Hello Attorney and Council

15 messages

Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 9:09 PM
To: Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov

I'd like to know the name of our IT staff/firm, (in and out of house) the consulting firms we use for technology, and the credentials of the trainee being educated on running the cameras and audio for council and citizens.

Budget if you're feeling particularly transparent, although I can run the numbers myself.

Thanks,
--

Matt Gilg

mattgilg.dev
Cell: 860.771.3511

Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov> Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 10:33 PM
To: Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>
Cc: City Mayor <citymayor@laurel.mt.gov>, Kurt Markegard <kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>

Mr. Gilg:

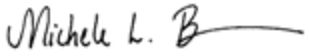
I have copied the Clerk Treasurer on this email. She can speak to how and to what extent we engage independent IT personnel for the City, as well as how the City sets up the cameras and audio for Meetings. I apologize, even though I had nothing to do with it, but I apologize on the City's behalf, tonight, about what happened to shut down audio/video for the public. That was unfortunate, and I do not dispute that. I don't know what happened. Apparently, something went awry tonight on audio/video feed, and that was not intentioned.

Can we do better as a City to ensure consistent audio/video communications with our public? I assume that we can. And, I ask for City Staff to ensure that these mistakes don't happen again in the future.

I ask you to speak directly with Brittney, who handles all broadcast for our CC Meetings, and all documentation of the Meetings. Hopefully, Brittney can provide you more insight.

I greatly apologize for tonight. It was disruptive to not only you as a participant watching, but for me, as an attendee, that had numerous things cut off and disjointed. This is not acceptable, and I agree with your assessment of that. I don't make any excuses, because I don't believe City Staff, myself, or others making excuses is effective. We failed the City tonight in how we communicated a public meeting, and we need to do better moving forward. What we can commit to doing is exactly that – better moving forward. We can chart a better path forward by way of information, and we appreciate the feedback, and we will commit to doing better, moving forward. I promise you that I will ensure that City Staff are addressing this issue, moving forward.

Best Regards,



Michele L. Braukmann

Civil City Attorney

City of Laurel

Cell Phone: 406.671.4333

civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov

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[Quoted text hidden]

Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 8:36 AM
To: Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>
Cc: Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, City Mayor <citymayor@laurel.mt.gov>, Kurt Markegard <kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>

Thank you for the response, Michele. Interested in who you guys use for outside IT; I know some incredible local talent if the city needs additional help. I understand that Brittney is probably wearing lots of hats; and I'm sensitive to that fact.

We've had dropouts at other critical times, including when Forrest indicated he'd like the city to rip up his contract. So, even if not intentional, you can see how it might 'feel' orchestrated to citizens by people close to the mayor. (Especially when paired up with Klose's attempt to delay this process - I heard antecdotally that he's friends with the mayor, but perhaps he can clear that up here)

Kelly - any chance you can shed some light on this? From my understanding, this is the second formal request for details on this topic.

Thanks,

-Matt

[Quoted text hidden]
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[Quoted text hidden]

Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov> Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 6:54 PM
To: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com>

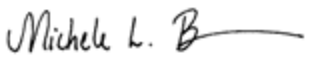
All:

I cannot speak to who we retain for IT personnel. As I said last night, I ask you to direct those inquiries to City Staff that handles these issues. I think that would be Brittney.

I understand your requests, and I do not minimize them. My role has never been, in my capacity, to minimize what our public is saying. While also balancing that against all City needs.

I can only speak for myself. I'm sickened by where things sit. There is an obvious loss of trust between the City and our constituents. I cannot rectify these things without leadership. But, I can rectify these things, little by little, I hope, by way of my work. I will do honest work for Laurel. I will try to do my best to advocate for our community and be honest. Give me some grace … I'm working on things. We'll get there. I'm working hard on trying to get City Staff to do their part, and I'm trying to balance a lot of things. I wish that leadership was present. But, it isn't. So, I'm doing my part. That's it. Hard stop.

Best Regards,



Michele L. Braukmann

Civil City Attorney

City of Laurel

Cell Phone: 406.671.4333

civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov

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From: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 6:30 PM
To: Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>; Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>
Subject: Fw: Hello Attorney and Council

[Quoted text hidden]

Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 26, 2026 at 6:52 AM
To: Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>

No response from anyone yet.

Michelle, can you speak to Kelly's role in ensuring the legal accuracy and completeness of delivered FOIA records?

Thanks,
[Quoted text hidden]

Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 26, 2026 at 8:06 AM
To: Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>

To add context to my last message: the council's March 10 order directed production within 10 business days. That deadline has passed with no production and no written explanation citing a statutory exemption, as required by MCA 2-6-1009. The absence of either puts the city in a difficult legal position.

Kelly and Brittney - a direct question for each of you: *have you been asked or directed by Waggoner or Markegard to delay, limit, or withhold production of any records*? Please respond on the record.

I'd also like Michele's guidance on a separate matter: *was Council Member Casey Wheeler required under MCA 2-2-121(9) to disclose a potential conflict of interest before voting on the March 19 annexation moratorium? His father, Matt Wheeler, directs the Public Works department that provided infrastructure maps used in the facility planning and would execute any utility work for the project. Casey cast the deciding NO vote.* No disclosure was made on the record to my knowledge.

New records request pursuant to MCA 2-6-1001 et seq.:
I request the following records, delivered electronically to gilgm12@gmail.com per MCA 2-6-1006(5):

Emails:

1. All emails between Kurt Markegard and Dan Villa (BOI) between February 1 and March 26, 2026.
2. All emails between Kurt Markegard and Mayor Dave Waggoner between February 1 and March 26, 2026.
3. All emails between Kurt Markegard and Kelly Strecker between February 1 and March 26, 2026.
4. All emails between Mayor Dave Waggoner and Kelly Strecker between February 1 and March 26, 2026.

These records exist digitally. Electronic delivery has no reproduction cost per MCA 2-6-1006(5). These are narrow digital requests over 55 days and should take well under an hour to fulfill.

Respectfully,
Matt Gilg

[Quoted text hidden]

Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov> Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 2:04 PM
To: Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>

Mr. Gilg:

As Clerk-Treasurer, Kelly has provided the Consolidated PRR to the City's outside IT vendor. As I understand it, the City's IT vendor provided potentially-responsive documents to the City this week, which Staff has been reviewing to ensure appropriate responsiveness. I appreciate your other email confirming that the City can continue to produce responsive documents that include the over 50k documents that were pulled for the Part 3 request.

I believe that the City will have Part 1 and Part 2 documents to the C.A.R.E.D. Committee by early next week. Staff has been working diligently on pulling out "any junk mail" and non-responsive documents, and a full set of documents should be produced after my review, which I intend to get done this weekend.

Best Regards,

Michele L. Braukmann

Civil City Attorney

City of Laurel

Cell Phone: 406.671.4333

civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov

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From: Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 6:53 AM
To: Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>; Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Hello Attorney and Council

No response from anyone yet.

[Quoted text hidden]

Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov> Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 2:16 PM
To: Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>, City Mayor <citymayor@laurel.mt.gov>, Kurt Markegard <kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov>

Mr. Gilg:

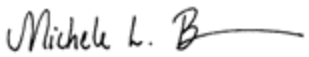
I apologize that I did not address the legal questions asked in your earlier emails. I am traveling back from Tennessee today after the unexpected death of a close friend.

The City does not have a "written notice of denial," pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 2-6-1009, as the City is directly working with its outside IT vendor to produce responsive documents. It has taken longer than anticipated, as I have been informed that there are thousands of documents that were pulled with the relevant search terms. As noted in my earlier email, I am hopeful that a large bulk of documents will be available for production to you directly by earlier next week.

With regard to the questions about CM Wheeler's vote on the Emergency Moratorium Ordinance, I am not aware of any conflict of interest by CM Wheeler. If there is something in particular you are referring to, from a legal standpoint, please advise, and I will do my best to respond.

Thank you.

Best Regards,



Michele L. Braukmann

Civil City Attorney

City of Laurel

Cell Phone: 406.671.4333

civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov

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[Quoted text hidden]

Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 2:24 PM
To: Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>, City Mayor <citymayor@laurel.mt.gov>, Kurt Markegard <kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov>
Bcc: "elizabeth@laurelcared.com" <elizabeth@laurelcared.com>

Thanks for the clarifications Michele.

No answers yet from the Clerk, the inhouse IT staff, or anybody else at the city on this topic.

I will again ask the name of the contracted external IT company, because at this point I'm running out of faith in their ability and capacity to do the job in a competent manner without overcharging the city. Did they bid for that contract?

I'm also disheartened that nobody else from the city seems to feel the need or obligation to provide answers to my other simple questions.

--

Matt Gilg

mattgilg.dev
Cell: 860.771.3511

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Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 2:40 PM
To: Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>, City Mayor <citymayor@laurel.mt.gov>, Kurt Markegard <kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov>
Bcc: "elizabeth@laurelcared.com" <elizabeth@laurelcared.com>

And Michele - I'm sorry about your friend. Thank you for responding while traveling.

On Casey Wheeler: the details were in my earlier email, but to restate - Casey's father, Matt Wheeler, is the Public Works Director. His department provided the water and sewer infrastructure maps that Markegard sent to Villa on December 2, and that department would execute any utility extensions for the facility. Casey cast the deciding NO vote on the emergency moratorium without disclosing this relationship. Under MCA 2-2-121(9), a local government member who acts on a matter in which they have an interest creating the appearance of impropriety must disclose that interest before acting. Separately, MCA 2-2-131 requires disclosure of interests that could create a conflict or the appearance of one. Whether Casey's father's role constitutes a direct financial interest or an appearance-of-impropriety issue, either way the obligation to disclose before voting appears to apply. No disclosure was made. I'd appreciate your assessment.

I also want to confirm receipt of my new records request from 3/26 - the four email pairs (Markegard-Villa, Markegard-Waggoner, Markegard-Strecker, Waggoner-Strecker) for February 1 through March 26. These are separate from the consolidated PRR and should be straightforward to produce per MCA 2-6-1006(5).

And I'll note again: Kelly and Brittney have not responded to any of my questions directly, despite your earlier direction that they do so.

Respectfully,
Matt
[Quoted text hidden]
--
[Quoted text hidden]

Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov> Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 3:38 PM
To: Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>, City Mayor <citymayor@laurel.mt.gov>, Kurt Markegard <kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov>

Mr. Gilg:

City Staff requested of me, which I had no objection to, that I respond to your emails, due to the legal issues raised therein. They are not attorneys, and rightfully so, when any communications received by City Staff raise legal issues, the response is best addressed by my office.

With regard to the retention of IT services, the City works with an outside IT vendor that has been retained by the City for a number of years (the same company during my tenure of 5 years or so). They have changed their name several times, I believe, based upon Resolutions that I have prepared, and I don't want to misspeak here. I believe it was previously GET Systems Technology. *By way of this email, I ask that Brittney provide you a copy of the Resolution passing fees/charges, as well as outlining services, provided by the City's IT Vendor.* I don't have a copy of the executed Agreements in this regard, with easy access right now, especially since I'm traveling back to Billings today.

I hope that the information that I provided clarified the timing involved. I will have a link to all of the downloaded documents before City Staff leaves for the weekend, and my intention is to spend whatever time is necessary this weekend to finalizing the production. That will **not** include the additional 50k of documents pulled related to zoning, annexations, etc … as there is no conceivable way that I can get through 60k pages of documents this weekend to finalize production. However, that will be an ongoing effort, and I am hopeful that we can have that information to you as soon as I'm able to review it all.

With regard to CM Wheeler's vote several weeks ago, I want to clarify some things, from my perspective, as Legal Counsel for the City of Laurel:

1. I have never had any concerns about any "conflict of interest" by CM Wheeler. I have no reason to believe that CM Wheeler discusses City matters with PW Director Wheeler. I also have no reason to believe that CM Wheeler is/was/will ever be motivated to vote – one way or the other – based upon PW Director Wheeler's position within the City. There are no financial or pecuniary interests that I have knowledge of, related to these two individuals, and most specifically, related to the land use decisions in front of CC.

2. I must respectfully disagree with your characterization that CM Wheeler was the "deciding vote" on the proposed Emergency Moratorium Ordinance. There were three CC Members that voted against the Ordinance, and all three equally voted as they did. Not one vote, or another, was the "deciding vote."

I will continue doing my best to provide you information, as it is sought.

I hope that you have a good weekend.

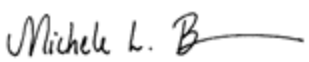
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Mr. Gilg:

My comments follow in red for your ease of reading:

Best Regards,



Michele L. Braukmann

Civil City Attorney

City of Laurel

Cell Phone: 406.671.4333

civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov

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To: Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>; Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>; Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>; Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>; City Mayor <citymayor@laurel.mt.gov>; Kurt Markegard <kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Hello Attorney and Council

And Michele - I'm sorry about your friend. Thank you for responding while traveling.

On Casey Wheeler: the details were in my earlier email, but to restate - Casey's father, Matt Wheeler, is the Public Works Director. His department provided the water and sewer infrastructure maps that Markegard sent to Villa on December 2, and that department would execute any utility extensions for the facility. Casey cast the deciding NO vote on the emergency moratorium without disclosing this relationship. Under MCA 2-2-121(9), a local government member who acts on a matter in which they have an interest creating the appearance of impropriety must disclose that interest before acting. Separately, MCA 2-2-131 requires disclosure of interests that could create a conflict or the appearance of one. Whether Casey's father's role constitutes a direct financial interest or an appearance-of-impropriety issue, either way the obligation to disclose before voting appears to apply. No disclosure was made. I'd appreciate your assessment. I addressed this in my earlier email. In sum, I don't believe that CM Wheeler has any "interest" in what occurs/does not occur in relationship to expansion of City utility services, other than as a CC Member voting on what he believes best serves his Ward Members and the City as a whole.

I also want to confirm receipt of my new records request from 3/26 - the four email pairs (Markegard-Villa, Markegard-Waggoner, Markegard-Strecker, Waggoner-Strecker) for February 1 through March 26. These are separate from the consolidated PRR and should be straightforward to produce per MCA 2-6-1006(5). I confirm receipt of that. City Staff has requested a quote from IT today to produce that information. Once City Staff has received that, City Staff will provide that to you, so that you can decide if, and to what extent, you would like these documents produced.

And I'll note again: Kelly and Brittney have not responded to any of my questions directly, despite your earlier direction that they do so. Kelly and Brittney were uncomfortable responding in detail, due to the legal issues raised. Those are best addressed by my office, and I hope that I have done so.

Respectfully,
Matt
[Quoted text hidden]

Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov> Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 4:13 PM
To: Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>, Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com>
Cc: Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>, City Mayor <citymayor@laurel.mt.gov>, Kurt Markegard <kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov>

Schedule of Fees Link:

https://cityoflaurelmontana.com/clerk-treasurer/page/schedule-fees

R26-05 Link:

https://laserfiche.cityoflaurelmontana.com/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=294361&dbid=0&repo=CityofLaurelMT

Brittney Harakal

Council Administrative Assistant

City of Laurel

P.O. Box 10

Laurel, MT 59044

406-628-7431 ext. 5503

406-628-2289 fax

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Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 28, 2026 at 10:01 AM
To: Brittney Harakal <bharakal@laurel.mt.gov>, "elizabeth@laurelcared.com" <elizabeth@laurelcared.com>
Cc: Civil Attorney <civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4B <ward4b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1A <ward1a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 1B <ward1b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2A <ward2a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 2B <ward2b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3A <ward3a@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 3B <ward3b@laurel.mt.gov>, Ward 4A <ward4a@laurel.mt.gov>, Kelly

Strecker <kstrecker@laurel.mt.gov>, City Mayor <citymayor@laurel.mt.gov>, Kurt Markegard <kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov>, Michael Skinner <michael@northernplains.org>, "elizabeth@laurelcared.com" <elizabeth@laurelcared.com>, naturecalls406@gmail.com, montanahomesolutions@gmail.com, thefrontporchmt@gmail.com, shawna@carltondepot.com

Michele and City of Laurel -

Thank you for the fee schedule and for continuing to respond while traveling. I have three issues to raise.

1. The city's FOIA fee schedule violates state law.

The schedule charges $50/hour for city staff research, $150-$250/hour for contracted staff, and $250/hour for city attorney review. MCA 2-6-1006(5) caps all public records search fees at $25/hour and requires the most cost-efficient method. Under subsection (5)(c), the first hour of service is free after a $5 filing fee. The city's rates are 2x to 10x the statutory maximum. State law preempts this schedule.

I do not consent to a "quote from IT" for the four email searches I submitted on March 26. These are narrow searches - two parties, 55 days each - that any city employee with email access can perform in minutes. Under the statute, this falls well within the first free hour. I expect production, not a bill.

2. The city's IT vendor has a direct conflict of interest in this matter.

John Roberts, a Senior Network Technician at Morrison-Maierle - the company operating as "Systems Technology Consultants" under the city's contract - has been publicly and actively antagonizing community members on social media regarding the facility. Screenshots are attached showing:

- His Facebook profile listing his employer as Morrison-Maierle (Attachment 1)
- His comment dismissing community concerns: "these people never actually do any research before posting this shit lol" (Attachment 2)
- His comment calling a community member "honey" and telling them to "go play in your sandbox" (Attachment 3)
- His comment: "You people need something productive to do your time, Jesus Christ" - to which ***Mayor Waggoner personally replied: "I like John's humor"*** (Attachment 4)
- A thread showing Roberts deleting his own comments when community members began screenshotting them, and Mayor Waggoner's engagement with Roberts being called out by constituents (Attachment 5)

This is the person - or this person's company - that is handling public records production, quoting fees to the city for FOIA compliance, and determining what documents are "responsive." The mayor who signed this vendor's contract renewal on February 10 is publicly endorsing this employee's mockery of the citizens requesting those records.

I am formally requesting that the city confirm in writing: what search terms were used for the consolidated FOIA pull, the full document count by custodian, and that no records have been altered, withheld, or deleted during vendor processing.

3. Kelly and Brittney have not answered a yes-or-no question.

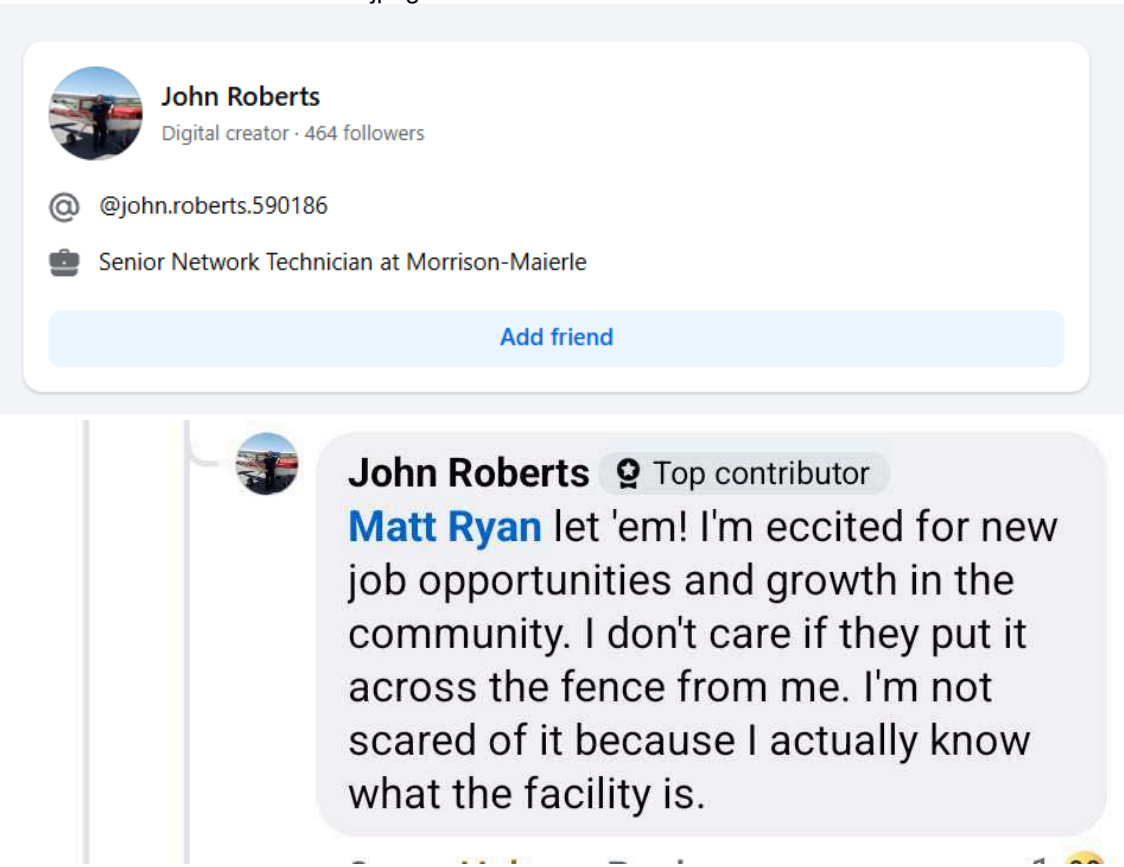
I understand your explanation that they were uncomfortable responding due to the legal issues raised, and that your office has addressed the legal questions. I appreciate that. But the question I asked Kelly and Brittney is not a legal question — it is a factual one: *Have you been asked or directed by Waggoner or Markegard to delay, limit, or withhold production of any records?*

That is a yes or no. It does not require legal analysis. Your answer on their behalf - however thorough - is not a substitute for their individual, personal responses. If the answer is no, it should take five seconds to say so. The continued silence on this specific question is noted.

Respectfully,
Matt Gilg

Attachments:
1. John Roberts Morrison-Maierle.png
2. John Roberts - These People.jpeg
3. John Roberts - Honey.jpeg
4. John Roberts - Waggoner.jpg
5. John Roberts - Waggoner Like.png

6. John Roberts Prison Position.jpeg



John Roberts Top contributor
Jessica Sawyer these people never actually do any research before posting this shit lol

8m Like Reply

Matt Ryan Author
John Roberts and you've researched the economic impacts of prisons?

Dumbass.

1m Like Reply

John Roberts Top contributor
Matt Ryan let 'em! I'm eccited for new job opportunities and growth in the community. I don't care if they put it across the fence from me. I'm not scared of it because I actually know what the facility is.

2m Haha Reply 1

Matt Ryan Author
John Roberts maybe if you'd ask them more often, they wouldn't be dropping a prison in your backyard.

5m Like Reply

John Roberts Top contributor
Matt Ryan look honey, I'm not here to argue opinions with you all day. You go play in your sandbox and I'll play in mine.

9m Like Reply

Sandi Whitman replied · 1 Reply

John Roberts
You people need something productive to do your time, Jesus Christ.

9w Like Reply 4

Coreen Tomek
John Roberts How ironic that you say this when I've seen you post more than anyone on this issue. Maybe YOu need something better to do! I know you seem to thrive on goading people online so I will not respond to your posts again. I do believe you more than likely will not live literally right next door like I will. So, I think you should get a life.

9w Like Reply Edited 5

Sandi Whitman replied · 1 Reply

The comment Hilary Anderson is replying to has been deleted.

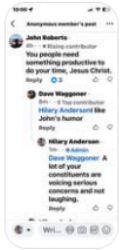
Hilary Anderson
Dave Waggoner A lot of your constituents are voicing serious concerns and not laughing.

9w Like Reply 5

John Roberts
Hilary Anderson why are you screenshotting comments? Nothing better to do?

9w Like Reply

Hilary Anderson
Why are you deleting comments now?



9w Like Reply 2

Reply to Hilary Anderson

Hilary Anderson
Dave Waggoner since you liked this comment why don't you speak up on what's going on here?

9w Like Reply 8



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Matt Gilg

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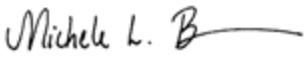


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Matt <gilgm12@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 28, 2026 at 10:10 AM
Draft To: "Molaschi, Shelly" <Shelly.molaschi@ktvq.com>

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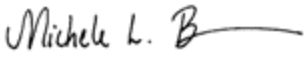


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