

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 19 No. 21

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

January 15,  
2025

## Local News

### *L-M 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Sing an Anthem of Songs*

On December 13, 2024, the 5th Grade Class at the Laurens-Marathon School sang an anthem of songs, using two groups, for the Laurens Women's Club at the Festival of Trees. Their 5th Grade teacher is Bev Curry, and the music teacher is Sabrina Booth.



### *Northwest Career Academy Visit Day*

This is the perfect time for students in grades 8-10th grade to come and visit the academy to learn more about the programs and the internship available through the Laurens Academy. Make sure you register TODAY!

### *Pocahontas County Foundation Hosts 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Awards on January 29*

We invite you to join us for the Foundation's 20th Anniversary Celebration and Grant Awards on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Prairie Lakes AEA in Pocahontas.

Nineteen non-profit organizations will receive Foundation grant awards to help fund community and county projects in 2025. Help us celebrate the work of these organizations and the many accomplishments in our communities during the past 20 years!

## At the Library with Glenda Mulder January 15, 2025

Our online digital archive has been recently updated, as a continuing project of the Laurens Public Library Foundation. Now you can read the Laurens Sun issues on your own computer starting in 1885, all the way until June 30, 2024. I love it when we are this up to date! The archives are so interesting to dive into, whether it's genealogical research, or just to answer a question or debate among friends! This is available online at <https://laurens.advantage-preservation.com> or follow the link on our website. Stop by the library if you'd like more information, or a demonstration!

New fiction books to the library recently are *Where the Creek Bends* by Linda Lael Miller, *Lie for a Million* by Janet Dailey, *More or Less Maddy* by Lisa Genova, *Holmes is Missing* by James Patterson and because of patron requests, the entire *Throne of Glass* series by Sarah J. Maas! We also received *What If YOU Are the Answer?: And 26 Other Questions That Just Might Change Your Life* by Rachel Hollis.

In memory of their classmate Fred Oleson, Laurens Elks Class of '64 added *The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement* by Sharon McMahon and *Last One at the Wedding* by Jason Rekulak.

Remember my "Read Your Height" book challenge for 2024? In case you're wondering how that worked for me, I read 122.86 inches of books in 2024! (I have the spreadsheet to prove it, as I read library books & couldn't just leave them in a stack!) That's double my original goal of 61 inches! 114 books!

I read mostly popular fiction, with a few classics and youth books (one of my favorites was a youth book written the year I was born!) thrown in. Most were print books, but I also enjoyed audio books while driving, knitting, or doing a jigsaw puzzle.

Because I'm not very good at choosing a favorite, here in the order I read them, are my TOP 24 of 2024:

- *Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by McBride, James
- *The Little Liar* by Album, Mitch
- *The Women* by Hannah, Kristin
- *Sisters Under the Rising Sun* by Morris, Heather
- *The Berry Pickers* by Peters, Amanda
- *Go as a River* by Read, Shelley
- *Everyone is Watching* by Gudenkauf, Heather
- *A Wild and Heavenly Place* by Oliveira, Robin
- *The Lost Ticket* by Sampson, Freya
- *Nosy Neighbor* by Sampson, Freya
- *The Frozen River* by Lawhon, Ariel
- *10 kids, 2 Lovebirds & a Singing Mermaid* by Lamb, Cathy
- *Darling Girls* by Hepworth, Sally
- *Home is Where the Bodies are* by Rose, Jeneva
- *All the Colors of the Dark* by Whitaker, Chris
- *Just for the Summer* by Jimenez, Abby
- *Sandwich* by Newman, Catherine
- *The Glass Maker* by Chevalier, Tracy
- *How to Age Disgracefully* by Poole, Clare
- *The Wedding People* by Espach, Alison
- *Phantom TollBooth* by Juster, Norton
- *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Johnston, Anna
- *Hidden Life of Cecily Larson* by Baker, Ellen
- *Here One Moment* by Moriarty, Liane

### Mark Your Calendar

January 20 - Evening Tot Time @ 5:30 p.m.

January 27 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman


## Northwest Career Academy Visit Day

Advanced Manufacturing | Welding | CNC Machining

Tuesday,  
February 11  
Laurens

EXPERIENCE THE CAREER ACADEMY

This program is for students who are mechanically inclined, the advanced manufacturing career pathway is a great start to finding out what career interests them. The course sequence has been designed to build skills in fundamental welding, metal working, blueprint reading, and general machining. Students will develop a solid foundation in basic machining tools such as lathes and milling machines, as well as general shop equipment and tools.




Inviting students, instructors, and counselors!

Career Academy Visit Day:

Learn about the benefits of the Career Academy by working alongside our instructors and hear from local businesses about career opportunities.

Lunch will be provided.

Registration begins at 9:00 am  
with the day concluding at 12 pm.



Scan to Register

It is the policy of Iowa Central Community College not to discriminate in its programs, activities, or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and actual or potential family, parental or marital status.

If you have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy, please contact the Vice President of Human Resources, Iowa Central Community College, One Titan Circle, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501, Telephone: 319-274-1038, Email: [compliance@iowacentral.edu](mailto:compliance@iowacentral.edu), or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, John C. Stoenwald Federal Building, 390 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60604-2104, Telephone: (312) 750-1560, TDD: (312) 750-1576, TDD: 800-877-8339 Email: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)



POCAHONTAS COUNTY FOUNDATION

BUILDING WITHIN COMMUNITIES

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE TWENTY YEARS

of Promoting and Enhancing  
Community-based Philanthropy  
in Pocahontas County  
during our annual Grant Awards Night

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025 • 6:30 PM

PRAIRIE LAKES AEA

500 NE 6th St, Pocahontas, IA 50574

Dessert Served at 6:30, Awards to Follow



POCAHONTAS COUNTY FOUNDATION  
BUILDING WITHIN COMMUNITIES

WOW!



PAC YP

Pocahontas Area Council on Youth Philanthropy

[www.pocofoundation.org](http://www.pocofoundation.org)

## The Paper

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# Planter University Workshops Focus on Optimizing Planter Setup across All Brands

Workshops to be held in six locations across Iowa

Specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach are once again teaming up with Iowa State Ag and Biosystems Engineering specialists to bring planter equipment expertise to farms across the state. Planter University workshops are set for Feb. 3-7 and 11, 2025.

The workshops are an opportunity for farmers, agricultural service providers, equipment and precision ag dealers, and others to gain insight into how planters function; how to optimize settings for individual seed, field and equipment needs; and improve understanding of planter wear and calibration.

“Planter University goes far beyond a typical planter clinic and provides attendees direct access to specialists with expertise in planter technology and settings,” said Meaghan Anderson, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach. “We are excited to host these workshops across the state again this February.”

Specialists from the Iowa State Digital Ag group will lead each workshop and focus on small-group, hands-on learning with row units representing a variety of technologies currently available for planters. The Digital Ag group is renowned for its key industry partnerships and unique expertise in equipment development and precision agriculture. Meetings will also offer continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisers.

“Former participants overwhelmingly enjoyed the workshop approach and stated the workshop improved their ability to confidently make adjustments during planting season,” said Levi Powell, Iowa State ag and biosystems engineering program specialist.

“We are going to help attendees better understand the physics behind traditional and high-speed planters and how to evaluate planting performance, because every planter, operator and operation is different. This event will focus on how to dial in the right settings for you and your operation,” added Ben Covington, Iowa State ag and biosystems engineering program specialist.

The training will be offered at six locations. Attendance will be limited to maintain small group sizes and allow for hands-on activities. Registration for each location is \$100 and closes seven days ahead of each meeting. There is no on-site registration available. Register online starting Jan. 2, 2025.

Registration includes lunch, refreshments, reference materials, seed depth tool, closing wheel hold up bracket and CCA credits. Registration check-in opens at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9 a.m. The program concludes at 3 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

- Feb. 3 – Cass County Community Center, Atlantic
- Feb. 4 – Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm, Sutherland
- Feb. 5 – Northern Research and Demonstration Farm, Kanawha
- Feb. 6 – Heartland Acres Agribition Center, Independence
- Feb. 7 – Crystal Creek Enterprises, 2457 Highway 30, DeWitt
- Feb. 11 – Alliant Energy Ag Innovation Lab, 3800 University Boulevard, Ames

For registration-related questions, please contact ISU Registration Services at 515-294-6222 or [registrations@iastate.edu](mailto:registrations@iastate.edu). For all other inquiries, email [crops@iastate.edu](mailto:crops@iastate.edu).

Join us in celebrating  
**JIM VAN SICKLE'S  
RETIREMENT**  
February 1, 2025  
Laurens Golf & Country Club  
5:00-8:00pm

*This Week at  
Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Wednesday: January 15, 2025**

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation Class

**Sunday: January 19, 2025**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:15 AM ~ Youth SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion,  
SS sing, Noisy Offering

11:30 PM ~ Potluck

4:00 PM ~ 4-H Club Mtg.

6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

**Tuesday: January 21, 2025**

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

**Wednesday: January 22, 2025**

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation Class

*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**

**Wednesday, January 15**

Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the  
Wesley Room

**Thursday, January 16**

Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall hosted  
by Sioux Central Community School  
from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.

**Sunday, January 19**

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM w/ Human

Relations Special Sunday Offering

Administrative Council Meeting @

11:30 AM following worship

**Wednesday, January 22**

Confirmation @ 6:30 PM in the  
Wesley Room



The  
United  
Methodist  
Church

*This Week at  
First Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Sunday, January 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

## *January 2025 Annie's Project Provides Agriculture Business Education to Iowa Farm Women*

Annie's Project, a six-week course designed to help farm women develop their management and decision-making skills, is being offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Webster County. Online registration is available at [www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag). Classes will be held at the Webster County Extension Office, 822 Central Ave., Fort Dodge, on Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. beginning February 6 and continuing February 13, 20, 27 and March 6 and 13. A light meal will be provided at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$100.00.

Farm women participating in Annie's Project courses become better business partners and owners by learning to manage and organize critical information for their own farms, while establishing networks with other farm women and agriculture business professionals.

According to ISU Extension and Outreach farm specialist, Alexis Stevens, Annie's Project covers five areas of agricultural risk management: financial, human resources, legal, marketing and production.

"Our goal is to provide a program that is of great interest and value. Each session includes presentations, discussions, hands-on activities and computer skills training," says Stevens. "In addition, guest speakers share their personal experiences and knowledge to help women become better business partners and owners," Stevens adds.

Annie's Project is a national program reaching 38 states. The mission of Annie's Project is to empower women in agriculture to be successful through education, networks and resources. Annie's Project celebrated 20 years of inspiring women in agriculture in 2023. The program was developed to help women like Annie achieve their agricultural goals.

In Iowa, 2,137 women have benefited from 124 Annie's Project courses and 1,317 women have benefited from 97 Annie's Inspired courses. Annie's Inspired courses grew out of the requests for additional information from women participating in Annie's Project. The extension farm management team, county extension professionals and others in the state work together to host local multi-session programs focused on agricultural risk management.

"Offering a quality program such as Annie's Project is of great benefit to our community and we are excited to offer this program," says Linda Cline, Webster County Program Coordinator.

"Annie's Project empowers women by offering a valuable set of business-based workshops. The program helps participants learn ways to make better financial and risk management decisions," according to Madeline Schultz, ISU Extension and Outreach Women in Agriculture Program Manager.

According to post-program surveys, participants have reported that the program encouraged learning and that the nurturing environment has facilitated ongoing conversation with local speakers. In addition, respondents were able to network with other professionals and stated that they felt comfortable interacting with others for additional information and assistance. Overall, participants remarked that the courses were beneficial in understanding the factors in farming that pertain to women, their families, and the land. For more information, contact Linda Cline at 515-576-2119, or e-mail [lccline@iastate.edu](mailto:lccline@iastate.edu). Register online at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/womeninag/> by January 30th.

## *Monthly Dairy Webinar Jan. 22 to Focus on Climate and Weather Predictions for the 2025 Growing Season*

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team monthly webinar series continues on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. This program will be presented by Dennis Todey and focus on the climate and weather predictions for the 2022 growing season.

Dennis Todey, director of the USDA Climate Hub in Ames will lead the presentation. Todey is a native Iowan with his B.S. and Ph.D. from Iowa State University in Meteorology and Agricultural Meteorology. He has spent two stints in South Dakota, first completing his M.S. at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and most recently as Associate Professor and State Climatologist for South Dakota at South Dakota State University. He is well known regionally as a speaker and media source on various climate issues and is the former president of the American Association of State Climatologists.

Producers, dairy consultants and industry reps are encouraged to attend the free webinar live from noon to 1:00 p.m. on January 22 by registering at least one hour before the webinar at: <https://go.iastate.edu/2025SEASON>

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).

*Biggest Little Paper In Town!*

## *Registration Now Open for 2025-2026 SowBridge Educational Series*

SowBridge, the distance educational series for those who work with sows, boars, and piglets, and with genetic and reproductive issues, begins its next program year in early February 2025, and registration is now underway. The series is provided online through the Zoom platform and each session is recorded for later viewing.

Sherry Hoyer, communication specialist with the Iowa Pork Industry Center at Iowa State University, said suggestions from participants guide the selection of future topics and speakers, and the opportunity for interaction with session speakers will not change.

“SowBridge provides all participants with the opportunity to hear directly from experts, and to contact those experts following the individual sessions,” she said.

Sessions generally are held on the first Wednesday of the month and run from 11:15 a.m. to about 12:15 p.m. Central Time. One exception this year: the fifth session is moved up one week to May 28 to avoid conflicts with World Pork Expo.

During each session, participants can ask questions of the industry expert presenter from the comfort of their home, office, or swine unit. Each registration provides access to one Zoom connection per session and all program materials provided by presenters.

The cost is \$200 (\$U.S.) for the first registration and half that amount for each subsequent registration from the same entity. Registration is due Jan. 20, 2025, to ensure participants have access to materials for the first session on Feb. 5. A flyer with information and registration form is available on the IPIC website.

The 2025-2026 program session dates and topics are as follows:

- Feb. 5. H5N1 as it Relates to Pigs
- Mar. 5. Feeding Frequency Pre-Farrow: Impact on Farrowing Duration
- April 2. Your Farm Broke with PRSS/PED: Now what?
- May 7. Overcoming Barriers and Understanding the Psychological Impact of Pig Euthanasia
- May 28. Iron Status of Sows: Impacts on Farrowing Duration
- July 2. How to Manage Gilts not Cycling
- Aug. 6. Diagnostic Testing
- Sept. 3. Depopulation Preparedness
- Oct. 1. Where's the draft coming from?
- Nov. 5. Farrowing Stall Environment Management
- Dec. 3. Heat Synchronization Protocols
- Jan. 7, 2026. SessTreating Sows According to Farm SOP

For more information on the sessions or registration, contact Hoyer by phone at 515-294-4496 or email [shoyer@iastate.edu](mailto:shoyer@iastate.edu).

SowBridge is provided through a cooperative effort of 15 colleges and universities from the nation's major swine producing states.

## *Updated Data for Decision Makers Reports Released for Iowa's State, Counties and Cities*

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has released updated Data for Decision Makers reports for the state, counties and cities. Based on data from the American Community Survey for 2019 to 2023, the reports offer detailed insights into household and family income, educational attainment, housing values, rental costs, occupation, employment and poverty measures.

The DDMs are intended to help policymakers and community leaders analyze current conditions, allocate resources and develop policies tailored to local needs.

"These updates ensure that communities are working with the most current and reliable data available," said Sandra Burke, a sociologist and research scientist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "Annual updates like this allow decision makers to track changes over time and adjust their strategies accordingly."

"These reports make it possible for communities to identify and address pressing issues," Burke said. "For instance, if housing values and rental costs are rising faster than household incomes, leaders can use that data to prioritize affordable housing initiatives or apply for grants to assist low-income residents. Similarly, income and education data can help local officials understand where economic disparities exist and focus resources where they are most needed."

"Overall, these reports give community leaders the tools they need to understand their current situation and compare it to neighboring communities, counties, the state or U.S. averages. This kind of information is key for identifying strengths, addressing challenges and planning for the future. By understanding how their community compares to others, leaders can prioritize investments in housing or apply for grants to fill gaps," Burke said.

To access the updated DDM reports, visit the ISU Extension and Outreach Indicators Program website, where you can also find the newly revised County and City Data for Decision Makers User's Guides for assistance in using the reports.

For more information on the DDM reports, contact Sandra Burke at [scburke@iastate.edu](mailto:scburke@iastate.edu) or Esther Crompton, communication specialist, at [eecrompt@iastate.edu](mailto:eecrompt@iastate.edu).

## *Set Goal to Care for Yourself with Powerful Tools for Caregivers*

With the beginning of a new year, many Iowans make resolutions to achieve their goals. However, Iowans who serve as caregivers for others may have difficulty setting goals for themselves, says Barbara Dunn Swanson, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. "Effective caregiving requires that caregivers prioritize their health and wellbeing first, to provide adequate care to their care recipients," said Dunn Swanson, who specializes in family wellbeing.

Iowans who would like to take better care of themselves as they provide care for others are encouraged to participate in Powerful Tools for Caregivers, a series of classes offered virtually by ISU Extension and Outreach. The next six-week, online series begins Monday, Feb. 3, 1–2:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$40 and includes a caregiver help book. Online registration is now open.

"Invest in your own understanding of caregiving by participating in the Powerful Tools for Caregivers series," Dunn Swanson said. Research shows Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes help caregivers improve self-care behaviors including increased exercise, relaxation and medical check-ups.

"You'll learn about managing your emotions to reduce feelings of guilt, anger or depression. You'll also build self-confidence in coping with caregiving demands while developing assertive communication skills," Dunn Swanson continued.

"In addition, you'll learn about local community resources and services that can help caregivers," Dunn Swanson said.

Dunn Swanson offered the following strategies for caregivers who may need encouragement as they begin a new year:

- Prioritize self-care by taking time for yourself, even if just a few minutes a day. Your wellbeing is a priority.
- Set realistic goals. Break larger tasks into smaller, achievable goals. Celebrate small victories to stay motivated.
- Create a routine. Establish a consistent daily routine for both you and the person you care for. This can provide a sense of stability and predictability.
- Delegate tasks. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Friends, family or professional caregivers can share the load.
- Join a support group. Connecting with other caregivers can provide emotional support and practical advice.

For more information about Powerful Tools for Caregivers, contact Dunn Swanson at 563-886-6157 or email at [bdswanso@iastate.edu](mailto:bdswanso@iastate.edu).



December 16, 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 and Ben Storms. Absent was Trustee Jerry Runneberg. Also present was General Manager Chad Cleveland.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the December 16, 2024 regular Board meeting agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2024 regular Board meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the summary of receipts for November 2024 in the amount of \$347,438.12 and the list of expenses for November 2024 in the amount of \$747,514.84. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **Summary of Receipts**

A/R- Electric	\$ 221,463.88
A/R- Communications	\$ 52,746.34
Merchandise/Services- Electric	\$ 710.00
Merchandise/Services- Communications	\$ 36.00
Carrier Access Fees- Communications	\$ 3,216.76
Write Off Recovery- Electric	\$ 75.78
NIMECA Power Credits- Electric	\$ 39,439.61
ERATE Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 61.20
Deposits- Electric	\$ 1,075.00
Deposits- Communications	\$ 388.00
Attachment H Revenues- Electric	\$ 28,183.00
Lifeline Broadband Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 18.00
Lifeline Voice Reimbursement- Communications	\$ 22.00
Miscellaneous- Communications	\$ 2.55
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 347,438.12</b>

### **List of Expenses**

A&M Laundry	Dust Mops & Mats	\$ 89.28
AFLAC	Employee Contributions	\$ 142.86
Aureon	CALEA/SS7/Transport	\$ 530.70
Avesis	Group Vision Insurance	\$ 70.76
Bailey, David	Company Clothing	\$ 207.42
Bally Sports North	Programming Fees	\$ 589.60
Big 10 Network	Programming Fees	\$ 226.16
Calix Inc.	Operations Cloud	\$ 597.57
City of Laurens	Utility Billing/Supplies	\$ 95,336.82
Cleveland, Chad	Meeting Expenses	\$ 29.48
CMBA Architects	City Hall Renovation Project	\$ 1,459.62
Community First Broadcasting	L-M School Sponsor	\$ 105.00
Consortia Consulting	Consulting Contract	\$ 1,840.00
Cornerstone Group	Website- Broadband Labels	\$ 50.00
Customers	Closed Account Credit Refunds	\$ 248.91
Department of Energy	WAPA Power Bill	\$ 29,647.89
DGR Engineering	Marathon Rate Calculations	\$ 948.50

