

Mayor Sandie Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday August 8, 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 arrived at 7:02pm. Also present were: Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, and Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, City Attorney Aaron Walton, and Ambulance President Mark Dick; Fire Chief Nick Klingler was absent. Dick and Tauber left at 8:12pm for an ambulance call.

Guests present: Dave Lange – Nicollet County Sheriff, Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, and Rob Lawson – Lafayette Ledger, Tad Ulrich – Heimat Properties, LLC, and Roger Hippert – Heimat attorney. Residents: David Burger – 580 Main Avenue, Patti Jo Ferguson – 711 Lafayette Avenue, Mac Aalid – 660 Esther Avenue, Tim Myers – 740 Lafayette Avenue, Robert Peterson – 670 Esther Avenue, Keith Schuelke – 400 Main Avenue, and Paul Schuelke – 120 6th Street.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Reed to approve the Consent Agenda as amended; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were: 7/11/2022 minutes and bills totaling \$47,310.50

Resident Concerns: Mac Aalid shared his concerns of the property at 691 Lafayette Avenue and that council is not doing enough. Patti Jo Ferguson had the same concerns.

Reports:

Fox: No questions on the submitted report, MPCA – will meet with Polich and Tauber to go through the service line grant process, DNR designation of a voluntary reduction in water use, looking into the eastern Pioneer Street erosion issue.

Burger: After no questions on the submitted report, she reiterated that she is working on the 2023 budget and if there are wish list items to add, she would like to have them soon. Budget will be sent out Friday to go over at the Monday workshop.

Ambulance: Two new members Eli Compton and Curt Tauber, changing the monthly training as they have started a new phase of training. Looking for four or five more members – the fire department is as well.

Polich: Kayla from the Park & Recreation group asked of holding a Fall Food Truck Friday night and is also feeling out interest in fall soccer to be played by the pavilion area, consensus of council was okay with it, Burger would need to know of the timing, if needing to extend the park portables.

Unfinished Business:

RO Water Project: Mayor Peterson read the update of the Congressionally-Directed Spending requests from the Offices of Senator Tina Smith and Senator Amy Klobuchar.

'The Senate Appropriations Committee released draft proposals for funding the federal government for Fiscal Year 2023. These drafts include Congressionally-Directed Spending requests that cleared the federal agency eligibility review and were selected by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Included in Senator Smith's and Senator Klobuchar's selected projects was the City of Lafayette's Project Request.

The Senate, in coordination with the House, continues to work toward crafting an appropriations bill agreed upon by both chambers. This process may go on for several more months, and we will not know definitively about these awards until the process concludes and a bill is signed into law. We will continue to provide updates to those projects involved in the ongoing process.'

Chevy Truck: After some discussion, there was ***a motion by Tauber and seconded by Portner to post the chevy truck for sale, with a minimum of \$9,000; all ayes, motion carried. There was also a motion that it be posted in the Winthrop paper, city website, Facebook page and LMC website, not the Journal, seconded by Polich, all ayes, motion carried.***

Blight Properties: Blight properties were discussed and the consensus of the council was that 691 Lafayette Avenue had done their due diligence to clean up the property and were working to make other improvements, and no further action was needed. At 400 Wanser a letter will be sent certified mail or hand delivered to abate the grass and undergrowth on the property, the council directed city attorney Walton to write a Resolution of fact findings and order to remove the unsafe deck, the Resolution will be added to the agenda for the Monday, August 15th Budget workshop and posted as a special meeting for action.

Cleaning Service: Consensus it was more a budget item and tabled to discuss at the budget workshop.

Mini Park Update: The committee met on Sunday, July 31 and discussed the design and paver bricks. The Legion is working with a company out of St Cloud. The push is to get as many purchased by the November 1, 2022 deadline for a spring setting. There will be a need for volunteers; Joe Mages will offer some time and his expertise to the project. There have been donations from the Lions, Citizens Bank and the Band. We should be hearing by September of the grant.

New Business:

Heimat Properties, LLC:

- a) **Permit LAF 2022-08** - Request for Simple Lot Split: Roger Hippert was on hand to explain the request for the lot split. After much discussion, there was a ***motion by Polich and seconded by Reed to approved the simple lot split and to have the city attorney write up a Resolution to be recorded of the decision. Ayes: Polich, Reed, Peterson, Tauber, Nays: Portner; Motion carried.*** The Resolution will be added to the Monday, August 15, 2022 Budget Workshop agenda for action.
- b) **Re-Zone Application:** Roger Hippert explained that the use of the school property is limited, it needs to be put to a different use and in reality, it needs to change. The alternative could be becoming a tax forfeiture and future blight, it is not a good fit for a residential development due to size limit and access of utilities. There was a ***motion by Reed and seconded by Tauber to set the Public Hearing for Monday, September 12; all ayes, motion carried.***

Zoning Permits: ***Reed motioned to approve permit LAF – 2022 – 10 Wiseman – 1080 Lafayette Avenue to build a fence in the yard attaching to the current, Portner seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***

Annual Liability Waiver: ***Reed motioned to approve the ‘Does Not Waive’ the monetary limits on the municipal tort liability, as they have done in the past, Portner seconded; Portner, Polich, Reed, Peterson ayes, Tauber absent; motion carried.***

August Donations: ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve Resolution 2022-13 Accepting August Donations; Portner, Polich, Reed, Peterson ayes, Tauber absent; motion carried.***

Donations of \$1,128.67 included: \$765 from the Lafayette Band to help with the bandstand ramp and \$863.67 from Citizens Bank for the mini park project.

1st Lutheran Church request: The church is putting on their annual dinner. It will be a drive through meal on Sunday, October 2, with a farmers' market tent area and would like to borrow the city's picnic tables for the event. ***Portner motioned to allow 1st Lutheran to use the picnic tables for the event, Polich seconded; Portner, Polich, Reed, Peterson ayes, Tauber absent; motion carried.***

Adopting the MN Building Code: Discussion tabled to September due to Tauber leaving on an ambulance call

Pay Equity: After a discussion of the need to doing this was way past due, there ***was a motion by Polich and seconded by Reed to approve contracting with David Drown Associates Company (DDA) to proceed with the Pay Equity Study; Portner, Polich, Reed, Peterson ayes, Tauber absent; motion carried.***

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm; all ayes, motion carried.

A special council meeting and 2023 budget workshop will be held on Monday, August 15, 2022, 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