

January 2024

City of Lafayette

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2022-2023 Council

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"The City of Lafayette is an equal opportunity provider."

January 2024

- 1 – Happy New Year! Office Closed
- 8 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm
- 8 – **City Council – 7pm Council Chambers**
- 9– Lion’s Meeting – Community Center
- 11 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45am – Esther Ave.
- 14 – **Lions Dad’s Waffle & Benefit – Fire hall**
- 15 – Martin Luther King Jr Day – Office Closed
- 16 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center
- 25 – **All Utility Payments Due!**
- 29 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall
- 31 – last day to order a paver for 2024 setting

February 2024

- 5 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm
- 8 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45am – Esther Ave.
- 12 – **City Council – 7pm Council Chambers**
- 13– Lion’s Meeting – Community Center
- 14– 23 – **Office CLOSED – Clerk Vacation**
- 19 – **Presidents Day – City Holiday**
- 20 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center
- 22 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45am – Esther Ave.
- 25 – **All Utility Payments Due!**
- 26 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

Garbage & Recycling info:

Recycling Dates: January 5th is holiday schedule for both recycling and garbage, January 18.

Note: The 2024 Recycling – Clean-up – Holiday Schedule is included. DO NOT Toss! Put it on your fridge or somewhere for easy reference!

String Lights: Recycle holiday string lights and extension cords year-round; drop them at the office during office hours.

Tri-County Collections: There are no collections scheduled at this time. The hazardous waste facility is open reduced winter hours – check the office for information.

Note from Mayor Sandie Peterson:

Happy New Year to everyone!

At the beginning of a new year, we look back on the old. Personally, I am thankful for our small community; for all our organizations such as the Legion, Lions, Park and Rec., Mini park committee, 125th committee, Boy Scouts, and Garden club and all the good work they do to keep Lafayette thriving. Also, to our Fire and Ambulance volunteers for your commitment to our community’s safety. To our city workers for keeping the city running smoothly. There are so many that make this city a great place to live. So, let’s go into this new year with the renewed faith that because of the people in the city, we have a great community to live and raise our families.

This winter has been one for the books. I love this weather. It will hopefully shorten winter. My hope for the new year is that all our residents have health and happiness and to keep this community great.

Happy New Year!!

Sandie

Serve our Community – Become an EMT!

Train to be an EMT for our Ambulance for FREE!! Allina is holding EMT classes Feb. 5 – June 19 - Deadline is Friday, January 12 for this session! **See the posters around town and on the city website and scan the QR code.** There will be a session in Springfield in the fall.

Copper Notice:

Elevated Levels of Copper in Your Drinking Water

Our water system regularly samples for copper in our drinking water to make sure it meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards. (The sampling measures the amount of copper that dissolves into the water from indoor plumbing and fixtures after unused for a specified number of hours) Out of the last 20 samples, 6 were above the 1,300-ppb action level, with one being significantly higher. The higher result was from a tap that was not used frequently, but it cannot be dismissed from the results. This affects the outcome of the sampling results. Even though we strive for a complete compliance in sampling sometimes after the fact, somethings do go wrong.

What Are We Doing about the Issue?

We continue to look at ways to change our drinking water treatment. We are also adopting a copper education program for all our water customers. Currently we have changed dosage rates for corrosion control and have seen some reduction in sampling results. **See the informational insert for Copper in your drinking water.**

Nicollet County Mail Ballot Information:

All voters in Mail Ballot precincts were mailed an information flyer in mid-Dec. The 2024 Election season is upon us!

Presidential Nomination Primary Day: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – You will receive your mail ballot between January 19 to February 13, 2024.

Primary Election Day: Tuesday August 6, 2024 – You will receive your ballot June 21 - July 16, 2024

General Election Day: Tuesday November 5, 2024 – you will receive your ballot September 20 – October 15, 2024.

DO NOT THROW YOUR BALLOT AWAY! If you want to vote in person – take your ballot to the Nicollet County Government Center and go through the voting process. If you are not registered, go to <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/>.

Dad’s Belgian Waffles Sunday, January 14, 2024

9:00am to 1:00pm – Lafayette Fire Hall

This annual event is being held to help a family in need. Bob Peterson, who recently managed the C-Store and is our mayor’s husband has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. As he goes through treatment, he is unable to work and he does not qualify for SSDI until May 2024. There is a cash raffle being held, a silent auction and a quilt auction that day. Our small community always pulls together when someone is in need! Waffle and raffle tickets are available now! Invite your family and friends to join in this fun community event for families that is supporting the Petersons!

**Last chance to get your 2024 discounted
cat and dog licenses!**

Now until **January 31, 2024** pet tags are discounted to **only \$2 per pet** and will return to \$8 on February 1. You can register now and drop off an update vaccination certificate when you go to the Vet.

ACH Payments – sign up now!

Contact the office for a form. You will still receive a bill; it will show DRAFT on the bottom section. Go green and sign up for email billing as well!

The Bookmobile brings books to you!

As the temps drop it is a good time to snuggle in with a good book, get your reading choice delivered to you... right here in Lafayette!

Winter Reminders: If we ever get snow!

Winter Parking: Is in effect from November 15 through April 30, no vehicle can be parked on the street in excess of 24 hours. Those residents or businesses in a designated “no parking zone” have received letters last month.

Snow removal: The city will start snow removal within 24 hours of a snow event (3 inches or more, unless the wind conditions prompt an event.) If you know it is going to snow, move your vehicle off the street. If you see the plows out and you are parked on the street - move your vehicle to a plowed area. The city will do a final cleanup after an event. Some events are continuous due to drifting or continued snow. The city could have a vehicle towed if not moved. Per State Statute 169.42 you cannot plow, dump, blow, or shovel snow into any roadway.

Hydrants, etc.: If you have a hydrant in your neighborhood, please help to keep it cleared. It not only protects the property on which it is located, but the entire neighborhood. Also, do not park in front of driveways or mailboxes.

Sump Waivers: Sump Pump waivers were sent out. It is not too late to submit a waiver.

Compost: *The compost is CLOSED for the season.*

Tree trimming: Trim your trees to 13-feet over streets and 9-feet over sidewalks.

Snow Removal: If you need assistance with snow removal, the office has a few names on file. If you provide snow removal service, let the office know to share your information to those in need.

Lafayette Area Lions:

Thursday nights: Meat Raffle and video pull tab racing @ Dave’s Place

Saturdays: Lion’s Bingo – Starts at 1:30pm @ Dave’s Place

Stretchy Film Plastic recycling project: Lions clubs around the country are collecting stretchy plastics for recycling. It is a challenge by NexTrex – Collect 1,000 pounds of stretchy plastics within 12 months to receive a NexTrex bench made from recycled plastics! Boxes are at the bar, bank, city office and post office.

Lions Playground: ordered to arrive in the Spring of 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/Lafayette-Area-Lions-1815080668713552>

Council Briefs 12/11/2023:

Public hearings: 2nd truth in taxation- no comments, Kavan Variance - no comments, Burger read two statements from those who could not attend. Krueger – CUP Outdoor furnace – no comments, Burger read 1 statement from those who could not attend.

Approved the consent agenda: Including, 11/13 minutes 12/4 TNT hearing/budget workshop, bills totaling \$82,235.62, and treasurer’s report receipts totaling \$262,592.13, payrolls 23,24 and 1 sump pump waivers.

Guests: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Residents: Jessica Moldan – 660 10th Street, Wayne Portner – 140 7th Street, Tom Brethorst – 500 Pioneer Avenue, Lowell and Mary Kavan – 691 4th Street.

Reports: Fox: Playground demo completed – kiddie park can be used. Grant for the laterals and storm water were not selected this time, will resubmit. Grant was approved for the service line inventory; engineering will begin soon. **Peterson** reminded everyone of the Santa day on Tuesday. **Burger:** Nicollet county will send out information for upcoming mail ballots. Ambulance has only \$530.99 to repay the GF loan, then assessments will go toward a future ambulance. **Fire:** Ham dinner March, Craft beer tasting in July. **Ambulance:** Commission meeting on 12/13, working on license renewal, drug variance, refresher - need 10 to hold here. Allina free training for new EMT.

Unfinished Business: Harn complete report was sent to council earlier with a hard copy in the office. Waiting on bonding and EPA approval.

New Business: Approved the Kavan variance, denied the Krueger outdoor furnace, approved December donation of \$1070, \$75 from Fillmeup for the 125th celebration and \$1,000 from Helping MN Heros for the ambulance equipment fund. Approved the personnel policy update to ESST for the fire and ambulance. Approved Marencos resignation from the fire department. Waffle meal will be at the fire hall due to the fundraiser. Fire officers were approved for 2024 – Chief – Klingler, Asst. Chief Voges, Secretary Clemon, Truck – Portner, Liebl, training – VanDeest, Sondag, and S VanDeest Marshal. Approved the property tax levy and 2024 budget, approved end of year moves and fire per pay to \$20 and will increase the year following an ambulance increase.

FYI: Fox, Moldan, Peterson and Tauber attended a STREAMS meeting with Winthrop and other area cities for a discussion of a central Sanitary Sewer District. Peterson suggested to have them come to Lafayette to present the project to the full council.

The next Council meeting: Special meeting – Wednesday – January 3 – a presentation/workshop on Winthrop’s STREAMS project. Monday, January 8, 2024 both meetings at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at 791 Main Avenue. *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.*

Rent the Community Center!

Hold your family event, meeting. No worries of weather, it has a kitchen and a smart TV and Wi-Fi! Call Sandy at 228-8241 to book your event today!

Legion Post #300:

DEADLINE OF 1/31/2024 for the next paver order!

The paver sales will be ongoing and forms can be found at the city office or the bank, or by contacting Mark Schuelke.

<https://www.facebook.com/LafMNAmLeg300>