

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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April 13,
2022

Local News

New Pool Committee is Seeking Your Input!

Recently, the Laurens New Pool Committee has been meeting often, applying for grants, and soliciting donations in an effort to open a new pool in the summer of 2024. The plan has been slightly reconfigured, but remains just over 3,000 square feet of surface area, with five lanes to accommodate our swim meets. Tentative plans are to add a rock-climbing wall, sprinkler features and shade structures in the future.

As the committee began a review of cost predictions not too long ago, it seemed a sure thing that our \$2,319,000 construction estimate, which was written in the fall of 2019, would need to be revised. With that thought, we handed over our data on our simple no frills pool to Water's Edge Engineering and asked for a cost estimate.

On February 7, the pool committee received an updated plan, and was pleased to see the construction estimate of just under 2.5 million, up only about 7% from the outdated figure! As of the end of March 2022, our fund balance is \$1,319,867.

At that same meeting, the Water's Edge representative presented information and sketches that compared two different sites for consideration. The first site is where the current pool is located. The second site is on an unused ballfield on the east side of town.

On March 8, a committee meeting was held to put together the pros and cons of both sites to be presented to the public for their input. This is a compilation from this discussion:

Pros for the current site are: tradition, central location near downtown, library and City Park.

The cons are: Power Generators creating extreme heat. Elevator (chaff) creates film on the pool water. The city would have to close the existing pool to build the new one. This may mean losing a swim team season. Ground may be unstable where the pool would be built.

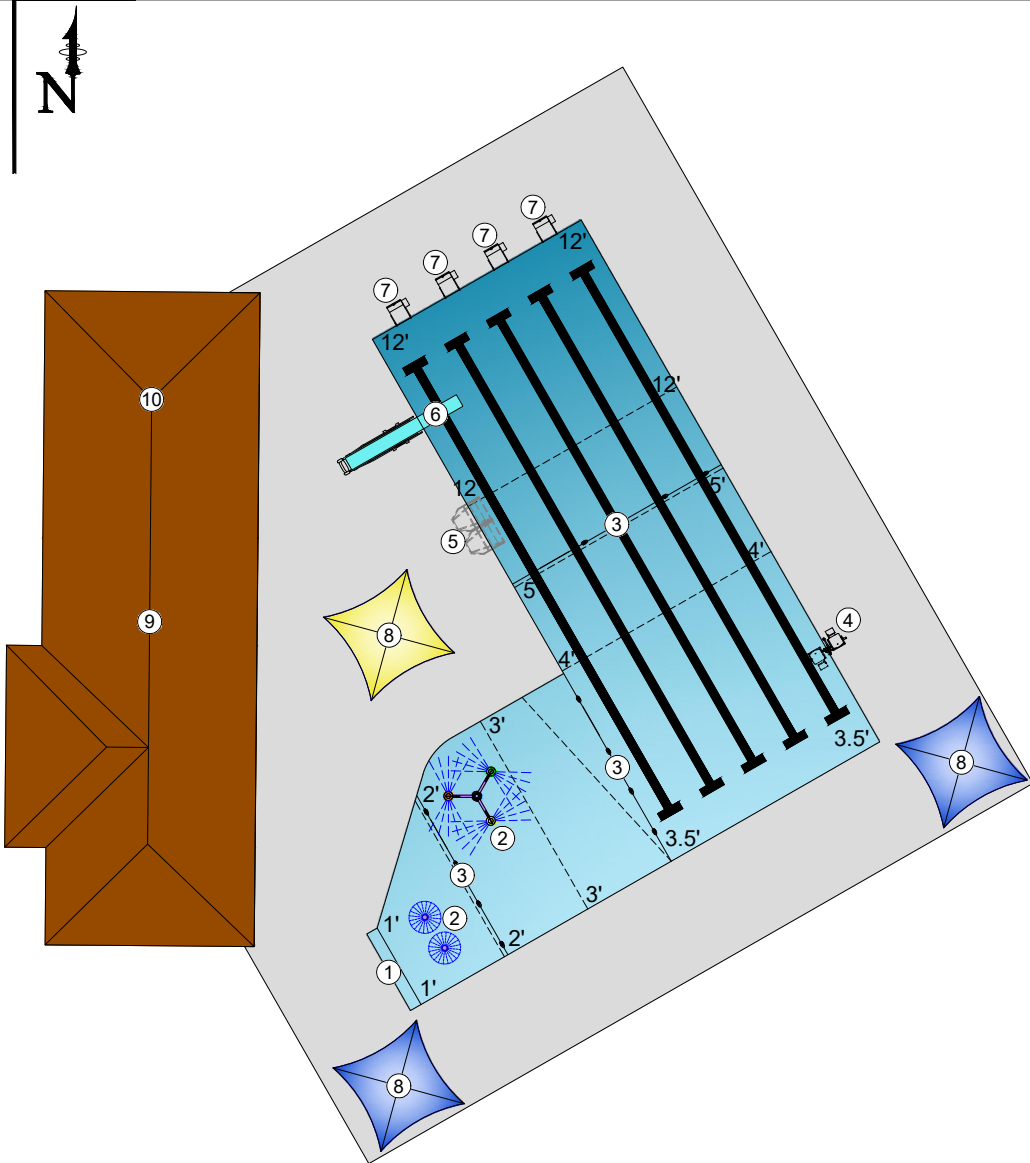
Pros for building at the Sports Complex site include: Part of a recreation area, more parking, no pool demolition cost (This could be done by City employees and/or volunteers and can be done on our timeframe) Minimal site preparation, stable ground, possibly incorporate current structure of concession stand, space for expansion, swimming can continue at old pool until new pool is done, newer water and sewer utilities than 3rd St site, handy for ball events happening around the same time. Several of the projects on the east site have received grants. DNR looked favorably on the projects.

