

The Town Trustees of the Incorporated Town of Laurens as per their election of May 13, 1890, met on June 12, 1890, with Mayor Allen and his Council. This was the beginning of the government of the town. Rules were set up, committees appointed and the first town ordinance enacted. A town seal was obtained. During the first year, 16 town ordinances were enacted.

1891: Second general election, 88 votes cast. Length of trustees set up to run 1 year; 2 years and 3 years; Incorporated tax of eight mills set.

1892: Special meeting called February 1, 1892, to organize a Board of Health. Dr. Carroll appointed first health physician. Sidewalks reappear in minutes; committee appointed to look up suitable location for calaboose.

1893: State Board of Health rules adopted; 131 ballots cast in election; L. E. Lange Mayor; tax of 6 mills levied; \$50.00 donated to Pocahontas County Cyclone sufferers.

1894: Tax of 5 mills; W. A. Krue<sup>el</sup> allowed bill of \$1.00 for marshall star; committee appointed to purchase lot for town and prices for with \$100.00 allowed for purchase.

1895: May 16th a special election was held for bond issuance for water works; 88 votes cast, 83 yes votes. A water tower to be built. Tax levi, 10 mills. First lawsuit against town, claim rejected.

1896: Johnson and Krue<sup>el</sup> appointed to have hose house built; Committee selected to select grounds for grave yard; Land purchased for \$1,161.60. Grave yard to be known as Laurens Cemetary.

1897: Question of assessments arose often. Ordinance No. 18 enacted in April, 1897, dealt with water works, water rates, rules and regulations and penalties for consumers, plumbers and others using water works. M. M. Noah appointed superintendent of water works. A fire alarm was bought and fire district drafted.

1898: J. R. Tool elected street commissioner and also water works superintendent; grade lines, curb lines, vacating of alleys were main business this year.

1899: Ordinance No. 24 was an ordinance for protection of public health and to prevent spread of contagious diseases. Rules for quarantine set up.

1900: Two gasoline street lamps installed; 218 names on petition to pass curfew. Ordinance No. 25 dealing with curfew, rules and regulations passed.

1901: F. C. Gilchrist employed as attorney in incorporation case; limits of town enlarged; first street opened.

1902: New streets opened yearly; Noble Opera House granted a one year license for sum of \$18.00.

1903: Sidewalks, water tax and assessments were in minutes. Phillip Lottman hired to run "town pump" at monthly salary of \$17.50.

1904: February 10, 1904; petition for a city library submitted for vote; approved March 28th. First Board of Library Trustees elected June 22nd. Hitching posts in cemetery added to total of 40; ordinance regulating telegraph, telephone and electric wires enacted.

1905: E. P. Lawry appointed to fill vacancy of C. A. Carlson as Clerk. Taxes, sidewalks and street improvements on agenda.

1906: Town purchased 30 galvanized water meters; permanent sidewalks constructed; new power jack and pumping head purchased.

1907: February 20, 1907, a communication was read from Andrew Carnegie offering \$2,500 for free public library if city will provide site and maintain at cost of not less than \$250.00 a year. June 19, town of Laurens accepted offer. December 4, 1907, four lots purchased for library.

1908: F. C. Gilchrist elected town attorney with seven votes, fee of \$50.00 per year. New Board of Health rules set up; street lights object of discussion.

1909: Cement street and alley crossings built; owners must comply or be built by city and charged to owner.

1910: Standard Oil Co. to construct and maintain for 25 years a building and conduct business; sidewalks again main subject.

1911: Vacating certain streets and alleys, sidewalks main topic this year.

1912: Bonds issued for an Electric Light and Power plant; speed signs erected at road entrances to Laurens; road poll tax \$2.00 per head. September 3, 1912, Northern Iowa Power Co. proposed to install electric light line; office of town electrician established.

1913: A. J. Ashby, first town electrician; C. S. Allen (warehouse) to be used as office and for storage; new 12 x 12 cement building to be constructed in cemetery.

1914: Water main assessments on agenda; east Mrytle Street opened; levy of 10 mills.

1915: Fire limits defined; property owners must trim trees; Olive Street from Hazlett to Sadie opened; electric fire gong installed; committee from Woman's Club met and discussed buying lots for town park.

1916: First park commissioners elected April, 1916; in minutes of November, 1916, it states "a separate ballot box shall be provided for women and a separate canvass made of their vote" Mrs. A. J. Ashby and other female electors had signed a petition concerning municipal water works.

1917: Electric rates, sidewalk assessments; plans for a sanitary sewage disposal for town of Laurens to be drawn and curb lines and curb grades order of business for this year.

1918: East Street opened; assessments made for curb and paving; bids opened for sewer plant (school closed October 18, flu epidemic).

1919: Road poll tax assessed as before to all able bodied males; properties assessed for water mains; more paving considered.

1920: February 14, 1920, American Legion conferred with building committee for purpose of building one-story addition for American Legion purposes. Sidewalks, storm sewers also discussed.

1921: January 17, all public affairs stopped because of scarlet fever. Hovenden, Health Officer.

1922: Workmen's Compensation and Liability policy for employees accepted; voting machine to be used at March election and all elections thereafter.

1923: Controversy between Northern Iowa Gas & Electric and town of Laurens over rates settled. Town paid \$30,000 full settlement; bank commissioner established for purpose of levying millage.

1924: Ordinance No. 58 establishing in town of Laurens a fire department to be known as Laurens Volunteer Fire Department. Coats and hats purchased for fire department for \$106.20. Resolution expressing immediate need for town hall. July, resolution for water softening plant passed.

1925: F. C. Gilchrist and 54 other electors signed petitions asking authorization for purchase of another water tank, passed. Town Council voted to hire Vivian Noble at \$12.00 per week as bookkeeper.

1926: Central States Electric Company of Cedar Rapids granted right for 25 years to erect, maintain and operate light and power plant by Ordinance No. 62.

1927: Taxes raised and list posted; Walnut street graded; Fred Gilchrist, Jr. voted Mayor of town to fill vacancy by resignation of Tjassem.

1928: Road poll tax of \$4.00 per head; fire truck purchased at cost of \$3,000.00; stop sign erected at entrance to Third Street; town purchased a use Bas<sup>e</sup> Horn for \$100.00 for town band<sup>d</sup> from emergency fund.

1929: Cypress wood tax purchased; tennis courts put in park by Progressive Club and to be kept up by Park Commissioner; two books on Municipal government purchased from State Historical Society for price of \$3.00. December, town purchased lights and wire for decorations for two main business', cost of \$135.30.

1930: First zoning committee consisting of J. A. Peterson, W. A. McNee and F. K. Hawley appointed.

1931: Contract for new well; \$500 worth of shubery purchased for cemetery.

1932: H. L. Bruett hired to be in charge of city water plant and pump; October meeting to discuss advisability of own electric light system.

1933: First record of "Class B" beer permits; tennis court lights erected; town applied to Federal Emergency Adm. for grant to construct addition to existing sewer plant.

1934: Tract of land sold by town to M. & J. R. Hakes; question of enlarging business district of Laurens tabled.

1935: Taylor instructed to buy power lawn mower and get best deal possible; \$5.00 water deposit for meters set.

1936: Town Hall to be redecorated and woodwork cleaned; eight cigarette applications made and three beer permits.

1937: Fire hydrants placed at Masonic Temple, Chas Sees and Shell Oil Station; taxes, light rates, sidewalks and budget on agenda.

1938: Town to cooperate with school in organizing and maintaining band; C. G. Smith addition opened June 1938 and made into lots.

1939: Special assessment for street oiling; E. K. Winnie to contract architect cost and plan of community hall.

1940: Tract of land conveyed from town to Masonic Lodge; assessments raised.

1941: First talk of highway; ordinance No. 72, an ordinance defining milk and certain milk products, inspection and regulations.

1942: Employee vacations set; one year service, one week vacation with pay.

1943: Assessments increased and salaries raised (a quiet year)

1944: Dog pound built; rates set for grave digging, \$5.00 for infants, \$8.00 for children up to and including 12 years, \$12.00 for adults, extra \$3.00 if vault.

1945: Stoker purchased for town hall; August, 1945 - 47 voters signed petition to call an election for bonding of a swimming pool.

1946: Charles Larson to build a Refrigerated Locker Service.

1947: E. C. Mosbach granted license to sell milk; Axel Carlson ordered to discontinue blacksmith shop - violating Ordinance No. 66. Shirley Smith employed by city - November 19, 1947, Assistant Clerk.

1948: Street improvements consisting of liquid asphalt and gravel made and assessments made on same, September 27, 1948, contract for construction of a Municipal Light and Power Plant.

1949: First Board of Trustees of Light and Power Plant, R. V. Neville, Fred Eaton and Francis Siddall. Special election held on March 21, 1949, to decide above - 70 in favor, 3 against.

1950: Ordinance No. 78 - an ordinance setting salaries of town officers; mayor \$5.00 per meeting; Councilmen \$2.00 per meeting.

1951: Storm sewer proposed. Completed 9-17-51 cost of \$8.065.51. Changed terms of office from two years to four years.

1952: Ordinance No. 82 - An ordinance establishing uniform rates for electric service.

1953: \$100,00 Sewer Outlet & Purifying Plant bonds issued. Elections to be held on November 3rd instead of March as before.

1954: Sportsmen Club allowed to use portion of city property for fee of \$1.00 and maintenance.

1955: July 14 - Bids taken for construction of Swimming Pool to be known as Earl Mackie Swimming Pool awarded to C. I. Hersom at cost of \$53,980; town sprayed for insect control. Lyle Hartwig employed by town.

1956: Ordinance No. 93 - An ordinance regulating usage and establishing rules for operating of Laurens Swimming Pool and penalties for violation.

1957: January 7, 1957 - Samuel Lincoln Jr. and Phylis Lincoln granted to town of Laurens a plot described as Elm Street and Arthur Street (East View addition). New fire truck purchased; 300 votes cast in election.

1958: New town lights purchased; stop and go lights at corner of Third Street and Section Line Road.

1959: Curb and gutter and pavement widening of Section Line Road; Bussey appointed fire chief; Third Street, Main Street and Section Line Road designated as highways.

1960: Ordinance No. 101 - An ordinance controlling traffic and penalties for violation and Ordinance No. 104 - prohibiting parking of motor vehicles on portions of Third Street, Main Street and Highway 10.

1961: Town expanding; Sunrise Addition and Forry-Cooper Division opened; New well; sewer and water on Bissell Street from Sadie to East Str.

1962: New police car purchased; street sweeper purchased; garage for storage, repair and servicing of town vehicles built by Stan Clark.

1963: Town garage completed in July. Darwin Larson appointed fire chief and Willis Godfrey as assistant.

1964: Third Street widened, land bought for new dump ground; bottle gas to be used for coming heating season; Mayor Rubel resigned after 19 years as Mayor in October, Eugene Osier appointed Mayor.

1965: Study for natural gas in town; Shirley Smith hired as town clerk upon resignation of Miles Warner.

1966: Emergency vehicle bought for Laurens Fire Department; rules and regulations set up for bicycles by Ordinance No. 110.

1967: County Conservation Commission granted 10 year lease for recreational park; first planning and zoning commission was created; tepee burner purchased for dump.

1968: Ordinance No. 113 - authorizing fluoridation of public water supply; Joe E. Miller hired March, 1968; spraying for dutch elm disease discussed. Lyle Hartwig appointed Director of Works.

1969: Trees with Dutch Elm disease removed.

1970: Group Insurance for employees adopted; sewer lift station plans and contracts, April 6, 1970. Fred Eaton presented floor plan for new city hall. Stan Clark awarded bid May 28, 1970.

1971: Ordinance No. 119 - regulating operation of motorcycles and snowmobiles. Lois White hired as Assistant Clerk.

1972: Property south of Veterans Road to be annexed; purchased from M. & J. R. Hakes property for Municipal Light and Power Plant.

1973: Ordinance No. 126 - An ordinance adopting a charter for the City of Laurens, Iowa, embodying the existing form of government August 20, 1973 - Corporate name of Town of Laurens changed to City of Laurens. Subject of Cable TV brought up.

1974: First talk of new library at April meeting; November 5, bond issue of \$150,000 passed for library. Community school annexed November 18, 1974.

1975: Contract awarded for library; Greater Humboldt - Dakota City Cable TV granted right to franchise for 15 years. Rules and regulations for its use set up.

1976: West Side Sanitary Sewer project; more on Cable TV main topics this year.

1977: Senior Citizens on Laurens Senior Pioneer Meals move to city hall; salaries of town officers fixed.

1978: Jim Millward became town treasurer; Members of fire department met in May to discuss construction of new fire station. November 20, resolution establishing Fire Station Fund.

1979: Eloise Enger took oath of office as Town Clerk, swimming pool repaired; Fire Station dedicated - date?

1980: Laurens Centennial Corporation organized to plan centennial for city of Laurens, 1982; Sewer lagoon proposed. YAP Youth program organized.

1981: Street improvements made; Land purchased from Arlo Nelson and Jake Ziegler for lagoon site for sanitary sewer improvements.

1982:

Shirley Cash - 31 years of service to the city - 14 years as City Clerk.  
F. C. Gilchrist, Jr. - 20 years as Mayor - 39 years as City Attorney.  
Dr. Taylor - Vet - 3 years.  
G. L. Rubel - 20 years as Mayor.  
E. H. Osier - 2 years as Mayor. 55 years with 7 Mayors  
Darrel Oleson - 7 years as Mayor.  
Lional Bussey - 2 years as Mayor.  
John Unruh - 8 years as Mayor.  
1977 - James Millward appointed Treasurer, D. C. Miller -

Light Plant Board of Trustees

Fred Eaton	D. C. Solem
Fred Forsythe	L. J. Hawley
Vincent Triggs	Francis Siddall
Ron Cowan	R. V. Neville