

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



Vol. 19 No. 40

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September 10,  
2025

## Local News

### New STEM Items in Memory of Pat Harms at the Library

Friends and family of former Laurens Library Director Pat Harms have been very generous with their donations to our Library Foundation. Her family expressed the wish that these donations be spent on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) books and materials.

We placed an order and recently received plastic blocks that can be used for building, or stacked like the game Jenga; big floor puzzles in animal shapes; Squigs; and Gears.

These will be used for STEM themed days, and will be available for inlibrary use on a rotating basis.

Pictured are Luke Peterson and Jordyn and Caliya Williams.





## *At the Library* with Glenda Mulder September 10, 2025

Our Evening Tot Time will be starting up again next week! This year it will be the first and third Mondays of each month at 5:30 p.m. This is geared to our littlest library patrons, with music, books, a craft, and of course bubbles. Older siblings are encouraged to attend because we always need helpers and good role models for the littles. Also we just can't imagine Tot Times without some of these kids who have been coming since they were babies!

If you heard a big loud "Whoop!" the other day, it was probably me when I hit the "submit" button on our Annual Survey that we submit to the State Library of Iowa. This year the survey was 23 pages long, and included 224 questions. Some of these questions include how many copies we've added and how many we've weeded in each of our sections; Number of programs & how many attendees; Questions about our income and expenditures; Questions about how many items were checked out in different categories. When it came time to total the number of circulations of physical items, the answer was 32,167. This was automatically flagged by the survey, and I was alarmed, so I read the reason for the flag, "The ratio of Physical Item Circulation to Population of Legal Service Area is less than 0.45 or greater than 15.72. Please check for errors or provide an explanation." Well, I did the math again and my answer was correct. Then I figured our ratio with our City population of 1264 – it's 25.45! We were flagged because we exceeded their expectations by quite a bit! I had to provide an explanation before I could continue, so I wrote, "I guess we're just awesome like that!" They seemed to accept that fact and it went smoothly after that.

We received our first Christmas novel of the year! It's *Once Upon a Christmas Carol* by Melody Carlson. We also received *The Surrogate Mother* by Freda McFadden and *The End of the World As We Know It: New Tales of Stephen King's The Stand* by Christopher Golden. Another interesting one is the kids picture book *Hansel and Gretel* by Stephen King and Maurice Sendak. With that combination it sounded so unique, I ordered this book when it was first announced, back in February and have been anxiously awaiting its release!

September is Banned Books awareness month, so naturally we had to make our selection from a list of most frequently banned and challenged books. We chose *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds. This book takes you on that journey, showing how racist ideas started and were spread, and how they can be discredited. It has often been challenged, ostensibly for vulgar language and discussions of race. I bet we will have an interesting discussion!

### **Mark Your Calendar**

- September 15 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time
- September 29 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *Stamped* by Jason Reynolds
- October 1 @ 6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday
- October 1 After School – Kids Make & Take
- October 6 & 20 @ 5:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time
- October 15 - Library Foundation Potato Bar Supper @ 5-6:30 p.m.
- October 15 @ 7 p.m. - Spooky Stories with Darrin Crow
- December 9 - Hugo Kringle/The Dulcimer Guy

## **The Paper**

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## *Tom Lichter Returning to Fonda Arts Center*

Singer/Pianist Tom Lichter is returning to the Fonda Arts Center!

As one of Iowa's favorite musicians, Tom will take the stage at 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 28th performing a variety of popular favorites.

Tom is a graduate of Fonda High School where he was recognized from the onset as one of those who "wears his music like his skin" - a natural. A Newell area resident, he has been sharing the joy of his talent ever since with audiences of all ages.

All this happening at the Fonda Arts Center on the Northwest corner of Fourth and Main Streets in Fonda. Everyone is welcome! As always, free admission, free refreshments - donations greatly appreciated!

## *Laurens Women's Club to Meet*

The Laurens Women's Club will meet Friday, September 12 at 1:30 p.m. at West Iowa Bank. Jamie Dodd, Laurens Care Center Administrator, will present the program about "Laurens Care Center Services For Inpatient Care and Out Patient Care".