Cons for the alternate site include: Not centrally located. Possibly further for daycares or walkers.

In an effort to gather as much information from our citizens as possible, a survey was created asking for your opinions. This survey will be included with the City utility bills. An online survey link will be available from The Pool Project and City of Laurens Facebook pages.

The results of this survey and of continued fundraising activity will be reported in upcoming news articles. Your tax deductible donations may be sent to: Laurens Pool Project, 272 N 3rd St, Laurens, IA 50554.

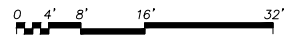




Shallow Water	2,030	S.F.
Deep Water	1,070	S.F.
Total Water Surface Area	3,100	S.F.
Concrete Deck Area	5,150	S.F.

- ① Pool Steps
- ② Future Spray Features
- ③ Buoy Line
- ④ Future ADA Lift
- ⑤ Future Climbing Wall
- ⑥ 1 Meter Diving Board
- ⑦ Future Starting Blocks
- ⑧ Future Sunshade
- ⑨ Bathhouse
- ⑩ Filter Building

Laurens Outdoor Pool Concept
 Laurens, IA
 02-11-2022



waters edge
 AQUATIC DESIGN

11205 W. 79th St.
 Lenexa, KS 66214
 t. 913.438.4338
 www.WeDesignPools.com

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All Staters Perform in Cedar Falls.

On March 28, three students from Pocahontas Community High School attended the All State Speech Festival. Kristen Davis, daughter of Scott and Melissa Davis, performed her storytelling; Chase Cook, son of Brad and Angie Cook, read a prose selection; and Ian Wellik, son of Jon and Mindy Wellik, was given recognition for his prose reading at State. Melissa Davis from Laurens is the speech coach for Pocahontas Community High School.



JOIN US FOR A MEET & GREET
CARD SHOWER HONORING

*Lindsey Meyer
+ Matt Calderon*



FRIDAY, APRIL 22 | 5 – 7 P.M. | LAURENS COUNTRY CLUB
HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED.

While your presence is all we ask for, if you insist on giving a gift, you can contribute to our honeymoon/charity fund, with 50% going to our favorite charity, Miracle Travel Works.

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

April NEEDS **YOU**

LifeServe

LAURENS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

United Methodist Church
Thursday, April 28th
2:30pm - 5:30pm
201 West Main St.

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-777 | Call: 800.287.4903
Visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org

YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.

Iowa Corn Grower's Visit Local Students

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invited Iowa Corn Grower's to visit the Pocahontas Elementary and Middle School on Monday, April 4th.

The students learned about how corn is grown, what biproducts are derived from corn, where their food comes from, and sustainable agriculture.



Announcements

Everyone is invited to attend the
Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30 p.m. at Grandpa's Barn
in Varina on **April 14, 2022**

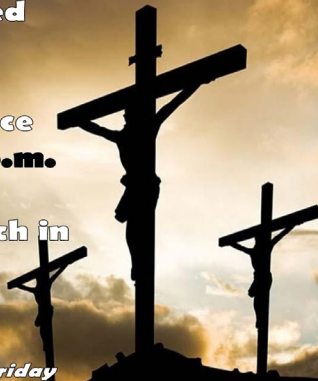
*"A new command I give
you: Love one another."*

This is a joint service of the Varina &
Laurens United Methodist Churches.
There will be a meal, communion and
a hand-washing ceremony.



Please join us for this special service.

Everyone is invited
to attend the
**Ecumenical
Good Friday Service**
April 15, 2022 @ 7 p.m.
at the
**First Christian Church in
Laurens.**



*Please join us for the Good Friday
Cross Walk @ 1 p.m.
starting at the First Christian Church*

Everyone is invited to celebrate
our risen Savior, Jesus Christ
Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022
@ 10:30 a.m. at the Laurens
United Methodist Church.

Our choir will perform during
the worship service.

All children are invited to join us
for an **EASTER EGG HUNT @**
9:00 a.m. in the Educational Unit.

Please have your kiddo bring an
Easter basket to collect eggs!



Please join us at the Laurens United Methodist
Church **Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022**
Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:00 a.m.

Service will be led by the
Laurens Area Community
Youth Group &
Laurens UMC Confirmation
Class of 2022



Breakfast to follow the service.

Serving: Biscuits & Gravy and Mixed Fruit.

Free will donation.

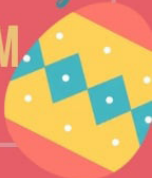
Funds go to this summer's mission trip to Kentucky.

Laurens Chamber & Community Boosters

**EASTER EGG
HUNT**
**SATURDAY,
APRIL 16TH**
with special guest
THE Easter Bunny

SPORTSMAN'S PARK - 10 AM

AGE GROUPS - 3 & UNDER | 4, 5, & 6 | 7, 8, & 9



ISU Extension and Outreach Week Celebrates Pocahontas County Volunteers

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Week is April 18-23. Iowa's 100 county extension offices will host activities throughout the week to thank volunteers who contribute their time to extension education efforts throughout the state.

"We celebrate our Pocahontas County volunteers because they are our partners for a #Strong Iowa," said Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach staff.

In Pocahontas County, 81 volunteers serve as 4-H leaders and Master Gardeners. We also have a nine-member, elected extension council. Because of their support, our educational opportunities for the people of Pocahontas County continue to grow.

Statewide, more than 7,600 volunteers contribute their time to ISU Extension and Outreach programs. Independentsector.org values volunteer time at \$28.54/hour – which equals nearly \$217,000 if each volunteer works for only one hour.

ISU Extension and Outreach engages Iowans in solving today's problems and planning for tomorrow. We offer many ways to get involved and we welcome new volunteers.

For example, include specific examples of volunteer efforts in your county.

ISU Extension and Outreach is part of the federal Cooperative Extension Service — a network of more than 100 land-grant institutions, including Iowa State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture serving communities and counties across the United States. Every county in Iowa has an elected extension council that decides how to support ISU Extension and Outreach educational programs at the county level.

For more information about ISU Extension and Outreach, visit www.extension.iastate.edu or contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office. For information about volunteer opportunities, contact ISU Extension and Outreach, Pocahontas County at 712-335-3103.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.



Bill Meyer, Extension Council Vice Chair



Extension Council members

Youth For the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

All 4-H and FFA members that exhibit any kind of meat animal at the fair must be YQCA certified.

Horse, dog, and pet are the only species that do not require certification. The fee for the online training is \$12 but all Pocahontas County 4-H members fee will be paid through a coupon code you will receive through the Extension office. This must be completed no later than July 1, but it is open and ready to use now.

The YQCA website has changed; please use the following website and if you have any trouble entering your coupon code call! <https://yqcaprogram.org> 712-335-3103 or lzeman@iastate.edu

Garage Sale

Garage sale! At the great garage! 2 party!

Saturday April 16th, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at Stone's Corner - 2090 Hwy 10, Marathon.

Lots and lots of great items, including
Pro Form exercise bike, Atari console and
games, Wii and Wii Fit, antiques, quilts,
shower curtains, dishes and much, much
more!!!

Something for everyone!

Intermediate Trip: Discover Minnesota 2022 Registration Open!

Calling all 7th and 8th grade 4-H members in Buena Vista, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Pocahontas, and Webster Counties! Join us on a charter bus trip on June 10th – 11th to Minnesota! Sights will include a Minnesota Twins game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Mall of America, SPAM Museum, Hormel Institute, and Mill City Museum. The cost for Pocahontas County 4-H members is \$45/per attendee.

We are also looking for adult chaperones for this trip. If you are interested, please contact your local 4-H staff. Each county has a limited number of seats so register today at: <https://form.jotform.com/siles/inttrip22>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Brynna Baumhover (Hamilton County CYC & Trip Coordinator) at brynnab@iastate.edu.

Submit . . .

Submit . . . 100% of The Paper's articles are submitted by you - The Reader!! Take a minute to send us your news and photos too! *It's fun and it's FREE!*



Ag Day Held during National Ag Week for Producers in the Pocahontas Area

On March 24th, approximately 50 Ag Producers and professionals gathered at the Pocahontas County Expo Center in Pocahontas for Pocahontas Area Ag Day. This event was made possible by sponsorships from Pro Cooperative, Wyffels Hybrids, AgState and Pocahontas County Farm Bureau.

The morning began with breakfast and networking. The Iowa Corn Growers Association had the Iowa Corn Mobile Education Trailer on site for a learning opportunity aside from the main event. Presentations began at 9 a.m. with Gary Wright, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Farm Management Specialist. Gary's focus was on educating producers on market outlook for grain, but also went into some detail on the demand for grain biproducts as well as livestock markets. The second presenter of the day was Kris Kohl, an Ag Engineer for ISU Extension and Outreach. Kris spoke on farm drainage. He addressed some pros and cons with different systems and equipment as well as best practices.

Pocahontas Area Ag Day concluded with two attendees receiving the door prizes of an iPad and Pellet Grill. Thank you to our sponsors, Pro Cooperative, Wyffels Hybrids, AgState and Pocahontas County Farm Bureau. Partners in planning this event were ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County, United Bank of Iowa, Pocahontas State Bank and Availa Bank.



***This Week at
Laurens United
Methodist Church***

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wed., April 13:

Caring Cards 5-8 p.m. in fellowship hall
Easter Sunrise Service practice from
5:30-6:30 p.m. at Laurens UMC
Confirmation Class from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thurs., April 14:

Maundy Thursday

Rebekah Circle meeting @ 2 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Joint (Varina
& Laurens) Service @ 6:30 p.m. at
Grandpa's Barn in Varina

Fri., April 15:

Good Friday

Cross Walk @ 1 p.m. beginning at First
Christian Church
Ecumenical Good Friday Service at First
Christian Church @ 7 p.m.
AA mtg from 7-8 p.m. in Wesley Room

Sat., April 16:

Easter Sunrise Service practice from
5-7 p.m. at Laurens UMC

Sun., April 17:

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:00 a.m. at
Laurens UMC
Breakfast to follow Easter Sunrise Service
Easter Egg Hunt @ 9:00 a.m. in Ed.
Unit
Sunday School from 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m. - Choir
sings

Biggest Little Paper In Town!

***This Week at
Bethany Lutheran***

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Wednesday: April 13, 2022

7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

Thursday: April 14, 2022

7:00 PM ~ Maundy Thursday Service
w/Communion

Friday: April 15, 2022

1:00 PM ~ Community Good Friday
Cross Walk (starting at FCC)
7:00 PM ~ Ecumenical Good Friday
Service at FCC

Sunday: April 17, 2022

Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day
7:00 AM ~ Youth Easter Sunrise
Service & Breakfast at UMC
NO Adult & Youth SS
9:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion
(note change of time)
4:00 AM ~ Laurens Care Center
Service

Monday: April 18, 2022

7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

Tuesday: April 19, 2022

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany
6:00 PM ~ Growth & Sharing Mtg.

***Worship, Love, Accept-
Together in Christ's Name***

***This Week at First
Christian***

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Wednesday, April 13

2:00 p.m. - Lydia Group

Thursday April 14

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Clothes Closet
Open

Friday, April 15

1:00 p.m. - Cross Walk
7:00 p.m. - Ecumenical Good Friday
Service at First Christian

Sunday, April 17

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service at United
Methodist Church followed by
breakfast served by the Youth Group
9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Rolls served
9:30 a.m. - Worship **(Note time
change)**

***Resurrection of
Our Lord Catholic
Church***

**Pocahontas, IA -- Pastor: Very
Rev. Craig Collison, VF**

MASS TIMES:

Daily Mass as scheduled in the
weekly bulletin
Saturday at 5:00 PM and Sunday at
10:30 AM

Confessions: Saturday 4:15 pm at
Resurrection

Yard and Garden: Spring Blooms for the Landscape

Know which blooms to look for this spring

The colorful flowers of spring are a welcome sight after a long, grey winter. The emergence of tulips and daffodils, the greening of lawns and the blooming of early spring-flowering perennials, shrubs and small trees are sure signs of spring.

In this article, horticulture specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach answer questions on the many landscape plants with bright and cheery spring blooms that can be grown in Iowa.

What perennials bloom in early spring? One of the first signs of spring is the emergence of crocuses, daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs. Several other perennials also bloom in early spring and complement these familiar bulbs. Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*) is a semi-evergreen to evergreen perennial that is usually one of the first plants to bloom. The nodding, bell-like flowers appear in March and range in color from creamy white, to pink, to burgundy.

Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) is a compact perennial, reaching 4-6 inches tall, and grows well in full sun to part shade. The pasque flower produces purple, maroon or white flowers atop finely dissected foliage in the first few weeks of spring. Heartleaf Brunnera (*Brunnera macrophylla*) is a low growing, 12 to 18-inch-tall, mounding perennial with attractive heart-shaped leaves mottled with white or silver. In early spring, small, blue flowers appear that resemble the flowers of the classic annual, forget-me-not, giving the plant its other common name – perennial forget-me-not.

A few other early spring bloomers include bleeding heart (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis*), crested iris (*Iris cristata*), creeping phlox

(*Phlox stolonifera*), pig squeak (*Bergenia cordifolia*), lungwort (*Pulmonaria saccharata*), moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*), candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*), snowdrop anemone (*Anemone sylvestris*), basket-of-gold (*Aurinia saxatilis*) and violets (*Viola* spp.).

What shrubs bloom in early spring?

Several species of shrubs can help get your spring off to a colorful start. These multi-stemmed woody plants vary in size and often bloom before the leaves emerge in spring. Vernal witchhazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) is a large shrub growing 8 to 10 feet tall and is usually the first shrub to bloom in Iowa. Its yellow to reddish-brown flowers have strap-like petals that appear in February and March in Iowa. Corneliancherry dogwood (*Cornus mas*) is a large shrub growing 20 to 25 feet tall and is another early bloomer with small, yellow flowers in round, 3/4-inch-wide clusters appearing in March that then develop into edible red fruit in summer. The star magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*) produces white, fragrant, 3 to 4-inch-diameter flowers in April, which are sometimes damaged by a late frost or freeze. Growing 10 to 12 feet tall, plant star magnolia in an area with eastern and northern exposures that will not warm too quickly to encourage early blooms in spring.

Other early spring blooming shrubs include goat willow (*Salix caprea*), pussy willow (*Salix discolor*), forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*), 'Northern Lights' Azalea (*Rhododendron* hybrids), Nanking cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*), 'PJM' rhododendron (*Rhododendron* hybrids), flowering quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*), fothergilla (*Fothergilla* spp.), white forsythia (*Abeliophyllum distichum*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and pearlbrush (*Exochorda* spp.).

What trees bloom in spring? While most deciduous trees flower in springtime, there are several species of smaller, ornamental trees that have showy blooms in the spring. The eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a small, attractive native tree with pinkish purple flowers that cover the branches before the leaves emerge in spring. Serviceberries (*Amelanchier* spp.) are multi-stemmed small trees native to Iowa woodlands with white

flowers in early spring, small edible berries in early summer and nice yellow to orange to red fall color. Other common names for this tree include Juneberry, shadbush, sarvis-tree and saskatoon. Crabapples (*Malus* spp.) are an excellent tree for the home landscape because of their adaptability and diversity. A wide range of cultivars exist in different sizes and shapes with flowers in white, pink, red and almost purple. It's important to select a cultivar resistant to apple scab to have attractive trees all season.

Other small trees with notable spring blooms include saucer magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana*), cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*), flowering cherry (*Prunus* spp.), kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), red horsechestnut (*Aesculus x carnea*), Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.).

What native woodland perennials bloom in spring? There are many native woodland wildflowers that are great additions to the shade garden. Most are ephemeral with a relatively short (but impactful) bloom time in early spring before the foliage dies back to the ground in early summer. These often small-statured perennials are easily tucked among other shade garden plants and add much needed interest and color in the early spring before dying back to make room for the other plants like hosta or coral bells. Many are available from local or mail-order nurseries. Never dig these plants from their native habitats.

Some great native ephemeral woodland wildflowers include spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis* var. *obtusata*), trillium (*Trillium* spp.), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), false Solomon's seal (*Smilacina racemosa*), merrybells (*Uvularia grandiflora*), May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

City Council Minutes

April 4th, 2022

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4th, 2022. Senior Councilmember Aaron Christenson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, Loren Booth, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, Police Chief Ben Aschenbrenner. Mayor Rod Johnson and Council Member John Jamison were absent.

Booth moved to approve the consent agenda, minutes from the March 21st and March 28th, 2022, meetings, the list of claims, and a Class E Liquor License for Laurens Food Pride pending fire inspection. Zylstra seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 04-04-22

A & M SERVICES, INC	CLEANING SUPPLIES	98.36
ACCO	CHEMICALS	4,269.80
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY SHOP UTILITIES	613.53
BOMGAARS	SUPPLIES	292.71
BROWN SUPPLY, CO	SUPPLIES	1,070.00
CAHOY PUMP SERVICE, INC.	EQUIP MAINT.	9,952.00
DENNIS KRIPS	PURCHASE OF DUMPSTER	200.00
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	916.75
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	500.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	4,794.12
IPERS	IPERS	5,710.45
IPERS/PD	PROTECTED IPERS	2,057.06
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	6,671.24
PETTY CASH	POSTAGE	237.28
PRIME BENEFITS	GROUP INSURANCE	96.25
SANTANDER LEASING, LLC	PUMPER PAYMENT	1,461.34
SECURE SHRED SOLUTIONS	PAPER SHREDDING	26.00
SNYDER & ASSOCIATES	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,188.00
TREASURER STATE OF IA	MONTHLY SALES TAX	4,566.85
TRUCK EQUIPMENT	GUTTER BROOM	335.92
US BANK	CONFERENCE	692.88
USPS	POSTAGE POOL DONATION LETTERS	145.58
WELLMARK	MONTHLY HEALTH INSURANCE	12,995.27
	TOTAL	<u>58,891.39</u>

PAYROLL		3/21/2022	
001	GENERAL		5,776.78
210	ROAD USE TAX		1,627.12
600	WATER		2,632.26
610	SEWER		2,162.17
670	GARBAGE		2,591.08
	TOTAL		<u>14,789.41</u>
	PAYROLL TOTAL		<u>14,789.41</u>
	PAID TOTAL		<u>73,680.80</u>

001	GENERAL	15,748.61
110	ROAD USE TAX	5,396.45
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	7,967.73
174	POOL RESTRICTED	145.58
317	PRAIRIE PARK TRAIL	1,188.00
600	WATER	27,884.36
610	SEWER	8,020.77
670	GARBAGE	7,329.30
	TOTAL BY FUND	<u>73,680.80</u>

City Council Minutes

REVENUES	GENERAL	13,246.74
	ROAD USE TAX	7,894.04
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	4,010.60
	EMERGENCY LEVY	122.11
	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	19,882.22
	TAX INCREMENT FINANCING	1,118.01
	POOL RESTRICTED	2,116.00
	DEBT SERVICE	3,565.80
	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FUND	407.19
	WATER	38,095.15
	SEWER	28,395.84
	GARBAGE	20,597.98
	STORM WATER	2,946.84
		<u>142,398.52</u>

Senior Council Member Christenson proclaimed April as Keep Laurens Beautiful Month.

Booth moved to reset date for Budget Public Hearing to April 20th at 12:00 p.m. Swanson seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

Booth moved to approve Resolution 09-22 – Unpaid Nuisance Charges. Zylstra seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Christenson, Booth, Swanson. Nays: None. Absent: Jamison. Motion carried.

Swanson moved to adjourn at 5:29 p.m. Zylstra seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Aaron Christenson, Senior Councilmember

Hilary Reed, City Clerk