DGR Engineering	Relay Upgrades/SCADA Project	\$ 8,475.00
DGR Engineering	Additional Fuel Storage Project	\$ 14,850.00
Display Systems International	Programming Fees	\$ 165.76
Ellrich, Tracie	Company Clothing	\$ 158.10
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Administration	\$ 120.00
Employee Benefit Systems	Self-Funding- Claims	\$ 218.54
GFC Leasing	Copier Leases	\$ 80.57
Grainger	Shelving for Shop	\$ 1,891.69
Graves Construction Company	Storage Building Project- Final	\$ 21,442.45
Gray Media Group	Programming Fees	\$ 517.50
Hearst Television	Programming Fees	\$ 989.00
Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	\$ 8,912.24
Interstate TRS Fund	TRS Fund Assessment	\$ 246.75
Iowa Department of Revenue	Sales Tax	\$ 4,647.51
Iowa Department of Revenue	State Withholding	\$ 1,288.69
Iowa One Call	Locates	\$ 102.60
Iowa Public Employees Retirement System	IPERS Contributions	\$ 5,366.42
Laurens House of Print	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Giveaways	\$ 1,065.94
Laurens Municipal Power & Communications	Communications Bill	\$ 120.41
Laurens Municipal Utilities	Utility Bill	\$ 102.87
Laurens Plumbing	Supplies	\$ 116.31
Laurens Sun	Publications/Advertising	\$ 1,004.27
Long Lines	Communication Services	\$ 9,530.30
Lumen Access Billing	Transport Fees	\$ 95.15
Lumen Lexcis	Directory Listings	\$ 36.45
LumenServe	Tower Lighting Monitoring	\$ 316.24
Merchant Bankcard	Credit Card Processing	\$ 472.61
Mid-America Communications II	Fiber Network Assistance	\$ 452.90
Mid America Computer Corporation	Utility Billing Software	\$ 876.03
MidAmerican Energy	Neal 4 Operations	\$ 24,000.00
National Content & Technology Cooperative	Programming/ACA	\$ 7,491.11
Nexstar Broadcasting	Programming Fees	\$ 1,061.69
Office Elements	Office Supplies	\$ 128.31
Paymentus Group	Credit Card Processing Fees	\$ 236.09
Payroll	Salaried, Hourly & Overtime	\$ 23,243.05
PLIC-SBD Grand Island	Life/Disability Insurance	\$ 669.20
Pocahontas Community Hospital	Testing Services	\$ 34.78
Pop Media	Programming Fees	\$ 20.12
Pro Cooperative	Vehicle Fuel/Generation Fuel	\$ 16,579.84
R&D Industries	Network Support	\$ 13.50
Record Democrat	Publications/Advertising	\$ 83.75
RSM US LLP	Network Support	\$ 4,977.25
Scott's Lawn Service	Vegetation Control	\$ 60.00
Secure Shred Solutions	Paper Shredding	\$ 26.00
Sonksen, Karla	Company Clothing	\$ 198.09
UMB Bank	Bond Payment	\$ 439,887.50
US Card Systems	Credit Card Terminal Lease	\$ 29.95
Verizon	Wireless Phone Service	\$ 155.55
Visa	YouTube TV/FR Clothing	\$ 580.51
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Group Health Insurance	\$ 12,255.68
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 747,514.84</b>

Trustees reviewed the Utility Funds Report and Investment Schedule. No specific action was taken.

The Trustees reviewed information provided by DGR Engineering regarding the wholesale power supply rates for the City of Marathon. Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the recommended wholesale power supply rates for the City of Marathon for calendar years 2025 and 2026. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve hiring T.P. Anderson & Company to do the arbitrage rebate analysis on our Electric revenue bonds. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board of Trustees went over the Calendar Year 2024 in Review. No action was taken.

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the proposed list of accounts to be written off. The total amount for the Electric Utility to be written off is \$5,773.94. The total amount for the Communications Utility to be written off is \$1,655.86. The write-off recoveries for 2024 were \$2,207.59 for the Electric Utility and \$1,324.00 for the Communications Utility. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

At 5:00 p.m. the Board of Trustees took a break to attend the City Council meeting and presented the 2024 Laurens Municipal Power & Communications Annual Report.

At 5:30 p.m. the Board of Trustees resumed their regular board meeting.

General Manager's Update:

- Provided an update on information received from DGR Engineering regarding the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Project and the West Generation Plant Additional Fuel Storage Project. No action was taken.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Ben Storms  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: Chad Cleveland  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

# City Council Minutes

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members John Jamison, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, and Public Works Director Julian Johnson. City Manager Hilary Reed and Council Members Hannah Zylstra and Loren Booth were absent.

Christenson moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, meeting, the list of claims, and a Class C Liquor License for Silver Dollar Cantina pending fire inspection. Zylstra seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

## CLAIMS 12-16-24

A&M SERVICES, INC.	RUGS, RAGS, MOPS	90.01
ACCO	CHEMICALS	671.60
AFLAC	GROUP INSURANCE	204.38
AG STATE	CHEMICALS	229.36
ALLIANT ENERGY	SWIMMING POOL	37.08
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BOOKS	115.11
BADGER METER	TECH SUPPORT	54.08
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS	495.96
CENGAGE	LARGE PRINT BOOKS	339.63
CITY OF MOVILLE	NUISANCE MILEAGE	330.35
CONNECTIONS, INC.	GROUP INSURANCE	61.02
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	SUPPLIES	335.52
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	822.75
GWORKS	TECH SUPPORT	5,620.00
GLENDA MULDER	BOOKS	26.95
HALLET MATERIALS	CONCRETE SAND	276.01
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	9,697.88
IOWA ONE CALL	LOCATES	133.20
JCL SOLUTIONS	CLEANING SUPPLIES/CARPET CLEANING	897.98
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SHOP SUPPLIES	6.30
KEVIN SHANNON	BOLTS FOR POOL	82.06
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	ONE TIME PAYMENT	900.00
LMPC	REPLACE STOPLIGHT	350.80
LMU	UTILITIES	357.60
LAURENS PLUMBING SERVICE	SUPPLIES	210.30
LAURENS SUN	LEGALS	504.98
MACC	TECH SUPPORT	789.71
POCAHONTAS CO SOLID WASTE	LANDFILL FEES	6,921.90
PRIME BENEFITS SYSTEMS	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	70.00
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP	LIFE INSURANCE	764.65
PRO COOPERATIVE	MONTHLY FUEL	1,798.50
R&D INDUSTRIES	TECH SUPPORT	18.00
RICHARDSON SERVICE	BATTIERES	177.95
RSM, US LLP	TECH SUPPORT	10,019.73
SCE, LLC	MANHOLE REPAIRS	60,558.90
SHAMROCK RECYCLE	NOV. CURBSIDE RECYCLING	1,952.05
SIEPKER AUTO REPAIR	VEHICLE REPAIRS	185.28
UNITYPOINT HEALTH WORK	HEARING TEST	502.75
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONES	290.92
VFW/MARLIN EGERTSEN	12 US FLAGS	300.00
WEX BANKS	FUEL	3.68

# City Council Minutes

		TOTAL	<u>107,204.93</u>
PAYROLL			
	001	GENERAL	12/2/2024 7,095.61
			<u>7,095.61</u>
PAYROLL			
	001	GENERAL	12/3/2024 17,768.69
			<u>17,768.69</u>
PAYROLL			
	001	GENERAL	12/9/2024 3,181.05
	210	ROAD USE TAX	1,795.99
	600	WATER	3,575.04
	610	SEWER	2,786.92
	670	GARBAGE	2,580.35
		TOTAL	<u>13,919.35</u>
		PAYROLL TOTAL	<u>38,783.65</u>
		PAID TOTAL	<u>145,988.58</u>
	001	GENERAL	45,778.41
	110	ROAD USE TAX	3,858.21
	112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	383.53
	600	WATER	11,480.78
	610	SEWER	9,748.70
	670	GARBAGE	14,180.05
	745	STORM WATER	60,558.90
		TOTAL BY FUND	<u>145,988.58</u>

Chad Cleveland and the LMPC Board of Trustees provided the council with their annual update. Swanson motioned to approve the 2024 write offs as presented. Jamison seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion was held on possible police options and matters. No action was taken.

Discussion was held on the pool project. No action was taken.

Jamison motioned to adjourn at 5:44 p.m. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

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Rod Johnson, Mayor

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Joan Hoben, Deputy Clerk

# City Council Minutes

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem John Jamison called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, Loren Booth, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, and Public Works Director Julian Johnson.

Christenson moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting, and the list of claims. Zylstra seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 01-06-25

A&M SERVICES, INC.	RUGS, RAGS, MOPS	89.36
ACCO	WATER PLANT CHEMICALS	4,829.84
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS FEE	652.39
BOLTON & MENK	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	9,440.00
BOMGGARS	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	195.91
COMMUNITY FIRST AUTO PARTS	SHOP SUPPLIES	29.94
COMMUNITY STATE BANK DEE JACKSON/ JACKSON MOTORS	SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX	30.00
	SNOW REMOVAL	60.00
DELTA DENTAL FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	MONTHLY DENTAL FEEES	732.40
	WASTEWATER TESTING	1,823.25
GFC LEASING-WI	COPIER LEASING	196.31
HEMPHILL LAW OFFICE	LEGAL EXPENSE	539.64
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	600.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	6,373.46
IPERS	IPERS	6,512.65
IPERS/PD	PROTECTED IPERS	801.97
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SHOP SUPPLIES	82.50
KEVIN SHANNON	LED BALLAST LIGHTS AT LAGOON	100.00
LAURENS HOUSE OF PRINT	ENVELOPES	231.00
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE BILL	397.48
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	5,498.48
LAURENS SUN	LEGALS	241.84
MARTINS FLAG CO	NEW IOWA FLAGS	403.62
PAYMENTUS CORPORATION POCAHONTAS COUNTY SHERIFF	ONLINE UTILITY PAYMENTS	158.38
	POLICE COVERAGE	13,788.50
R&D INDUSTRIES, INC.	TECHS UPPORT	18.00
RSM US, LLP	TECH SUPPORT	453.73
SAMSON DEVELOPMENT	APPPLIANCE PICKUP	40.00
SANTANDER LEASING, LLC SCHMILLEN CONSTRUCTION, INC.	PUMPER PAYMENT	1,461.34
	CONCRETE CRUSHING	14,428.00
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	STATE TAXES	1,674.65
US BANK	LEGAL ADS	3,973.42
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE	229.30
WELLMARK	JAN MONTHLY HEALTH INSURANCE	9,038.89
	TOTAL	<u>85,126.25</u>

PAYROLL		12/23/2024	
001	GENERAL		2,746.41
210	ROAD USE TAX		1,912.29
600	WATER		2,900.02
610	SEWER		2,823.39
670	GARBAGE		<u>2,568.28</u>
	TOTAL		12,950.39
PAYROLL		1/2/2025	
001	GENERAL		7,478.10

# City Council Minutes

		PAYROLL TOTAL	<u>20,428.49</u>
		PAID TOTAL	<u><u>105,554.74</u></u>
001	GENERAL		53,617.98
110	ROAD USE TAX		4,535.78
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		3,691.01
600	WATER		16,717.06
610	SEWER		19,983.41
670	GARBAGE		7,009.50
		TOTAL BY FUND	<u><u>105,554.74</u></u>
REVENUES	GENERAL		33,692.24
	ROAD USE TAX		14,503.73
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		8,886.91
	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX		9,799.45
	TAX INCREMENT FINANCING		517.88
	POOL RESTRICTED		1,750.00
	DEBT SERVICE		9,348.58
	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT		882.95
	WATER		42,789.68
	SEWER		32,064.26
	GARBAGE		19,310.71
	STORM WATER		2,792.31
		TOTAL	<u><u>176,338.70</u></u>

Swanson moved to approve Resolution 01-25 – Annual Appointments. Christenson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Christenson, Swanson, Jamison. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Christenson moved to approve Resolution 02-25 – Mileage Rate. Zylstra seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Christenson, Swanson, Jamison. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Zylstra moved to approve Resolution 03-25 – Appointment of Library Board Members. Swanson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Booth, Christenson, Swanson, Jamison. Nays: None. Motion carried.

After much discussion, due to time constraints, Zylstra moved to approve extending the 28e agreement with the Pocahontas County Sherriff’s Office for a minimum of 30 days, to a maximum of 90 days, giving Reed the authority of working with the Sheriff’s office, and pending the Sherriff’s Office approval. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion was held on the pool project. No action was taken.

Zylstra motioned to adjourn at 5:51 p.m. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

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John Jamison, Mayor Pro Tem

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Hilary Reed, City Clerk