

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

June 8,

2026

Attendees: Mayor: Glen McSparran, Council Members: Angi Deere, Jess McSparran, Chris Foster, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Solicitor-None. Absent- Jackie Knight, Others Present- Kaye Borchers-Choice One Engineering, Robert Presley, Dee Jones.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the May 11, 2026 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mrs. McSparran made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: Old Business #8-Mrs. McSparran heard did not hear about people other than Laura residents using the dumpster on Facebook. Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. Mr. Foster-Abstain. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: 1. No Report.

Citizens Comments: 1. Kaye Borchers/Choice One Engineering. Mrs. Borchers was present to discuss funding for a new water tower, and the things we can do to put us in the best position to get grants, loans and other funding options for a new tower. The current cost of a new tower is 2.1 million dollars, with \$85,000 Design costs. With Choice One's help, we have been nominated for WSRLA, an application that allows us to go after available funding for grants, and loans with lower interest rates. There are a couple of options available: Ohio EPA offers 30-year, low interest rate loans, they can offer principal forgiveness. A list will come out that will tell us the interest rate.

Another option would be grants like CDBG-small community grants and state and federal grants. We don't qualify for CDBG grants at this time.

Ms. Borchers has suggested we fill out SCEIG financial information about our water system, and present a proposal package with data, concerns and the need for a new water tower to the funders of the grants and loans. Funding is controlled through agencies like Army Corp and H2Ohio. This presentation hopefully shows our commitment and need for a new tower.

There are two kinds of funding, USDA or EPA funding. EPA funds are generally easier, faster and quicker to obtain. USDA funding is harder to obtain.

We will fill out the SCEIG application and information Ms. Borchers has sent us, and we will plan on presenting our information at the next Zoom conference call on August 12. The meeting is held in Columbus.

Solicitors Report: None

BOPA: 1. Sewer Plant Licensed Operator. The Board has interviewed 7 applicants, and have agreed to hire Tylor Thompson, he started June 3, 2026.

Old Business. 1. Town Clean Up. Mrs. Deere would like to set up quadrants in town for Council members to check for areas that need cleaned up on properties. We'll table this until next meeting.

2. Dumpster. Mrs. Deere asked if Council could help watch for people putting illegal items into the dumpster. Mr. Foster said he could help Wednesday or Thursday.

3. Solar, Electronic Speed Limit Signs. Pittsburg bought their signs from Elan City, the cost was around \$8000 for 2 signs. Ms. Slagle had some pictures of signs. She will have information for next meeting.

4. Zoning Meetings. Mr. Presley asked if a zoning meeting could be held with just one member of the board present. There needs to be a quorum, which means that two out of the three members must be present to hold a meeting.

5. 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.

Mr. Foster leaves at 7:45.

6. 8 School Street/111 Pike Street/ Hill on South Main Street vegetation removal. Ms. Slagle will contact Wolf Property Service about clearing the limbs and weeds out of the street at these three locations.

7. **Second Reading/ New Pay Rates\Utility Employees.** The second 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 833.45 per month.

8. Meeting Room Table Floor. No Report.

New Business. 1. New Electric Kilowatt Rate. Ms. Slagle has a quote from Lori Petty/Energy Alliances. Electric Alliance acts as an independent broker, they provide competitive fixed or variable rate quotes to help lower our electric bills. AES is our electric supplier, there are companies that provide the service of getting the electric to us. Ms. Petty provided a quote for a 1, 2 or 3-year contract, 12 months-\$0.08875 per kwh, 24 months-\$0.08947 kwh. 36 months-0.08768, the AES price to compare is \$0.1085. The companies and rates change daily, so we wouldn’t know the lowest rate and company until Ms. Petty checked the day after we agree to a contract. Council discussed and decided to go with a two-year contract. The rates are much lower than our current rates, Mrs. McSparran made a motion to go with a 2-year contract, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.

2. Spring Newsletter. Mrs. McSparran made a motion to approve paying Brandy Mulholland \$50 to distribute the spring newsletter throughout town, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.

3. Sheriff Patrol. Mrs. Deere would like Council to consider hiring the Sheriff Department to patrol in town. The cost for 23 hours a month would run between \$1200-\$1800.

4. Zoning Manual. Mrs. Deere stated the Zoning manual has been reviewed by the Zoning Committee, it is ready to be reviewed by Council and approved. We will look at this next meeting.

5. Telephone Pole and Fire Hydrant Damage. A car hit a phone pole and fire hydrant on the corner of Main and State Route 571. We will have to repair or replace the hydrant. We will need to send costs of fixing the hydrant to the person who hit the hydrant.

Bills. Mrs. McSparran made a motion to pay the following bills, Mrs. Deere 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	150.00
Rumpke	2.11	Park Credit Card	81.02

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