

Village of Laurium
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Present for Roll Call: Carlson, Erickson, Hrebec, Pietila and Sullivan.

Absent: Galbraith and Jenich-Laplander.

Guests: Kurt Erkkila, Thomas Fournier and Ian Lewis.

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

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Erickson to approve the **agenda** as presented.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Pietila to approve the **minutes** of the June 20, 2023 regular council meeting and the June 27, 2023 special council meeting.

A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Carlson to approve the **prepaid bills** in the amount of \$64,096.24 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$25,722.77. Carried 5-0.

Committee Reports

Finance: Information about the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships will be posted on social media.

Recreation/Parks: Little League baseball is done for the season; men's league will be ending soon. A meeting will be held to get field work done this fall. The men's league will help with the cost of removing the dugouts and pouring slabs for new dugouts if weather permits this year. A meeting will be held with the hockey association about concession stand help at the arena this season.

Public Safety – Police/Fire: The new recruit's graduation will be on August 18th. Chief Erkkila, Galbraith and possibly Manager Lewis will attend.

Streets/Equipment/Sanitation: Sidewalk replacement is in progress. The property owners will be billed for \$6.00/sq ft. The DPW is requesting \$3000-\$4000 for forms, etc. The budget will be reviewed/amended next month to cover these costs if necessary. There are several areas where bushes, trees or brush are encroaching on the sidewalks. The property owners will be contacted to take care of it on their own. If not, the village will.

Property/Building/Ordinances: Blight enforcement is beginning. Letters will be sent to the responsible property owner. The Houghton County Building Inspector has looked at some properties and the process for the Unsafe Building Ordinance will be followed. Manager Lewis sent a draft of the marijuana ordinance to the committee.

Beautification: The flags are being replaced on a schedule so that so many do not need to be purchased at one time.

Community Relations: There will be a press release for the new police officer's graduation, swearing in and the grant that helped make this all happen.

Manager Report

The council was on board to allow Manager Lewis to take **vacation** as requested. The lights have been replaced in the **fire department** truck bays. Erickson has been handling the incentives we are eligible to receive. Lewis has been reaching out to contractors for estimates for the **Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships grant**. Erikson and Pietila said they can coordinate some of that aspect and Lewis can handle the financial aspect with Treasury. The **General Fund** revenues and expenses are holding to the budget with a few exceptions. The tax revenue will increase due to the passing of the Headlee Override. Union negotiations coming up soon. The **extra voted snow millage renewal** would be the only local item on the ballot and the village would have to bear the full cost of the election. A motion was by Erickson and seconded by Hrebec to have this millage renewal on the February, 2024 primary ballot. Carried 5-0.

Unfinished Business

The discussion on updating the council **Rule of Procedures** was tabled to the August meeting. Discussion was held on the **garbage ordinance** and mandating village garbage carts for all residents, businesses and apartments. Lewis will need to check on our inventory to make sure there are enough on hand before this can be implemented. He will also check to see if there is a statute limiting the amount of a service charge for late payments. The discussion will continue at the August meeting. Erickson spoke to our representative Greg Markkanen regarding the **EGLE lead water pipe project**. The opinion in our district is that this plan has been implemented without much thought. Markkanen's suggestion is that we make an attempt to follow through. For budgetary reasons, we will not start until next fiscal year and hopefully by then there will be more clarity with this project.

Carlson would like a social media post to go out that houses and businesses have visible address numbers so emergency response times are not delayed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

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