

Mayor Sandie Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday November 14, 2022 at 7:00pm 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 present were: Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, City Attorney Aaron Walton; Fire Chief Nick Klingler arrived at 7:01 and Ambulance President Mark Dick was absent.

Guests present: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Dave Burger – 580 Main Avenue, Kevin Reinhart – 600 Adolph Avenue, Nancy Reinhart – 600 Adolph Avenue, Jessica Moldan – 660 10th Street, Brooklyn Peterson – 660 10th Street. Jeff Uhde – 620 Adolph Avenue.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Peterson opened the public hearing for the Variance application from Jeff Uhde – 620 Adolph Avenue requesting to pour a concrete slab next to the existing and within one foot of the property line . There was discussion about a survey being conducted prior to the pour and also of water flow between the property to the west. Mayor closed the hearing.

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Reed to approve the amended agenda with the addition of the 2022 Audit engagement; all ayes, motion carried.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve the amended Consent Agenda with an additional bill; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were: 10/10/2022 council minutes, bills totaling \$52,487.43 and the twenty-one (21) sump pump waivers presented.

Public Forum: None

Reports:

Fox: Had two issues come up. 1st is the church and rectory are both on the same shut-off valve. It was discovered when the owner wanted to winterize the church. It was also discovered that there were live lines that did not shut off when the water was shut off. There is nothing that needs to be done now, but city attorney Walton suggested that a letter to be sent to the owner that it must be corrected before it is sold and a new utility account can be set up. The second issue was a delinquent shutoff, was not able to happen due to the valve not working, the resident paid the past due amount and Fox will need to send a letter giving the property owner a 15-day notice that the work will be done. He is hopeful that the issue is just that the top twisted. Submitted information that the unsafe deck structure at 400 Wanser was taken down on 11/14/2022. This was following a court order that gave the owner until 11/7 to comply, it was inspected on 11/9 and Fox set up the demolition work including staff, Lafayette Excavating and the Nicollet County Sheriff to be on site. It started at 9am and all debris and tools were removed by 12:24pm.

Burger: Submitted her report and shared that the League of MN cities will be holding a small regional event here at the city council chambers. Burger, Fox, the mayor and suggested one council member, Polich volunteered, will represent Lafayette. Invitations have been sent to Gibbon, Winthrop, New Ulm, Courtland and Nicollet. UBMax was sold to gWorks – no changes will happen right away.

Peterson: Pay Equity – DDA has all information and would like to set a meeting for him to Zoom in and explain the process and results to everyone. Quasquicentennial - our 125th celebration – she has a resident who came forward. Looking for representatives from area businesses and organizations, she would like to meet early next year. Mini Park update – There have been almost 150 pavers sold. D. Burger installed the new door on the bandstand, the next step will be working on the steel siding and then constructing the ramp. D burger will work with Clerk when volunteers are needed.

Tauber: Was approached about the Lions using the Fire Barn for the upcoming Dad's waffle feed fundraiser as the charter school is no longer an option for a larger event. The Lions offered to pay for upgrading some electrical to hold the supply the vendor needs. Portner said UFC can house the fire trucks at their facility during the January 15th event, and Fox said the ambulance would be stored in the city shop. ***Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve the fire hall use for this event; all ayes, motion carried.***

Klingler: The two new firefighters, will start training this week, need to borrow cones for the driving course. Radios from the county are here and will be set up. Rural is looking into the new truck purchase and was inquiring about the city's interest in an agreement to purchase the pumper truck they are replacing - for replacement of the city pumper. Council tabled it to discuss at the budget workshop. Klingler inquired about having sentence to serve individuals to clean the steel on the ceiling and walls on the inside of the fire barn. Mayor will contact the Sheriff.

Ambulance: Burger shared that the Lions, Ambulance and Allina were holding a CPR/AED class at 6:30 pm on Tuesday night .

Unfinished Business:

RO Water Project: After a brief recap from Fox and little discussion the following documents were approved:

- 1) Design Proposal from SEH Engineering **Portner motioned to approve the engineer design and specifications, Polich seconded, Portner, Polich, Reed, Peterson ayes, Tauber, nay; motion carried.**
- 2) Agreement for the Professional Services **Portner motioned to approve the Agreement for the Professional Services, Reed seconded, Portner, Polich, Reed, Peterson ayes, Tauber, nay; motion carried.**
- 3) Resolution 2022-25 Providing the Issuance and Sale of \$250,000 Temporary GO Water revenue Note Series 2022A and Pledging Net Revenues for the Security Thereof **Polich motioned to approve Resolution 2022-25 Providing the Issuance and Sale of \$250,000 Temporary GO Water revenue Note Series 2022A and Pledging Net Revenues for the Security Thereof, Reed seconded, all ayes, motion carried.**

MN Building Code: NU Building Inspector E Zabel will come in December for questions.

New Business:

Resolution 2022-21 – Canvassing the 2022 General Election Results: Mayor Peterson 151 Votes, Write-in 16, Council at Large: Reed 142, Polich 136, Write-in 23. 304 registered voters at 7 am, 3 registered election day, and 187 ballots were cast. **Motion by Portner to adopt Resolution 2022-21 Canvassing the 2022 General Election Results, Tauber seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**

Zoning Permits:

- a) **LAF 2022-13** – The variance application by Uhde to pour an extension to his concrete driveway within the setback was discussed and concerns of where the water flow would go, etc., council responded to the criteria questions that City Attorney Walton put forth, and following **Reed motioned to approve Resolution 2022-13 Adopting Findings of Facts and Reasons for Approval, Polich seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**
- b) **LAF 2022-14** – Rezoning application by Heimat Properties, LLC to change the zone from residential to commercial **consensus of the council was to set the Public Hearing on the Rezoning request to the December 12, 2022 council meeting.**
- c) **LAF 2022-15** – Permit submitted by B&H Ulrich for a 10x10 tent shed. After some discussion and concern on the topic of tent sheds, **Portner motioned to approve the B&H Ulrich shed permit, Polich seconded; ayes Portner, Polich, Reed and Peterson, nays Tauber; motion carried.**

November Donations: Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to approve Resolution 2022-24 Accepting November Donations; all ayes, motion carried. Included were an anonymous donation of \$100 to the ambulance department, benches for the mini park from St Gregory, Brethorst, Portner and Clobes families \$4,260, Fillmeup donation bucket to the mini park project \$38, Christensen Farms and Feedlots, Inc. \$200 to the Lafayette Fire Department.

Budget Update: Burger and Fox explained that in order to get our budget more inline with the State Reporting and to eliminate years where we show higher spending, due to things like street sealing every 4 to 5 years, our auditor has suggested we create FUNDS in CTAS for these circumstances. Budgets are for operational, savings are for future

- 1) Steet Savings name changed to PW Savings – would move the annual set aside amount for sealing and equipment purchase into this fund.
- 2) Fire Equipment Fund: Would move the annual amount for a truck and airbags into this fund.
- 3) Currently we have a GF Dedicated Public Project Fund, which was never set as a fund in CTAS. Our auditor suggested council to un-dedicate this amount and roll it into a GF Savings Fund – this could be used for park, community center, general buildings, etc.
- 4) Ambulance: The money would stay the same it would just have an actual Ambulance savings fund in CTAS.

With the Fire and Public Works savings funds, the council will still move the annual amounts at the end of the year into these funds. **After discussion the consensus of the council was for Burger to move forward with these changes.**

Firefighter:

- a) **Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to approve the resignation of Matt Schiller, who is moving out of the coverage area; all ayes, motion carried.**
- b) **Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to approve N. Reinhart, who has completed all his pre-employment items; all ayes, motion carried.**

Liquor License Renewal: Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber, to approve the annual Liquor license for Dave's Place of Lafayette, LLW, Inc.; all ayes, motion carried.

Park & Rec Agreement: Tabled until December

ATV/Golf Cart discussion: The item was brought up last month and added to the November agenda. There was much discussion on this topic, it was pointed out that there are State laws regulating these vehicles, we have no police department to monitor, if someone sees an issue report it to the sheriff's office, could video the violation and share with the sheriff. **Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to not pursue this item; all ayes, motion carried.**

Meeting Code of Conduct: Burger had sent samples of other cities public forum guidelines and had put together a statement to possibly put on the agenda public forum for a for guests. This was discussed in full and many felt that being able to voice their opinion to council was a good thing. **The consensus of the council was to post the statement on the agenda and the Mayor liked the sign in sheet to have a space to mark if the guest would like to address council. Burger will grab the check in before the meeting.**

Billing: Concern of bills being approved that already went out. Burger explained that certain bills like, payroll, PERA, insurance, bonds, utilities, bills that are late, and some contracts are sent out when checks are signed. All other bills are held until after the council meeting and then mailed the next day.

Payment plans: Concern that clerk made payment plans with out council approval. All appeals and payment plans do go to council. The payment plans in place were directed by Mayor Sandberg under the COVID Emergency, these are the last two accounts with payment plans which were set at that time. Burger and Fox explained the process of Appeal/Payment plan. Burger will send a copy of the 1st Notice of Appeal that is sent to all late accounts.

FYI: Mediacom increase, Sibley Ditch redeterminations

Motioned by Polich and seconded by Portner to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm; all ayes, motion carried.

The next Council meeting on December 6, 1st Truth in Taxation and Budget Workshop at 7pm. 2nd Truth in Taxation and council meeting December 12, 2022 at the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm

Sandie Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer