

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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May 15, 2024

## Local News

### Wurr Receives the Rand Fisher Leadership Award

The 8th Annual Iowa Rural Summit last week included a special recognition of six rural leaders, including Julie Wurr of Laurens. Wurr was honored for her role as an entrepreneur, downtown business leader and regional economic contributor.

The Iowa Rural Summit brings together leaders from small towns across Iowa each year, and this year's event included a special tribute to a group of individuals who have made a difference in their rural community or region. The Summit is hosted by the Iowa Rural Development Council (IRDC), a statewide non-profit focused on small-town and rural vitality.

The Rand Fisher Rural Leadership Award, sponsored by the IADG Community Foundation, recognizes individuals in rural economic and community development, philanthropy, the arts and utilities. The honorees are nominated by friends, colleagues or anyone who values their contributions to rural places. The final selection is by an IRDC screening committee.

Wurr was cited specifically for her innovative approach to building out her Heart 'n Home business, which she started in her home in 1992. Some 32 years later, the business is thriving in

downtown Laurens. Meanwhile, Wurr is not only a business owner in Laurens, but a community advocate for retail and future economic development.

"Julie is very involved in the community through the chamber of commerce, swimming pool committee, and is a fabulous advocate for promoting economic development and bringing more stores to the greater Pocahontas County area," said Mark Reinig, IRDC board president. "She's a perfect example of how a leader can make a huge difference for communities now and long into the future."

With a crowd of more than 360 individuals from 70 different small towns, the Iowa Rural Summit addressed issues this year ranging from rural pharmacy shortages to ag technology innovation to community development options.

Julie stated: I am honored to receive this award. I truly believe in community over competition. The best thing that could happen to every community in Pocahontas County is that every downtown building is full of retail/office/service businesses. If we could do that; Pocahontas County would become a destination area for shopping.

Working with MaryJo of the Pocahontas Economic Development Commission has been so much more effective in helping potential businesses. Most people with a dream of having a business keeps it close to their heart. I often get people in asking how to start. I visit with them and then send them to MaryJo of PCEDC. I have seen MaryJo show them buildings on what most people would see as their "off time"

such as late on a Saturday afternoon. She works with everyone's schedule and has the passion to see this county develop with economic growth.

I also like to send future entrepreneurs to the Small Business Development Center. It is like boot camp for businesses.

Being on the Small Business Council for the National Retail Federation has opened my eyes to how much our congress has influence over everything we do. For example; the credit card fee act (to open up even trade for all credit cards and reduce the fees to businesses. Think of it as what they did with ATT and help (other telephone companies.), advocating for the CCFA in Washington DC and on The Hill gets you in the depth of how politics affects businesses.



## *Julie Wurr of Heart n' Home Gives Presentation for Women's Club*

On Friday, May 10, Julie Wurr owner of Heart n' Home in Laurens presented a program to the Laurens Women's Club at the Bethany Lutheran Church.

Julie first demonstrated a way to refresh artificial flowers that have been in storage by using the steam method. To display the artificial flowers, one can be creative with a silver tray, old books, candles, or pine cones. To add color and grace, some flowers or wreaths can be pulled apart and placed throughout.

Julie also explained a charcuterie board which in the 1700 and 1800s was used for an appetizer of cheeses. The Americans have added items such as sliced apple, peanut butter, chopped pecans, white chocolate chips, syrup or caramel, and crackers. The advantage of a charcuterie board when placed in a central location, such as the middle of a table, is to promote conversation and socializing among people. When looking for fresh apples, the blossom end (opposite the stem) will still be closed. The members then sampled from the charcuterie board with a vanilla wafer. Very tasty!



## Marathon Party in the Park

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Party In The Park will be held at the Poland Park in Marathon on June 1, 2024. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude around 4:30 p.m. We will provide pulled pork sandwiches and sloppy joes. We will provide hot dogs as well. There will be iced tea, lemonade and water provided.

The remainder of the items are potluck so please plan to bring a dish of your choosing, whether it be a salad, a dessert, chips, ice cream, etc.

We will hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car Show with best car voted on by the attendees.

We will have plenty of free time for visiting and catching up with old friends but we will also have a silent auction with a very limited number of items, and a door prize drawing of the silent auction items from last year that didn't sell. Monetary donations will be accepted to continue this event next year!

We will have medals and monetary gifts for the car show winners!

While it is not required to RSVP, please consider letting Roxanne Wilken know if you plan to attend. She can be reached at 515-971-6293 or by email at Rwilken553@aol.com.

If you have any questions regarding the event, please reach out.

## Artificial Intelligence Marketing Class

Are you interested in learning more innovative ways to market your business?

Here is your chance to register to attend our Artificial Intelligence Marketing Class being held at the Laurens Career Academy on Thursday, May 30th from 1-3 p.m.

Seats are limited, so please scan the QR code or click on the flyer to register and pay.

If you have questions, please reach out to MaryJo at: litwiller@iowacentral.edu.

## Announcements

### 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Wishing you a Happy 90th birthday! Larry will be celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Party will be held in August.

-From All of Us Kids



## The Paper

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**PARTY IN THE PARK**  
June 1, 2024  
10:30 - 4:30 pm

Marathon Poland Park  
Marathon, Iowa

Car show  
Potluck lunch  
Door prizes

Please share with all your family and friends that are Marathon alumni or have a connection to Marathon!

Please rsvp to:  
Roxanne Wilken  
515-971-6293  
or email  
[Rwilken553@aol.com](mailto:Rwilken553@aol.com)

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### At the Library with Glenda Mulder May 15, 2024

May already! We are winding up our visits with the L-M students, and making plans for Kids' Summer Reading! We have moved Summer Reading to 11 am Wednesdays, except for our Kick-off at 6:30 p.m. June 12th which will feature Dinosaur Dimensions. That night we will have a chance to meet realistic dinosaurs up close and personal. Mark that one on your calendar, you'll want to be sure to be here!

Last of this session's Evening Tot time is Monday, May 20th. Tessa is planning an extra fun evening, including a few special visitors! Then we will pause our Evening Tot Times, and bring them back in the Fall.

We have a program booked the Tuesday after Memorial Day with Tyler of Iowa Scenic Views by Foot. He introduces himself on the Facebook page this way, "I am an Iowa City native and have been traveling the state for the last 9 years this May. County by county, but just the last 5 years I have been going to every city on the Iowa road map and other hidden ones along the way. I run at least 1 mile depending on the population. The larger the town, the more I run. I post pictures from my journey and working on writing a poem for every county." Learn more about Tyler's quest at 1:30 Tuesday, May 28.

New novels this week include: *Westport* by James Comey, *Lonesome*

*Place for Dying* by Nolan Chase, *Paradise Problem* by Christina Lauren, *Summer Swap* by Sarah Morgan, *We Were the Universe* by Kimberly King Parsons, *The Paradise Novel* by Ruth Reichl and *Lovers and Liars* by Amanda Ward, *Daughters of Shandong* by Eve Chung, *Summers at the Saint* (CD Audio also!) by Mary Kay Andrews, *Instruments of Darkness* by John Connolly, *Home is Where the Bodies Are* by Jeneva Rose, *The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club* by Helen Simonson and *Long Island* by Colm Toibin. We also received Erik Larson's latest nonfiction, *The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War*. Last, but certainly not least, we received our first Christmas book of 2024 – *Evergreen Christmas* by Janet Dailey!

Book Club this month is a week early because of the holiday. We will meet Monday, May 20 to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. This fun novel is set in California in the 1960's. It is an uplifting story of a female scientist whose career is constantly derailed by the idea that a woman's place is in the home, only to find herself starring as the host of America's most beloved TV cooking show. If you haven't read it yet, you should! If you have read it, come talk about it with us!

I'm 2/3 of the way to my goal with my Reading Challenge, at 41.31"! "Read Your Height" seems to have been the encouragement I needed – I've been reading with

a passion! My favorite books this month were *Go as a River* by Shelley Read, *A Wild and Heavenly Place* by Robin Oliviera and *The Lost Ticket* and *Nosy Neighbor*, both by Freya Sampson. Keeping a list of books read is interesting because I see trends – I am reading way less mysteries than I used to read!

### Mark Your Calendar!

May 20 Evening Tot Time – Special Surprise for last session!

May 20 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club  
*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

May 28 @ 1:30 p.m. - Iowa Scenic Views by Foot

June 12 @ 6:30 p.m. - Dinosaur Dimensions!

June 19 – August 14 @ 11 a.m. - Kids Summer Reading!

June 26 @ 6:30 p.m. - Garden Fresh Eats with ISU Extension

July 17 @ 11 a.m. - The Dulcimer Guy

July 31 @ 6:30 p.m. - Preserving from your Garden with ISU Extension





please join us for a  
BABY SHOWER HONORING

*Alaina Lind*

on June 8, 2024 •  
Come and Go from 10:00 am-12:00 pm

At Steve and Karen Lind's home  
4633 200th Ave, Marathon, IA 50565

Baby Registry located at  
<https://www.babylist.com/list/alaina-lind>

## Lois M. Olson Passes

Lois M. Olson, age 93, of Dubuque and formerly of Marathon, Iowa, passed away at 10:45 p.m., on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at Stonehill Health Center. To celebrate Lois's life, there will be a joint celebration for her and her former husband, Dean Olson, held in the afternoon on June 8, 2024, at the Marathon Community Center, 306 W. Attica Street, Marathon, Iowa. Burial will be in Poland Township Cemetery. Behr Funeral Home in Dubuque and Sliefert Funeral Home in Marathon are assisting the family.



Lois was born on September 20, 1930, in Carroll, Iowa, the daughter of George and Mildred (Goodwin) Beck. Sadly George would pass away when Lois was very young, but her mother remarried and she gained a wonderful step-father, Christian Hollinger.

After her father passed away the family moved to Sloan, Iowa where she graduated from Sloan High School, Class of 1949. Lois went on to earn her Associates Degree from Buena Vista College in Storm Lake and would begin teaching elementary school children until the late 50's. In 1957, she married Dean Olson and they had 3 sons. They enjoyed the outdoors and Lois even learned to ride her own BMW motorcycle becoming an official member of the Silver Wheels Club. Sadly the marriage ended, but they remained friends until he passed away earlier this year. Lois was always a woman on the go. She had many business ventures and hobbies including co-owning and operating the Country Clover Farm Store in Marathon from 1979 until the mid 1980's, owning an antique store, restoring furniture and candle making. Lois was also very active in her community and served on the school board and as the Mayor of Marathon for 2 terms. Eventually Lois would meet her long time partner, Dorothy Hoffmann, and discover a love for the RV life. Every winter they would load up the RV and head to Apache Junction to enjoy the warm weather and spending time with their friends. Lois has lived a very full life and loved her family deeply. She will be greatly missed.

Those left to cherish Lois's memory include her three sons; Tim (Chris Happ) Olson, Dubuque, IA, Greg (Chris Montgomery) Olson, Columbia, MO and Brad (Karla Finn) Olson, Des Moines, IA; five grandchildren; Emma Olson, Lena Olson, Tess Wilkerson, Curtis (Jennifer) Finn and Brenda (Alan) Hall, three great-grandchildren, Marcus Finn, Bekah Finn and Adilyn Hall; a niece and five nephews.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents and step-father; her life partner, Dorothy Hoffmann; 3 sisters, Shirley (George) Davis, Barb (Richard) Leth and Christine (Al) Soukup; a nephew, Rick Leth; and her former husband, Dean Olson.

Lois's family would like to thank her friends at The Rose for the past 9 years, and the nurses and staff of Stonehill and Hospice of Dubuque for the support and kindness they have given to Lois.

The family will thankfully receive your support through greeting cards and memorials in Lois's memory which may be mailed to Behr Funeral Home, 1491 Main Street, Dubuque, Iowa 52001, Attn. Lois Olson Family.

*a little cutie*

*is on the way*

JOIN US IN HONORING THE MAMA-TO-BE  
**LACEY ANDERSON**  
 (Van Sickle)  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH**  
**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**213 S. HARRISON • LAURENS, IA**  
**9:30 - 11:00 AM**

*Registry can be found at [BabyList.com](http://BabyList.com) and William & Wesley.*

### *Daryl Long Passes*

Daryl H. Long, age 84, of Laurens, passed away on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Trinity Regional Medical Center in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Daryl Howard Long was born on November 26, 1939, in Fort Dodge, Iowa to parents Kenneth Howard Long and Idela (Robertson) Long. Daryl graduated from Laurens High School in 1959 and went on to attend Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa.

He married Dorothy Sharp on August 6, 1961, in Storm Lake, Iowa. The couple lived in Storm Lake and Hopkins, MN before settling in Laurens in 1963. They were involved in the hardware business for over 40 years. He was rewarded for 25 years with Coast-to-Coast Hardware and later changed to Ace Hardware. He later became involved in real estate.

Daryl held various offices in Laurens Chamber of Commerce, served on Laurens City Council, Pocahontas County Conservation Board, Cemetery Sexton for two Laurens cemeteries, member of Laurens Industrial Foundation and American Quarter Horse Association.

He was a member of Laurens United Methodist Church and Sun Lakes United Methodist Church, serving on the Gardens Committee for the S.L.U.M.C. Cremation Cemetery.

He was the Master Lamb Producer for the State of Iowa in 1981. He raised many horses, at one time 52. He and his favorite, Sundance, spent many hours together. Daryl enjoyed being outside and was an avid hunter, having made many trips to Wyoming and Alaska. He could fix about anything and enjoyed wintering in Arizona for over 15 years.

Daryl is survived by his wife, Dorothy of Laurens; son, Dr. David Long (Sarah) of Martin, TN; daughter, Deborah Long Billington of Los Angeles, CA; grandchildren, Jordan Long (Lily), Michael Long (Katie), Rachel Billington, Ava Long and Evelyn Long, and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Idela Long; brother, Gary Long and wife Jan; son, Craig Long and wife Allison; in-laws, Robert and Evelyn Sharp, and brother-in-law, Roland Sharp.



### *Kathleen Ann Ferguson Passes*

Kathleen Ann Ferguson, affectionately known as Kathi to her loved ones, passed away peacefully on May 10, 2024, at the age of 73 in Iowa City, IA. Born on May 14, 1950, in Estherville, IA, Kathi's life was a testament to her unwavering faith and her deep love for her family.

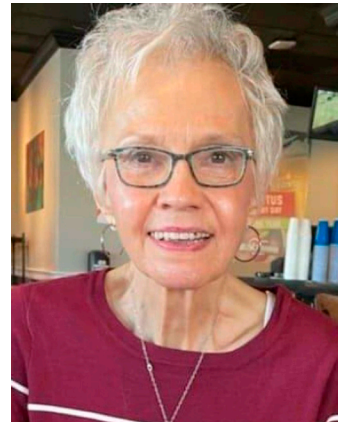
Kathi's journey began as the cherished daughter of Lyle and Marjorie Strong, growing up on the family farm in Armstrong, Iowa with her younger siblings Tom and Renee, graduating from Armstrong High School in 1968. In 1969, Kathi married Joe Shields in Sherman, Texas. That union brought Jack and Jodi into the world, and they made their home in Spencer, Iowa. Kathi wed her beloved husband, Dr. Dale Ferguson, on August 15, 1981 and together they shared a life full of joy and ministry until Dale's passing in 2010. Kathi and Dale made their home in Laurens, Iowa before moving to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma to attend Rhema Bible College. After graduating from Rhema in 1993 they moved to Bella Vista, Arkansas. After retiring in 2015, Kathi moved to Mount Vernon, Iowa to be closer to family so she could spend more time with her children and grandchildren.

Kathi found comfort and strength in her family, who will remember her as the loving mother of Jack (Sue) Shields and Jodi (Travis) Galloway, and step-mother to Cynthia (Harry) Charger, Jennifer (Tony) Winslow, Melissa (Renee Ticao) Ferguson, and Scott (Ann) Ferguson. Kathi was a proud and loving grandmother to Sara, Julia, Jace, and Jackson Shields, Katie (Austin) Knake, Kaleb (Kacee) Galloway, Kassidee Galloway, Rain Charger, Joseph Winslow, Baile (Jack) Stephenson, Michael Winslow, Ethan Ticao, Danielle Ticao, and great-grandmother (Gigi) to Kaydence Knake, Boe Galloway, Paisley and Oaklee Tenley, and Zion and Beckett Stephenson. She was also a loving sister to Tom (Retta) Strong and Renee (Conrad) Anderson and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Kathi graduated from Spencer School of Business and later Rhema Bible College, where she cultivated her love for ministry and spiritual growth. Her commitment to her faith was evident in her dedication to ministering to people, whether through leading or participating in Bible studies, speaking at conferences, or bringing smiles to children's faces with her clown ministry.

Later in her life, Kathi battled the effects of Inclusion Body Myositis and Lupus. These diseases primarily affected her mobility. She fought these diseases through prayer, changing her diet, and regular exercise. She was an inspiration as she didn't let these challenges stop her from attending church, family activities, or visiting with friends.

The words that best describe Kathi are faith-filled and loving. Her life was a living example of these qualities, as she approached every person and situation with a heart full of grace. Kathi's ability to see the good in people and to encourage them in their faith journey was one of her most remarkable gifts. She will be profoundly missed by her family and the many lives she touched.



*This Week at  
Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Thursday: May 16, 2024**

2:00 PM - Circle Group

**Sunday: May 19, 2024**

**Day of Pentecost**

9:15 AM - Adult SS

9:30 AM - Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM - Worship w/Communion

11:30AM - Potluck

**Tuesday: May 21, 2024**

8:30 AM - Prayer Group

9:30 AM - Tuesday coffee at Bethany

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



*This Week at  
Laurens United  
Methodist Church*

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Wednesday, May 15th:**

Laurens UMC Admin Council Board Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Wesley Room

**Sunday, May 19th:**

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

Worship @ 10:30 Laurens UMC



*This Week at First  
Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Sunday, May 19**

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship



*Resurrection  
of Our Lord  
Catholic Church*

**Pocahontas, IA -- Priest:  
Father Paul Nguyen**

**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

*Fonda Arts Center - "Songs of the 70's"*

Another opportunity is coming up when friends reunite for an afternoon of music and commradarie at the Fonda Arts Center.

On May 26th, starting at 3:00 p.m., it will be songs that many of us recognize and remember fondly - songs of the 70's which have stood the test of time and are part of our current playlist! Larry Heschke of Fonda, and Dan Keen of Newell will sing hits made popular by artists such as Jim Croce, Elton John, Neil Diamond, James Taylor, the Carpenters, and many more.

All this happening at the Fonda Arts Center on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main in Fonda. Everyone is welcome! As always, admission and refreshments are free



April 25, 2024

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 Kelly Horsman, Jerry Runneberg, and Ben Storms. Also present were General Manager Chad Cleveland and Electric Operations Manager Reid Prins.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the agenda for the April 25, 2024 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2024 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the summary of receipts for March 2024 in the amount of \$458,040.15 and the list of expenses for February 2024 in the amount of \$376,168.42. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### Summary of Receipts

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| A/R- Electric                                  | \$ 275,313.06 |
| A/R- Communications                            | \$ 56,745.87  |
| Merchandise/Services- Electric                 | \$ 532.00     |
| Merchandise/Services- Communications           | \$ 72.00      |
| Carrier Access Fees- Communications            | \$ 2,610.20   |
| Write Off Recoveries- Electric                 | \$ 1,951.66   |
| Write Off Recoveries- Communications           | \$ 269.84     |
| Accumulated Interest- Electric                 | \$ 14,996.30  |
| Erate Reimbursements- Communications           | \$ 271.20     |
| Deposits- Electric                             | \$ 2,965.50   |
| Unclaimed Utility Deposits- Electric           | \$ 73.93      |
| Energy Assistance- Electric                    | \$ 2,216.15   |
| Deposits- Communications                       | \$ 275.00     |
| Interest on Investments- Electric              | \$ 11.20      |
| Marathon Energy Sales- Electric                | \$ 9,124.05   |
| Tower Leases- Communications                   | \$ 3,108.72   |
| Attachment H Revenue- Electric                 | \$ 34,199.81  |
| NIMECA Attachment H Revenue- Electric          | \$ 25,261.36  |
| Wind REC Sales- Electric                       | \$ 14,206.80  |
| Lifeline Broadband Reimbursement- Internet     | \$ 19.00      |
| Lifeline Voice Reimbursement- Telephone        | \$ 11.00      |
| Miscellaneous- Communications                  | \$ 43.34      |
| Disposition of Assets (Transformers)- Electric | \$ 750.00     |
| Disposition of Assets (2009 F250)- Electric    | \$ 11,890.00  |
| Office Phones- Electric                        | \$ 30.00      |
| EBS Account Refund- Electric                   | \$ 1,092.16   |
| Total Cash Receipts                            | \$ 458,040.15 |

### List of Expenses

|                                |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| A & M Laundry                  | Dust Mops & Mats        | \$ 89.28    |
| AFLAC                          | Employee Contributions  | \$ 312.82   |
| After Prom Party               | Donation                | \$ 100.00   |
| Aureon                         | CALEA/SS7/Transport     | \$ 851.13   |
| Avesis- Fidelity Security Life | Group Vision Insurance  | \$ 113.21   |
| Bally Sports North             | Programming Fees        | \$ 1,018.40 |
| Big 10 Network                 | Programming Fees        | \$ 375.44   |
| Bolton, Brian                  | Deposit Refund          | \$ 39.97    |
| Border States Electric         | Fuses/Arrestors/Triplex | \$ 4,978.66 |
| Calix, Inc.                    | Operations Cloud        | \$ 505.64   |

|   |                                    |    |           |
|---|------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| City of Laurens                           | Utility Billing                    | \$ | 91,484.42 |
| CMBA Architects                           | Storage Building Project           | \$ | 444.68    |
| Community Auto Parts                      | Vehicle Supplies                   | \$ | 321.46    |
| Community First Broadcasting              | Radio- LM School Sponsor           | \$ | 52.50     |
| Consortia Consulting                      | Consulting Contract                | \$ | 1,125.00  |
| Department of Energy                      | WAPA Power Bill                    | \$ | 35,065.01 |
| DGR Engineering                           | Cash Flow/SCADA/Fuel Storage       | \$ | 4,219.00  |
| Display Systems International             | Programming Fees                   | \$ | 165.76    |
| Echo Group                                | Meter Sockets/Flex Conduit         | \$ | 1,588.86  |
| Employee Benefit Systems                  | Self-Funding- Administration       | \$ | 120.00    |
| Employee Benefit Systems                  | Self-Funding- Claims               | \$ | 293.14    |
| Fuchs Construction                        | Switch Gear Bldg. Maintenance      | \$ | 2,795.77  |
| GFC Leasing – WI                          | Copier Leases                      | \$ | 80.57     |
| Goldfield Telecom                         | Calix- Gigablasts                  | \$ | 3,739.38  |
| Grainger                                  | Toolbox/Tools/Safety Glasses       | \$ | 1,012.94  |
| Gray Media Group                          | Programming Fees                   | \$ | 792.00    |
| Hearst Television                         | Programming Fees                   | \$ | 1,513.60  |
| Hiway Truck Equipment                     | F250 Truck Topper                  | \$ | 6,008.38  |
| ICMA RC                                   | Employee Contributions             | \$ | 1,000.00  |
| Internal Revenue Service                  | Payroll Taxes                      | \$ | 10,822.07 |
| Interstate TRS Fund                       | TRS Fund Assessment                | \$ | 228.48    |
| Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities   | Membership Dues                    | \$ | 6,141.00  |
| Iowa Department of Revenue                | Sales Tax                          | \$ | 6,577.30  |
| Iowa Department of Revenue                | State Withholding                  | \$ | 1,553.00  |
| Iowa Public Employees Retirement System   | IPERS Contributions                | \$ | 6,588.70  |
| Itron Inc.                                | Itron/FCS Software Support         | \$ | 1,611.68  |
| Justice Fire & Safety                     | Fire Suppression System Inspection | \$ | 934.11    |
| KC Nielsen                                | Vehicle Maintenance- Gator         | \$ | 272.71    |
| Laurens Chamber of Commerce               | Membership Dues                    | \$ | 100.00    |
| Laurens Food Pride                        | Meeting/Cleaning Supplies          | \$ | 70.61     |
| Laurens House of Print                    | Paper                              | \$ | 30.23     |
| Laurens Municipal Power & Communications  | Communications Bill                | \$ | 110.00    |
| Laurens Municipal Utilities               | Utility Bill                       | \$ | 102.34    |
| Laurens Plumbing                          | Miscellaneous Supplies             | \$ | 196.30    |
| Laurens Sun                               | Publications/Advertising           | \$ | 977.16    |
| Long Lines                                | Communication Services             | \$ | 11,001.18 |
| Lumen Access Billing                      | Access/Transport Fees              | \$ | 95.36     |
| Lumen Lexcis                              | Directory Listings                 | \$ | 36.45     |
| Merchant Bankcard                         | Credit Card Processing Fees        | \$ | 699.44    |
| Mid American Energy                       | Neal 4 Operations                  | \$ | 29,000.00 |
| Mid American Energy                       | Capacity Assignment                | \$ | 10,538.02 |
| Mix, Rosemary                             | Deposit Refund                     | \$ | 276.06    |
| National Content & Technology Cooperative | Programming/TiVo/ACA               | \$ | 12,724.05 |
| New Way Auto                              | Vehicle Maintenance                | \$ | 106.95    |
| Nexstar Broadcasting                      | Programming Fees                   | \$ | 1,635.76  |
| NIMECA                                    | Power Bill/Property Tax            | \$ | 46,943.22 |
| Oak Hill Consulting                       | BDC Assistance                     | \$ | 142.00    |
| Office Elements                           | Receipt Books/Office Supplies      | \$ | 289.36    |
| Paymentus Corporation                     | Credit Card Processing Fees        | \$ | 334.43    |
| Payroll                                   | Salaried, Hourly & Overtime        | \$ | 28,355.08 |
| PLIC-SBD Grand Island                     | Life/Disability Insurance          | \$ | 813.56    |
| Plymouth County Treasurer                 | Property Taxes                     | \$ | 54.50     |
| Pocahontas County Treasurer               | Property Taxes                     | \$ | 3,523.50  |
| Pop Media                                 | Programming Fees                   | \$ | 34.75     |
| Postmaster                                | PO Box Rent/Stamps                 | \$ | 570.00    |
| Pro Cooperative                           | Vehicle Fuel                       | \$ | 388.50    |
| R&D Industries                            | Network Support                    | \$ | 363.50    |

|                                   |                                |    |                   |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Record Democrat                   | Advertising                    | \$ | 33.50             |
| RSM US LLP                        | Network Support                | \$ | 2,311.00          |
| Schacherer, Wayne                 | Credit Refund                  | \$ | 17.41             |
| Schmitz, James                    | Credit Refund                  | \$ | 88.00             |
| Secure Shred Solutions            | Paper Shredding                | \$ | 26.00             |
| Skarshaug Testing Lab             | Glove Testing/Replacement      | \$ | 514.64            |
| Spencer Municipal Utilities       | Transport Fees                 | \$ | 450.00            |
| Stuart C Irby                     | Transformers                   | \$ | 7,607.70          |
| UMB Bank NA                       | Annual Fee- Revenue Bonds      | \$ | 600.00            |
| Upper Des Moines Opportunity Inc. | LIHEAP Refund- Closed Accounts | \$ | 511.08            |
| US Card Systems                   | Credit Card Terminal Lease     | \$ | 29.95             |
| Verizon                           | Wireless Phone Service         | \$ | 207.20            |
| Visa                              | HULU/Meeting Expense           | \$ | 475.94            |
| Webster County Treasurer          | Property Taxes                 | \$ | 390.00            |
| Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield   | Group Health Insurance         | \$ | 12,506.18         |
| Woodbury County Treasurer         | Property Taxes                 | \$ | 1,585.50          |
| Zarzos, Ireneo                    | Deposit Refund                 | \$ | 13.51             |
| Zcorum                            | TruVision Fees                 | \$ | 261.08            |
| Ziegler, Inc.                     | Skid Loader Bucket/Maintenance | \$ | 4,091.35          |
|                                   | <u>Total Expenses</u>          | \$ | <u>376,168.42</u> |

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report as of March 31, 2024, current bank account balances, and the current investment schedule. The Investment Committee received interest rate quotes to re-invest up to \$650,000 of non-operating funds. Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the investment quote from Community State Bank for a term of 12-months. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Trustees reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for March 2024. No specific action taken.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the Application for Payment from Graves Construction Company in the amount of \$32,561.72 for the Storage Building Project. CMBA Architects have certified the work covered by this application for payment has been completed. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the renewal of the Employers Mutual Package Insurance Policy through Woodley Insurance. The cost of the renewal is \$74,706.47. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the revised Cash Handling Policy as presented. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve Amendment #1 to Task Order #2 of the Master Task Order Agreement with DGR Engineering for the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Project. This amendment authorizes the SCADA integration phase, construction administration, final phase, final design phase, and bidding phase services for the Project at the existing East Substation/Generation Plant, existing West Substation, and existing West Generation Plant. The projected budget for this project is \$711,100. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Runneberg and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve Amendment #1 to Task Order #3 of the Master Task Order Agreement with DGR Engineering for the Generation Plant Additional Fuel Storage Project. This amendment authorizes the permitting phase, construction administration, final phase, final design phase, and bidding phase services for the project at the existing West Generation Plant. The projected budget for this project is \$606,500. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

DGR Engineering prepared two cash flow analysis versions for the Electric Utility. One version is with both generation plants operational, and the second version is with only the West generation plant operational. The cash flow analysis shows that our capacity credits would be reduced, our operating expenses would be reduced, power supply costs would increase, but in the end our operating margin would only be reduced by \$4,000 if we were to retire the East Generation Plant.

Discussion was then held on the maintenance items needed on the engines in the East Generation Plant. Engine #4 currently has a water leak similar to the water leak it had a year ago but on different cylinder heads. We also need to replace the fuel pump and motor (pump is too small) and investigate cylinder noise (pull pistons on suspected cylinders). Both Engine #4 and #3 need the following maintenance items done to them:

- Replace jacket water connecting hoses for all six heads.
- Change the oil and replace oil filters (275 gallons and 12 filters per engine).
- Take crank shaft deflection readings.
- Replace exhaust catalytic converter.
- DC contact brush replacement/resurface DC commutator rings.
- Replace fuel meters.
- Air filter maintenance, check valve lashing, timing chain, and repair alarm controls.

Other issues of concern:

- Getting parts for these engines is a challenge and usually requires custom made parts.
- Our Operations Manager, Reid Prins, is retiring this summer. He has been with the Utility for 46 years. This is a lot of knowledge and experience of operating these engines leaving the Utility.

The Trustees decided that it is not prudent to spend the money to repair and maintain the engines in the East Generation Plant. The General Manager will work on an exit strategy to retire these engines. No specific action was taken.

Discussion was held on the possible sale of our 400' guyed communications tower and the needed upgrade to the lighting system. Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to not sell the tower and to negotiate an agreement with LumenServe to update the lighting system on the tower. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Trustees went over a cash flow analysis of the Communications Utility (Internet, Telephone, and Cable TV) and discussed the option of no longer offering Cable TV services. Due to the constant decline in Cable TV subscribers, the ever-increasing costs of programming, the costs of transmission and operation of the Cable TV Utility, the Trustees agree that LMPC should stop offering Cable TV services but not until we have an exit plan in place. This plan shall provide our customers with information on options available and a plan to provide assistance needed to help our customers get through this transition. The General Manager will work on an exit plan. No specific action was taken.

The General Manager reported that Brooke Williamson, Customer Service/Billing Clerk resigned on April 2, 2024.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Runneberg to approve the hiring of Stephanie Santellanez for the position of Customer Service/Billing Clerk. Stephanie's starting wage will be at Grade 3, Step 15 of the wage scale and her first day is scheduled to be Monday, May 6, 2024. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Make My Move initiative from Pocahontas County Economic Development Commission. Make My Move is an online marketplace that connects communities with people – remote workers who are looking to move for a better quality of life. Communities usually come up with a list of incentives to get these individuals to move to their community. The Trustees are in favor of LMPC offering some free months of Internet and suggested we provide information on our New Electric Home Cash Incentive and our energy efficiency rebates. The General Manager will work with MaryJo Litwiller on the incentives provided by LMPC.

The Trustees were informed that the subject of renovating City Hall has surfaced again. CMBA has updated their proposal from last year to develop and design a concept plan, concept visual, and a preliminary budget for the Renovation of City Hall Project for a fee of not to exceed \$9,000. The project entails a handicap accessible entrance, secure working environment, improved functionality, and improved efficiency. Last year the Board of Trustees approved sharing the costs for the Renovation of City Hall Project with the City of Laurens. The Trustees still support this project. No further action was taken.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Ben Storms  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

# City Council Minutes

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6th, 2024. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra via phone, Loren Booth, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, and Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben. Councilmember John Jamison was absent.

Christenson moved to approve moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the minutes from the April 15<sup>th</sup>, and April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, meetings, and the list of claims. Booth seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

## CLAIMS 05-06-24

|                            |                                 |            |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| A&M SERVICES, INC.         | RUGS, RAGS, MOPS                | 89.36      |
| ACCO                       | SODIUM                          | 770.00     |
| AFLAC                      | MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE         | 204.38     |
| ALLIANT ENERGY             | MONTHLY GAS BILL                | 803.51     |
| AUGUST ENTERPRISES         | ASBESTOS REMOVAL                | 8,732.00   |
| B&K EMBROIDERY             | CLOTHING ALLOWANCE              | 91.50      |
| BOMGAARS                   | CLOTHING ALLOWANCE              | 351.91     |
| C&R AUTO REPAIR & SALES    | 2019 EXPLORER REPAIRS           | 1,526.60   |
| CERTIFIED POOL TRAINERS    | POOL TRAINING                   | 320.00     |
| COMMUNITY FIRST AUTO PARTS | SHOP SUPPLIES                   | 274.03     |
| CONNECTIONS                | MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE         | 30.51      |
| FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB  | WASTEWATER TESTING              | 2,810.25   |
| GFC LEASING-WI             | COPIER LEASING                  | 191.81     |
| HEIMAN                     | FIRE GEAR                       | 66,310.26  |
| HILARY REED                | MILEAGE FOR PCEDC MEETING       | 21.17      |
| IA DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY  | FY24 QUARTERLY SYSTEM           | 300.00     |
| IACMA                      | RETIREMENT 457                  | 900.00     |
| IRS                        | FED/FICA TAX                    | 14,802.49  |
| IPERS                      | IPERS                           | 8,829.76   |
| IPERS/PD                   | PROTECTED IPERS                 | 2,813.70   |
| LMPC                       | MONTHLY PHONE & INTERNET        | 427.48     |
| LMU                        | MONTHLY UTILITIES               | 5,617.54   |
| LAURENS SUN                | LEGALS/ADS                      | 761.68     |
| THE MACHINE SHOP           | ANGLE IRON                      | 57.55      |
| MODERN MARKETING           | EQUIPMENT                       | 2,265.47   |
| NORTHERN ROLLOFF           | CITY CLEAN UP DAYS              | 3,869.50   |
| PETTY CASH                 | POSTAGE                         | 292.24     |
| POC CO ECONOMIC DEV        | FY24 DUES                       | 14,000.00  |
| POCAHONTAS CO SOLID WASTE  | LANDFILL FEE                    | 6,514.10   |
| PRIME BENEFITS SYSTEMS     | GROUP INSURANCE                 | 87.50      |
| PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP       | MONTHLY LIFE INSURANCE          | 764.65     |
| PRO COOPERATIVE            | MONTHLY FUEL                    | 2,449.67   |
| REHAB SYSTEMS, INC.        | WASTEWATER REPAIRS              | 6,310.00   |
| RSM US LLP                 | TECH SUPPORT                    | 5.00       |
| SANDE CONSTRUCTION         | PAY REQUEST #8                  | 190,000.00 |
| SANTANDER LEASING, LLC     | MONTHLY PAPER PAYMENT           | 1,461.34   |
| TREASURER STATE OF IOWA    | APRIL SALES TAX                 | 6,152.51   |
| ULINE                      | OFFICE SUPPLIES                 | 1,143.77   |
| UNION PACIFIC RR COMPANY   | INSTALL OF LIGHTS/GATE EAST ST. | 18,352.16  |
| US BANK                    | SUBSCRIPTION                    | 1,066.13   |
| USPS                       | BILING STAMPS                   | 544.00     |

# City Council Minutes

|                   |                          |                   |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| VERIZON WIRELESS  | MONTHLY CELL PHONES      | 111.70            |
| WATER EDGE        | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES    | 14,050.00         |
| WELLMARK          | MONTHLY HEALTH INSURANCE | 8,935.02          |
| WEX BANKS         | MONTHLY POLICE FUEL      | 1,093.58          |
| WOODLEY INSURANCE | ANNUAL INSURANCE PAYMENT | 120,025.48        |
| ZIEGLER           | PAINT SUPPLIES           | 82.33             |
|                   | TOTAL                    | <u>516,613.64</u> |

|         |              |           |                  |
|---------|--------------|-----------|------------------|
| PAYROLL |              | 4/15/2024 |                  |
| 001     | GENERAL      |           | 7,511.15         |
| 210     | ROAD USE TAX |           | 1,926.18         |
| 600     | WATER        |           | 3,257.94         |
| 610     | SEWER        |           | 2,800.56         |
| 670     | GARBAGE      |           | 2,205.30         |
|         | TOTAL        |           | <u>17,701.13</u> |

|         |              |           |                  |
|---------|--------------|-----------|------------------|
| PAYROLL |              | 4/29/2024 |                  |
| 001     | GENERAL      |           | 8,473.54         |
| 210     | ROAD USE TAX |           | 1,750.94         |
| 600     | WATER        |           | 2,939.72         |
| 610     | SEWER        |           | 2,884.86         |
| 670     | GARBAGE      |           | 2,484.62         |
|         | TOTAL        |           | <u>18,533.68</u> |

|         |         |          |                 |
|---------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| PAYROLL |         | 5/1/2024 |                 |
| 001     | GENERAL |          | 6,655.35        |
|         | TOTAL   |          | <u>6,655.35</u> |

PAYROLL TOTAL 42,890.16

PAID TOTAL 559,503.80

|     |                   |                   |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 001 | GENERAL           | 209,427.98        |
| 110 | ROAD USE TAX      | 35,889.64         |
| 112 | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | 4,997.86          |
| 174 | POOL RESTRICTED   | 204,050.00        |
| 600 | WATER             | 49,583.09         |
| 610 | SEWER             | 26,464.11         |
| 670 | GARBAGE           | 29,091.12         |
|     | TOTAL BY FUND     | <u>559,503.80</u> |

|          |                         |                   |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| REVENUES | GENERAL                 | 152,539.79        |
|          | ROAD USE TAX            | 14,459.58         |
|          | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS       | 66,761.53         |
|          | EMERGENCY LEVY          | 3,653.38          |
|          | LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX  | 12,055.22         |
|          | TAX INCREMENT FINANCING | 6,622.22          |
|          | POOL RESTRICTED         | 20.00             |
|          | DEBT SERVICE            | 71,598.56         |
|          | CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FUND  | 7,543.37          |
|          | WATER                   | 40,085.17         |
|          | SEWER                   | 36,252.47         |
|          | GARBAGE                 | 20,163.96         |
|          | STORM SEWER             | 2,943.98          |
|          | TOTAL                   | <u>434,699.23</u> |

Discussion was held on the Proposed Community Center. Swanson moved to approve the offer from Diocese of Sioux City to transfer the deed for the building located at 250 Ralston St for one dollar; legal costs of the transfer will be the responsibility of the city, pending the approval and signage of the agreement. Christenson seconded; all ayes. Motion carried.

Booth motioned to table the resolution of 07-24 – Activity Center Board. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried. Discussion was held on the agreement. Attorneys on behalf of the city and the Industrial Foundation will handle the finishing of the agreement.

Booth moved to approve setting the date for the FY24 Budget amendment for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion was held on Make My Move. The council will bring suggestions to the next meeting. No action was taken.

Christenson moved to approve Pay Request #8– Sande Construction. Booth seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

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

Rod Johnson, Mayor

Hilary Reed, City Clerk