

Mayor Sandie Peterson called the special council meeting and budget workshop to order on Monday August 15, 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, and Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, Fire Chief Nick Klingler and Ambulance President Mark Dick arrived at 7:27pm; City Attorney Aaron Walton was absent. Dick and Klingler left at 8:12pm.

Guests present: Residents: David Burger – 580 Main Avenue.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

New Business:

Resolution 2022-14 - In the matter of the Property Located at 400 Wanser Avenue: Council reviewed the resolution pertaining to the on ongoing nuisance issue and to proceed with the Order to remove the deck within 15 days of the date of service of the Order. ***Motioned by Polich to approve Resolution 2022-14 Findings of Fact and Order In the Matter of the Property at 400 Wanser, seconded by Tauber, all ayes, motion carried.***

Resolution 2022-15 – Certification of Approval of Subdivision: Council reviewed the formal certification for the property division. ***Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to approve the 2022-15 Certification of Approval of Subdivision; ayes: Reed, Tauber, Polich, Peterson and nays: Portner.***

Ord. 139 – An Interim Ordinance Amending The Zoning Code: In review of the Zoning code adopted in 1990 council determined that the zoning code would better serve the City and members of the public if it contained specific criteria for examining and deciding on applications to rezone land and change zoning. This amendment contains a process for staff and council to follow when a rezoning application is received. After review of the interim ordinance ***Reed motioned to approve the First Reading of Ord. 139 – An Interim Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code, Polich seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***

Budget Workshop:

The council worked through the city funds one by one. The General Fund Departments use the levy to support needs beyond State LGA and user fees.

General: (included council, clerk, city offices/shop building)

Fire: (fire department & fire building) possible 3 new trainees starting class in October, looking to replace one or two more doors. Continue setting aside \$5000 to update the pumper and \$2200 for air packs.

Ambulance: At the ambulance commission meeting in early 2022, they raised the per call stipend and also the per household assessment which covered the increase. Ambulance is funded in whole from per household assessments from all township sections served and the city per household assessment. Any amount not used for expenses stays in the Ambulance fund and gets used for equipment or saved for the next new ambulance.

Public Works: (streets, lights, compost, misc. city) added a line item for PW tools at \$1000, increased street maintenance budget to fix the east portion of Pioneer. Fox inquired about waiting to plow after 3 inches, consensus was to leave it as it is. Increase in supplies for helving in the back shop.

Culture: (parks & community center) Council in the past few years have discussed in-house mowing, with \$10,000 already in the 2023 budget for a contracted service – it could be used toward purchasing a mower, possible ARPA or Revolving Local funds could make up the difference. Continue mini park

improvements and Lund park improvements such as the back stops, concrete slab by the pop shack, etc. The community center needs a new fan. They discussed the need for the agreement between Park board and city on who would be responsible for what items.

Enterprise Funds – Water, Sewer & garbage: These are run like a separate business and are paid with user fees. These departments do not affect the levy.

Water: RO project - discussed the loan from sewer to water to pay for well, being the RO project is due to the sewer plant not meeting limits and no solution at that facility, the way to solve the issue is creating an RO system at the water plant. Water has repaid \$16000 and to date has spent \$29400 on the RO project upfront engineer costs remaining at this time if those are subtracted would be \$34600 balance. Council could choose to forgive the remaining loan during its December fund transfers.

Sewer: No major changes – rates were reviewed in 2021, so should be fine for now.

Garbage: Is an in and out - we pay for the service and charge the residents. Contractor's contract allows them to adjust rates annually, if needed.

Revolving loan: \$51,832 remaining to reloan out. Any repayments go into local funds, currently after the budgeted \$15,000 for park updates is moved at the end of 2022, there would be 28,841.72 remaining, right now \$15,000 is in the culture budget for updates.

ARPA Funds: A little over \$27,000 remains in this fund. It can be used for any public purpose or city need.

RS Fiber: Annual meeting is August 22 – the RS Fiber paying back city paid bond payments is 5-9 years out. \$35,488 is the highest bond payment

After reviewing each department and needs for the general fund, council felt it was prudent to leave the budget higher for now. Predictions show the 2023 cost of living alone is planned at a 9.3% increase. The consensus of council was to leave the preliminary increase to \$41,111.00 or a 21.98% increase. Burger will write a resolution for the September council meeting. The preliminary levy can be higher than the final levy which must be approved in December.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm; all ayes, motion carried. A Personnel Policy workshop on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 and the next Council meeting on September 12, 2022 all at the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm

Sandie Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer