

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 18 No. 29

[www.thepapernow.com](http://www.thepapernow.com)

December 13,  
2023

## Local News

### *L-M 5th Graders Perform for Women's Club*

On December 8, 2023, the Laurens Women's Club met at the Festival of Trees at the United Methodist Church in Laurens. A delicious lunch was prepared by ladies of the UMW. The Club was serenaded by the Laurens-Marathon 5th Grade Class led by music teacher Mrs. Sabrina Booth as shown above. Several of the songs were choreographed.

The 5th Grade teacher Bev Curry and her assistant Arlinda Mowry presented Christmas cards to the Women's Club that were made by the students. Each year the Women's Club helps to sponsor the trip in the spring by the 5th Grade Iowa History Class.



*At the Library*  
*with Glenda Mulder*  
*December 13, 2023*

The Library elves have been busy decking the halls. It looks so wonderfully festive, and sure gets me in the Holiday mood.

Did you hear a really loud “WOO HOO” last Tuesday? That was from your quiet librarian! I received an email that our library was chosen as one of only nine stops during the 2024-2025 Iowa Tour for Spark! Places of Innovation! I had applied for this spot last summer, then pushed it to the back of my mind. The application describes it this way, “This exhibition uses photographs, engaging interactives, videos and augmented reality to explore the unique combination, people, and circumstances that sparks innovation and reveals why it flourishes in some rural areas but not in others.” We don’t know the exact dates for it yet, but you know that I will keep you informed. This Smithsonian traveling exhibit is sponsored by the State Historical Society of Iowa and Iowa Humanities Council.

New novels this week include: *Five Bad Deeds* by Caz Frear, *Last Love Note* by Emma Grey, *Lost Hours* by Paige Shelton, *Tom Clancy Command and Control* by Marc Cameron and *Engagement Party* by Darby Kane.

Book Club will be meeting a week early this month because of the holiday. According to my spreadsheet, it is our 200th Book Club selection. Our first meeting was January 19, 2007, and we have met almost every month since. We didn’t meet in July of 2007 because of the QuasQuiCentennial, hosted Iowa Author Heather Gudenkauf one month, and missed a few meetings during the Covid shut down.

Anyway, plan to join us at 7 pm Monday, December 18 when we discuss *The Gift of Family* by Mary Monroe. Of course, it’s a Christmas book! It is described this way, “This is the captivating and heartfelt tale of a couple who has everything—except the dream they long for most. But this Christmas, a reunion with someone from the past could gift them a once-in-a-lifetime last chance.”

Brenda’s card making class is also moved up a week this month, to the 19th. She will guide us to make birthday and thank you cards. There is a materials fee for this class and preregistration is required. Contact the library for more information.

**Dates to Remember**

December 18 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time

December 18 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club our 200th book is *The Gift of Family* by Mary Monroe

December 19 @ 6:30 p.m. - Card Making Class

December 23-25 Library closed – Merry Christmas!

**The Paper**

Published weekly by  
My Laurens, Inc.  
112 Walnut St.  
Laurens, IA 50554

Phone:  
(712) 841-2684

Fax:  
(712) 841-4662

Website:  
[www.thepapernow.com](http://www.thepapernow.com)

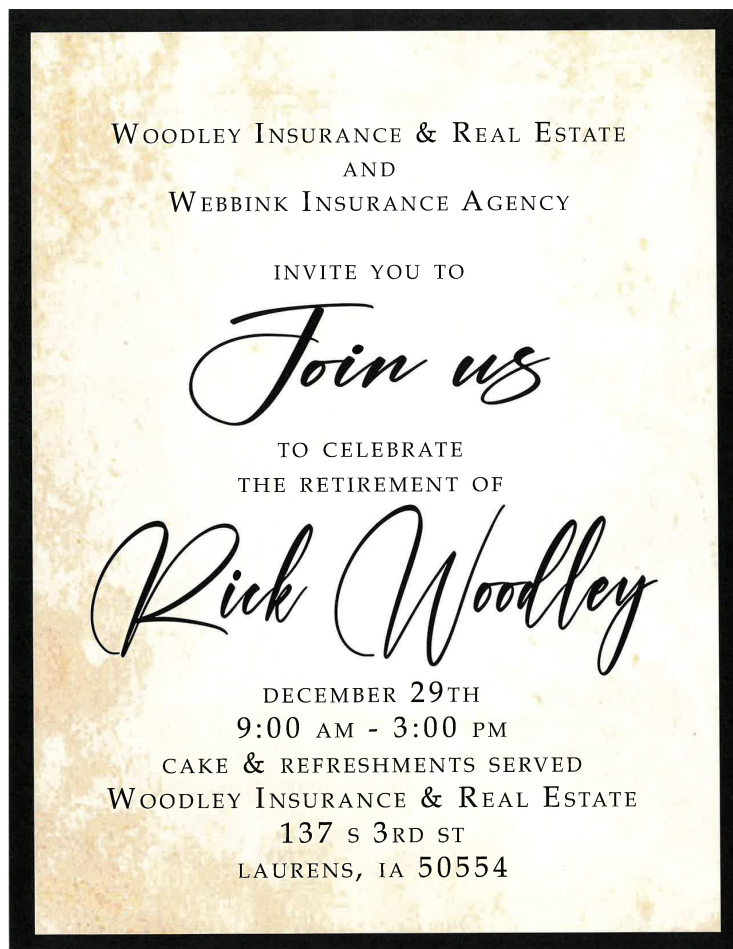
E-mail:  
[publisher@mylaurens.com](mailto:publisher@mylaurens.com)

Publisher:  
Rodney Johnson

Editor:  
Amanda Tendal

Rights to Use Content: The Paper, its content, archived materials, and our websites, are provided solely for your personal, non-commercial use. The Paper, its content, our websites and all the materials available on our websites are the property of My Laurens, Inc., and are protected by applicable copyright, trademark, and intellectual property laws. You may download, print or transmit The Paper for your personal, non-commercial use. Any commercial use of copyrighted materials requires prior authorization from My Laurens, Inc. Unless explicitly authorized by My Laurens, Inc., you may not modify copy, create derivative works, reproduce, republish, transmit, sell, or distribute in any manner or medium (including by email or other electronic means) any material from The Paper or our websites for commercial purposes. You may not use The Paper or materials available on our websites, in a manner that constitutes an infringement of our intellectual property rights/copyrights or that has not been authorized by My Laurens, Inc. For information about requesting permission to reproduce or distribute materials from The Paper, please contact My Laurens, Inc. at (712) 841-2684 or [publisher@mylaurens.com](mailto:publisher@mylaurens.com).





## 2024 Pocahontas County 4-H and FFA Fair Market Beef Weigh In

2024 Pocahontas County 4-H and FFA fair market beef weigh-ins will be held on Saturday, December 16, from 9-10:30 a.m. for county only animals and from 10:30-11:00 a.m. for State Fair retinal image identification. This will be held at the Dale Wenell Farm, 11413 500th St., Albert City.

All market beef animals that will exhibit at the 2024 Pocahontas County fair need to attend this county weigh-in date. Please call the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103 or email [lzeman@iastate.edu](mailto:lzeman@iastate.edu) with the number of animals you will bring to the weigh-in. We will offer retinal image at our weigh-in this year for state fair identification. FFA members you must get tags from your advisor, 4-H tags will not be used in FFA animals.

**HOURS**  
**Noon to 6pm**  
**Saturdays**  
**and**  
**Sundays**  
**until Christmas!**

*Laurens  
Festival  
of Trees*

**11-1 December 16**  
**Sloppy Joe Lunch**  
**Fundraiser**

**at the Laurens United Methodist Church 201 West Main**

## Community Tree

The Community Tree (which donated items go to the Laurens-Marathon School) at Festival of Trees this year will be located inside the front door. The needs this year are hats, gloves and boys jogging pants. The jogging pants sizes needed are 6-8, 8-10, 10-12 & 12-14. We appreciate all the donations as well as keeping our kids warm. Thank you! Festival of Trees Committee

### *Services Held for Nancy Stoner*

Nancy Ann Stoner of Laurens, Iowa passed away December 1st, 2023 at the age of 94. She was born Nancy Ann Edmundson on November 22, 1929. She was the only child of George Elmer Edmundson and Maude Mercedes Workman. Although she was an only child, she was also loved and nurtured by grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins who gave her plenty of growing experiences and who loved her dearly.

She graduated from the Laurens High School in 1947. On July 2nd, 1947 she married Richard Dean (Dick) Stoner at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Laurens, where they were parishioners. She was the mother of five children, Linda Ann, Rebecca Jane, Debra Jean, Patricia Lyn and Donn Richard.

Through the years in addition to being a Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and Great-Great-Grandmother, she owned and operated Nancy's Gifts in 1968 at her home in Laurens, and also worked with her husband in the catering business they began together which was called Dina Catering. She also worked at the Laurens Greenhouse arranging flowers for some years. As a youth she worked as an attendant at the Laurens Theater.

Nancy's other interests included Garden Club where she won several ribbons for her flower arrangements.

She also had an interest in antiques and was also a member of the Quester's Club. She enjoyed decorating her home especially at Christmastime, and for a



few years she invited the community into her home for an Open House to enjoy and share the "Christmas Spirit", with her little Dickens villages and Nativities all lit up and using all her talents in making the feelings of Christmas come together just right for everyone, young and old.

Her home was a place of learning and laughter and love with much singing and expectations for her children to build their character and to pursue their talents to share with others, which each one did due to her wonderful encouragement, which may never have happened otherwise, as she was influential in this pursuit early on along with the help of her husband. Often times, you would hear her say that Dick was "the calm" and she was "the storm", as her personality was one that made you behave and show respect to others. Her children always knew that they were loved in spite of her trait of being very strict at times, and she exhibited warmth and compassion and caring to her children as well as others in the community. Nancy was very patriotic and flew the flag in front of her house every day and the Veterans of Foreign Wars honored her with the Patriotic Citizens Award for doing so.

As she aged, some chronic health conditions limited her in many ways.

She loved to read and spent many long hours reading magazines and library books, especially about antiques and history, inspirational books, and stories of intrigue and romance. She loved music and it brought her much comfort, especially in hearing her children sing.

She will be missed by her children for her honest personality and her thoughtful guidance in everyday issues with her straight forward opinions and her warmth in seeing to their needs as well as the needs of others. She truly loved her family and they brought her much joy. Her faith in God sustained her throughout her whole life, and she was a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her beloved husband Dick in 1996, and her grandson, Shane Richard Smith. Left to mourn are her children Linda (Robert) Drobinski, Becky (Tom) Thies, Debra Holmes, Pat (Bruce) Carlson, and Donn (Mary) Stoner, 11 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and, 6 great-great-grandchildren, and dear friends, relatives and neighbors.

Funeral Services were held at 11:00 AM, Friday, December 8, 2023, at Powers Funeral Home - Sacred Heart Chapel in Laurens. Fr. Paul Nguyen officiated. Burial took place in the Calvary Cemetery near Laurens.

Memorials can be made in Nancy's name to the Laurens Care Center Blanket Warmer Fund, 304 E Veterans Rd, Laurens, IA 50554. Their phone number: (712) 845-4595



# Pocahontas County Economic Development Partners

Fonda Gilmore City Havelock Laurens Palmer Plover Pocahontas Rolfe Varina

PCEDC Platinum Sponsor \$1,000+	PCEDC Gold Sponsor \$600-\$999	PCEDC Silver Sponsor \$300-\$599	PCEDC Bronze Sponsor \$50-\$299																				
<p>Availa Bank Black Hills Energy Community State Bank Iowa Central Community College Iowa Lakes Electric Pro Cooperative</p>	<p>Bobalee BW Fusion Sale Barn Realty and Auction United Bank of Iowa Webbink Insurance Wessels Oil Company</p>	<p>Hopkins Insurance Jolliffe &amp; Co. KC Nielson Powers Funeral Home Pocahontas Community Hospital Pocahontas Dental Schoon Excavating &amp; Farm Drainage Seiler Appliances The Bottom Line Wells Ag Supply West Iowa Bank</p>	<p>Ashes to Ashes Pet Cremation Believe Boutique Bob Johnson Agency Denise's Flowers and Gifts Dutchland Dairy Ekstrand Construction Fisher Hydraulics Flaherty Farms G&amp;O Logistics Heart 'n Home Hwy 7 Cafe ISU Extension &amp; Outreach Jeffrey A. Johnson, L.P.A., P.C. Laurens Plumbing/Hwy 10 Hardware Med Spa Paintings in Oil Pocahontas Abstract Company Pocahontas Inn &amp; Suites Pocahontas Title Co. Rolfe Auto &amp; Farm Supply Rolfe Flower Bin Silver Dollar Saloon Stover Construction Tom's Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Sindergard Excavating Vonnahme Chiropractic Wenell Insurance Woodley Insurance and Realty Woods Supermarket</p>																				
<p>If you would like to become a sponsor, please give us a call at (712)-730-2259 or mail your donation to PO Box 212 Pocahontas, IA 50574</p>																							
<p><b>PCEDC Board of Directors</b></p> <table> <tr> <th>CHAIR</th><th>VICE-CHAIR</th><th>SECRETARY</th><th>TREASURER</th></tr> <tr> <td>Jessica Feilmeier Rolfe</td><td>John Pohlman Laurens</td><td>Hanna Kies Fonda</td><td>Hilary Reed Laurens</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lars Hersom Private Sector Rep.</td><td>James Roetman Pocahontas</td><td>Lavonne Hoover Gilmore City</td><td>Michelle Wells Private Sector Rep.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jeff Ives County Supervisor</td><td>Joan DeWall Pocahontas</td><td>Russ Naeve Gilmore City</td><td>Brent Aden County Supervisor</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Angela Duitsman Fonda</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>				CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR	SECRETARY	TREASURER	Jessica Feilmeier Rolfe	John Pohlman Laurens	Hanna Kies Fonda	Hilary Reed Laurens	Lars Hersom Private Sector Rep.	James Roetman Pocahontas	Lavonne Hoover Gilmore City	Michelle Wells Private Sector Rep.	Jeff Ives County Supervisor	Joan DeWall Pocahontas	Russ Naeve Gilmore City	Brent Aden County Supervisor		Angela Duitsman Fonda		
CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR	SECRETARY	TREASURER																				
Jessica Feilmeier Rolfe	John Pohlman Laurens	Hanna Kies Fonda	Hilary Reed Laurens																				
Lars Hersom Private Sector Rep.	James Roetman Pocahontas	Lavonne Hoover Gilmore City	Michelle Wells Private Sector Rep.																				
Jeff Ives County Supervisor	Joan DeWall Pocahontas	Russ Naeve Gilmore City	Brent Aden County Supervisor																				
	Angela Duitsman Fonda																						

Many public and private entities contribute to the Pocahontas County Economic Development Commission. The Pocahontas County Foundation appreciates the projects completed by organizations that enhance our county. Thank you for your generous contributions and continued support!



## *This Week at Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Wednesday: December 13, 2023**  
7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.

**Sunday: December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Youth SS & Coffee

Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion

& Sunday School Christmas Program

11:30 AM ~ Potluck

**Tuesday: December 19, 2023**

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

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



**Bethany**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*North American Lutheran Church*

## *This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church*

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Wed., Dec. 13:**

Caring Cards 6-8 p.m. fellowship hall

**Sat., Dec. 16:**

Festival of Trees Beef burger Meal

11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

**Sun., Dec. 17:**

Sunday School @ 9:15 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship service @ 10:30 a.m.

Youth Group from 5-7 p.m. here at

Laurens UMC



The  
United  
Methodist  
Church

## *This Week at First Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Thursday, Dec. 14**

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

**Sunday, Dec. 17**

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship



## *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

## *Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Releases Updated Health Data for Decision Makers Reports*

The latest Health Data for Decision Makers reports are available from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Available on the ISU Extension and Outreach Indicators Program website, these reports provide essential health-related data for Iowa's counties that are crucial for public health planning and action. The updated DDM reports, drawing from over 15 reputable health-related sources, offer a comprehensive profile of health indicators, including causes of death, disease statistics and socioeconomic factors. The reports highlight county trends and enable comparisons among counties within the state, and rural and urban areas.

The data and technology team with ISU Extension and Outreach's Community and Economic Development unit produced the reports. Sandra Burke, a sociologist and extension research scientist, stated, "The updated DDM reports continue our commitment to providing timely, accurate and comprehensive health data to the decision makers of Iowa."

"The integrity of our sources is critical to the DDM reports," Burke noted. "We aim to give decision makers a broad picture of the county's health, which is essential for informed policymaking and effective public health interventions."

These annual reports are a key resource for public health officials, with the latest data reflecting the evolving health landscape of Iowa's communities. "These data are not just numbers on a page; they are indicators of the vitality and challenges within our communities," said Burke.

More information and access to the Health Data for Decision Makers reports are available on the ISU Extension and Outreach Indicators Program website.

## *Dairy Webinar Series Continues with "What Does This Season's Corn Silage Look Like?" on December 13*

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team monthly webinar series continues Wednesday, December 13 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

The program "What does this season's corn silage look like?" features a presentation by Neal Wininger, Feed and Forage Consultant with Dairyland Labs, Arcadia, Wisc.

Wininger will discuss what the lab analysis from this year's corn silage samples are telling him about the quality of the crop and what producers can anticipate about how it will convert into milk in the tank.

Producers, dairy consultants, and industry representatives can attend the webinar by registering at <https://go.iastate.edu/WUWI1W>. There is no registration fee; however, registration must be done at least one hour prior to the program to receive the URL.

For more information, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Field Specialist in your area: in Northwest Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230 or [fredhall@iastate.edu](mailto:fredhall@iastate.edu); in Northeast Iowa, Jennifer Bentley, 563-382-2949 or [jbentley@iastate.edu](mailto:jbentley@iastate.edu); in East Central Iowa, Larry Tranel, 563-583-6496 or [tranel@iastate.edu](mailto:tranel@iastate.edu); in Ames, Dr. Gail Carpenter, 515-294-9085 or [ajcarpen@iastate.edu](mailto:ajcarpen@iastate.edu).

## *Farm Couple Getaway Returns to Decorah*

To help farm families build relationships and set family goals, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering a “Farm Couple Getaway” in February. This event is aimed at farmers wanting to take advantage of activities to improve farm family communication, work on farm or family goal setting, farm transitions or who just would like a weekend away to discuss farm and family issues.

The getaway will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16-17, at the Hotel Winneshiek in Decorah.

The getaway will run from 12:30 p.m. on the first day to 3:15 p.m. on the second day. There is no cost to attend the program as food, lodging and other expenses are being paid for by sponsorships. However, there is a \$50 per couple deposit to hold each reservation, refundable on the second day of the event.

Past Farm Couple Getaways have proven to be beneficial. Each getaway consists of 10 farm couples and the extension facilitators.

“They are a very productive and delightful time to discuss items of importance to help farms and families be successful,” said Larry Tranel, dairy specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis with registrations due two weeks prior to the session.

Registration brochures can be obtained from Jenn Bentley, dairy specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, at [jbentley@iastate.edu](mailto:jbentley@iastate.edu), or at the ISU Extension and Outreach Winneshiek County office, at 563-382-2949. Dairy specialist Larry Tranel is available at [tranel@iastate.edu](mailto:tranel@iastate.edu), or at the ISU Extension and Outreach Dubuque County office, at 563-583-6496.

## *Crop Advantage Series to Help Producers Make Decisions for 2024 Growing Season*

The 2024 Crop Advantage meetings will give producers a solid foundation of current research-based crop production information to help make smart, informed decisions for their farming operation.

The meetings are an opportunity for farmers and crop advisers to hear current research and crop production information from Iowa State University. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists will travel to 12 locations around Iowa from Jan. 3-30, providing updated management options and recommendations on crop production issues facing Iowa growers.

Meetings include continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisers and pesticide applicator recertification. All sites offer private pesticide applicator continuing instruction as well, for an additional fee.

“This program series allows Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists to meet with farmers across the state. We’re excited to provide the quality, in-person education farmers have come to expect,” said Josh Michel, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach.

Over 1,500 individuals attended one of the Crop Advantage meetings across Iowa in 2023, representing all 99 Iowa counties and surrounding states. Approximately 85% of attendees said information from Crop Advantage would likely save them between \$5 and \$20 per acre.

“Our goal is always to prepare producers to manage potential issues when they arise, or even before they arise, by sharing the most up-to-date scientific knowledge from Iowa State University researchers,” said Michel. “Each location’s program is unique as content is driven by local needs and production issues.”

Program topics vary by location and are selected for regional issues. Topics on this year’s agenda include crop market outlooks for 2024, nutrient management updates, soybean gall midge, climate outlooks, corn and soybean disease management updates, weed management issues and many more. For locations, times and program details visit [www.aep.iastate.edu/cas](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/cas).

Early registration for each location is \$75; late registration made fewer than seven days prior to the meeting, or on site, is \$100. Registration includes lunch, refreshment breaks and CCA credits. Online registration and additional information are available at [www.aep.iastate.edu/cas](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/cas). For more information, contact ANR Program Services at 515-294-6429, or [anr@iastate.edu](mailto:anr@iastate.edu), or contact your regional ISU Extension and Outreach field agronomist.

### **2024 meeting dates and locations:**

Jan. 3 – Sheldon	Jan. 18 – Atlantic
Jan. 4 – Storm Lake	Jan. 19 – Davenport
Jan. 5 – Mason City	Jan. 23 – Okoboji
Jan. 10 – Ankeny	Jan. 24 – Templeton
Jan. 11 – Burlington	Jan. 25 – Coralville
Jan. 16 – Cedar Falls	Jan. 30 – Le Mars



November 28, 2023

The Utility Board of Trustees of Laurens, Iowa met in regular session at the Municipal Building, 272 N. Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 3:00 p.m. on the above date. Present were Trustees Jerry Runneberg and Ben Storms. Also present was General Manager Chad Cleveland.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the November 28, 2023 regular meeting agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2023 Board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the summary of receipts for October 2023 in the amount of \$387,110.88 and the list of expenses for October 2023 in the amount of \$342,973.71. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

## **Summary of Receipts**

A/R- Electric	\$ 247,249.01
A/R- Communications	\$ 67,926.66
Merchandise/Services- Electric	\$ 2,585.00
Merchandise/Services- Communications	\$ 94.00
Carrier Access Fees- Communications	\$ 3,071.72
Write Off Recovery- Electric	\$ 265.18
Investments Accrued Interest- Electric	\$ 15,161.10
LIHEAP Payment on Closed Account- Electric	\$ 332.21
Deposits- Electric	\$ 1,605.00
Deposits- Communications	\$ 424.00
Marathon Energy Sales- Electric	\$ 8,188.54
E911 Fees- Telephone	\$ 643.26
Tower Lease- Communications	\$ 4,326.36
Attachment H Revenues- Electric	\$ 34,318.54
Lifeline Broadband Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 19.00
Lifeline Voice Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 11.00
Miscellaneous- Communications	\$ 66.30
Office Phones- Electric	\$ 30.00
Work Comp Audit Refund- Electric	\$ 300.00
Work Comp Audit Refund- Communications	\$ 218.00
Property Insurance Refund- Electric	\$ 276.00
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 387,110.88</b>

Electric Receipts	\$ 310,310.58
Communications Receipts	\$ 76,800.30
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 387,110.88</b>

## **List of Expenses**

A&M Laundry	Dust Mops & Mats	\$ 89.28
AFLAC	Employee Contributions	\$ 299.84
Ahlers & Cooney	Legal Fees	\$ 2,376.51
Amaril Uniform	FR Clothing	\$ 1,977.65
Aureon	CALEA/SS7/Transport	\$ 570.95
Aveis	Group Vision Insurance	\$ 113.21
Bally Sports North	Programming Fees	\$ 1,102.95
Big 10 Network	Programming Fees	\$ 422.37

Calix Inc.	Operations Cloud	\$	494.34
CDS Global	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$	41.65
Cleveland, Chad	Meeting Expenses	\$	133.62
Community State Bank	Service Charges	\$	131.57
Consortia Consulting	Consulting Contract	\$	2,390.00
Crouse Brothers	West Generation Plant Maint.	\$	8,500.00
Department of Energy	WAPA Power Bill	\$	31,656.58
DGR Engineering	Relay Upgrades/SCADA Project	\$	220.00
Display Systems International	Programming Fees	\$	165.76
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Administration	\$	120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Claims	\$	197.61
Fiserv	Credit Card Processing	\$	72.36
GFC Leasing	Canon Copier Lease	\$	76.82
Goldfield Telecom	E7 Cards/Shelf	\$	8,346.84
Grainger	Tools/Safety Gear/Supplies	\$	521.10
Gray Media Group	Programming Fees	\$	800.00
Graybar Electric	Fiber Jumpers	\$	389.20
Hearst Television	Programming Fees	\$	1,470.00
Heart N Home	Memorial Flowers- Richard Main	\$	101.51
ICMA RC	Employee Contributions	\$	1,500.00
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$	14,776.55
Internal Revenue Service	Federal Excise Tax	\$	528.61
Interstate TRS Fund	TRS Fund Assessment	\$	228.48
Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales Tax	\$	6,332.22
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$	2,066.64
Iowa One Call	Locates	\$	20.70
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Contributions	\$	9,376.87
KC Nielsen LTD	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	22.20
Laurens, City of	Utility Billing	\$	93,906.88
Laurens Food Pride	Supplies	\$	66.25
Laurens House of Print	Utility Statements/Envelopes	\$	482.70
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Communications Bill	\$	360.47
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Utility Bill	\$	110.54
Laurens Plumbing	LED Bulbs/Flag/Supplies	\$	292.38
Long Lines	Communication Services	\$	10,060.32
Lumen Access Billing	Transport Fees	\$	95.31
Lumen Lexcis	Directory Listings	\$	36.45
Main, Richard	Trustee Fees	\$	300.00
Merchant Bankcard	Credit Card Processing	\$	1,035.95
Mid-America Communications II	NOC/CO Services	\$	479.81
MidAmerican Energy	Neal 4 Operations	\$	26,000.00
National Content & Technology Cooperative	Programming/TiVo/ACA	\$	13,302.41
Nexstar Broadcasting	Programming Fees	\$	1,507.21
NIMECA	Power Bill	\$	15,315.85
NIMECA	Property Insurance	\$	33.81
Oakhill Consulting	Fiber Splicing Information	\$	207.00
Office Elements	Office Supplies	\$	403.55
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$	40,217.53
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Life/Disability Insurance	\$	773.88
Pop Media	Programming Fees	\$	37.23
Postmaster	Postage	\$	660.00
Pro Cooperative	Vehicle Fuel	\$	480.22
Pro Cooperative	Fuel for Generators	\$	19,781.23

R&D Industries	Network Support	\$	363.50
Record Democrat	Advertising	\$	70.25
RSM US LLP	Network Support	\$	2,160.00
Schultz, Ethan	Tuition Reimbursement	\$	625.00
Spencer Municipal Utilities	Fiber Lease	\$	450.00
Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.	Energy Assistance Refund	\$	332.21
US Card Systems	Credit Card Terminal Lease	\$	29.95
Verizon	Wireless Phone Service	\$	207.00
Visa	Hulu/Annual Fee/Meals	\$	306.20
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Group Health Insurance	\$	14,249.05
Zcorum	Truvision Fees	\$	261.08
Ziegler, Inc.	Generator Maintenance	\$	338.50
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>342,973.71</b>

Electric Expenses	\$	280,607.26
Communications Expenses	\$	62,366.45
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>342,973.71</b>

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report, Income Statement, and Balance Sheet for October 2023. No specific action was taken.

At 3:45 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Storms announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing and meeting on the matter of amending the Calendar Year 2023 Budget as published in the Laurens Sun on November 8, 2023.

The Chairman Pro Tem asked the Secretary whether any written objections had been filed by any resident or property owner of the City to the amendment of the Budget. The Secretary advised the Board of Trustees that no written objections had been filed. The Chairman Pro Tem then called for oral objections to the amendment of the Budget, and none were made. The Chairman Pro Tem then declared the time for receiving oral and written objections to be closed.

At 3:47 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Storms declared the hearing on the matter of Amending the Calendar Year 2023 Budget to be closed.

Trustee Runneberg introduced and moved for adoption a resolution approving the amendment to Calendar Year ending December 31, 2023 Budget as set forth in the detailed budget worksheet in support thereof showing the estimated revenues and expenditures for said calendar year. Trustee Storms seconded the motion. The roll was called, and the vote was:

Ayes: Runneberg, and Storms. Nays: None.

The Chairman Pro Tem declared the resolution duly adopted.

At 3:50 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Storms announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing and meeting on the matter of Approving the Calendar Year 2024 Budget as published in the Laurens Sun on November 8, 2023.

The Chairman Pro Tem asked the Secretary whether any written objections had been filed by any resident or property owner of the City to the approval of the Budget. The Secretary advised the Board of Trustees that no written objections had been filed. The Chairman Pro Tem then called for oral objections to the approval of the Budget, and none were made. The Chairman Pro Tem then declared the time for receiving oral and written objections to be closed.



At 3:52 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Storms declared the hearing on the matter of Approving the Calendar Year 2024 Budget to be closed.

Trustee Storms introduced and moved for adoption a resolution approving the Calendar Year ending December 31, 2024 Budget as set forth in the detailed budget worksheet in support thereof showing the estimated revenues and expenditures for said calendar year. Trustee Runneberg seconded the motion. The roll was called, and the vote was:

Ayes: Runneberg, and Storms. Nays: None.

The Chairman Pro Tem declared the resolution duly adopted.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the Letter of Recommendation to the Mayor for a new Board Trustee. The Board of Trustees would like to recommend Kelly Horsman be appointed to the Board of Trustees to fill the remaining term of Richard Main. Mr. Main's term expires in April of 2025. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to designate General Manager Chad Cleveland as the Authorized Representative for Laurens Municipal Light and Power Plant at all meetings of the members of North Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Association (NIMECA) and to designate Ben Storms the First Alternative Representative for Laurens Municipal Light and Power Plant at all meetings of the members of NIMECA. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve a Holiday Lighting Credit of \$25 on the January 2024 Utility bill for electric customers putting up at least 200 Christmas Lights or one (1) inflatable. The lights and/or inflatables need to be on every evening between December 15, 2023 and January 1, 2024. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve a One Time Payment of \$300 in Laurens Chamber Bucks to all full-time employees during calendar year 2023 and \$150 in Laurens Chamber Bucks to all part-time and seasonal employees during calendar year 2023. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the purchase agreement with Granger Motors, Inc. in the amount of \$58,099.10 for a 2023 Ford F250 XL Crew Cab service truck for the electric utility. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried. The utility is working with Hiway Truck Equipment and Brand FX on a utility topper for this truck.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the wage scales for calendar year 2024 as presented and require all LMPC employees who have family health insurance coverage to contribute 8 percent of the difference between the family and single coverage premium. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to set the General Manager's wage for calendar year 2024 at Grade 5, Step 23 of the General Manager's Wage Scale. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

General Manager's Update:

- Discussed a couple items from the November 14, 2023 NIMECA monthly board meeting.
- Retransmission Consent negotiations are ongoing with our local channels. Programming fees for our local channels are taking a significant jump in cost.
- Working on material for a "Streaming Video" class for our Cable TV customers.

- Reviewed Bad Debt Report and preliminary write off list of accounts.

There being no further business, the Chairman Pro Tem declared the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Ben Storms

Chairman Pro Tem, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

# City Council Minutes

Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, Loren Booth, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, Deputy City Clerk Joan Hoben, and Chief of Police Ben Aschenbrenner. Council Member John Jamison was absent.

