

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

March 11,

2024

Attendees: Mayor :Ken James, Mark May, Glen McSparran, Chris Foster .Eric Stein. Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer. Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Absent: Monte Evans. Others Present-Robert Presley, Doug Randolph, Denice Macher, Evon Rex.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. May made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

Emergency Minutes: Minutes of the March 6 Emergency meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: 1. No Report

Citizens Comments: 1. Doug Randolph. Mr. Randolph noted growing up right outside of town, moving away and then returning to his childhood home. He thought Laura was looking bad with the burnt house along St. Rt. 571 and the property on the corner of Laura Circle with all the cars and junk. He noted the ongoing problems and asked why Council hasn't addressed these properties. Mr. Johnston spoke about the burnt house being in probate, Council has helped the sister of the property owner apply for a grant. He noted Council's ongoing efforts to get the property on Laura Circle cleaned up, with directives from a Judge being given to the property owner to clean up the property or face jail.
2. Denice Macher. Mrs. Macher lives on Pike Street, she stated she was washing a load of white clothes, apparently while we were flushing the waterlines. The load of clothes was ruined. She asked if the residents could be notified when the lines were going to be flushed. The BOPA plans to issue a "One Call" message in the future.

Solicitors Report: 1. Annexation/Wagner Paving. Mr. Johnston presented a resolution to allow annexation of the property at 11090 St. Rt. 571 into the Village of Laura.
2. 25 Laura Circle/Rex Property. Mr. Johnston noted Mr. Rex previously was not in compliance, and had not cleaned up his property enough to suit the Judge. He was put in jail for three days and given until March 13 to clean the rest of the property. If it is not cleaned, Mr. Rex faces the remainder of the jail time.
3. Davis Voice and Data. Council asked Mr. Johnston to send a letter to Mr. Davis requesting he install internet at the water plant or we could break our contract with him.

BOPA: Mr. Stein reported:

1. The Board did appropriations for the water and sewer funds.
2. Council asked Ms. Slagle to send a letter to clean up the property at 11309 Pemberton Road.

Old Business. 1. Demo/111 Pike Street. No Report.

3. PEP Safety Grant. We received almost \$500 from our insurance group for safety items to use at the water and sewer plants.
4. Meeting Room Lights. Mr. James replaced the lights in the meeting room with LED lights.
5. Building Cleaning. Amy Elmore has asked Council to consider a raise for cleaning the building. It takes 2 hours to clean the building, once a month. Council discussed. Mr. Foster made a motion to increase the salary of the cleaning position by \$15.00 per month, from \$75.00 to \$90.00. Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

6. Dumpster Lock. Mr. James is working on getting a lock for the dumpster.
7. Porta John. We'll get a porta-john for the park, May 1 to October 31. Mr. James will get a cost from Rumpke for this.
8. Community Garages Sale. Council will get a dumpster again and set it in front of the Village Building the week after the garage sales. Mr. James will get a cost from Rumpke.
9. Storm Sewer Leak/ Church. Dexgen and Cress Plumbing cleared the blockage and repaired the storm sewer line. The clearing head stopped at Ludlow Street, Cress Plumbing dug up the area where the head stopped. The line was repaired. Tree roots were also hit and cleared out. A catch basin was also found at the Michael residence on the corner of Ludlow and Pike Street. A riser was put on the catch basin, we can use the catch basin as a clean out in the future.

New Business. 1. Park Mulch. We had a quote of \$1500.00 from Wolf Property Services to add mulch to the existing mulch at the park. Mr. Wolf had a sample of the material that would be used. Council would like to look at other types before deciding.

2. Leaves at Sewer Plant. No Report.

3. **Resolution 3-24/2024** Permanent Appropriations. 2024 Appropriations were reviewed. Mr. McSparran made a motion to approve the 2024 appropriations, Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

4. Water Tower Grant. Philip Hewitt from Mote and Associates has been working on grant opportunities for us. He would like to focus on opportunities that would need us to give up an application for a grant we filed previously. This was the main grant we have previously filed for two or three times. Our situation has not changed much, therefore our "number" for grant consideration has not changed. Mr. Hewitt feels we have a better chance to increase our number if we take ourselves out of consideration for the grant. Mr. May made a motion to cancel our application for the grant, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

Bills. Mr. May made a motion to pay the following bills, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Stein-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

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| PERS | \$852.11 | AES | \$1001.76 |
| Gretchen Slagle | 431.12 | Ken James | 108.78 |
| Amy Elmore | 75.00 | Shipman Dixon | 285.00 |
| BWC | 341.00 | Twillio | 6.23 |
| Wertz Hardware | 165.83 | RD Holder | 631.48 |
| Hamler Gingrich | 313.00 | | |

Mr. Foster made a motion to close the meeting, Mr. Mau seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk