

Mayor Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 7:01 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; Ambulance President Mark Dick was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Peterson opened the public hearing to certify and the second truth in taxation and as no one was present, closed the hearings and proceeded with the council meeting.

Guests present: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Residents Jessica Tauber – 551 5th Street, and Joe Robertson – 251 7th Street.

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

Motioned by Tauber and seconded by Reed to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were the 11/13 & 12/3 council minutes, bills totaling \$73,548.39, the treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for November, receipts totaling \$198,205.16, the 2024 payrolls 24, Council 2nd half, Fire & Ambulance annual payrolls and one 2024-2025 sump pump waiver for Kapolczynski.

Reports:

Fox: Submitted his written report and highlighted that a person is interested in donating benches, similar to the Memorial park, being no room in that park they would be placed in Lund park, details will follow. Day on the Hill March 6, WWTF repairs completed, Water plant was inspected in August for the Safe Drinking Water Act 68-page report shows compliance. Information shared to contact Member of Congress to continue the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program permanently.

Burger: Submitted a written report and added details for a payment plan, **Portner motioned to approve the payment plan and Tauber seconded it, all ayes, motion carried.** gWorks onboard to start January 6, 2025.

Peterson: the next 125th meeting is December 18

Tauber: Attended STREAMS

Klingler: New firefighters in their second week of training.

Portner: P&R officers will be updated, they are planning a meat bingo on February 7, 2025. Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to allow the fundraiser for the fencing in the firehall. Portner has set up where fire and ambulance vehicles will go during the event.

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Utility Updates:** **RO:** EPA grant all forms completed and accepted, final step will be to submit on grants.gov, final review and set up account. USDA, low interest loans and some grant monies could be available. Fox explained that state bonding is not guaranteed and applying for this does not mean it needs to be accepted. **Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to authorize Fox to apply for the USDA RD funding; all ayes, motion carried.**
- 2. Stormwater:** Televising and cleaning complete except the main line south of CSHA 1 in the field. He shared the grant expenditures as of October 2024.
- 3. STREAMS update:** A meeting was held with the full group to discuss the next steps. Concerns were rates as presented were deemed unobtainable for all stakeholders, can a phased in approach be used without negatively impacting stakeholders, build a scaled down version, dictated by MPCA permit renewal and compliance. Conclusions were: The tech team will review the estimated costs contingencies, operational and maintenance costs and other changes by comments received – these changes should not compromise the integrity of the project. Tech team will meet with MPCA and PFA to review potential limits and further understanding of possible loan and grant funding. STREAMS will be presenting at the DNR round table on January 10, 2025. The purpose of the round table is to bring local and state stakeholders together to discuss the State's water resources.

New Business:

1. **Ord. 150 Electric Franchise Agreement:** *Reed motioned to approve the first reading and set a public hearing for the Electric Franchise Agreement with Northern States Power at the January 13, 2025 council meeting, seconded by Portner, all ayes, motion carried.*
2. **Resolution 2024–25 Certifying Past Due Billing to the Nicollet County Auditor for Collection with Property Taxes.** *Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to Approve Resolution 2025-25 to certify to the county PID 15.681.0080 \$300.30, PID 15.002.2800 \$1,076.26, PID 15.792.0300 \$261.68, PID 15.841.0530 \$152.54 and PID 15.001.0800 \$283.00, all ayes, motion carried.*
3. **Resolution 2024–24 – December Donations:** *Motioned by Portner to approve Resolution 2024-24 as presented, seconded by Reed; all ayes, motion carried.* Donations totaling \$22.00 to the 125th celebration from the FillMeUp bucket
4. **2025 Fire Officers:** *Motion by Tauber and seconded by Polich to approve the 2025 Fire Officers as presented, all ayes, motion carried.* Chief Klingler, Asst. Chief M. Voges, Secretary Clemon, training officers L. VanDeest & Sondag, truck runners D. Anderson & W. Portner, fire marshal Griebel.
5. **Resolution 2024-23 Adopting the 2025 property tax levy and approving the 2025 budget:** *Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to approve Resolution 2024-24 Adopting the 2025 property tax levy and approving the 2025 budget; all ayes, motion carried*
6. **Small Cities Development Program (SCDP):** Burger was contacted by Deed that the program is being updated and the city has \$51,832 in program income (PI). She was told there were three options: Return the funds, establish a revolving loan, or retain for a future eligible SCDP activity. A letter of the council's intent to be sent. The council had questions on the updated revolving loan program and also interested in the retaining for a future infrastructure project. Burger will reach out to the DEED representative.
7. **CUP Application:** *There was a motion by Reed and seconded by Tauber to set the public hearing for the January 13, 2025 council meeting; all ayes, motion carried.*
8. **End of Year Moves:** *Motion by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve the End of the Year moves as presented.* Presented were the ambulance assessments of \$530.99 to GF. which completes the loan of \$33,000 for the new ambulance, \$32,000 from PW fund to the PW projects fund, \$7.200 from the Fire fund to the Fire equipment fund, \$4,800 from the Ambulance fund to Fire fund for annual stall rental, \$10,560 from the Water Fund to the Temp Water GO fund for the RO project to cover the fund deficit.

Adjourn: *Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm; all ayes, motion carried.*

Next Meeting: The next council meeting and public hearings will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7pm. Both meetings will be held at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

Sandra Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer