



City of Lafayette

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2021-2022 Council

Mayor: Sandie Peterson 507-276-4583

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Scott Portner 507-380-7463

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November 2021

1 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

8 – City Council – 7 pm – 791 Main Avenue

9 – Lions Meeting – 6:45pm – Community Center

9 – LCS School Board – 5:30pm – Tech. Rm

11 – Veterans’ Day Office closed.

12 – Office Closed

12 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45 – Esther Avenue

15 – Bloodmobile Community Center

16 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

20 – Legion’s Turkey Bingo 7 pm at the Community Center

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

25 – Happy Thanksgiving - office closed

26 – Office closed

29 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

December 2021

6 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

7 – 1st Truth in Taxation & final Budget workshop

9 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45 – Esther Avenue

13 – City Council – 7 pm – 791 Main Avenue

14 – Lions Meeting – 6:45pm – Community Center

14 – LCS School Board – 5:30pm – Tech. Rm

21 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

24 – Christmas Holiday observed - Office closed

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

27 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

1 – New Year’s Holiday observed – Office closed.

Garbage & Recycling info:

Recycling Dates: Nov. 11, 26, December 9, 23

Holiday Schedule – Friday, Nov. 26

**Recycling of holiday lights and extension cords is ongoing; just drop them at the office during open hours.

Energy Assistance Program:

Now includes water and sewer utilities along with heating. Contact MN Valley Action Council (MVAC) Get help now, if you qualify.

Cold Weather Rule information:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=216b.096>

<https://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/Publications/UtilityDisconnection.asp>

Note from Sandie Peterson, Mayor:

Here it is November already and everyone is gearing up to deal with winter. Hopefully our farmers had a good and safe harvest. With the chance of snow coming please review the city’s snow policy and parking policy. Also, remember to keep your own property safe from ice and snow buildup.

The flag pole and trees are going into the mini park, so this project is getting there. Watch for area happenings like turkey bingo, First Lutheran’s dinner, and any other area happenings, please support these if you can. After COVID we need to help them like they helped us during the stay at home.

With it getting dark earlier please drive careful and watch for children and other residents out on the city streets.

Hope everyone has a nice thanksgiving with family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Sandie

City Utilities & Maintenance Updates:

*NEW*SERVLINE Water and Sewer leak protection!

As many other cities in Minnesota and across the nation, the City of Lafayette is excited to partner with MN Rural Water/National Rural Water for the Servline Protection Plan to add Leak Protection to all of our residential accounts for water and sewer leaks up to \$2500, per occurrence. ***This is an automatic enrollment to all residential accounts for a low cost of \$2.05 per month and will be included on your next utility billing, unless you call the number in the brochure to decline protection and accept full responsibility for all excess water charges caused by a water leak. You can opt out at any time.***

Coming soon, there will be an optional Water and Sewer Line Protection program offered, which would cover up to \$10,000 for lines from the starting point of the home owner’s responsibility to the foundation of the house.

SNOW will come!

To help the snow removal process, in March of 2020, council amended the winter parking city code printed below.

In a nutshell, Section (A) was added to clarify snow removal times and to be able to designate certain areas (with the downtown blocks in mind) as a no parking area when a snow event happens. Also, on the residential streets, if a car is parked and the plows go by residents need to move their vehicle to a cleaned area to allow the curb to curb clean up. If vehicles are not removed, they may be towed to allow for proper cleaning.

§ 71.03 WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS.

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle on a public street for a continuous period in excess of 24 hours during the time period from November 15 through April 30 of the following year. The city can require vehicles to be moved during snow removal operations. The city may also designate an area to be "no parking at any time" for the purpose of snow removal. Written notice of the designation will be sent to all homeowners in that area.

(B) The city will begin snow removal operations within 24 hours of a snow event when the snow accumulates to a depth of three inches or more, unless windy conditions prompt a snow removal event. During the snow plowing and snow clean-up process, no vehicle shall be parked on any public street until snow has been removed. Vehicles that are not removed from the city street will be subject to towing at the city’s discretion. The owner of a vehicle that is towed will be responsible for any expenses incurred in towing and impounding the vehicle.

(C) It shall be unlawful for any person to place snow on public roadways or sidewalks, in accordance with M. S. § 169.42, as amended.

(Ord. 101, passed 2-8-2010; Ord. 131, passed 3-9-2020) Penalty, see § 71.99

Other winter notes:

- The compost area will soon be closed for the season.
- Adopt a fire hydrant on your block. After streets and alleys are cleared the city will double check that the fire hydrants are cleared.
- Please don’t park in front of mail boxes.
- The office has people call asking if we know of people for help in snow removal. If you offer this service, call the office with your information and the entire list will be shared with callers.

Santa’s Closet: Community Insurance Agency is a drop off for Santa’s Closet donations. Drop off donations of toys, books, gloves, mittens for children in the area up to 2 years old during office hours 8 to 4 M – F and register to win a CIA goodie bag!

Sump Pump Waivers:

Last month waiver forms were sent to those who have applied in the past. If you get a form and do not have a sump pump, just send me a note that you do not have a sump pump. If you have a sump pump or have recently added a sump pump and did not get a waiver form, call me and I will get one to you ASAP! The waiver allows you to turn your discharge into the sewer drain, to prevent freezing of discharge lines from Nov. 1 to April 1 and are approved at the next council meeting after they are submitted.

TRIM YOUR TREES!

City Code 90.01: Trees and shrubs in the boulevard areas are property owner's responsibility, not the City's. All trees shall be pruned to sufficient height to allow free passage to pedestrians and vehicular traffic; nine (9) feet over sidewalks and pathways and thirteen (13) feet over streets, pathways and alleyways.

Note: The proper trimmed height helps to make garbage collections and snow plowing safer.

Lafayette Area Lions:

Nov. 11 – Peace Poster/Dictionary Presentation - LCS 2:15pm

Nov. 16 – The Lions Raffle for Mary Trebelhorn, drawing to be held on November 16 at 7 pm and streamed live on the Lafayette Area Lions Facebook page.

Dec. 14 Santa Day - details will follow!

Lafayette Charter School:

Nov. 3-4 – Conferences

Nov. 5 – No School

Nov. 9 – School Board meeting 5:30 pm

Nov. 11 – Community Coffee – 1st grade at 2:15 pm

Nov. 12 – Early Out Teacher in-service day

Nov. 17 – Community Coffee – 4th/5th grade at 2:15 pm

Nov. 23 – Student Council Day

Nov. 24-26th – No School Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29 – RADA Fundraiser orders/payments due.

For more information contact 507-228-8943 or

www.lafayettecharter.k12.mn.us.

Food Shelf – It Serves all who need it!

The New Ulm Area Emergency Food Shelf brings food packages to Lafayette each month. If you would like to receive a package to help with food insecurities for your family, submit a request for the box by the 20th of the month prior to the collection date. There are forms in the city office. For more information call 354-7668, or search the website. <https://newulmfoodshelf.com/mobile-food-shelf/>. The food drops are monthly at the 1st Lutheran Church.

First Lutheran Church Drive by Fall Dinner:

Sunday, November 21, 9:30 church service, 11-1 or until the food runs out. Fall Dinner is \$12 per meal includes: ham, meat balls, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, coleslaw, bun and pumpkin bars. Quilt Raffle will be held at 1pm.

Stray Cats:

It was brought to our attention that there are more stray cats in town again. If you are a cat owner, register your cat at the city office & keep your cat on your property, please spay or neuter them. If you are seeing stray cats, there are usually many farmers who are looking for cats for pest control, reach out to them. They can be caught and relocated. If you feed them, they will stay and the population will explode! Cat's gestational period is 2 months, so each female stray cat could have 4 or 5 litters a year! YIKES!

Red Cross Blood Mobile:

The bloodmobile will take place at the Community Center, 540 7th Street, on Monday, November 15, 2021, from 1:00 to 7:00 pm. Call Lori at 507-228-8788 or Red Cross 1-800-733-2767 or RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment!

Legion annual Turkey Bingo:

Annual Turkey Bingo is on! Saturday, November 20, 2021 starts at 7 pm in the community center. Everyone is welcome.

Council Briefs: 9/27/2021, 10/11/2021, 10/19/2021:

9/27/2021 – Special meeting held to set the Public Hearing date for the rezoning application to be held on Monday, October 11, 2021 at the Community Center due to the possible increase in attendance, also removed the water restrictions

10/11/2021 – Thirty-four guests attended the meeting and zoning hearing. Myron Isaacson presented the reasoning for the rezoning request by St Gregory's and Polz and answered many questions and concerns. The hearing closed and the meeting resumed. Council approved the minutes of the 9/13 and 9/27 council meetings, \$81,236.79 in bills and eight sump pump waivers.

Reports:

Fox: Electrician is lined up to put in electrical when the flag pole is installed in the park and to the bandstand. Hydrant at the rink leaked, parts have arrived and repair can be done without digging it up; the park restroom was closed for the winter due to the water being shut off. Hydrants will be flushed October 18 – 22nd. THM-HAA5 returned to compliance. Lead -Copper samples were taken.

Peterson: Fox gave a tour that she attended with engineers from ISG, they were very impressed with the work that Al put into the pilot project, she recommended all council to set up a time with Al to see the water plant.

Burger: Two payment plans did not make a payment by the last due date. A letter was sent to bring it current before the next due date or the shut off process will begin. One account is an owner and could be certified to taxes. Nicollet County reported one potentially dangerous dog designation.

Dick: Absent, but gave the following information to Burger. Submitted the reporting for the \$15,000 covid grant, have had more runs than last year total, not all covid, more accidents, have three starting class in December to become EMTs.

Portner: P&R met, working on the 501-C3 non-profit entity. Looking into grants and will hold a park clean-up on Saturday October 30 at 10 am.

Klingler: Air packs are in service, a little different so easy to keep separate, but compatible, if needed. He will be attending the Chief's conference. Thursday, October 14 is a house fire training at 5:30.

Unfinished Business:

Waste water Permit: Discussed operational capacity for the proposals, currently the plant can run through 200,000 gallons per day, it would only make sense to build the water softener system to the same capacity. The water to run through the current filtration prior to the softer system.

Approved: the quote from River Creek Nursery for six trees; five Arborvitae and one Autumn Maple for \$1055.04; this would include the planting and a 3-year guarantee for the mini park, Resolution 2021-19 a summary for publication of Ord. 134, contract for Renville Sibley Sanitation to continue as our contracted garbage service, a three-tier option for employee health insurance. Respectful workplace training was discussed, no action. Fire door quotes were discussed and a clarification was needed. Approved going forward with the city pumper fix this year with a priority to doors in 2022.

Fee Schedule: Rate/fee increases first reading will be brought to November.

New Business:

Approved October donations of \$200 to the fire department from Christensen Farms, Lafayette Legion Post 300 \$1500 towards the flag pole, and a curio/display cabinet from the Virgil and Shirley Youngblom family. Lafayette Excavating's three-year contract for snow plowing assistance. Proceed with a utility certification to a property.

Rezoning of the St Gregory church property: Walton discussed with the City Council and determined the following: The property is no longer used as a church, and is under contract for sale to a private party who desires to make commercial use of the entire property; it is in the best interests of the community to allow the church property to be repurposed, for other reasonable uses of the property; rezoning the southern approximately half of the parcel is logical to make the entire parcel commercial property; and that activities and uses permitted in the commercial district will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the residents, surrounding properties, or other nearby properties within the City. Council approved the rezone application.

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, November 8 at 7pm in the Lafayette Council Chambers 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

10/19/2021: A special meeting was held to correct an error in the Fire Relief reporting to the State. Council approve Resolution 2021-21 Rescinding the years of service amount from \$2000 to \$2100 leaving it at \$2000 per statue maximum.