



City of Lafayette

Edition: 2021-09

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2021-2022 Council

Mayor: Sandie Peterson 507-276-4583

Council Members: Dave Reed 507-228-8264

Scott Portner 507-380-7463

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September 2021

6– Labor Day – Office Closed

13 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall 7:30pm

13 – **City Council – 7 pm – 791 Main Avenue**

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

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

14 – Mini Park Meeting 6:00 pm – Community Center

16– Bookmobile – 10:15 – 10:45am – Esther Avenue

16 – HH Hazardous Waste – Klossner 10-4 – NC HWY shop

21– Legion Post 300 – Community Center

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

27 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

30– Bookmobile – 10:15 – 10:45am – Esther Avenue

October 2021

4 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

11 – **City Council – 7 pm – 791 Main Avenue**

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

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

14– Bookmobile – 10:15 – 10:45am – Esther Avenue

16 – Final curbside cleanup of the year!

19– Legion Post 300 – Community Center

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

25 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

28– Bookmobile – 10:15 – 10:45am – Esther Avenue

Garbage & Recycling info:

Recycling Dates: Sept. 2, 16, 30 October 14, 28

Holiday Schedule – Garbage only on Friday Sept. 10

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

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:

Oh boy, how time flies! We are in September already and with school starting and farmers beginning to harvest, please be careful and watch for children and farmers on the roads.

Night to Unite was great. I am so happy for the turn out and it was fun to visit with my neighbors. I think young and old enjoyed the night; thanks to everyone one who helped make it great. A big 'Thank You' to Kayla Altman for putting it altogether for us.

I hope everyone also enjoyed the Lion's Hog and corn roast and the firemen's street dance.

Just a quick note we are working on the 2022 budget, remember this first one is our wish list so it will be high and then in December we bring it down as low as possible.

Happy Fall everyone!!

Sandie

Water Department:

Water Restrictions: Even though we have had rain, the state is still in a drought status, the DNR continues to have the restrictions in place. For Lafayette they are as follows:

NO watering of any kind from 10 am until 6pm.

Lawn watering is only allowed on Wednesdays.

Gardens and plants: Hand watering of plants and gardens are allowed by following the odd/even by address days. Example: If your address is an even # water on even days.

The city also requests customers to limit household usage, by washing only full loads of laundry or a full dishwasher. It is a good time to check for leaks and drippy faucets. All water conservation actions are needed now. The city will follow any updated DNR restrictions.

Violations of these restrictions shall result in a \$50 fine per day.

Hydrant Flushing: Flushing will occur sometime in late September or early October. This is a safety maintenance task that must be done to ensure all hydrants are in working order for fire protection. During flushing, limit your use of water during the flushing hours. You may see sediment or discoloration if you pull water into your house during the flushing time. When the flushing is scheduled, a Public Alert will be sent. (See the insert to send in your updated information)

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, just 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.

Tri-County Household Hazardous Waste Collection:

The last collection of 2021 will be held on Thursday, September 16, 2021 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Nicollet County Hwy Shed. FREE to residents of Nicollet, Sibley and Le Sueur Counties

ACH Payments – sign up now!

In our first year of this offering, we have more than 25% who have joined this easy way to pay their utility bills! **This is a free service to you, sign up now!** Contact the office for a form and then the next month your payment will come out of your account automatically.

Lafayette Charter School:

The 2021-2022 School Year has started! Are you thinking of an educational change for your Pre-K – 8th grade students? For more information contact 507-228-8943 or www.lafayettecharter.k12.mn.us.

Parent Input Night: Thursday, September 16th at 6 pm.

Fall City-wide Residential Clean-up: Saturday, October 16, 2021

The Lafayette Area Lion's & Lafayette Fire

Relief would like to thank the community and all who attended the hog & corn roast and fire relief dance; it was great to see people out in the community again!

Ambulance & Fire:

Are you interested in serving your community and surrounding areas? Think about becoming an ambulance member or firefighter! Contact Mark Dick or Marti Uhde for any questions on joining the ambulance squad and Nick Klingler or Keith Schuelke for questions on becoming a firefighter.

Understanding the Budgeting/Levy Process - continued from last month:

Levy: In September the council must approve the preliminary levy for the next year's budget, this is ALWAYS higher than the final levy/budget approved in December. This is due to the fact that we do not know all of the final costs for next year. The Levy is the difference between the Local Government Aid (LGA) from the State, all receipts budgeted for the city and all the expenses that will be paid out for the general fund departments. (General Fund departments, see below) The Water and Waste Water departments are proprietary funds, meaning they are run like a separate business and need to fund themselves by base and usage fees, which should be reviewed annually. The Ambulance fund is based off of assessments per household for the entire service area, the assessment amount is set each year by the ambulance commission and the city pays a per household as well.

Preliminary Levy: Once approved, the preliminary levy resolution will be sent to the county. The county will then compile the information with the preliminary amounts set by the city, county and school districts and in November will send out a "proposed tax statement" this is **not** a final tax statement, it just shows the preliminary figures from the city, county and school district.

Truth in Taxation: Lafayette holds two Truth in Taxation hearings; one on is Tuesday, December 7, followed by a final budget workshop and the second at the December 13, 2021 council meeting, before the final levy is approved. These hearings are for citizens to voice an opinion on the budget and proposed levy and to understand the need for the levy as proposed. Truth in Taxation hearings are not about home values. In the spring there will be a Board of Appeals which is about the valuation of your property and the process to appeal it.

General Fund Departments: These are the departments on which the levy is based on the needs not covered by fees and LGA from the state; these include: **Council:** wages, training **Clerk:** wages and anything associated with running the office. **Office building:** includes all things related to the office building. **Fire dept:** wages, training and maintaining the city pumper **Fire building:** wages, costs pertaining to the fire building; utilities, repairs and maintenance, etc. **Public Works:** wages, motor fuel, street repairs, insurance, mowing, street lights, compost pile, and snow plowing, etc. **Culture:** all community center and parks expenses.

Council Briefs: 8/9/2021:

Consent agenda: Approved the minutes of the July 14, 2021 council meetings and \$25,676.26 in bills.

Reports: Fox: U of M Duluth COVID study has now been taken over by the MN Dept of Health. Minnesota is the largest study in the nation, there are 44 sites in MN or about 63% of the state is involved. They are able to predict where spikes will happen. Future studies will look for variants and other pathogens. Fox shared information of the MN Rural Water Servline. When an issue arises, the city covers repairs to the curb line, it is the homeowner's responsibility from that line to the home. MN Rural Water and National Rural Water Association have a service called Servline, to which homeowners can purchase insurance to cover costs of broken lines, etc., they are requesting the City's permission to share this information with Lafayette residents and businesses. This insurance may also be available through a homeowner's current insurance company. **Peterson:** Night to Unite a huge success, consensus to do it again. **Burger:** Reported a new dog grooming business will open soon. **Reed:** RS Fiber, 10-14 % increases, concentrating on internet and phone, as video runs so high. **Klingler:** Requested the street closed for August 28th event. Budget item expiring air packs. The city pumper failed the pump test, waiting for estimate.

Unfinished Business: Waste water Permit: Council approved the next step for permit compliance at the WWTF. The RO water analysis has been completed and forwarded to Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) to begin the following: 1) Table top overview on type of RO Treatment needed. 2) Preliminary Engineering report. Contracted service that would detail type of system, construction cost analysis and projected operational costs. Which needs to be submitted to the state, when the request is made to be put on the IUP. 3) Add project to State Project Priority List (PPL). 4) Add project to Intended Use Plan (IUP).

Funding now through the Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) program is 80% grant-20% loan. Additional grant money may be eligible, depending on variables while going through the process.

The report would have preliminary costs, 2 or 3 options, original, alternative and other treatment. **Mini Park:** Flag Pole, mini park will meet in September. **Ord. 134:** Amending Code Title 9 Regulation to Nuisances: council approved the first reading; Walton will add a section for repeat violators to include with the second reading. **Band stand undercarriage:** Burger noted that no bids were submitted, after brief discussion council approved scrapping it.

New Business: Council approved moving forward with the Garbage hauler RFP, will add the drought resolution to budget workshop as a special meeting. Discussed the special meeting with the park & rec group on 8/10, three permits were approved by council, and there was a discussion on commercial blights.

8/10/2021: Special meeting with Park & Rec: Mayor's list – a goal for the park & rec to become a non-profit status with the state and to pursue becoming a 501-C3 entity. Run the P&R openly, allowing parents to attend. Walton described the 501-C3 process, and is willing to share samples with them. There were many items and wish lists and council explained that there is not a huge culture budget and it includes the community center and the parks. There will be a lot of unbudgeted money being put into the pop shack to complete the needed upgrades this year. Once P&R has their status, council would like to meet with them to clearly define what is expected of each other.

8/10/2021: Special Meeting for Resolution 2021-15 and Budget Workshop: Council approve the Drought Resolution; it will be posted and a public alert sent. Budget was worked through and the preliminary will be approved at the September 13, council meeting.