Zylstra moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting, the list of claims, a Class C Liquor License for Silver Dollar Saloon, and a Class B Liquor License for Dollar General Corp. Christenson seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

## CLAIMS 12/4/23

A&M SERVICES, INC.	RUGS, RAGS, MOPS	104.86
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS FEE	226.98
AUGUST ENTERPRISES	BASEMENT CONSULTING	600.00
B&K EMBROIDERY	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	150.00
FIRE SVC TRAINING BUREAU	2 FIREFIGHTER TRAINING	100.00
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	2,036.00
GFC LEASING- WI	TECH SUPPORT	67.32
GRAHAM TIRE SPENCER	TIRES FOR GRADER	3,260.46
HIWAY TRUCK EQUIPMENT	DUMP TRUCK REPAIRS	23,642.99
IA DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	POOL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT	550.00
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	500.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	9,975.88
IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY	2023 INTEREST	7,640.00
IOWA ONE CALL	LOCATES	19.00
IPERS	IPERS	6,768.02
IPERS/PD	PROTECTED IPERS	1,836.19
JAMES LITWILLER	MILEAGE & MEALS AT TRAINING	267.10
JCL SOLUTIONS	NEW RUG	415.00
KC NIELSEN	FLOOR DRY	272.75
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	ONE TIME PAYMENT	3,450.00
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE FEES	427.24
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	4,935.57
LAURENS PLUMBING SERVICES	SUPPLIES	286.79
MENARDS	SHOP SUPPLIES	44.98
NORTH LAKE TRUCK REPAIR	RECYCLING TRUCK REPAIRS	994.39
NORTHWEST IA LEAGUE OF CITIES	MEMBERSHIP	25.00
PEPSI BEVERAGE COMPANY	CONCESSIONS	1,015.32
PFM FINANCIAL ADVISORS	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	2,000.00
POCAHONTAS SALES & SERVICE	POLICE CAR OIL CHANGE	54.84
PRIME BENEFIT SYSTEMS	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	87.50
RSM US LLP	TGEC SUPPORT	16,306.80
SANDE CONSTRUCTION	CONTRACTORS PERMIT	19,250.00
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, LLC	HOSE	1,056.95
SATANDER LEASING, LLC	PUMPER PAYMENT	1,461.34
SCOTT HERRIG LAWN CARE	CITY SPRAYING 2023	5,200.00
SECURE SHRED SOLUTIONS	PAPER SHREDDING	26.00
SIEPKER AUTO REPAIR	FORD 2016 REPAIR PARTS	207.40
TREASURER STATE OF IA	STATE TAX	2,089.92
UMB	2023 INTEREST	4,170.00
US BANK	LEGAL ADS	1,594.34



# City Council Minutes

VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE	91.52
	TOTAL	<u>123,208.45</u>
PAYROLL	11/27/2023	
001 GENERAL		6,876.02
210 ROAD USE TAX		1,942.40
600 WATER		2,950.05
610 SEWER		2,742.28
670 GARBAGE		<u>3,468.63</u>
	TOTAL	17,979.38
PAYROLL	11/29/2023	
001 GENERAL		12,067.24
	TOTAL	12,067.24
PAYROLL	12/1/2023	
001 GENERAL		<u>6,914.83</u>
	TOTAL	6,914.83
	PAYROLL TOTAL	<u>36,961.45</u>
	PAID TOTAL	<u>160,169.90</u>
001 GENERAL		56,248.72
110 ROAD USE TAX		31,733.03
112 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		48.11
174 POOL RESTRICTED		19,800.00
200 DEBT SERVICE		4,170.00
600 WATER		22,649.16
610 SEWER		15,939.19
670 GARBAGE		<u>9,581.69</u>
	TOTAL BY FUND	<u>160,169.90</u>
REVENUES	GENERAL	45,656.39
	ROAD USE TAX	13,991.34
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	18,787.76
	EMERGENCY LEVY	1,000.27
	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	16,196.65
	TAX INCREMENT FINANCING	896.34
	POOL RESTRICTED	31,940.00
	DEBT SERVICE	19,937.45
	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	2,122.85
	PERPETUAL CARE	80.00
	WATER	44,061.38
	SEWER	30,784.98
	GARBAGE	20,150.65
	STORM WATER	<u>2,978.97</u>
	TOTAL	<u>248,585.03</u>

Russ Jergens, County EMA Coordinator, presented the council with information regarding installing a satellite somewhere in Laurens to help with weather radar. Jergens and Reed will continue conversations.

Tim Fisher addressed the council in regard to his nuisance abatement at 502 W. Garfield St. The council heard the concerns, and Chief Aschenbrenner will look into the date of notification and report back to council.

An update from Pat Sullivan regarding the Proposed Community Center was given.

Swanson moved to approve Kelly Horsman to fill a vacancy on the LMPC Board of Trustees until the term ending April 2025. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Booth moved to approve the FY 23 Urban Renewal Report. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Zylstra moved to approve the FY23 Street Finance Report. All ayes; motion carried.

Booth moved to approve Pay Request #3 to Sande Construction in the amount of \$218,500. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Booth moved to adjourn at 5:52 p.m. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

---

Rod Johnson, Mayor

---

Hilary Reed, City Clerk