



**REGULAR COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday,  
May 2nd, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Council Chambers & Zoom**

**1. Call to order** of regular council meeting at 6:02 p.m.

**2. Roll call:**

- a. **Present:** 6 - Mayor Labbe, CM Grant (joined via Zoom at 6:40pm), CM Luna-Leal, MPT Greene, CM Hill and CM Forgensi
- b. **Absent:** 1 - CM Lauritzen

**Staff Members Present:** Deputy City Clerk Hannah Scheer, City Administrator Laurie Simonson, Planning Director Chapin LaChance, Chief Dailey, Interim Chief Chavez, Street Department Head Tony Medina, Animal Shelter Manager Caitlin Kuczko, Administrative Assistant Lori Tye, and acting City Attorney Evin King

**3. Approval of the agenda:** CM Hill **moved** to approve the agenda as amended, and CM Luna-Leal **seconded**. All present were in favor.

- a. **Agenda Revisions:** N/A

**4. Housekeeping Matters:**

- CM Hill asked about parking at Western Hardware and Community Banks, if there would be signage, paving, or striping. Mayor noted the signage would be done by the end of the month.
- CM Forgensi asked about lighting behind the Tabor, as it would provide more security for evening hours.

**5. Public comments for items not on the agenda:**

- a. Steve Prestash:
  - i. Commented on city/county governments, quoting some writing that government should be to, "provide framework to solve social conflict."
  - ii. Said that CM Lauritzen holding a position with the County and the City is a conflict of interest.

**6. Consent Agenda:**

CM Luna-Leal **moved** to approve the minutes of 4/18/2023; CM Hill **seconded**. All present were in favor.

- a. **Agenda Revisions:** None

**7. Presentations & Discussions:****A. City Administrator Report – Laurie Simonson updated the City Council regarding the following:**

- a. The vacancy for CM Forgenski was advertised in the newspaper. The City will be accepting letters of interest until May 19<sup>th</sup> and a decision will be made at the June 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.
- b. There is progress on cyber security at City Hall. 2 factor authentication has been implemented and a third-party company is conducting phishing testing with employees.
- c. The Street Department has been working on patching potholes. They are starting at the North and South ends of town and will meet in the middle. There is a new street sweeper that started today.
- d. Illness has hit City Hall pretty hard so we will need to reschedule the May 15<sup>th</sup> Town Hall regarding the Police Department. Administrative Assistant Lori Tye will be helping to organize this.
- e. Regarding the offensive speech on a vehicle that was brought up at a previous meeting, Chief Chavez looked into it and confirmed that the speech in question was misread and it is not hate speech.
- f. The Mayor's birthday is May 3rd

**B. 2023 Wildfire Preparedness Month Proclamation:**

- a. Mayor Labbe made the proclamation for Wildfire Preparedness Month

**C. Dr. Zwerdinger and Advocates of Lake County Regarding Permanent Support of Housing:**

- a. Jenny Abbot with the Advocates of Lake County and Dr. Zwerdinger are seeking support for permanent housing to help support their community-based work with survivors and other community members that need assistance.
- b. Dr. Zwerdinger has offered her building at 735 US Highway 24 as the property they can use for housing with free rent until funding can be sorted.
- c. Lake County Build a Generation created the Housing Coalition
- d. There is not always "unsheltered" homelessness in Leadville, it can look like living in a tent, living in a multifamily home, living in unsafe conditions.
- e. Taking a "housing first" approach, in which housing is provided before other support services. Using housing at the foundation, then building upon that with food support, mental/medical healthcare, addiction specialists, etc.
- f. They are actively pursuing funding opportunities. Currently will be using the DOLA Division of Housing and HUD.
- g. The Advocates are asking for support in the form of attending meetings, potential re-zoning on the part of the City, and writing letters of support.

**D. Main Street Quarterly Presentation:**

- a. Working of a 4-point approach, centering around: economic vitality, design, organization, and promotion
- b. There will be annual activities like Community Clean Up, Leadville in Bloom, Summer Nights music, Trick or Treat St., etc.

- c. Will be communicating with the community via website, newsletters, newspaper articles, and social media
- d. The majority of Main Street funding comes from the City and auctions/fundraisers

**E. Leadville Race Series Presentation:**

- a. Tamira Jenlink gave a presentation detailing the setup of the Leadville 100 Run and Bike series.
- b. Provided maps of the routes and re-routes of traffic.
- c. Added additional porta-potties to make sure there are enough for everyone so it does not become a problem like last year.

**F. Discussion Regarding the Mayor and City Council Salaries:**

- a. Right now the Mayor’s salary is \$30,000/year. Discussing raising it to \$50,000 as a full time position.
- b. Discussion over whether Leadville should have a “weak Mayor system” or a “strong Mayor system.” Full time or part time mayor.
- c. Should there be more oversight by the Mayor of the Police Department
- d. A higher salary could broaden the pool of people interested in becoming Mayor
- e. Where does the Mayor sit? Aligned with strategic plan; half legislative half executive?
- f. The Mayor has little power, but does have influence. Does a lot of community outreach
- g. There needs to be clear lines of management and capacity. The City Administrator handles the day-to-day operations of the City
- h. The City Administrator commented that we want someone as the Mayor who is here to help and not just looking for the status of the position
- i. Our current Mayor works about 35-40 hours per week

**8. Actionable Items:**

- a. Resolution No. 9, Series of 2023: A Resolution Approving the Second Amended and Restated Lake County 911 Authority Intergovernmental Agreement and Bylaws of the Lake County Emergency Telephone Service Authority

CM Hill **moved** to approve Resolution No. 9, Series of 2023; CM Forgensì **seconded**. The resolution passed with a 4-2 vote and one absent.

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
CM Luna-Leal		*		
CM Lauritzen			*	
CM Grant				*
MPT Greene	*			
CM Forgensì	*			
Mayor Labbe	*			
CM Hill	*			

**9. Public Meetings Planner:**

- a. The topic of the Mayor's salary will be added to the June 6<sup>th</sup> regular City Council meeting
- b. CM Hill will not attend the 5/9 work session, but will have a review to be read in
- c. CM Greene will not attend the 5/9 work session
- d. The City Administrator will be remote on the 5/9 work session
- e. LURA's next meeting is 5/4 at 6:00 pm

**10. Mayor's Report:**

- a. Wheelers celebration was great, there was a pre-showing of the Rocky Mountain PBS documentary about the Lost Irish Miners of Leadville
- b. Was looking into a solar solution for the City's streetlights, but the cost is way over budget
- c. Attended City of the Summit of the Americas – topic was mining issues in North and South America. Leadville and Climax has a positive story and relationship. There are over 700,000 inactive legacy mines in the US. Conversation around how we clean up the piles left.
- d. The Sound of Music will be performed at the high school 5/11-13.

**11. Council Reports:**

- a. CM Luna-Leal is leaving several trusts and coalitions in order to take on a full-time job. Will stay on with the Housing Coalition

**12. Public Comments:**

- a. Steve Prestash
  - i. Noted the refusal of the City government to acknowledge conflicts of interest within the City and County
  - ii. His truck and trailer were seized by the City, while other trailers and vehicles are being allowed to stay where they are
  - iii. Is concerned that there is interest in combining City and County government
  - iv. Is troubled that the City took CDOT funds, says it empowers realtors and developers, not the community
  - v. Thinks the Mayor system should be a full-time strong mayor system at \$24,000/year
- b. Tim Bergman
  - i. BOCC passed a resolution to join the Jumpstart zone, so now if the City is interested they can also do so
  - ii. Angel Bujanda Gutierrez is the new Community Justice Coordinator
  - iii. Claire Skeen just graduated FEMA academy

13. Adjournment: 8:34 p.m.

APPROVED this 16th day of May 2023 by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, 2 absent.

CITY OF LEADVILLE, COLORADO

ATTEST:

By

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Deputy City Clerk