Ann Beneke will give the book report. Members of the serving committee will be Dorothy Long and Betty VanHorsen.

## *Join the Fun, 4-H Enrollment Now Open!*

Pocahontas County 4-H has enjoyed an unforgettable year, filled with workshops, trips, summer camps, and a successful county fair and is excited to announce that enrollment for the 2025–2026 4-H year opened on September 1, be sure to enroll and get ready to make new friends, learn new skills, and create memories that last a lifetime!

Pocahontas County 4-H has 4, 4-H Clubs in Rolfe, Laurens, Pocahontas, and Palmer as well as a Clover Kids Club for all Pocahontas county youth in grades K-3.

Thanks to the generous donations to our Pocahontas County 4-H Endowment, we are happy to offer enrollment at no cost to our members. To enroll, existing members can login to your 4H Online account to re-enroll. New members can create an account at <https://4honline.com/>.

## **LUNCH & LEARN**

**September 22nd**

**8:30 AM - 9:30 AM**

Pocahontas Iowa State Extension Office  
305 N Main St.  
Pocahontas, IA 50574

Coffee and pastries will be provided

**OR**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Northwest Career Academy  
300 West Garfield St.  
Laurens, IA 50554

A light lunch will be provided

Come learn about the  
**\$96 MILLION INVESTMENT**  
to support small  
businesses, manufacturers,  
and entrepreneurship!

Register:



<https://forms.gle/VQs4aFg4ticnKCbC6>



VENTURENET IOWA



This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by a federal award number 21031-0015 awarded to America's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Iowa by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

## *This Week at Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Wednesday: September 10, 2025**

7 PM ~ Confirmation class w/parents

**Sunday: September 14, 2025**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship

SS Teachers mtg right after worship

6 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

**Monday: September 15, 2025**

4 PM ~ W/M Mtg.

**Tuesday: September 16, 2025**

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

**Wednesday: September 17, 2025**

7 PM ~ Confirmation class

7 PM ~ Council Mtg.

**Thursday: September 18, 2025**

2 PM ~ Circle Group

**Saturday: September 20, 2025**

9AM ~ IMD Convocation, St. John's,  
Le Mars

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



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

*Our Town Our Paper!*

## *This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church*

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Wednesday, September 10:**

Caring Cards @ 6:00 PM in  
Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, September 14:**

Sunday School 9:15

Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM



The  
United  
Methodist  
Church

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## *This Week at First Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Thursday, Sept. 11**

2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

**Sunday, Sept. 14**

9:30 a.m. - Elder's Meeting

10:30 a.m. - Worship following  
worship: Kristen's Care and Support  
Team Meeting



## *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

## ***I-29 Moo University Webinar on September 16 to Manure Scoring to See How Cows Are Working with Their Diets***

The I-29 Moo University Dairy Webinar Series continues Tuesday, September 16 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. CDT, focusing on manure scoring with Dr. Mary Beth Hall.

Dr. Hall, owner of The Cows Are Always Right dairy consulting business, she counsels with producers to improve feeding and profitability. She was formerly with the USDA-ARS U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center in Wisconsin. Her program on Tuesday, September 16, “Manure Evaluation for Reading Your Cows: It Doesn’t Just Happen” will focus on what we see when we walk herds, we see manure. Did you ever consider that the way manure looks and what is in it could tell you about how the cows are working with their diets? In this presentation She’ll discuss how rumen and gut function can change manure characteristics, what those changes look like, and how evaluation of manure, feeds, diets, cow performance, and management can be brought together to look for ways to improve herd performance.

There is no fee to participate in the webinar; however, registration is required at least one hour prior to the webinar. Register online at: <https://go.iastate.edu/EVALUATINGMANURE>

For more information, contact: in Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230; in Minnesota, Jim Salfer, 320-203-6093; or in South Dakota, Maristela Rovai, 605-688-5488.

## ***Four-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference September Webinar Will Focus On Mycotoxin Mitigation***

The Four-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference webinar series continue on Thursday, September 18 will feature Dr. Joe Pankowski discussing his new approach to mycotoxin mitigation.

Dr. Joel Pankowski’s presentation “Mycotoxin Mitigation: A New Approach” describes Mycotoxins can be formed on crops in the field, during harvest, or during storage, processing, or feeding. In a global survey, 85% of cereal grains sampled were contaminated with at least one mycotoxin. The threat of mycotoxins also exists in silage. Ruminants are susceptible to the detrimental effects of mycotoxins in the diet, meaning that your herd’s production and performance -- and, ultimately, your profitability -- could be taking a hit.

Ingested mycotoxins can damage the gut epithelial cell surface, compromising a cow’s ability to block mycotoxins from entering its tissues and migrating to different organs. What if you could combat the constant mycotoxin challenge from the inside out, building resilience and consistently meeting milk production goals?

He will review and discuss research-proven concepts. Attendees will have a better understanding of how their mycotoxin mitigation options can be objectively evaluated and implemented. This process will aid in the identification of research-proven and field-tested opportunities to maximize herd profitability.

Dr. Joel Pankowski joined the Arm and Hammer Technical Services Team in 2011. Currently, he leads and manages a team of Ph.D. and DVM Multi-Species Technical Service Managers that provide technical expertise to the Field Sales Team, Key Influencers and Producers in the Americas.

Joel received both his BS and MS degrees from The Ohio State University and then went on to earn his Ph.D. in Dairy Management from Cornell University. His areas of expertise are reproductive management and health, quantitative dairy herd data analysis, transition cow management and fatty acid nutrition.

His 30+ year career has included a variety of technical and leadership roles with the Monsanto Dairy Business, CPG Nutrients, AGWAY, Inc., Land ‘O Lakes Purina Feed, and Alpharma Animal Health. Joel resides in Baldwinsville, NY with his wife, Tracy, and they have three grown children (Stacy, AJ and Trevor).

Producers, dairy consultants and industry reps are encouraged to attend the free webinar live from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 18 by registering at least one hour before the webinar at: <https://go.iastate.edu/MYCOTOXIN>

For more information contact: in Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712.737.4230; in Minnesota, Jim Salfer, 320-203-6093; in Illinois, Phil Cardoso, 217.300.2303; or in Wisconsin, Paul Fricke, 608.263.4596.



## *Small Change: Building Financial Security Offerings for Educators and School Personnel*

Improve your personal finance knowledge, skills and confidence and prepare yourself as a professional to address financial literacy in our schools!

Small Change is an online course designed for Iowa educators. Course content is embedded in the financial literacy standards of the Iowa Core 21st Century Skills and Social Studies, and connects participants with curricula, resources, and school-based programs for elementary, middle, and high school levels. Educators can earn one Iowa License renewal credit.

### **Course requirements:**

- Participate in a live, virtual 2-hour introductory workshop on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.
- Complete at least 4 of 12 gamified online lessons covering financial topics.
- Complete assignments to promote financial literacy and connect with resources.

### **Explore lessons that are timely and relevant to your life stage. Topics include:**

- Finance Fundamentals—getting organized, smart borrowing, estate planning
- Insurance—life, health, disability, long-term care, auto, home, liability coverage
- Investing—risk tolerance, investment choices, funding long-term goals
- Retirement—preparing for retirement, building a nest egg, Social Security, IPERS

The course fee is \$30 to ISEA members and non-members. Those who do not need license renewal credit may register and audit the course for a \$15 fee. Register online at <https://cvent.me/YRw3E0> by November 25, 2025 at 5:00 PM or search for Small Change Online in the ISEA course catalog. Space is limited.

## *Grant Writing 101 Workshop Scheduled for Calhoun County on September 18th, 2025*

Representatives of nonprofits, local government, schools and community volunteers are encouraged to register for a Grant Writing 101 workshop, which will be presented at Calhoun County Extension and Outreach located at 325 Court St. in Rockwell City, IA, from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Grant Writing 101 is designed for those who are new to the world of grant writing or need a refresher. It will provide a thorough overview of the entire grant writing process, from finding appropriate grant opportunities to submitting successful grant applications. The workshop is sponsored in partnership by Calhoun County Extension and Outreach Council.

Participants may register to attend in person at the Calhoun County Extension Office, or by calling 712-297-8611, or emailing Program Coordinator, Caitlyn Butler at [cnbutler@iastate.edu](mailto:cnbutler@iastate.edu).

The deadline to register is 11:59pm on September 16th. There is no fee to register. A meal will be provided to participants who register by the deadline.

Lindsay Henderson, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Community Development Specialist will present Grant Writing 101. She has extensive experience writing and reviewing grant applications and working with various federal, state, local and private foundation grant programs. Henderson will assist workshop participants in exploring various public and private funding sources and provide instruction and tips on planning projects and writing successful grant applications.

For more information about the workshop, contact Lindsay Henderson at [lindsayh@iastate.edu](mailto:lindsayh@iastate.edu) or 515-835-6605.

## *New Workshop on Oct. 9 Helps Iowans Apply Community Data to Guide Local Decisions*

In a time when local budgets are tight and needs are growing, Iowa leaders are looking for new ways to guide decisions about housing, education and health care. A new virtual workshop from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach aims to give them just that, through data.

Demographics in Your Community is an interactive workshop set for Thursday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This new workshop is designed for community members, nonprofit leaders, city staff and others interested in using data to better understand and serve their communities.

“This workshop is about making data approachable,” said Himar Hernández, assistant program director and community development specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. “It’s not just charts and numbers. It’s about learning what those numbers say about your community, and how you can act on them.”

Participants will walk through demographic reports specific to their town and county and explore topics like population shifts, income trends and housing needs. Case studies will tie those numbers to local planning, helping participants see how data can inform decisions about public services, grant applications and long-term strategy.

“It’s easy to overlook data as something for experts,” Hernández said. “But we’ve seen that once people see how it connects to their own lives, like where a new school should go or what services an aging population needs, they start using it in powerful ways.”

The Demographics in Your Community session is one of five new leadership-focused workshops developed by ISU Extension and Outreach’s Community and Economic Development unit in response to the growing pressures faced by Iowa’s local leaders.

“Local leaders across Iowa are carrying more responsibility than ever, often with fewer resources and rising expectations,” Hernández said. “These workshops, which focus on things like leading through disagreement, running more effective meetings and using AI responsibly, were built to help them meet that challenge, with tools they can use right away.”

To explore the full workshop series or to learn how your community or organization can host a session, visit the ISU Extension and Outreach leadership workshops webpage.

The Demographics in Your Community virtual session will take place Thursday, Oct. 9. Registration is required, and the cost to attend is \$100 per participant.

For more information, contact Esther Crompton, communication specialist, at [eecrompt@iastate.edu](mailto:eecrompt@iastate.edu), or Himar Hernández at [himarh@iastate.edu](mailto:himarh@iastate.edu), or 641-799-6681.

## *Upcoming Webinar to Offer Digital Tool Strategies for Small Farms*

The Farm, Food and Enterprise Development program at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host a webinar on Oct. 14 from 10 to 11 a.m. The webinar, titled “Level Up Your Farm: Unlock Profitability with Digital Tools,” will be held in partnership with Big Data in a Box.

The one-hour session will highlight how small and mid-sized farms can adopt user-friendly digital tools to track their data, make smarter decisions and ultimately improve their bottom line.

“Rising costs, labor shortages and complex regulations leave many small producers searching for ways to streamline operations and increase profitability,” said Alex Van Alstyne, food business extension specialist at Iowa State. “One of the most promising solutions is embracing digital transformation.”

The webinar is designed with practicality in mind, and attendees will walk away with insights that can be implemented immediately, making it a valuable opportunity for producers looking to modernize without feeling overwhelmed by technology.

Participants will learn strategies to capture and organize farm data, apply insights to planting and labor management, strengthen compliance and explore emerging technologies such as generative artificial intelligence. The session will also provide examples of how data can support value-added ventures, from monitoring production efficiency to identifying profitable market trends.

Registration is available at no cost, and all participants will receive a link to join the online session. For more details and to register, visit the registration page.

For updates and future events, follow the Food Innovation Hub on Facebook.

## *Raising Your Dairy Best Heifer: Webinar Series Returns for Season 2*

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team will offer the second season of the Raising Your Dairy Best Heifer webinar series. The series, intended for dairy producers, will cover practical heifer management topics.

“Nearly 25% of dairy production costs are related to raising heifer replacements, so a considerable amount of feed, time and facilities must be invested to optimize growth for heifers to calve at an appropriate age,” said Jennifer Bentley, dairy field specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. “The topic of raising your ‘dairy best’ heifers can have significant financial and herd benefits.”

Each webinar will cover a different topic related to heifer management and include a Q&A session at the end for any questions participants may have.

**A complete list of dates and speakers is available below:**

- Oct. 1 – “What's all the Fuss about Pair Housing Calves? Benefits and Management Considerations,” Melissa Cantor, assistant professor of precision dairy, Penn State University
- Oct. 8 – “Positive Biofilms in Calf Health,” Sarah Morrison, research scientist, Miner Institute
- Oct. 15 – “Utilizing Genetics to Improve Dairy Calf Health and Performance,” Isaac Haagen, assistant professor in dairy production, University of Minnesota
- Oct. 22 – “Weaning: The Other Transition,” Jennifer Bentley, dairy field specialist, ISU Extension and Outreach
- Oct. 29 – “Colostrum Delivery Strategies,” Donald Sockett, veterinary microbiologist/epidemiologist, Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and Ryan Breuer, clinical associate professor, University of Wisconsin – Madison School of Veterinary Medicine
- Nov. 5 – “Practical Tips for Managing Heifer Body Condition,” Gail Carpenter, associate professor, dairy extension specialist, Iowa State University
- Nov. 12 – “Fresh Cow Success Starts with the Heifer: Calving Pen Readiness,” Howard Tyler, associate professor of animal science, Iowa State University
- Nov. 19 – “Pasture-Raised Potential: Grazing Dairy Heifers for Performance and Profit,” Larry Tranel, dairy specialist, ISU Extension and Outreach
- Dec. 3 – “Heifer Mastitis,” Pamela Adkins, assistant professor, food animal medicine and surgery director of the Master of Public Health Veterinary concentration area, University of Missouri

Those interested in participating in the webinar series can register online. For more information, contact Jennifer Bentley at 563-382-2949 or [jbentley@iastate.edu](mailto:jbentley@iastate.edu).



## ***New Iowa Pork Industry Center Publication Focuses on Conjunctivitis Causes, Treatment, Control***

Conjunctivitis (sometimes referred to as “pinkeye”) in swine is characterized by inflammation of the conjunctival membranes of the eye. Causes can include common infectious pathogens and non-infectious avenues such as high levels of dust or ammonia, elevated hydrogen sulfide levels and allergenic bedding material.

A new publication from the Iowa Pork Industry Center, *Conjunctivitis in Swine*, has information on how to recognize the condition and what to do when it is detected in your animals. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach swine veterinarian Chris Rademacher, who is one of the authors, said many cases are observed during the late nursery to early grow-finish phase. Conjunctivitis also is a common complaint among producers, including those involved in swine exhibition opportunities.

“Both prevalence and severity in a group depend on the route of infection and transmission,” he said. “For example, *Chlamydia suis* is a common agent, yet other viruses such as PRRS, Influenza A and pseudorabies should be ruled out with veterinarian assistance.”

Non-infectious agents, including high levels of dust or ammonia, irritant bedding material and transport events (stressors), may also lead to conjunctivitis.

If conjunctivitis is detected in your animals, Rademacher said commercial and exhibition swine producers should assess the environmental conditions, take swab samples and work with their veterinarian on the next steps. Iowa State researchers are also looking for cases from which to collect swab samples as part of a study on which pathogens are most prevalent. Producers with potential affected sites can contact Dr. Megan Hindman by email at [mpieters@iastate.edu](mailto:mpieters@iastate.edu) for more details.

The publication, IPIC 211, is available at no charge from the ISU Extension Store.

The other authors of the publication are Megan Hindman, DVM, clinical assistant professor; Maria Clavijo, DVM, PhD, research associate professor; Daniel Linhares, DVM, MBA, PhD, Roy A. Schultz Professor in Swine Medicine; and Locke Karriker, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVPM, professor and chair, all from ISU veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine; and Michele Moncrief, DVM, post-doctoral research associate, Swine Medicine Education Center.

# City Council Minutes

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, John Jamison, Loren Booth, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, and City Clerk Joan Hoben. City Manager Hilary Reed and Public Works Director Julian Johnsen were absent.

Zylstra moved to approve the consent agenda as amended consisting of the minutes from August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting, the list of claims, and a Class C Liquor License for 7/10 Lanes. Jamison seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

## CLAIMS 09/02/2025

A&M	MOPS, RAGS, RUGS	91.31
AG STATE	CHEMICALS	162.95
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS FEE	92.19
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	GROUP EYE INSURANCE	190.28
B&K EMBROIDERY	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	335.00
BLACKSTOP SERVICE CO	STREET REPAIRS	82,466.45
BOLTON & MENK	WASTEWATER ENGINEERING	7,979.00
BOMGAARS	SUPPLIES	196.98
DELTA DENTAL	MONTHLY DENTAL INSURANCE	689.70
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	1,269.50
GFC LEASING-WI	COPIER MAINT.	206.00
HEMPHILL LAW OFFICE	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	831.60
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	800.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	5,465.28
IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES	MEMBERSHIP DUES	1,133.00
IPERS	IPERS	7,185.29
JAMES LITWILLER	PHARMACY	56.50
LMPC	AUGUST MONTHLY PHONE & INTERNET	625.48
LMU	AUGUST MONTHLY UTILITIES	4,866.69
LAURENS PLUMBING SERVICES	SUPPLIES	1,315.44
MENARD'S	SHOP SUPPLIES	114.68
NOGAARD SAND & GRAVEL	WASHED SAND	145.12
PAYMENTUS CORPORATION	TECH SUPPORT	190.57
PETTY CASH	POSTAGE	350.88
POCAHONTAS CO	PROPERTY TAXES - BENZ ADDITION	182.00
TREASRUER	POLICE CAR KEY CUT	114.00
POCAHONTAS SALES & SERVICE	STORM SEWER PARTS	1,722.50
REHAB SYSTEMS, INC.	TECH SUPPORT	34.00
RSM US, LLP	APPLIANCE PICK UP	40.00
SAMSON DEVELOPMENT	PARTS FOR MEMORY LANE	534.98
TJERAN JOLLIFFE	AUGUST SALES TAXES	4,945.55
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	MEMBERSHIP DUES	3,219.09
US BANK	NUIANCE MOWING	1,031.00
WAYNE PEASLEE	TOTAL	<u>128,583.01</u>

## PAYROLL

8/18/2025

001	GENERAL	8,746.65
210	ROAD USE TAX	2,065.14
600	WATER	2,971.15
610	SEWER	3,021.90
670	GARBAGE	2,825.38

TOTAL 19,630.22

# City Council Minutes

PAYROLL		8/26/2025	
001	GENERAL		156.01
600	WATER		156.01
610	SEWER		156.01
670	GARBAGE		156.01
		TOTAL	<u>624.04</u>
		PAYROLL TOTAL	<u>20,254.26</u>
		PAID TOTAL	<u>148,837.27</u>
001	GENERAL	27,280.10	
110	ROAD USE TAX	81,756.56	
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	225.80	
174	POOL RESTRICTED	73.00	
175	POCKET PARK	1,044.35	
176	HOMETOWN PRIDE COMMITTEE	145.12	
316	WEST MAIN & BISSELL	7,979.00	
600	WATER	13,433.58	
610	SEWER	9,009.50	
670	GARBAGE	6,167.76	
745	STORM WATER	1,722.50	
		TOTAL BY FUND	<u>148,837.27</u>
REVENUES	GENERAL	8,785.55	
	POLICE SPECIAL	4.00	
	ROAD USE TAX	14,455.05	
	LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	8,689.43	
	POOL RESTRICTED	(73.00)	
	PERPETUAL CARE	400.00	
	WATER	52,534.93	
	SEWER	36,823.46	
	GARBAGE	19,626.69	
	STORM WATER	2,938.20	
		TOTAL	<u>144,184.31</u>

Booth motioned to adjourn at 5:05 p.m. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Johnson, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan Hoben, City Clerk



August 28, 2025

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 agenda for the August 28, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Storms and seconded by Trustee Horsman to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Due to Karla Sonksen being out on medical leave, we do not have a summary of receipts, a list of expenses, a utility fund report, an income statement, a balance sheet, or a summary of discounts and adjustments to review.

Trustee Horsman introduced the following Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION AMENDING THE LMPC EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK" and moved that it be adopted. Trustee Storms seconded the motion to adopt, and the roll being called thereon, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Horsman and Storms

NAYS: None

Whereupon, Chairman Storms declared the Resolution duly adopted as follows:

## RESOLUTION AMENDING THE LMPC EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK

WHEREAS, Laurens Municipal Power & Communications of the City of Laurens, Iowa ("the Utility"), currently has in effect a formal Employee Policy Handbook; and

WHEREAS, the Utility wishes to amend the language in some of the sections of the Employee Policy Handbook.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Laurens Municipal Power & Communications of the City of Laurens, Iowa:

Section 1. The proposed LMPC Employee Policy Handbook language changes for Sections 9.1 Hours of Work, 9.2 Lunch Break, 13.5 Sick Leave Benefits Upon Termination of Employment, and 15.1 Insurance Coverage which are on file in the Utility office and by this reference are incorporated herein, are approved.

Section 2. Repealer Clause. All resolutions, parts of resolutions, or prior language changes heretofore that conflict with the LMPC Employee Policy Handbook language changes that is the subject of this Resolution are hereby repealed insofar as such resolutions, parts of resolutions, or prior language changes conflict with the proposed LMPC Employee Policy Handbook language changes.

Section 3. Severability Clause. If any section, provision, or part of this Resolution of the language changes adopted hereby shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, then such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Resolution as a whole, and any section, provision, or part of the Resolution that is not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Effective Date and Applicability. The LMPC Employee Policy Handbook language changes adopted hereby and attached hereto, unless otherwise provided by law, shall apply on and after September 1, 2025. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage unless otherwise provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of August, 2025.

Ben Storms  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Attest: Chad Cleveland  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Trustee Storms introduced the following Resolution entitled “RESOLUTION ADOPTING PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST POLICY” and moved that it be adopted. Trustee Horsman seconded the motion to adopt, and the roll being called thereon, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Horsman and Storms                      NAYS: None

Whereupon, Chairman Storms declared the Resolution duly adopted as follows:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST POLICY**

WHEREAS, Laurens Municipal Power & Communications of the City of Laurens, Iowa (“the Utility”), does not currently have in effect a formal policy detailing the Utility’s standard practices for responding to public record requests under Chapter 22 of the Iowa Code; and

WHEREAS, the Utility wishes to adopt a formal policy detailing the Utility’s standard practices for responding to such public record requests in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Iowa Code, the Utility may adopt and enforce reasonable rules regarding the examination and copying of open records; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 22.3 of the Iowa Code, the Utility may charge a reasonable fee for its response and services in supervising the examination and copying of open records.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Laurens Municipal Power & Communications of the City of Laurens, Iowa:

Section 1. The Public Records Request Policy, which are on file in the Utility office and by this reference is incorporated herein, are approved.

Section 2. Repealer Clause. All resolutions, parts of resolutions, or prior public records request policies and/or practices heretofore that conflict with the Public Records Request Policy that is the subject of this Resolution are hereby repealed insofar as such resolutions, parts of resolutions, or prior public records request policies and/or practices conflict with this Policy.

Section 3. Severability Clause. If any section, provision, or part of this Resolution of the language changes adopted hereby shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, then such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Resolution as a whole, and any section, provision, or part of the Resolution that is not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Effective Date and Applicability. The Public Records Request Policy adopted hereby and attached hereto, unless otherwise provided by law, shall apply on and after September 1, 2025. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage unless otherwise provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of August, 2025.

Ben Storms  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Attest: Chad Cleveland  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Discussion was held on the Generation Plant Fuel System Modifications Project – Construction Schedule. The contractor has informed our engineer that they cannot get our underground fuel tank until next year. They are asking to extend the deadline on the project. Our engineer has responded by directing the contractor to provide us with a new proposed construction schedule for us to consider. No specific action was taken at this time.

Discussion was held on the summary of quotes received for the demolition of the old swimming pool. The City received three (3) quotes with the low quote of \$24,440.00 from Michael Son Inc. out of Armstrong, Iowa. The City Council did approve and accept the low quote from Michael Son Inc. at the August 18, 2025 council meeting. The Trustees stated they were pleased with the results.

Trustee Storms introduced the following Resolution entitled “RESOLUTION ORDERING BIDS, APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, NOTICE TO BIDDERS AND FIXING AMOUNT OF BID SECURITY, FIXING DATE FOR RECEIVING BIDS, FIXING DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATE OF COSTS FOR THE RELAY UPGRADES AND SCADA SYSTEM REPLACEMENT FOR LAURENS MUNICIPAL POWER & COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY OF LAURENS IOWA” and moved that it be adopted. Trustee Horsman seconded the motion to adopt, and the roll being called thereon, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Horsman and Storms

NAYS: None

Whereupon, Chairman Storms declared the Resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION ORDERING BIDS, APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, NOTICE TO BIDDERS AND FIXING AMOUNT OF BID SECURITY, FIXING DATE FOR RECEIVING BIDS, FIXING DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATE OF COSTS FOR THE RELAY UPGRADES AND SCADA SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR LAURENS MUNICIPAL POWER & COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CITY OF LAURENS IOWA

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Laurens Municipal Power & Communications (LMPC) of the City of Laurens, Iowa:

Section 1. That the construction of the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Replacement for LMPC is hereby ordered to be advertised for bids.

Section 2. That the detailed Plans and Specifications for the construction of the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Replacement Project for LMPC and the Form of Contract and Notice to Bidders, as approved by the General Manager, be and the same are hereby approved, subject to a public hearing thereon, and are hereby placed on file in the office of the General Manager for public inspection.

Section 3. That the amount of the security to accompany each bid shall be in the amount of ten percent (10%). Said bid security shall conform to the provisions of the Notice to Bidders hereby approved.

Section 4. That the Engineer, DGR Engineering of Rock Rapids, Iowa, be and is hereby directed to post Notice to Bidders to the following: 1. QuestCDN, which qualifies as a relevant contractor plan room and construction lead generating service with statewide circulation, and 2. the Iowa League of Cities website. Posting shall be not less than thirteen (13) clear days nor more than forty-five (45) days prior to October 14, 2025, which latter date is hereby fixed as the date for receiving bids. Said bids are to be filed prior to 1:30 o'clock P.M., on said date, at the office of the General



Manager, 272 N 3rd Street, Laurens, Iowa. A copy of said Notice is attached hereto marked Exhibit "B" and incorporated herein as if set out verbatim

Section 5. That at the Board of Trustees Meeting in the Municipal Building, 272 N Third Street, Laurens, Iowa, at 3:00 o'clock P.M., on October 23, 2025, a public hearing will be held on the Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract, and Estimate of Costs for the Relay Upgrades and SCADA System Replacement Project.

Section 6. That the General Manager shall publish a Notice of Hearing once in the Laurens Sun, said publication to be not less than four (4) clear days nor more than twenty (20) days prior to the date hereinafter fixed as the date for public hearing on the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of costs for said project. A copy of said Notice is on file in the LMPC office and incorporated herein as if set out verbatim.

Section 7. Severability Clause. If any section, provision, or part of this Resolution of the language changes adopted hereby shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, then such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Resolution as a whole, and any section, provision, or part of the Resolution that is not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. Effective Date and Applicability. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage unless otherwise provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of August, 2025.

Ben Storms  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Attest: Chad Cleveland  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Motion by Trustee Horsman and seconded by Trustee Storms to approve the proposed Real Estate Purchase Agreement between Pocahontas County and Laurens Municipal Power & Communications. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the latest revision by CMBA Architects for the City Hall Renovation Project. The Trustees are good with the latest revision/proposal. No specific action was taken.

At 5:45 p.m. the Trustees and General Manager went and did a facility tour of all the LMPC properties.

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