

Mayor Sandie Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday September 12, 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, Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, City Attorney Aaron Walton, and Fire Chief Nick Klingler arrived at 7:25pm; Ambulance President Mark Dick was absent.

Guests present: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Adam Prochniak – AP Lawn Service, Patti Jo Ferguson – 711 Lafayette Avenue, Mac Aalid – 660 Esther Avenue, Tristan and Amanda Blue – 1160 Main Avenue, and Marj Hurd – 680 Esther Avenue.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Resolution 2022-18 – A Resolution Withdrawing a Rezone Application – Public Hearing. Burger read the resolution which included the letter from Hippert, there was little discussion and ***Reed motioned and was seconded by Polich to approve Resolution 2022-18 as presented; all ayes, motion carried.***

Mayor Peterson opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 139 – Interim Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code. City Attorney Walton explained that the zoning code lacked specific criteria that is needed to make decisions of rezoning. This Interim Ordinance is good for one (1) year and would need to be adopted before the year is over. There was a question on if there are any other properties that could be used for commercial in the city. There were no comments submitted prior to the hearing. Mayor Peterson closed the public hearing at 7:11pm.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were: 8/8/2022 council minutes, 8/15 Special meeting & Budget workshop minutes, the 8/23 Personnel Policy workshop recap and bills totaling \$47,604.55

Resident Concerns: Mac Aalid and Patti Jo Ferguson reiterated their concerns of the property at 691 Lafayette Avenue; council in August took the property off the blight list as they had satisfied the issues.

Reports:

Fox: No deficiencies in the semi-annual flow meter calibration at the WWTF. The MPCA PFAS Monitoring Plan will impact ninety-one (91) municipal wastewater facilities. They will be issuing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) instead of the permit, but is as enforceable under MN law. The cities of Winthrop and Nicollet are on the list, but so far, we are not. He is searching for grants for AEDs for the community center. Current weekend plant worker, Darrell Abrahamson, plans to retire at the end of the year. Fox has talked with Nick Reinhart and he is willing to do the weekend duty rotation. ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to begin the training for Nick Reinhart; all ayes, motion carried.***

Burger: Submitted report. Attending Advanced Academy Training on September 15 & 16.

Portner: Asked of the possibility of GFW bus stop on 6th & Skyview to have better lighting and a slow sign on county road – Fox will look into it.

Reed: Brought up age limits on driving ATVs, golf carts, etc. with brief discussion it will be looked into and discussed at the next agenda.

Peterson: Corey at UFC will provide a hole digger, when needed, for the ramp project. Inquired about the pumper out of town for a wedding, Klinger said they treated it the same as a parade.

Klingler: Said rural was purchasing a new pumper and was inquiring if the city would be interested in the current pumper as an upgrade. He said the rural would still own and maintain it, but the city could figure out a payment plan for it. The city would have to decide by the Rural Board meeting in February. A few years ago, the city started to set aside \$5,000 for a future replacement.

Unfinished Business:

RO Water Project: No scoring back from the health department, but it sounds like it will be a good score. The drawback is that the state has not passed a bonding bill, the federal funds sit there.

Ordinance 139 – An Interim Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code: ***Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to adopt Ordinance – 139 An Interim Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code as presented, all ayes, motion carried.***

Personnel Policy: After a discussion of wording on the Return-to-Work section and updating funeral leave to bereavement in the description, there ***was a motion by Reed and seconded by Portner to approve the Personnel Policy as amended. all ayes motion carried.***

Pay Equity: Peterson presented the three job descriptions to be approved and sent to David Drown Associates Company (DDA) for the Pay Equity Review. There ***was a motion by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve the three job descriptions as amended for the Pay Equity Study; all ayes; motion carried.***

Mini Park Update: The committee met on Sunday, August 21 and discussed the grant and moving forward with the project. They obtained two updated quotes for the ramp and steel updates. Design Homes was \$12,960.97 and Puhlmann Lumber was \$13,053.05. The concrete quote for the sidewalk from the street to the flag pole was \$8,160.00 and the quote for the slabs to anchor the six benches was \$2,655.00. Using the Design Homes quote the total was \$23,775.97 for projected costs of materials and concrete work. To date, the city has been blessed with \$24,175.67 with the grant and donations. When asked about a sweeper for the stamped sidewalk, Fox said one was given to the city. ***There was a motion by Polich and seconded by Reed to proceed with the project with the Design Homes and Cottonwood Concrete quotes: all ayes, motion carried.***

Chevy Truck: There was a bid for \$6,000 for the chevy truck, with a brief discussion of whether to accept or not, ***a motion was made Reed and seconded by Polich to deny the \$6,000 bid for the Chevy Truck; ayes – Reed, Polich, Tauber and Peterson and nay – Portner; motion carried.***

Blight Properties: 400 Wanser was served orders on August 18, 2022 with 15 days to comply, that time has passed and Walton will file with the court on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

Cleaning Service: After a discussion on how often to have a contract cleaning service to the community center ***Portner motioned and was seconded by Polich to have the contracted cleaners come every six (6) months, all ayes, motion carried.***

New Business:

Zoning Permits: ***Reed motioned to approve permit LAF – 2022 – 11 J Broste – 700 Lafayette Avenue to move a shed to his property with clarification that it needed to be five feet from the property line, Portner seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***

Zoning Application LAF 2022-12 – for building a front entry porch and a variance application to do so, the ***consensus of the council of council was to set the Public Hearing on the Variance to the October 10, 2022 council meeting.***

Zoning Inquiry: J. Uhde inquired about pouring an extension to his concrete driveway to the property line to the west of his current driveway. After review of the ordinance and consulting the city attorney, it was discussed that he would have to apply for a variance and also, if approved, the city at that time would ask for an encroachment agreement for rainwater flow.

September Donations: ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Reed to approve Resolution 2022-16 Accepting September Donations; all ayes, motion carried.*** Donations of \$22,977.00 included: \$250 L. Drogemuller to the Fire Department, NU KNUJ Fast Pitch \$80.00 for the use of the ballfield, Southern MN Initiative Foundation a \$10,000 grant for materials for the ramp and bandstand update, St Gregory Church Board \$7,500 and \$5,000 to the ramp and bandstand project and the Ambulance, Bruce & Rosemarie White \$100.00 to the Ambulance and Fillmeup \$47.00 from a donation bucket for the ramp project.

Resolution 2022-17 Adopting the 2023 Preliminary Property Tax Levy: ***Reed motioned to approve Resolution 2022-17 - Adopting the 2023 Preliminary Levy, Polich seconded; all ayes motion carried.***

Adopting the MN Building Code: Discussion had been tabled previously. Tauber shared his thoughts of the building code. Mayor Peterson asked if Ellwood Zabel would speak at a council meeting.

Travel & Training: Klingler inquired about the policy of paying for one to go to the fire conference paid by the city.

Adam Prochniak: Thanked council for the contract for the summer saying he has worked through a few learning curves, and he understands the city is thinking of mowing in-house, but wanted to share a few things from his experience. The cost of just one new commercial mower can run \$16,000 to \$18,000, don't go less – a heavy duty commercial unit is needed. It would run about 250 hours on the mower for one season, other things to think about are liability issues, finding workers to cover need, the state is looking to eliminate 25 hp gas engines in the future. He is adding another mower, updating his sprayer equipment, and would like to know before next spring if the city will put out for bids or do in-house. When asked about how long it took him, he said doing a quality cut is about 7 to 8 hours. The city has a lot of property to cover.

Quasquicentennial: Mayor Peterson would like everyone to start thinking of ideas and council discussed the centennial celebration, how the service groups took over the organizing, fundraising and a committee of all groups worked together to create a successful event. We are only three years away from the event.

Parking: Council member Portner asked to review the parking code as he has seen cars parked for days in the same spot. Mayor Peterson explained that as long as it is operable and has current tabs, we have nothing on our books. There are city codes for many different places you cannot park, such as on a sidewalk or in front of a driveway, etc. there is a code for recreational parking with a 48-hour limit, and the winter parking with a 24-hour limit; consensus was there is no need for change.

MPCA Small Communities Planning Grant: The utilities committee met on August 29, 2022 to discuss the grant and possible project for the City. The scope of the project would be to identify the condition and material type in the wastewater collection system to include sanitary sewer mains and sanitary service lines. It would involve cleaning all sanitary sewer mains and televising the sewer mains and service lateral lines, and receive a detailed report to include a video of the televising, which would be city property for future needs. This information will give the city information to formalize a I/I reduction strategy. Having this information could help with future opportunities with grant funds, further reduce needs for sanitary sewer overflows, basement backups and flooding. The city would be responsible for 10% of the cost of the project in matching funds, with in kind services allowed to offset some of the matching funds. There was a ***motion by Portner to allow Fox to proceed with the grant application and to approve up to \$10,000 as the matching funding needed, Polich seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 pm; all ayes, motion carried.
The next Council meeting on October 10, 2022 at the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm

Sandie Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer