

Village of Laurium  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 21, 2021

**Present for Roll Call:** Carlson, Djerf, Erickson (online), Hrebec, Jenich-Laplander, Schneiderhan and Sullivan.

**Guests:** Kalen Carlson, Kara Clairmont, Kurt Erkkila, Robert Kyllonen, Steve Lanctot, Diana Lewitzke, Shelby Robinson, Alicia Roundtree, Janalyn Roundtree, and Benjamin Schuckert.

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

A motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Schneiderhan to approve the **agenda** with the addition of Police department personnel and M26 rerouting under New Business. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Djerf to approve the **minutes** of the November 16, 2021, regular council meeting and the November 22, 2021, special council meeting. Carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Carlson to approve the **prepaid bills** for November-December 2021 in the amount of \$94,175.48 and approve payment of the **merchandise accounts** in the amount of \$58,128.48. Carried 7-0.

### **Communications to the Council**

**Kara Clairmont** was present to discuss her rabbit sanctuary. She currently has 18 rabbits that she has rescued or are her personal pets. Her plans are to have some of them adopted. She is licensed through the state and is working toward becoming a 501C3. Next spring, she plans to erect a fence and build a shed. There is no smell associated with the rabbits and their waste will not be an issue with the neighbors.

**Alicia Roundtree** would like to know the village's position on having a marijuana retail store in the village. A few years have passed since she closed her store, Zen Garden, in Calumet and she sees the need for this business in our area. The village can zone for such a business but that is awhile down the road in the planning process. Council was concerned with whether this is really something that the residents of Laurium want in the village and would need to determine that before proceeding.

A motion was made by Djerf and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to accept the **retirement** letter from Accounts Clerk Cheryl Remali effective January 3, 2022. Carried 7-0. Village manager Diana Lewitzke would like to consolidate the current accounting systems, put in place internal controls as recommended by the auditor, create a job description, and then advertise the position.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** The committee will meet with Village manager Lewitzke before the next meeting to go over some new plans, procedures and changes she will be making.

**Recreation/Parks/Community Relations:** About 80 kids participated in Skate with Santa. There were only six entries in the parade so to make it feasible to do again, more recruiting needs to be done for next year. The visit with Santa after the parade was well received. There is some money left on the \$500 gift card donated by Walmart for Christmas decorations on the corner of Lake Linden Avenue and Hecla St that will be used for spring/summer projects. The arena needs to be cleaned better and storage totes for the food in the concession stand need to be used. Trustee Hrebec will meet with new Village Manager Lewitzke to do an interview for media release.

**Public Safety-Police/Fire:** Police Chief Kyllonen will be retiring January 29, 2022, after 31 years at the village. The new village mechanic met with the fire department to tour the facility and look at the fire trucks and equipment.

**Streets/Equipment/Sanitation:** No report.

**Property/Building/Ordinance:** The rental ordinance will be ready for the council to review next month. No further updates on changing garbage rates. The village attorney and council are reviewing a draft of a new planning commission ordinance.

**Beautification:** The winners of the village decorating contest are 1<sup>st</sup> place - Nic Sladek and Jessica Mattson, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Joe and Marjorie Banovetz, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Teagan & Joe Rivest. Prizes can be picked up at Salon 1281.

### **New Business**

The **village website** needs to be updated. Several business or individuals were mentioned for doing this work. Village Manager Lewitzke, Trustee Djerf and Planning Commission President Carlson will meet to determine the content and options for the new website.

A motion was made by Schneiderhan and seconded by Djerf to authorize \$30,000.00 maximum for the purchase of a **dump truck**. Carried 6-0. (Erickson left the meeting at 6:45PM).

Village Manager Lewitzke can oversee obtaining new **credit cards and cell phones** for employees.

Planning Commission President Carlson was approached by someone wondering what the possibility of **rerouting M-26** that currently runs through Laurium. The matter will be researched.

With the retirement of Police Chief Kyllonen next month, a question of whether to fill the **position** was discussed. In the past, finances were a reason for not being able to replace an officer should there be a vacancy, even though the council would like to keep four officers. Village Manager Lewitzke felt funding would not be an issue as grants could be available to help with the cost. The department will start a search for a new officer.

At 7:47PM, a motion was made by Jenich-Laplander to go into executive session to discuss police union negotiations. Carried 6-0.

The meeting returned to regular session at 7:48PM.

A motion was made by Hrebec and seconded by Jenich-Laplander to approve the 2.5% increase in wage for each of the two years remaining in the **police contract**. Carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Golus, Clerk

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