

MINUTES
RESCHEDULED REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – 7:00pm
City Council Chambers – 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette, Minnesota

Present: Mayor Curt Tauber; Councilors Dave Reed, Tom Polich, Andrew Hartley via Teams, Logan VanDeest; Utility Superintendent Allan Fox; Clerks/Treasurers Sandy Burger and Cori Reinhart; Attorney Aaron Walton via Teams; Fire Chief Nick Klingler

Guests: Auditor Sara Oberloh via Teams; resident Jessica Tauber

***All motions voted by roll call.**

Mayor Tauber: Called meeting to order at 7:00pm.
Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda: Motion by Reed, second by Van Deest; all ayes; motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda: Motion by Reed, second by Van Deest; all ayes; motion carried.

New Business 1. 2025 Audit: Sara Oberloh (Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd.): Oberloh reviewed the Annual Financial Report. No questions asked by Council. Motion to approve by Polich, second by Van Deest; all ayes; motion carried.

Reports:

Tauber: attended RS Fiber Joint Powers Board meeting and provided summary; RS Fiber's lender is working with them in 2026, and accelerated payments will resume in 2027; committee created to approach other townships to gauge interest, and are working on outreach to gain more members.

Klingler: will attend Fire Chief's Boot Camp in March in Lake Crystal; Polar Plunge had seven jumpers and eight people raised \$6,853; annual rural fire meeting was February 11, discussed needs for new gear and get air pack bottles tested and filled; request to advertise for more firefighters to begin classes this fall as there a few could retire any time; asked about additional garbage cart for fire hall rental events; Fire 125th celebration will be July 24-27, 2027 and will be run through Fire Relief Association, asked if City will contribute to fireworks; Fire Relief Association elections – President Scott Portner, Vice President Gary Griebel, Treasurer Doug Hoffmann with Logan Van Deest to shadow to take over next year, Secretary Savanna Clemon, Trustees Derek Anderson and Nick Reinhart.

Reed/Polich/Hartley/Van Deest: nothing to report.

Walton: nothing to report.

Fox: submitted report; street sealing bid requests are out, results at March meeting; updates on ice rink operations, public works, wastewater facility, water facility; attended safety training in New Auburn, attending training in St. Cloud March 2-5 for water recertification, attending LMC Safety & Loss Control Workshops April 9 in Mankato.

Reinhart/Burger: submitted report; February 10 was Reinhart's 90-day mark; utility rate increases completed in billing system prior to January billing; Council will be paid quarterly beginning this year due to PFML reporting requirements; RFPs for contracted cleaning are

published in Winthrop News, The Journal, and The Shopper; Reinhart attending City Day on the Hill March 11, conference March 24-27, and Safety & Loss Control Workshops April 9.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Utility Projects update:** Fox submitted report; draft of PPL application for additional funding for RO project will be finalized and submitted after engineer review; IUP application available in May, due June 5; PSIG application due in July; meetings scheduled with Rep. Schwartz and Sen. Frentz on March 11 during City Day on the Hill, will present State Bonding Bill request; MCPA Permit updates; STREAMS work continues.
2. **Civic Duties Descriptions updates:** motion to approve by Reed, second by Polich; all ayes; motion carried.
3. **Update Resolution 2026-01, 2026 Annual Appointments, remove Safety Committee line - Resolution 2026-01-02:** motion to approve by Van Deest, second by Polich; all ayes; motion carried.
4. **Resolution 2026-02 Civic Appointments:** motion to approve by Van Deest, second by Reed; all ayes; motion carried.
5. **Resolution 2026-04 to adopt the 2025 Nicollet County Hazard Mitigation Plan:** motion to approve by Reed, second by Van Deest; all ayes; motion carried.
6. **Fencing at Lund Park:** motion by Polich, second by Reed; all ayes; motion carried for Park & Recreation to scrap the old fencing and use the proceeds for new fencing.
7. **Cannabis Ordinance – Nicollet County update:** Burger gave background; ordinance assigns registration responsibility to City, compliance checks done by County; Courtland and Nicollet are interested in joint powers and for County to do both registration and compliance; County Commissioners are discussing, are concerned about potential liabilities.

New Business:

1. **2025 Audit: Sara Oberloh (Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd.):** see above.
2. **City contribution from remainder of 125th Celebration fund to fencing project:** \$15,231.21 remaining from 125th Celebration fund; consensus to earmark \$10,000.00 for Park & Rec's fencing project, and \$3,000.00 for Fire's 125th celebration as seed money pending Walton's research; motion by Polich, second by Van Deest; all ayes; motion carried.
3. **Subdivision Ordinance:** discussion of need for ordinance; Walton recommends City start working on this as instruction for orderly development; applicants would work with the City through the whole process before recording with the County; will be on March agenda.
4. **Lawnmower purchase:** Tauber provided copies at the meeting of two quotes from UFC, Van Deest provided copies at the meeting of four quotes from L&P Supply of Hutchinson; Polich asked if all quotes include everything OSHA and the City require; Tauber and Van Deest confirmed they do; Polich requested written agreement that vendor would provide loaner if lawnmower in for maintenance; Tauber will follow up with UFC; will be on March agenda.
5. **Streaming and/or publicly posting council meetings in the future:** discussion and consensus that the City will not stream meetings; when Teams is utilized, posted notices will inform the public they may observe via the link but will not be open for public comment.
6. **Warming House regularly scheduled open hours:** discussion; ice rink season is done for this year due to recent warm weather and current condition of the ice; consensus for next

season – a sign will be posted on the warming house to notify the public that keys are available from the Clerk at City Hall.

7. **Council pay for meetings when absent:** passed around a copy of Ordinance 129, discussion to change ordinance removing “salaries” language so that councilors will be paid only for meetings they attend; Clerk/Attorney to draft revised ordinance before March meeting; will be on March agenda.
8. **Sandy Burger’s last Council meeting in official capacity as Clerk/Treasurer:** Burger submitted written resignation that her last day will be February 26, 2026; Council thanked Burger for her service; motion to approve resignation by Reed, second by Polich; all ayes; motion carried.
9. **MDH letter and proposed Compliance Agreement received 10Feb2026:** Fox submitted MDH letter and proposed Compliance Agreement received, and draft of his response; he disagrees with the timeline set by MDH because the lack/shortage of funding for the RO project is out of the City’s control; Fox reminded Council of the issues; Council consensus for Fox to send the letter.

Mayor Tauber: Closed regular meeting at 8:36pm to discuss property options for a new well, to include parcel IDs 15.841.0555, 15.002.1500, 15.681.0695, and 15.611.0070, as allowed by Minnesota Statute 13D.05 subd.3(c)(3).

Mayor Tauber: Reopened regular meeting at 9:10pm.

Adjourn:

Motion by Polich, second by Van Deest, at 9:11pm.

Next Meeting: The next regular Council meeting is on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 7:00pm, to be held at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

Corina Reinhart – City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by Council on: 3/9/2026