

Village of Laurium  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, October 17, 2023

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

**Absent:** Carlson.

**Guests:** Kalen Carlson, Kurt Erkkila, Joel Keranen, Ian Lewis, Brian Miller and Ian Raymond.

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

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **agenda** with the addition of blight meeting under Announcements. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **minutes** of the September 19, 2023 regular council meeting. Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the **prepaid bills** in the amount of \$279,661.28 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$41,354.67. Carried 6-0.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** No report.

**Recreation/Parks:** Calumet High School used the George Gipp Arena for Homecoming float building and the drama club will be setting up to have a haunted house fundraiser. **Halloween** trick or treat hours are from 5:00-8:00PM on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The annual village Halloween party will be at the arena during those hours as well. Donations for the party will be made by Vollwerth & Baroni Company, Pat's Foods, Hancock Bottling, Salon 1281 and Gina Erickson Massage Therapy. The dugouts at the Men's **baseball field** have been demolished. There will be a split with the village for the labor and materials for the slabs for the new dugouts. Fencing will be replaced next year. There are a couple of grants in the works for new **playground** equipment. The layout for the playground area will be done in the spring. Ice for the **arena** will be made the weekend before Thanksgiving. Bassett Mechanical will be inspecting the ice plant prior to that.

**Public Safety – Police:** No report.

**Public Safety – Fire:** The garage door is done. New hoses and nozzles have been ordered. The roof will be evaluated to see if it should be patched or replaced. This will be paid from the FDCVT grant.

**Streets/Equipment/Sanitation:** The hub on the Volvo grader has failed and a new part is ordered. The new sander is ready for service. A new sweeper was purchased last week for \$7200. The old sweeper will either be sold or used for parts. Fall cleanup will be starting this week.

**Property/Building/Ordinance:** Hrebec has put the marijuana ordinance in the new format and is reviewing.

**Beautification:** Daniell Park has been boarded up for the winter. All of the banners, flags and planters have been taken down.

**Community Relations:** The new website is open to the public. Riley Powers, village fellow, is working on updating permissions and editing. The Halloween events will be put on social media.

### **Manager Report**

The **police union contracts** have been finalized.

The **audit** is not yet finalized. The auditor will be back from vacation this week and will complete it by the end of the month for sure. Since an extension was filed, Treasury said a slight delay in submitting would be acceptable.

### **Unfinished Business**

The **garbage ordinance** was discussed. Cardboard boxes must be broken down and bundled and no more than 6" thick. Funding is not available in the Sanitation Fund to provide village issued garbage containers to all properties. Garbage must be in a container with a lid. No plastic bags can be put on the curb for pickup. 45 gallon or less cans are acceptable. Rentals should provide cans, 2 90 gallon or 4 45 gallon maximum. The amount of garbage has increased to the point that another weekly trip to the transfer station may be needed. The county transfer station fees have increased. Business, commercial and residential rates will be reviewed and increased before the next quarterly billing.

### **New Business**

There was a public hearing for the Master Plan on October 3, 2023. At that time the Planning Commission approved a resolution to adopt the Master Plan. A motion was made by Pietila and seconded by Galbraith to approve the **Master Plan**. Carried 6-0. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplender to approve the **resignation** of Kalen Carlson as Planning Commission president. Carried 6-0. A motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplender to approve the **appointment** of Ian Raymond as new Planning Commission president. Carried 6-0.

Joel Keranen and Brian Miller from the **Hockey Association** were present to discuss the operation of the arena this season. The association is willing to help both monetarily with building maintenance, Zamboni & players bench doors, kick plates, etc., and staffing during Jr. Hockey rentals. Obtaining advertising for the boards is a possibility for additional revenue. More details will be worked out before the season begins. Setting rental rates for ice time was tabled until the November meeting.

There will be a meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:00PM in the council chambers. Village Fellow Riley Powers will lead a discussion on the **blight issues** in the village.

At 7:00PM, a motion was made by Erickson and seconded by Jenich-Laplender to enter **executive session** to discuss the Village Manager personnel evaluation. Carried 6-0.

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:05PM.

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

**Absent:** Carlson.

A motion was made by Jenich-Laplander and seconded by Pietila to have a 3-year contract for Manager Lewis and a pay increase to \$72,000 starting in January 2024 with a 3% increase yearly. The rest of the benefits will stay the same according to the prior contract. Termination can only be with cause/for cause. Yes – Galbraith, Hrebec, Jenich-Laplander and Pietila. No – Erickson and Sullivan. Carried 4-2.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

Village of Laurium