

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

April 13,

2026

Attendees: Mayor: Glen McSparran, Council Members: Angi Deere, Jess McSparran, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Solicitors-Andrew Johnston, Kyler Palmer. Absent- Jackie Knight, Chris Foster, Others Present- Robert Presley, Dee Jones.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the April 13, 2026 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the minutes, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: 1. No Report.

Citizens Comments: 1. 111 Pike Street. Mr. Presley asked Mr. Johnston what the process would be if someone bought this property. The dimensions of the property might pose a problem where the house could be placed. Mr. Johnston noted the plans and building permit would need to be reviewed.

Solicitors Report:

1. Mr. Johnston's resignation. Mr. Johnston introduced Kyler Palmer, who would be taking over as our solicitor.
2. Records Request. Mr. Johnston sent a clarification letter to Maniraj Patha, who made an email public records request. If we don't get a reply from Patha, we have no responsibility to reply.
3. SkyMesh. Mr. Johnston sent a letter to SkyMesh. Mr. Boone has acknowledged there is an antenna on the tower. They are working to clean up the items that are not up to code. Mr. Johnston suggested giving them time to clean things up.
4. 111 Pike Street. Mr. Johnston stated we can trim, mow, and clean up the property and assess, if the owner doesn't pay for the bill for cleaning up.
5. Zoning Book. The Zoning Board is working on correcting clerical errors and reviewing the code.
6. Fiber Optics. We received email notice from a fiber optic company that they will be working in town in 2027. Mr. Johnston stated utilities have easements to do work like this, we don't have to worry about anything.
7. BOPA/Septic Tank Pumping. We have a new company pumping our septic tanks this year. There is a new charge that includes the removal of disposable wipes from the tank. We don't have anything in our ordinance about charging for this new fee and would like to know if we can pass the cost on the property owner, since there aren't any documented costs. The Board asked about charging a fee, fine, a percentage of the cost of pumping or other options. Mr. Palmer will look at our sewer ordinance.

BOPA: 1. See Solicitors Report #7

Old Business. 1A. Town Clean Up/Doug Randolph/Bee Street. The property has not been cleaned up. Mr. Palmer will send a letter to Mr. Randolph.

1B. 4 North Main Street. There are jugs, car parts, vehicles, garbage at this property. Ms. Slagle will send a letter asking them to clean up their property.

1C. Corner of Pike and Ludlow Street. The limbs need trimmed away from the stop sign. Ms. Slagle will send a letter.

2. Solar, Electronic Speed Limit Signs. We have a contact person from Pittsburg, Ms. Slagle will contact them to see where they got their signs.

3. Ordinance 5-26/ Zoning Board Pay. The third reading of the ordinance to pay Zoning Board members was read. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve this ordinance, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed. Ms. Slagle will pay the zoning board members, retroactive to January, 2026.

4. Mulch Quotes. Mrs. McSparran sent out some emails asking for mulch quotes. Wolf Property Services used 26 yards of mulch on the playground last time we mulched.

5. We have a quote from Wolf Property Services to trim foliage, limbs, bushes away from the streets, spray the park and other items. We need the foliage creeping out into the streets trimmed at 111 Pike Street, 8 School Street, and at the south end of Main Street, down the hill around the brick wall on the left. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve Wolf Property Services to spray the park for weeds, spray weeds around the playground equipment and trim the foliage away from the street at those three properties. Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.
6. Streets. Mrs. Deere stated cars seem to be creeping out toward the center of the streets. We have curbs that aren't long enough around into the alleys, no curbs on Laura Circle, some of the curbs need painted. She noted the emergency vehicles don't go over the speed bumps, they go around them.
7. Port-a-john. The port-a-john is here.
8. Dumpster. Mrs. McSparran said she saw on Facebook that someone from West Milton said something about bringing items to dispose in our dumpster. We've had people put large limbs in the dumpster, taking up a lot of space. Mrs. Deere has a list of items that are not allowed in the dumpster, hazardous and other items. We will post the list. We have set hours for using the dumpster, and will post this information on a Facebook page. Mrs. Deere will get a couple of yard signs to let people know when the dumpster is available. Council talked about checking ID's, having Council members present to help make sure hazardous, unapproved items don't get put in the dumpster. Council discussed seeing how things go this year, and if we get a lot of people outside of Laura using the dumpster, we will consider whether we want to continue the service.
9. 250th Year Anniversary. Mrs. Deere would like to suggest trying to do something for the country's 250th celebration around July 1st. We could encourage families to use the park, meet neighbors and local businesses.
10. Water Tower Grant Opportunities. Ms. Deere has been corresponding with our State Representatives, and now the State Director of Agriculture, Mr. Tassle. They have people that could help us improve ways to accrue points, which is a system used by grant nominators to help determine grant approval. If we can improve the number of points, we increase our chances of receiving grant consideration. Mrs. Deere also noted that CSEIG has a meeting June 11, at 1:00, if we can have someone at this ZOOM meeting to provide information about our need for help obtaining a grant, this could help us.
11. Meeting Room Table Floor. No Report.

New Business. 1. Fire Siren. The Fire Department is in need of a new siren. It is a 3-Phase siren.

2. First Reading/ New Pay Rates\Utility Employees. The first reading of the proposed ordinance to increase the pay of the Wastewater Licensed Operator, Water Licensed Operator and the Water and Sewer Plant Superintendent was read. The water and wastewater licensed operator's salaries will each increase from \$770.00 per month to \$870.00 per month. The water plant superintendent's salary will increase from \$244.00 per month to \$294.00 per month. The wastewater plant superintendent's salary will increase from \$783.45 per month to \$833.45 per month.

Bills. Mrs. Deere made a motion to pay the following bills, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$4016.28
Gretchen Slagle	440.28	Glen McSparran	106.91
Amy Elmore	90.00	Shipman Dixon	547.50
Miami Valley Lighting	3172.50	PEP	11,393.00
Gunckle Tree Service	500.00		

Mrs. Deere made a motion to close the meeting, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

Glen McSparran, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk

