

October 2022

City of Lafayette

Edition: 2022-10

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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

Tom Polich 507-766-1874

Curt Tauber 507-276-7803

October 2022

3 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

10 – City Council – 7pm Council Chambers

11 – LCS School Board meet via zoom

11 – Lion's Meeting – 6:45pm – Location Community Center

13 – Bookmobile – 10:15am to 10:45am – Esther Avenue

15 – City-wide residential curbside pick-up, out by 7am

18 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

29 – Bookmobile – 10:15am to 10:45am – Esther Avenue

29 – Park & Rec Park Cleanup event 3 to 6 pm

31 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

November 2022

7 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

8 – General Election Day – Nicollet County, St Peter

8 – Lion's Meeting – 6:45pm – Location Community Center

? – LCS Schoolboard meeting - Zoom Date & Time TBD

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

11 – Veteran's Day – City Office Closed

14 – City Council – 7pm Council Chambers

14 – Bloodmobile Community Center

15 – Legion Post 300 – Fire Station

15 – Lions/Amb./Allina, AED Awareness – Community Ctr

24 – Happy Thanksgiving!!

25 – City office Closed

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

28 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

Garbage & Recycling info:

Recycling Dates: October 13 & 27 November 10 & 25.

11/25 is a Friday/Holiday schedule due to Thanksgiving

Fall curbside clean-up will be Saturday, October 15 – have items to the curb before 7 am.

Holiday Lights: Year-round recycling of holiday lights and extension cords; drop them at the office, during office hours.

LCS School Board: Will continue to meet until the final audit and dissolution by the State. The meetings will be held via Zoom, contact Colin Hoffmann at 507-228-8283 for the link.

Note from Sandie Peterson, Mayor:

Well, fall is here. The leaves are falling, the nights are cooler, the farmers are getting the crops out, the kids are back in school and fall sports are in action, the only thing I wish would have stayed away were the no-see-um bugs - they are awful! We have the fall city wide clean up this month, please take advantage of this opportunity before winter sets in. Soccer is going on at the park and it looks like everyone is enjoying themselves. What a lot of fun to wear off all that energy.

The mini-park committee has met to plan the handicapped ramp and siding of the bandstand work for this fall. We are also hoping to get one sidewalk completed and the benches installed, too. Remember the Legion Post #300 is selling pavers for veterans, local businesses, or family members, so contact a Legion member if interested. There are also forms at the city building, c-store and bank.

I would like to get a committee started for our 125th anniversary, please contact myself or Sandy Burger if interested. We would like to make it a great celebration.

Well, here is to hopefully a safe, prosperous fall and a long, mild one.

Sandie

Free Flu Shot Clinic:

Held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 in the community center from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Walk-in only, no appointments or pre-registration needed. Only standard doses will be available. Flu vaccines will be offered for **FREE**, so no insurance information needed.

Questions call Nicollet County Public Health at 507-934-8594

Mini Park – HELP NEEDED SOON!!

The materials are being ordered. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!** Our grant was based on community support and involvement, so the more the merrier! Whether you are skilled with a hammer or drill or can supply lunch, snack or goodies for those who can, or just being a runner/helper – everyone can have something to help with! Watch the City Facebook or website to the exact dates and what type of help will be needed.

Tree Decorations:

Our local Santa's Elf is looking for residents to create ornaments for the holiday tree in the park (band stand) this year. Drop them dropped off at the city office before Wednesday, November 23, 2022, 4pm and the Elf will be sure that yours is on the special tree! Santa Day is Tuesday, December 13, 2022

A Few Reminders:

Foul play: This pops up every once in a while, chickens and other farm animals are **not allowed in the city**. There are some cities who have passed ordinances to allow chickens, with specific regulations as to how many hens, no roosters, enclosed coops, and an annual permit fee. No one has approached the city council to ask for a similar chicken ordinance to be drafted for our city.

ATVs, etc.: There have been concerns of underaged children driving ATVs, etc. These types of vehicles, although the city does not currently have an ordinance of this nature, must still abide by the State law pertaining to age limits, where they can be driven, what time of day restrictions, what type of safety equipment it must have, etc. A recent concern was that a small ATV type vehicle was driven **inside** the kiddie park – no motorized vehicles are allowed for the safety of the children playing there. If you see something speak up.

Kiddie Park Fence: The Lion's worked very hard to build a beautiful fence protecting the children using the kiddie park - do not allow children to climb on it. Again, if you see something, speak up. It takes the community to keep everyone safe!

First Lutheran's Fall Festival – Sunday, October 2, 2022 Meal 11- 1, Farmer's Market, Bake Sale, Quilt Raffle!

Tri-County Paper Shredding Event:

Monday, October 3, noon to 3 pm at Zins Implement at 20 Pine Street in Nicollet. Enter off Pine Street. First two boxes are free, additional banker boxes are \$5. Metal paperclips and staples okay, remove binder clips and runner bands – PAPER ONLY!

2022 Election:

Registered voters: watch for your ballot packets in the mail soon.

125 Years of Lafayette - Quasquicentennial:

(kwos-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uh I)

WE NEED YOU! Help us plan a Quasquicentennial (125 years) celebration, to be held in 2025! All ideas welcome, as one thought might just spark another! Contact a council member or the office with your ideas.

Legion Post #300: Paver orders are coming in at a good pace for the November 1, 2022 deadline for the first setting of the pavers next spring. Forms are available from Legion and Auxiliary members, Citizens Bank, city office and Fillmeup and can be dropped off at the bank or city office.

Annual Turkey Bingo – Saturday, November 19, 2022

Check out the Legion's new Facebook page!

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

Lafayette Area Lions:

11- 3 - Meat Raffles begin and 11- 5 – Bingo begins!

[https://www.facebook.com/Lafayette-Area-Lions-](https://www.facebook.com/Lafayette-Area-Lions-1815080668713552)

[1815080668713552](https://www.facebook.com/Lafayette-Area-Lions-1815080668713552)

Energy Assistance Program:

2022-2023 season includes water and sewer utilities along with heating. Contact MN Valley Action Council (MVAC) for information.

Cold Weather Rule information:

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

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

Council Briefs:

Workshop: Council met on August 23, for a personnel policy workshop, they started the process at a work session in May. Some items that were discussed & added: bereavement pay, call back, return to work after illness, jury duty, leave for an employee on the fire or ambulance crew leaving for a call during hours, a social media policy & public notice, updating performance reviews, year-end PTO, working on a holiday pay, when benefits start, and who sits on the personnel committee. The final review for approval is on 9/12/2022.

9/12/2022 Council meeting:

Approved **Resolution 2022-18** A Resolution Withdrawing a Rezone Application; thus, cancelling the need for the public hearing.

Public Hearing for Interim Ord. 139, City attorney Walton explained the need for the criteria as a guide for council's zoning decisions. The Interim Ordinance is good for one year. Council approved it as an agenda item later in the meeting.

Approved the consent agenda: Included in the consent agenda were: 8/8/2022 council minutes, 8/15 Special meeting & Budget workshop minutes, the 8/23 Personnel Policy workshop recap and bills totaling \$47,604.55

Guests: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Adam Prochniak – AP Lawn Service, Patti Jo Ferguson – 711 Laf. Ave., Mac Aalid – 660 Esther Ave., Tristan and Amanda Blue – 1160 Main Ave., and Marj Hurd – 680 Esther Ave.

Citizen concerns: Aalid and Ferguson reiterated their concerns of the property at 691 Lafayette Avenue; in August council removed it off the blight list as the issues were satisfied.

Council Briefs continued:

Unfinished Business: RO Water Project: No scoring back from the health department, but it sounds like it will be a good score. The drawback is that the state has not passed a bonding bill, the federal funds sit there. **Blight Properties:** 400 Wanser was served orders on August 18, 2022 with 15 days to comply, that time has passed and Walton will file with the court on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. **Approved:** Job descriptions for the Pay Equity review, personnel policy as amended, to proceed with the mini park ramp, bandstand steel updates and first sidewalk, and to have the cleaning service come twice a year. **Denied:** Bid for Chevy truck that came in under the minimum set.

New Business: Approved: Zoning Permit LAF 2022-11 for a garden shed. A public hearing for Permit - LAF 2022-12 Zoning Application for a variance for a porch to be built within the 25-foot setback was set for the October 10th council meeting. Discussion of an inquiry for an extended driveway up to the property line. Per city attorney a variance application would need to be submitted and follow the process of such. September donations of \$22,977.00 were approved and included: \$250.00 L. Drogemuller to the Fire Department, NU KNUJ Fast Pitch \$80.00 for the use of the ballfield, Southern MN Initiative Foundation a \$10,000 grant for materials for the ramp and bandstand update, St Gregory Church Board \$7,500 and \$5,000 to the ramp and bandstand project & Ambulance, Bruce & Rosemarie White \$100.00 to the Ambulance and Fillmeup \$47.00 from a donation bucket for the ramp project. **Approved** the 2023 Preliminary Property Tax Levy with a preliminary increase of \$41,111. **Building Code:** Tauber brought up a conversation of the city adopting the State Building Code. Peterson asked if New Ulm's Ellwood Zabel would come to a meeting to answer questions. **Fire Training:** Nick inquired about training policy for the city paying for one fire member to go to conference. **Mowing:** Adam Prochniak thanked council for the contract for the 2022 season, he understands council is considering mowing in-house. He pointed out some items for council to consider before they reach that decision; cost of equipment as a new commercial mower is \$16,000 to \$18,000, liability insurance, State is looking to eliminate gas powered engines in the future and such. He is adding another mower and updating his spraying equipment and asked when deciding whether or not do in-house or contract if, could be earlier in the year. **Quasquicentennial:** Mayor would like everyone to start thinking of this celebration. **Parking:** Portner brought up a concern on long-term parking on the street. Mayor explained as long as it had current license tab and operable, there is no time restriction. There is a code for recreation vehicles of 48-hour limit, and the winter parking code that runs from November 15 to April 30.

MPCA Small Communities Planning Grant: The utilities committee met on August 29, 2022 to discuss the grant and possible project for the City. The scope of the project would be to identify the condition and material type in the wastewater collection system to include sanitary sewer mains and sanitary service lines. It would involve cleaning all sanitary sewer mains and televising the sewer mains and service lateral lines, and receive a detailed report to include a video of the televising, which would be city property for future needs. This information will give the city information to formalize an I/I reduction strategy. Having this information could help with future opportunities with grant funds, further reduce needs for sanitary sewer overflows, basement backups and flooding. The city would be responsible for 10% of the cost of the project in matching funds, with in-kind services allowed to offset some of the matching funds. Council approved up to \$10,000 matching funds.

Special Meeting Monday, September 19: On 9/12/2022 Mayor Peterson called a special meeting after she and Fox met via Zoom with the SEH engineers about the MPCA grant application. After they reviewed the scope of the project, they felt a grant application that had a stormwater element tied with the current sewer and sewer lateral inspection project scope would have a better chance of being selected/ awarded. The city's responsibility of 10% was capped at \$10,000 at the September 12, 2022 council meeting; adding the stormwater element would increase the amount needed. Council approved up to \$15,000 to cover the matching funds.

Next meeting: Monday, October 10, 2022, @ 7 pm meeting in the Council Chambers 791 Main Avenue.