

December 2022

City of Lafayette

Edition: 2022-12

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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

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

December 2022

5 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

6 – 1st Truth in Taxation & final 2023 budget workshop

8 – Bookmobile – 10:15am to 10:45am – Esther Ave.

12 – City Council & 2nd TNT – 7pm Council Chambers

13 – Lion's Santa Day – Community Center & Mini Park

? – LCS Schoolboard meeting – Zoom Date & Time TBD

19 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

20 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

26 – Christmas Holiday Observed – Office Closed

January 2023

2 – Happy New Year! Office Closed

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

9 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

9 – City Council – 7pm Council Chambers

10 – Lion's Meeting – Community Center

? – LCS Schoolboard meeting – see below

15 – Lions Dad's Waffle & Benefit – Fire Barn

16 – Martin Luther King Jr Day – Office Closed

17 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

30 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

Garbage & Recycling info:

Recycling Dates: Dec. 8 & 22, January 5, 19

Holiday Lights: As you decorate this holiday season remember to recycle your holiday lights and extension cords; drop them at the office during office hours.

LCS School Board: Will meet via Zoom until the final audit and dissolution by the State, contact Colin Hoffman at 507-228-8283 for the link.

Family Decoration Project:

Last chance - drop off your decorations before December 9th - Santa Day and holiday tree lighting is Tuesday, December 13, 2022

It is time to get your annual cat and dog licenses!

Starting December 1, 2022 until January 31, 2023 pet tags are discounted to only \$2 per pet. The fee returns to \$8 from February through November. Included in this billing packet are forms for your pets. Please fill out a new form per pet and update the office if you have a new pet or your furry friend has crossed the rainbow bridge and we will remove them from the listing. Thank you!

Note from Sandie Peterson, Mayor:

Merry Christmas to everyone! I hope you all take the time to be with family and enjoy the holidays. This is such a crazy time of year that I think we all need to slow down and remember what it is all about, family and friends and enjoying the time we have together.

The council is busy trying to finish the budget and get the year end things completed.

Take advantage of the area activities with your family; the Santa days, holiday craft shows and organizations having meals. Enjoy these functions with our neighbors and support our community organizations.

With another year coming to an end take some time and remember all the fun we have had this year and all the blessings we have received. Again, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY.

Sandie

Reminders:

- 1) Annual Community Carol Sing: 1st Lutheran Church, Sunday December 11, 2022 @ 7pm
- 2) Sump Pump waivers were sent out. If you have not done so, please return them with your annual fee. This is to cover sewer treatment costs, if you will turn the sump discharge into the sewer drain from November 1 to April 1 2023. Council will approve at the next meeting.
- 3) **The compost is CLOSED for the season.** It has been hauled away to make room for the main street snow hauled there this winter.
- 4) Trim your trees to 13-feet over streets and 9-feet over sidewalks
- 5) **Winter parking is in effect from November 15 through April 30, 2023,** no vehicles can be parked on a street for an excess of 24 hours during this time. "No Parking at Any Time" after a snow event for Main Ave. from 6th St. to 9th St. and the ends of dead-end streets. These are to allow for proper snow removal per city code 71.03.
 - a. Once the snow begins, adopt your fire hydrant during snowfalls. Do not park in front of mail boxes, driveways, etc.
 - b. If you contract out for snow removal let the office know - people call and ask. A few are listed on the city website on the business list.
- 6) **Zoning clarification.** Sheds of 100 square feet or more need a permit. All zoning permits need to be council approved before construction has begun. Council meets the 2nd Tuesday each month and your permit should be turned in by the Friday prior to be included on the agenda.
- 7) **HELP! VOLUNTEERS!** Bandstand Ramp and steel siding updates. The door replacement is complete the steel siding is next and when the work days are set, there will be a post shared on Facebook . If you are interested in helping contact Sandy in the office!
- 8) **Energy Assistance Program:**
If you are behind on your water /sewer bills, you may be able to get help! The 2022-2023 season (October 22 – June 23) includes water and sewer utilities along with heating. Contact MN Valley Action Council (MVAC) for information.

125 Years of Lafayette - Quasquicentennial:

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

Local businesses, organizations, residents – We would love for you to join us in planning a great celebration! Contact Mayor Sandie or the office!

Legion Post #300:

Paver sales will now be ongoing. Batches of 25 can be turned in to the company to prepare. If you have turned in a paver form, you will be contacted to verify the information before they are submitted.

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

Lafayette Area Lions:

11- 5 – Bingo is back – start time changed to 1:30pm

11- 10 - Meat Raffles begin @ 6pm

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

12-13 – Santa Day! Community Center & mini park
Christmas Decorating Contest Judging starting 12/12

Dave's Place Happenings:

Texas Hold'em: Tuesday nights at 7:30pm

Lion's Bingo: Begins Saturday, November 5th *Note: the time has changed from 2 pm to 1:30pm.

Meat Raffles: Thursday nights at 6pm – added virtual horse racing.

<https://www.facebook.com/davesplace2022>

Garbage- Recycling FYIs:

* Due to rising costs, the garbage fees will increase with January billing. If you need to up the size of your cart size or downsize it, contact the office.

*While going through your holiday lights drop the ones that no longer work at the city office during open hours.

*Cart issues – Wheels usually snap right back on, if the lid or wheels are broken contact the office.

Celebrate the Season!

Santa Day, Tuesday 12/13 from 4:30 to 6:30pm

Milk & cookies by Citizens, Free-will hotdog meal by the Lions and a hot chocolate bar! Weather permitting, horse-drawn wagon rides.

Lion's annual Christmas Decorating Contest!

All homes within 6 miles of Lafayette can participate – Judging may start by December 12th. Ten winners will be on Facebook and the Ledger, all receiving \$25 cash!

Council Briefs 11/14/2022:

Public Hearing Variance: J Uhde – extend concrete driveway within the setback. Water flow and property lines were discussed. A survey will be done prior to the project. Later in the meeting council approved the variance with resolution 2022-13.

Approved the consent agenda: Included in the consent agenda were: 10/10/2022 council minutes and bills totaling \$52,487.43 and the 21 sump pump waivers presented.

Guests: 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.

Council Briefs 11/14/2022 continued:

Reports: Fox: Issue with a couple properties with water shut off valves, one will be sent a letter notifying them the valve work would be done after a 15-day notice, the other will be sent a letter documenting that before either property is sold and new services set up, each property needs an individual service line and that the unmetered lines be correctly metered or need to be terminated. The property did not meet the court mandated time frame of 11/7 to remove the deck, it was inspected on 11/9 and work scheduled for 11/14 to remove and clean the debris, staff, Lafayette Excavating and the Sheriff's office were on hand to assist; it was completed by 12:24pm **Peterson:** Pay Equity Review is being finalized, DDA will contact her to set up a meeting for the results. Mini Park update: new door installed, next step, steel siding and then finally the ramp. Will be looking for volunteers. 125th celebration - looking for people, businesses and organizations to join the committee. Looking to meet early next year. **Burger:** 11/30 the League of MN Cities will conduct a local meeting here in Lafayette for us and a few surrounding cities. UBMax, our utility billing company sold to gWorks. **Tauber:** was approached by the Lions about holding the Dad's waffle in the fire hall, it will also be a fundraiser for a young girl, who recently lost her father, and they feel the space at the community center would not be enough. The electrical needs to be verified. The trucks can be housed at the UFC and the ambulance in the city shop for the event. Council approved the request. **Klingler:** Noted that the two fire fighters started classes, inquired about the city having an agreement in with rural fire to acquire the pumper that rural is replacing – tabled to discuss with the budget workshop. New radios are here. Inquired about the city to use sentence to serve to clean all the steel inside the fire barn, ceilings and walls.

Unfinished Business: RO Project: Approved the design and the engineer agreement and also the temporary water bond for \$250,000 for upfront costs of the project.

New Business:

Approved the 2022 General Election Canvassing results, Uhde's variance, shed permit for B&H Ulrich, set public hearings for Heimat re-zoning application & to certify an account with delinquent utilities to taxes. Also, approved donations of \$100 anonymous to ambulance, Christensen Farms \$200 to Fire, benches for mini park from Portner, Brethorst, Clobes and St. Gregory, valued at \$4,260. Approved moving ahead with the budget updates presented. Approved the resignation of firefighter Matt Schiller, who is moving out of the service area, and approved new firefighter Nick Reinhart, and also approved Dave's Place 2023 liquor license.

The Park and Rec / City agreement and adopting the building code were tabled until December.

The council discussed golf cart/ATV and in the end motioned not to pursue any regulations beyond the State Laws. If citizens see someone being unsafe, they can report it to the county sheriff. Meeting code of conduct was discussed and for now will add a statement to the public forum and add a line to the guest sign in sheet to mark if they wish to address the council.

Council asked for clarification of the billing process and payment plan process.

Next meeting: The first Truth in Taxation hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 6, followed by the budget workshop, the second Truth in Taxation hearing will be at the December 12 council meeting, both starting at 7 pm meeting in the Council Chambers at 791 Main Avenue.