

# December 2024

Happy Holidays!!!!

## City of Lafayette

Edition: 2024-12

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### 2023-2024 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

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

### December 2024

2 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

3 – First TNT and final budget workshop – 7pm

3 – St. Gregory Fellowship – Community Center

5– Bookmobile - 10:15 to 10:45 – Esther Ave.

9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> TNT & City Council – 7pm Council

### Chambers

10 – Santa Day! – Community Center

10 – Tree lighting – Memorial Park

17 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

25 – Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

30 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

### January 2025

6 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

6 – City Council – 7pm Council Chambers

7 – Lions Meeting – Community Center

6:45pm

14 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Office

Closed

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

27 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

### Garbage & Recycling info:

Recycling Dates: 12/5, 12/19, 12/27 a Friday

Holiday schedule garbage only. January 3,

Friday holiday both garbage & recycling.

Recycling 16, 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

### Note from Mayor Sandie Peterson:

Merry Christmas everyone!

I would like to congratulate the new mayor Curt Tauber and council members Logan VanDeest and Andrew Hartley on being elected. I truly wish you all the best.

With the season of giving upon us, please think of your neighbors as they may need help and don't feel like or are embarrassed to ask for help. Just a kind word goes along way.

December is fun of activities so make sure you check the calendar in the newsletter for time and dates.

Remember the 125<sup>th</sup> is coming in July we will be needing volunteers or donations to fund the celebration, so if you can, please help! You can send donations to the city and sign up to volunteer by calling Sandy Burger.

As the year comes to an end look back at all you have accomplished this year and move forward into the next year with hope and enthusiasm.

Check out the new Lion drinking fountain in Lund Park; this is a thank you from the city for all that our Lafayette Lions do for our community.

Happy Holiday season!!

*Sandie*

### As the year winds down, the Holidays are in full swing!!

**12/8 – Annual Community Christmas Carol Sing** at 7pm – This tradition has been going on for many years with area churches taking turns to host. This year it is at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran and they will be holding a soup and sandwich meal at 6 pm prior to the sing-a-long! All are welcome!

**12/10 – Santa Day is finally here!** Join them at the Community Center from 4:30 to 6:30pm. The kids will enjoy visiting Santa, activities and treats and will be followed by Mayor Peterson lighting the holiday tree in the Memorial Park!

**12/24 & 12/25 – Fields of Grace Christmas services:** Christmas Eve - First Lutheran 5:00pm, Swan Lake 7pm, Christmas Day service is at Bernadotte at 8am.

### Annual Pet Licenses:

Included in your billing are applications to renew your pet's license. **If you have added or lost a cat or dog this past year, please let me know. ALL Cats and Dogs need to be licensed.** The licenses run January 1- December 31<sup>st</sup> EVERY year and they need to be renewed EVERY year and vaccination records need to be current. Council has set the fee schedule to only \$2 per pet - from December 1 through January 31 each year. Renew now and if you have an upcoming vet appointment just make note of the date on your application and then drop off your vaccination record after the appointment - or have them fax it 507-543-7083 or email it to me directly [lafcityclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lafcyclyclerk@gmail.com).

### gWorks:

We have rescheduled the switchover until the beginning of January so we can complete 2024 with UBMax. One BIG change will be with ACH payments. I will no longer be able to post a mass ACH draft for accounts as I do now. If you want to still do ACH payments, you will need to create a user in their Front Office and enter all of your information there. You will also be able to just post online payments. Once we are ready to "go live" with gWorks we will alert you of the information and link. More details to come when I know we will be "live" on the program.

All payments due on December 25<sup>th</sup> even though it's a holiday, ACH accounts will still be drafted on December 20<sup>th</sup>, as we are still on UBMax, but moving into January, that will not be an option. There will be a small user fee attached based on the size of the bill. I will NOT be posting draft payments for bills due on January 25<sup>th</sup>. You will need to pay them or – hopefully we are running with gWorks and you will be able to sign up in Front Desk.

### 125<sup>th</sup> Community Quilt:

You will see in your packet a half-paged flyer from the Weekend Quilters. They have quilt square kits available for residents to sew. This is a community quilt which will be raffled off during the 125<sup>th</sup> celebration next summer. Go to our city Facebook page to see a photo of the quilt pattern and sample kits. They chose this pattern as it is a common one from the 1900s. Having many community members work on the quilt really makes it a special 'community quilt' to honor our 125 years of being the Village of Lafayette and eventually the City of Lafayette.

### DNR Youth Snowmobile Class:

Class is February 22, 2025, ages 11-15 online courses. Must register ahead. See the flyer in the office for details.

**STREAMS:** A special STREAMS informational meeting was held prior to the November 13 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 Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), both in Winthrop. The group came together due to the increased State and Federal regulations for 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, which evaluates wastewater characteristics. Normal domestic wastewater is compared to these characteristics and comes up with the EDU number, so all entities are on a more even cost sharing. The technical team continues to define areas that need to be researched further to define the needs more precisely.

### WHAT ARE YOUR VOLUNTEER SUPER POWERS??

Maybe you are not comfortable to lead an activity, but are a great helper! We need you!  
As you can see from our list of a lot of happenings that weekend... we will need many volunteers!!

### 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration! Save the Dates!

**Wednesday, July 23 – Sunday, July 27, 2025**

The planning committee met on 11/18/2024

Next meeting is on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 6pm - city office

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Wednesday:** Bike & Car night and kick off of the Lafayette 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration Medallion Hunt. Special concert from the Armstrong Boulevard Brass Quintet at 6pm. Possible Legion color guard kick-off.

**Thursday:** Park & Rec will have youth ball games, a meal at the pop shack, human foosball on Main Street. **Friday:** Legion meal in the community center, Lafayette Band concert followed by the Concord Singers and Narren, Relief's Craft Beer & wine tasting & burgers.

**Saturday:** Historical displays in the community center's display cases and city office, craft & vendor in the community center, quilt show at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran, Lafayette's Amazing Race. Local entertainment all afternoon in the bandstand. Firefighter keg fight keg, with ball option for children, antique tractor pulls, bounce house, fire training display, crowning of little miss Lafayette, and food trucks. Dave's place annual street dance with kiddie & adult dance. Kiddie parade Possible adult ball tournament and fireworks.

**Sunday:** Prayer Service in Memorial park, Dad's Belgium waffles – fire hall, kid's pedal pull, parade and NU Battery for a grand finale shooting of the cannons at Lund park.

**Wanted:** Lafayette Memorabilia!!! For our historical displays. Sponsorship: We are looking for sponsors for some of the activities. Contact Sandy in the office for details.

#### Lafayette Area Lions:

Thursdays Meat Raffles-Horse Racing-Jemi's Jackpot 6pm start  
Saturday Bingo 1:30 start – If you are interested in being a volunteer to sell or to call bingo contact Mark Halter.

Holiday Lights Contest – December 10 –Santa Day!

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

#### Lafayette Park & Recreation:

Website: [lafayetteparkandre.wixsite.com/minn](http://lafayetteparkandre.wixsite.com/minn)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Lafayette-Park-and-Recreation/61556096219153/>

#### Legion Post #300:

Look for an alternative event on Friday, December 13, due to the Turkey Bingo cancellation. Paver sales are ongoing and forms can be found at the city office or the bank, or by contacting Mark or Keith Schuelke.

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

#### Lafayette Study Club:

The 2024-2025 season has begun! If you have a love for reading and would like more information contact Sandy Hartley or Sandy Burger. The club meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month.

#### **Council Briefs: 11/13/2024 7:00pm**

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

**Public Hearing:** Rezone 400 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Commercial to Residential. All comments in favor, no against – council later approved Ord. 149 to rezone the parcel. **Approved:** Agenda and Consent Agenda including the 10/14 minutes & bills totaling \$70,001.53, the treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for October, receipts of \$41,685.43, 2024 payrolls 21, 21 & 22 and 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 report & updates: Wellnitz sign installed, a recirculation valve quit working at the WWTF.

**Tauber:** Positive comments on the Lion drinking fountain. **Burger:** Submitted report and read the annual statement about the truth in taxation hearings, will meet with Xcel for new franchise agreement, gWorks postponed until January 6. **Peterson:** RS Fiber cancelled due to no new information **Klingler:** Council approved the pumper use for Arli-dazzle parade – Miss Lafayette. Updated council on upcoming OSHA standards that would affect the city. **Dick:** Compeer grant received, two new members working well, two others going through process to be certified.

**Unfinished Business:** Fox updated council on the progress of all the projects and funding. **RO:** EPA grant on hold for PFA and State comments from MDH, will meet with SEH to review. **Stormwater:** Televising and cleaning complete except two lines. There were 50 more connection added, but fell within the budget allowed. **Lead Service line Inventory:** Completed inventory for all but three unknowns, two galvanized lines need replacing, there is funding available, but an engineer must be hired at a cost of approximately \$20,000, just replacing them could be about \$5,000 to \$6,000. **Community Center:** Was tabled to discuss further at the budget workshop.

**New Business:** Approved November donations of \$4,141.00, which included \$41 from Fillmeup Bucket and \$100 from Five-Star Towing to the 125<sup>th</sup> celebration and donations to the ambulance in a grant from Compeer for \$4,000. Set a public hearing for 12/9 to certify past due utilities and abatement fee, approved Res. 2024-21 Canvassing the election, approved: the Legion to use the firehall for turkey bingo, Mutual aid agreement, Res. 2024-22 P&R 2-year agreement, approved the allocation of funds for the ARPA funds. Cannabis tabled.

**The next meeting will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Truth in taxation hearing and final budget workshop on Tuesday, December 3, and council meeting with public hearing o certify utilities on Monday, December 9, 2024.**

#### **Looking for a new volunteer garage sale coordinator!**

**Thank you to Kathy Eckstrand for all your years of hard work to plan our great sales! Contact Sandy in the office for details, if interested.**