

STREAMS: A special STREAMS informational meeting was held prior to the November council meeting. Uma Vempati from Kimley-Horn shared with the council, staff and guests the progress the technical team, which consists of Uma, Al Fox, Michael Looft and Curt Reetz. The STREAMS project is working on the feasibility of developing a regional wastewater facility with the four cities of Winthrop, Lafayette, Gibbon and New Auburn and two industries of Heartland Corn Products and DSA, both in Winthrop. The group came together due to the increased State and Federal regulations of the waste flows and what the cost would be individually to meet these new limits. The group has worked to closer define the project into EDUs, so all entities are on a more even cost sharing. The technical team continues to define areas that need to be researched more to define the needs more precisely.

Mayor Peterson called the council meeting to order on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 7:05 pm at the Lafayette City Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. Present were Mayor Sandie Peterson, Councilors: Dave Reed, Scott Portner, Tom Polich, and Curt Tauber. Also attending were Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, City Attorney Aaron Walton, Fire Chief Nick Klingler and Ambulance President Mark Dick.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests present: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Brennan Moldan – Staff, Residents Jessica Moldan – 551 5th Street, Logan VanDeest – 631 10th Street, Lila Ellis – 731 Lafayette Avenue and JoAnn Portner – 351 8th Street.

Mayor Peterson opened the Public Hearing for the Rezoning of the Church property at 400 6th Street. Lila Ellis and JoAnn Portner were both present to support the request. Clerk Burger read comments from resident who had contacted the office; B Maidl has no concerns, Mark & Lori Dick are good with it and fine with the change, Dave and Sandy Burger are fine with it and glad to see it in use again, as a neighbor, Sandie Peterson is also okay with it. With no further discussion mayor Peterson closed the public hearing.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to approve the agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried.

Motioned by Polich and seconded by Portner to approve the Consent Agenda as amended by adding Krueger to the list of waivers; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were the 10/14 council minutes, bills totaling \$70,001.53, the treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for October, receipts totaling \$41,685.43, the 2024 payrolls 21, 22 and 23 and eleven 2024-2025 sump pump waivers for Barber, H. Hacker, Hurd, Koval, Krueger, N. Langhoff, S Morson, J Portner, Maidl, Weisensel and Youngblom.

Reports:

Fox: Submitted his written report and highlighted that the Wellnitz sign should be in place this week, a recirculation valve quit working at the WWTF, it is a 15-foot dig to get to it. They will work on it this week due to weather changes next week. Copper and Lead samples were above the 90% for Copper – notification and brochures were sent to all accounts; fire doors were installed and a safety meeting is in Courtland 11/19.

Burger: Submitted a written report and read the statement “ *Each year MN cities must approve the next year's levy in September and submit it to the county. The preliminary levy and budget will always be higher as there are many projection figures that will not be available until later in the year. The Lafayette Council will hold two opportunities for public comment on the 2025 budget and final property tax levy. The first will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, prior to the final budget workshop. The second will be held during the Monday, December 9, 2024, council meeting.*” She also added that Anna Thill from Xcel will meet with her on 11/20 do go over the Franchise Agreement. Day on the Hill is 3/6, LMC Foundational and Advanced Institute dates are set. gWorks 'live' date of 10/29 was postponed indefinitely, she will ask that it be moved to January to complete this year on UBMax.

Peterson: RS Fiber for tomorrow was cancelled due to no information.

Tauber: Positive comments on the Lion drinking fountain.

Klingler: Asked about using the city pumper for the Arli-Dazzle Parade. **Approved with a motion by Tauber and second by Polich; all ayes, motion carried.** He also shared that at an OSHA session at the chief's conference there are update regulations coming up due to firefighter deaths. He shared a few highlights of the 250-page document that could affect us: require annual physicals done by a special company, two sets of turnout gear to help eliminate cancer and making trucks obsolete after 15 years.

Dick: The Compeer grant will be used for pagers, no guidance on the up to \$48,000 that will come in December, the two new members are okay and the other two trained are working through paper-work glitches.

Portner: Had a few inquiries about returning to in-person voting.

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Utility Updates: RO:** EPA grant is on hold for PFA and State, we will remain on the PSIG list, received comments from MDH and a meeting was held 11/13 with SEH to review the comments. **Streams:** was discussed in the special meeting prior to the council meeting. The project is driven due to State and Federal regulations and the cost of the project will depend on the amount of State and Federal Funding received. **Stormwater:** Televising and cleaning complete except two lines, they will need to return as the ground was too wet in the field. There were 50 more service connections added, but it's still under the budget allowed. **Lead Service Line Inventory:** Has completed inventory of all but three of the unknowns. For the two galvanized lines needing replacement – there is funding available to replace them, but an engineer must be hired to apply. The cost of an engineer could be \$20,000, where just replacing could be \$5,000 to \$6,000.
- 2. Blight:** An issue tagged in the spring was brought up again and after discussion on the possible violations, council directed Burger to send a letter asking for a progress update.
- 3. Community Center Cleaner:** After discussion on what was in the budget, it was tabled to discuss more at the budget workshop and bring to the December meeting.

New Business:

- 1. Resolution 2024–20 – November Donations: *Motioned by Portner to approve Resolution 2024-20 as presented, seconded by Polich; all ayes, motion carried.*** Donations totaling \$4,141.00, including \$141.00 to the 125th celebration \$41 from the FillMeUp bucket and \$100 from Five-Star Towing, and a grant from Compeer of \$4,000 to the ambulance fund.
- 2. Ordinance 149 Rezoning a Parcel of Land:** With no further discussion **there was a motion by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve Ordinance 149 for the rezoning of the church property at 400 6th Street from commercial to residential, all ayes, motion carried.**
- 3. Resolution 2024-21 Canvassing 2024 General Election: *Motioned by Tauber and seconded by Portner to approve Resolution 2024-21 Canvassing of Elections; all ayes, motion carried***
- 4. Legion Request:** Approved the Legion using the firehall for Turkey Bingo. ***Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve the Legion's use of the firehall for turkey bingo, all ayes motion carried.***
- 5. Blue Earth, Nicollet, and LeSueur County Mutual Aid Agreement. *Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve the mutual Aid agreement; all ayes, motion carried.***
- 6. Certify Utilities and Fees:** A list of delinquent accounts was presented. **There was a motion by Reed and seconded by Polich to set a public hearing at the December 9th council meeting to certify the delinquent accounts to the tax rolls; all ayes, motion carried.**
- 7. Resolution 2024-22 P&R Agreement:** **There was a motion by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve Resolution 2024-22 an Agreement between the City and P&R; all ayes, motion carried.**
- 8. ARPA FUNDS: *Motion by Reed and Seconded by Portner to approve the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending for 2024.*** This will complete the spending of these funds.
- 9. Cannabis:** There has been no further information of partnering with Nicollet County for regulation of Cannabis. Tabled until further information is available.

Adjourn: *Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm; all ayes, motion carried.*

Next Meeting: The 1st Truth-in-Taxation hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 7pm followed by the final budget workshop. The next council meeting and second Truth-In-Taxation hearing will be on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 7pm. Both meetings will be held at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

Sandra Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer