Jaxon Witte.

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

**Public comments** were heard by Antonia Burich who wished to have her snow contract charge waived since the village pushes snow from the village parking lot onto her rental property. The matter will be reviewed. She also had concerns regarding the Shining Light Church and their snow plowing. Erik Lee had concerns regarding the no parking area on Hecla and Third Streets which need signage. He had concerns about parking, buildings, etc. in village alleys which will be discussed in the spring.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Carlson to approve the **minutes** for the October 18, 2022 regular meeting and the October 25 and October 27, 2022 special meetings. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **agenda** with the addition of the open council seat under Unfinished Business and removing Erik Lee from Communications to the Council. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Hrebec to approve the **prepaid bills** for October/November in the amount of \$68,339.89 and approve the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$33,234.04. Carried 6-0.

### **Communications to the Council**

**Alicia Roundtree** was present to express her continued interest in opening a marijuana dispensary in Laurium. She has a business plan and is just waiting for the village to decide if they want to change their position on this matter. Based on the survey results and with the addition of a new council member next month, the village will be in more of a position to make this decision. Public meetings will need to be held during this process which could take 6 months to 1 year.

### **Committee Reports**

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Hrebec to approve the following committee appointments:

**Finance:** \*Hrebec and Carlson

**Recreation/Parks:** \*Erickson and new council member

**Public Safety-Police/Fire:** \*Carlson and Galbraith

**Streets/Equipment/Sanitation:** \*Erickson and Galbraith

**Property/Building/Ordinance:** \*Hrebec and Jenich-Laplander

**Beautification:** \*Erickson and new council member

**Community Relations:** \*Jenich-Laplander and Hrebec

Carried 6-0.

**Finance:** Hrebec will be going over the General Fund with former administrator Vertin.

**Recreation/Parks:** Preparations to open the George Gipp Arena will begin next week and opening day is Friday, November 25, 2022.

**Public Safety – Police:** A no parking, 15-minute parking and 25 mph speed limit sign need to be approved and put up on Hecla Street by MDOT. The emergency box in front of the village hall works but needs to have the sign repaired/replaced and the hedge trimmed around it. The police training and recruitment grant has a deadline of April 3, 2022.

**Public Safety – Fire:** The Halloween/Touch-a-Truck event was well received. The fire millage renewal passed. The outside lights at the fire hall will be replaced. Between UPPCo incentives, Efficiency United and Michigan Saves low interest loans, LED lights could be installed at the firehall for \$4700. This will be looked into before the offers expire.

**Streets/Equipment/Sanitation:** Plowing season has begun. A new full-time, part-time employee has been hired.

**Property/Building/Ordinance:** The rental ordinance is ready to be discussed at a public hearing at the December council meeting. After the ordinance is in effect, landlords will need to be identified so they can register with the village. A discussion was held that if we need to have a code enforcement officer, where will the funding come from to pay this person. Next month a discussion will be held on the garbage ordinance.

**Beautification:** No report.

**Community Relations:** A Skate with Santa event is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2022 at the arena during public skating.

### **Unfinished Business**

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to advertise for a new **council member** through the usual outlets. Carried 6-0. The deadline to send a letter of interest is Wednesday, December 14, 2022. A new member will be selected at the December council meeting.

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Erickson to approve the **budget policy**. Carried 6-0.

By January 1, 2025, all of the village **water lines** have to have identified what they are made of. Grants are available and UP Engineers & Architects submitted an Intent to Apply on behalf of the village to complete this project. Chris Holmes from UPEA will be asked to attend the December council meeting to give more details.

The **garbage rates** will need to increase before the January 1, 2023 billing is sent. A suggestion of \$12.00/month was made. A decision will be made at the December council meeting when figures are available to support this increase.

A brief discussion was held on the **Laurium post office**. Questions should be referred to the Calumet Postmaster.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium