

# September 2022

## City of Lafayette

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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

### September 2022

12 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

12 – City Council & Public Hearings – 7pm Council Chambers

13 – Lion’s Meeting – 6:45pm – Community Center

13 – LCS School Board – 5:30pm – Tech. Rm

15 – Bookmobile – 10:15am to 10:45am – Esther Avenue

20 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

23 – Fall Food Truck Friday – park & Rec at Lund Park

**25 – All Utility Payments Due!**

26 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

29 – Bookmobile – 10:15am to 10:45am – Esther Avenue

### October 2022

3 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

10 – City Council – 7pm Council Chambers

11 – Lion’s Meeting – 6:45pm – Location Community Center

13 – Bookmobile – 10:15am to 10:45am – Esther Avenue

**15 – City-wide residential curbside pick-up, out before 7am**

18 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

**25 – All Utility Payments Due!**

29 – Bookmobile – 10:15am to 10:45am – Esther Avenue

29 – Park & Rec Park Cleanup event 3 to 6 pm

31 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

### Garbage & Recycling info:

**Recycling Dates:** September 1, 15, 29, October 13 & 27

Labor Day week is on holiday schedule Friday, September 9,

for garbage only. Fall curbside clean-up will be Saturday,

October 15 – have items to the curb before 7 am.

**Holiday Lights:** Year-round recycling of holiday lights and extension cords; drop them at the office, during office hours.

### Lafayette Park and Recreation:

Thank you to all players, parents, coaches, fans and sponsors for a fantastic summer ball season!

Online registration is now open for Fall Youth Soccer,

Mondays September 10 through October 24<sup>th</sup> 6-7 pm. You can

also pick up a registration form at the C-Store. \$10 per child.

Keep up to date on the Park & Recreation Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/970058526441490>

Check out our website

<https://lafayetteparkandre.wixsite.com/minn>

Watch for details of Food Truck Friday, September 23, AND

**Join us! Saturday, October 29, from 3 to 6 Fall Park cleanup!**

### Note from Sandie Peterson, Mayor:

Happy September! Everyone’s gardens are producing well, it’s a good time to share with your neighbors. The children are back in school and we have some coolness in the air. Everyone is getting ready for winter; I am not ready for winter yet, so hopefully we have a nice long fall!

The mini park received a grant from SMIF which will help with the handicap ramp and siding the band shelter, we will need volunteers to help with this project.

Let’s show everyone that we are community that enjoys our town and neighbors and even if you can’t build, it would be nice for people to bring lunch for the people building the ramp; there is always some way to help.

I will be going to Minnesota Mayor Association Conference the end of the month. It will be interesting on how much knowledge I can gain and connections I can make.

The children have returned to school so be careful in the mornings and afternoon with them getting on and off the bus. It is very unfortunate that our school had to close and it will be sorely missed, but best of luck to our Charter School families in their next steps.

Don’t forget our 125th anniversary (Quasiquicentennial) is coming up in 2025. We would like to get a committee to oversee this together, if you would like to volunteer, please call me or Sandy Burger.

Have a great month.

*Sandie*

### Election Fun Facts & Information:

As more registered voters understand the process of mail in voting, we are seeing higher voter turnout. **August Primary:** During the August 2018 Primary Election Day, we had 56 of 289 registered voters cast a ballot in person. In 2020 we had 69 of 298 registered voters cast mail in ballots, due to the Pandemic. This year in the August 2022 Primary Election we had 92 of 300 registered voters cast their mail in ballots; Primary Elections went from 19.4% in 2018 to 30.7% in 2022. **November General:** General Election day in 2018 we had 281 registered voters and 194 cast ballots in person or 69% (non-presidential years were always lower turnout) and 2020’s General Election Day ( Presidential) there were 313 registered voters and 261 cast mail in ballots or 83.4%. For the **2022 City Elections:** we have Mayor Sandie Peterson running for re-election. Council members Tom Polich and Dave Reed running for re-election for the two council at large seats up for election in November, there were no challengers to any positions. **Voting:** If you are a registered voter your ballot will arrive about a month before the November 8 - General Election Day. To vote, drop your completed ballot in the mail or at the Nicollet County Government Center (NCGC). If you want to vote in person, take your ballot packet to the NCGC the week prior to election day or on election day and vote in person **Registering:** If you are not a registered voter, you can save time on election day by going on to the MN Secretary of State’s website to register at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/> or in person at the NCGC until October 18; registration temporarily closes after that date and will reopen for same-day voter registration at the polling place on the General Election Day. We are a mail in voting precinct, so our designated voting place is at the NCGC.

### **We Need Everyone’s Help!**

**DO NOT MOW GRASS CLIPPINGS INTO THE STREET!** It is unsafe for motorcycles, bikes and walkers as it becomes slippery and can cause injury accidents. They can also clog the spillways, which can cause flooding or as it flows into the ditches and eventually river can cause issues with algae, etc. MN Statute 169.42 concludes by making it illegal to place on a street or highway state **“any other substance likely to injure any person, animal, or vehicle upon any such street or highway.”**

**What you can do:** Mow the first two swipes into your yard. If you get grass clippings in the gutter or street, simply grab a broom and clean it up, or your leaf blower to blow them back into your yard!

Thank you for keeping our city safe!

**Legion Post #300:** Memorial paver order forms (blue) are included in this billing. The deadline for the first setting is November 1, 2022. Forms are also available from Legion and Auxiliary members, Citizens Bank and the city office and can also be dropped off as well.

### **125 Years of Lafayette - Quasquicentennial:**

**(kwos-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uh I)**

**WE NEED YOU!** Do you have ideas for a new CITY LOGO?? Help us plan a Quasquicentennial (125 years) celebration, to be held in 2025! Ideas shared so far... an update to the centennial history book, or at least a reprint, updating the city logo, renaming the mini park, etc. All ideas welcome, as one thought might just spark another! Contact a council member or the office with your ideas.

**(Check the green insert for VOLUNTEER opportunities!)**

### **Mini Park:**

We received the \$10,000 grant to help with the cost of the materials for the ramp and bandstand updates! **NOW WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Band members and a few community members have volunteered so far to help with the project, but we need more! Even if it is bringing snack, or being a runner for the helpers who build! Stop in the office for more details!

### **Lafayette Area Lions:**

Watch their Facebook page for updates!

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

### **Council Briefs: 8/8/2022**

**Approved** the consent agenda including 7/11 minutes and bills totaling \$47,310.50.

**Guests:** D. Lange – Nicollet County Sheriff, D. Hanson – Winthrop Publications, and R. Lawson – Lafayette Ledger, T. Ulrich – Heimat Properties, LLC, and R Hippert – Heimat attorney. Residents: D. Burger – 580 Main Avenue, P. Ferguson – 711 Lafayette Avenue, M. Aalid – 660 Esther Avenue, T. Myers – 740 Lafayette Avenue, R. Peterson – 670 Esther Avenue, K. Schuelke – 400 Main Avenue, and P. Schuelke – 120 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Citizen concerns:** M. Aalid and P Ferguson shared concerns of the property at 691 Lafayette Avenue and that council is not doing enough.

**Reports: Fox:** Will meet w/ Tauber and Polich to go through the service line grant process. **Burger:** Is working on the 2023 budget, send her your wish lists. **Ambulance:** Looking for 4 or 5 more members. Have changed the monthly training. Fire department also needs a few more members. **Polich:** Park & Rec asked about holding a fall soccer session and a Fall Food Truck Friday.

**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 RO 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. **Truck:** The Chevy truck will be posted for sale for a minimum bid of \$9,000. **Blight Properties:** The consensus of council was that 691 Lafayette Avenue had done their due diligence to clean up the property and were working to make updates. Council will proceed for 400 Wanser grass and deck issues;

### **Council Briefs: 8/8/2022 – continued:**

**Unfinished Business continued:** a certified letter to clean up the undergrowth and mow, trim and haul away. A resolution for the removal of the deck would be an action item at a special meeting along with the scheduled budget workshop on 9/15. **Mini Park:** Met on 7/21 to discuss the paver and design. The push is to get as many sold by the 11/1 deadline for a spring setting. Here is a need for volunteers. There have been donations from the Lions, Band and Citizens Bank, and should hear soon about the \$10,000 grant for the bandstand ramp and other updates. **New Business:** Approved: Zoning Permit LAF 2022-10 for a fence. LAF 2022-08 Heimat Properties, LLC request for a simple lot split. Hippert explained the request, council approved and Walton will create a certification resolution to be added to the 8/15 special meeting along with the scheduled budget workshop. LAF 2022 09 Rezoning request for Heimat Properties LLC – Hippert explained that the use of the school building is limited, it needs to be put to a different use as it is not a good fit for residential development due to size limit and lack of access of utilities; council set the public hearing for the 9/12 council meeting. Council also approved ‘Does not Waive’ for the annual Liability Waiver, Resolution 2022-13 for August donations of \$1,128.67 including: \$765 from the band, and \$863.67 from the Citizens bank staff all for mini park updates for the ramp and bandstand materials, the request from 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran to borrow picnic tables for 10/2 event, and contracting David Drown and associates to proceed with the pay equity study.

### **Special Mtg and Budget Workshop: 8/15/2022**

Guests present: D. Burger 580 Main Avenue

**New Business:** Approved Resolution 2022-14 In Matter of Property Located at 400 Wanser and Resolution 2022-15 Certification of Approval of Subdivision and also approved the first reading of Ord. 19 – 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, (the full ordinance is posted on the website). **Budget Workshop:** After reviewing of all departments needs and wishes for the 2023 budget year, council felt that a preliminary levy amount of an \$41,111.00 or 21.98% increase was a good place to start, being all costs of goods and services have increased. **Some items included in the increase:** more council meetings due to the RO project for 2023, increased training for new firefighters, overhead door replacements for the fire barn, fixing the east end of Pioneer Avenue to curb and gutter to eliminate continuing issues. Culture items: discussed contracted mowing vs purchase & doing inhouse mowing, mini park updates, wish projects for Lund park update backstops, slab by pop shack, community center a new exhaust fan. A Resolution to approve the Preliminary Levy and 2023 budget will be an agenda item for the 9/12 council meeting. Enterprise Funds: Water - discussed the water loan from the sewer fund when the new well was needed. The RO project is due to the Chloride levels in the sewer waste, but the only fix is the source water. The Preliminary Levy is always higher and possible cuts can be made before the final Levy is set in December. There will be another budget workshop in December prior to the final levy is approved. **Next meeting:** Monday, September 9, 2022, @ 7 pm meeting in the Council Chambers 791 Main Avenue.

A huge thank you to the St. Gregory's board for their donations to many organizations in Lafayette! Your giving legacy continues on with these generous gifts to the City and so many organizations in Lafayette!

Lafayette Area Lions & Lafayette Fire Relief would like to thank the community for their support at the 2022 Hog and Corn Roast and Relief Street Dance!

**SAVE THE DATE!** First Lutheran's Fall Festival – Sunday, October 2, 2022 Meal 11- 1, Farmer's Market, Bake Sale, Quilt Raffle – See the posters for details!