

Mayor Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Lafayette City Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. Present were Mayor Sandie Peterson, Councilors: Dave Reed, Scott Portner and Tom Polich; Curt Tauber was absent. Also attending were Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, City Attorney Aaron Walton and Fire Chief Nick Klingler; Ambulance President Mark Dick was absent.

Guests present: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to approve the Consent Agenda as amended; Portner asked that the 4/10 STREAMS recap be moved to unfinished business; all ayes, motion carried.

Included in the consent agenda were the 4/8 council minutes, bills totaling \$55,222.25, the treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for April, receipts totaling \$54,307.51, 2024 payrolls 8 & 9 and the corrected copy of Resolution 2024-07-02 April Donations.

Reports:

Fox: Submitted his written report and recapped the information. The playground update was rescheduled again due to the wet conditions. Service line inventory is completed and now working on the mapping. Donated park benches are ordered with delivery in 5 to 6 weeks. The north door of the fire station was damaged, a claim was submitted and approved for an estimated \$5,678; we have a \$1,000 deductible. Fox will be out of the area July 3 through 7th. Moldan will be at conference July 23 through 26 and will take the WWTF exam on July 26.

Burger: Submitted a written report - no questions or comments.

Klingler: The new Firefighter passed their exams, Rural sold the tanker, Fox will set up the annual pumper tests.

Portner: P&R met and are working on setting up a couple of tournaments.

Peterson: Blight packets were handed them out to the council, turn in any violations to Burger to compile before the next meeting.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Utility Updates:** State bonding is still being worked on in committee, Fox share the results of his second meeting with the MPCA for the WWTF permit. They agreed to all of his proposals for compliance schedule and options for variances, and also a stipulation if the MPCA does reviews and finds the limits to be less, they will change them. The storm water grant has been signed and work will begin soon. He shared maps of our April WWTF flow, 2023 flow and a normal low year – we are treating way too much ground water and this next step will help identify the issues.
2. **STREAMS:** After the April 10th meeting, it was decided to invite MESERB into the conversation on how this process should work. On Wednesday, May 8th there was a virtual meeting with representatives from all cities and Daniel from Flaherty-Hood (MESERB) who gave a presentation and answered many questions. There are three ways to move with this project.
 - a. **Develop a Sanitary Wastewater District;** involves a petition, Notices, Public Hearings, being approved by a Law Judge, then forming a board (representatives from each city) which would act independently and have the same powers as a city government.
 - b. **Joint Powers:** each city would have a representative on the board, elected officials, depending on how it is set up, whether it would have bonding capabilities.
 - c. **City owned:** One city would own and operate and the other cities would be considered customers. There are two industries which have signed letters of intent. A steering committee would need to be formed to take care of business until the chosen option is completed. After much discussion, the consensus of the council was one council member and one employee (Fox) would be on the steering committee. Walton mentioned that they would be public meetings for any to attend.
3. **Ord 147: Amending the Zoning Code:** Discussed the description for accessory uses. Updated to include driveways and sidewalks and removed landscaping and gardening. Approval was tabled until June and will be posted as a proposed Ordinance on the city website.

New Business:

- 1. Resolution 2024–08 – May Donations: *Motioned by Reed to approve Resolution 2024-07 as presented, seconded by Polich, all ayes, motion carried.*** Donations included \$12,000 from the Lions toward the Park equipment, Donations to the 125th celebrations from Community Insurance \$100, Reese \$25, Schneider \$25 and A. DeBoer \$50 and Fillmeup Donation bucket \$47 all to the 125th Celebration.
- 2. Annual CCR:** Fox highlighted the annual Consumer Confidence Report, a direct link will go out in the next newsletter and will be posted on the city website.
- 3. Liability Policy Committee:** The committee met and working toward a policy. They would like to meet with city attorney Walton and contact the LMC again. They have looked at a few surrounding cities and

Adjourn: Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm; all ayes, motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next council meeting will be on June 10, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. Please notify the clerk if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Sandra Peterson –Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer