



## City of Lafayette

Edition: 2020-09

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City emergency contact – Al Fox 276-1707

### September 2020

- 7– Labor Day Office Closed
- 8 – Lions Meeting – 6:45 – TBD – V with Lions
- 8 – LCS School Board – 5:30 pm – Tech. Rm
- 14 – City Council –7 pm – Community Center
- 14 – Lafayette Fire Dept. – Fire Hall
- 15– Legion Post 300 – TBD – V with Legion
- 25 – All Utility Payments Due!**
- 28– Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

### October 2020

- 5– Fire Department meeting – Fire Hall
- 12 – City Council –7 pm – Community Center
- 13 – Lions Meeting – 6:45 – TBD – V with Lions
- 13 – LCS School Board – 5:30 pm – Tech. Rm
- 20– Legion Post 300 – TBD – V with Legion
- 25 – All Utility Payments Due!**
- 26– Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

### Garbage & Recycling info:

Recycling dates: September 3, 17

Labor Day week – Garbage only – **Friday, Sept. 11**

October 1, 15 & 29

### Cash Payment:

During the weekend before Monday, June 1, 2020 there was a cash payment dropped off at the City office without any account information; if this was your payment call the office so it can be credited.

### 2020 Mail-In Voting:

We made it through mail-in voting for the Primary with an increase of 30.2% in voters and the General Election is right around the corner. **If you are a registered voter in the City of Lafayette you will again receive a Ballot Packet sometime between the middle of September to the beginning of October.** Just follow the instructions - you can vote right way and mail it back or you can also take your ballot packet to the Nicollet County Government Center to vote in person, prior to the close of the General Election Day. **As with the Primary Election you will have a tracking number to show where your ballot is in the process.**

Be safe and exercise your right to vote!

**Questions contact Nicollet County Public Services 1-507-934-7806.**

### Council Election:

The filing dates closed at 5 pm on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Those who filed for offices are: **Mayor:** Sandie Peterson

**Council members:** Two positions are open; the incumbents Scott Portner and Tom Polich were joined by Sharon Donnay and Curt Tauber, who have also filed.

### **NEW!!! Fall Residential Curbside Clean-up Day!**

We have added a fall curbside clean-up date on Saturday, October 17, 2020. Same rules apply as always - normal household garbage – no tires, electronics or appliances.

### **Nicollet County CARES:**

Nicollet County has posted information for assistance to small businesses (50 employees or less), nonprofits and schools to help prevent the spread of COVID-19; there is also Child Care funding and Crisis assistance for families facing things like utility shut-off, eviction, etc. Use the link or go to the Nicollet County website or Facebook page for links.

**<https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/800/Nicollet-County-CARES>**

### **State COVID-19 Assistance:**

MN COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

Facts about the program/eligibility:

<http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/np/covid19housingassistanceprogramFAQ>

Application: <https://www.housinghelpmn.org/>

### **ACH Payments:**

This is a new option for paying your bill. The amount due will automatically draft out of your chosen bank account prior to the due date. If you were one of the many who have signed up, your bill will show “**DRAFT**” on the bottom and the amount will be drafted from your account on the 20<sup>th</sup> of month. If you did not sign up right away you can sign up at any time by contacting the office. **Going Green:** At any time you can choose to receive your bill and newsletters via email, just contact the office!

### **Utility Information:**

**Payment Plans:** Are an option to catch up on your bill. Contact the office for help.

**Late Fees:** The \$15 per account late fee has been reinstated; the only exception is for the accounts with current payment plans in place. All payments are due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. If the payment is not in the office before the beginning of the next business day – they will have a late fee posted to the account.

**Shutoffs:** Until the Governor’s Peacetime State of Energy or any of the extensions have expired there will be no shutoffs, but once it has expired the shutoff process will resume. A current payment plan in place will prevent a shutoff once they resume.

## 8/10/2020 - Council Briefs:

Consent agenda approved and included: 7/14/2020 minutes, bills totaling \$55,191.19 and approval of the payment plan presented.

Resident concern about water during events, Council has gotten proposals for a storm sewer project many times; cost is a factor as it could be around \$1.5 million dollar project.

**Reports: Fox:** Another rain event, needed to bypass system with 11 inches of rain in 12 hours, issues with alarm equipment at WWTF, will get costs for council. Council approved repairs to shutoffs that have popped up out of the streets - cost is \$8,000. **Burger:** Worker's comp audit complete with a \$242 credit. **Dick:** Contracting for an annual service contract for equipment. Will need to purchase a new splint, lost a couple members, but have a few interested. Training would start in December to be completed by July.

**Unfinished Business:** Council gave the go ahead to paint the Community Center while closed.

COVID-19 updates: County will have a website up soon for information of applying for assistance. Council approved correcting the Mini Park area legal descriptions at a cost of \$800 to \$1000, and chose not to pursue an easement by the compost pile; council directive to contracted service to use the city's access road.

**New Business:** None

**Budget Workshop:** Council and staff met on Monday, August 17, 2020 for a Budget workshop. They worked through each department's needs and wants. Council will review it once again at the September 14, 2020 council meeting before approving the proposed preliminary budget. A preliminary budget is set higher as many cost factors are not yet in place and a final budget cannot be higher than a preliminary budget. The Preliminary Levy/Budget is adopted in September and the Final Budget/Levy is set in December.

**Next Council meeting:** Monday, September 14, 2020, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the community center.

*This is just a glimpse of the council meeting. Full minutes are posted on the city website once they are approved at the following council regular meeting.*

## 2020 CENSUS!

The end date for the Census has been updated from October 31 now to September 30, 2020. If you have not responded online, by calling or by the information on your door, please do so now. The pandemic is something we are dealing with now, but the information on the local population will affect us for the next ten years! **Please be counted!**

<https://2020census.gov/en/partners.html> for information about the Census and what it is used for in the next 10 years.

## Appliance & Electronics:

If you have appliances or electronics to dispose of we are able to take the items directly to Green Tech Recycling at 205 West Spring Street in Mankato. Tri-County Solid Waste has coordinated with this collection facility and a coupon is available for only \$5 per item. You need to show the coupon and a driver's license or proof of residency in Nicollet, Sibley or Le Sueur counties. Below is the paper copy or simply show the coupon that was posted on the City Facebook page!

For questions you can call the facility at 507-381-9196

