

**Mayor Peterson called the council meeting to order on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 7:00 pm 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 Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, and Fire Chief Nick Klingler; City Attorney Aaron Walton and Ambulance President Mark Dick were absent.

**Guests present:** Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Jessica Moldan – 660 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Dave Burger – 580 Main Avenue, and De Wayne (Larkin) Van Deest – 411 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

***Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve the Consent Agenda; all ayes, motion carried.***

Included in the consent agenda were: 8/14, 8/21/2023 council minutes & budget workshop, bills totaling \$70,239.49, the treasurer's report including the August bank reconciliation and receipts totaling \$46,111.82.

**Reports:**

**Fox:** Sidewalk to the CC was poured and sealed this week, grills at the park removed, working on the storm water grant, MPCA updated the Sulfate Implementation – MESERB sent a comment to MPCA, manhole at Griebel & Lafayette - scheduled work, WWTF Control panel issue resolved, samples were good, hydrant flushing completed, two new fire doors completed, pumper needed work for \$848.02, ***Motioned by Tauber and seconded by Portner to approve the repairs, all ayes, motion carried.*** Lions working on what equipment they will order – bond rates around 4.5%. Moldan will attend training & Class C Exam prep from 9/19 - 9/21, Fox will attend Brown Fields Training Conference 10/25 – 10/27/2023. Also, shared a list from Park & Recreation most items were for the group to complete internally, will look into naming rights for the ball fields, the consensus was to use two posts and a chain with a sign to block off the driveway when the park was in use. ***Motioned by Polich and seconded by Portner to allow sponsor signs at the ball park. All ayes, motion carried.***

**Tauber:** Inquired about regulating Cannabis. Peterson & Burger attended a county-wide Cannabis meeting in St Peter. There will be a meeting with just Lafayette, Courtland and Nicollet on October 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss further for the smaller Nicollet County cities who rely on the sheriff's department.

**Peterson:** Reminded everyone of the park dedication on Sunday at 4pm.

**Burger:** Plan to move Ledger archives this week, Sheriff Lange updated us that the defibrillator that is should be here soon. The energy assistance program, which included water and sewer these past years has ended and helped with over \$8,700 in help to families to prevent shutoff. Connecting Nicollet County will meet here on October 17 from 7 to 10am.

**Klingler:** Had a few items that relief is looking to do at the fire hall: remove the grass around the bell add rocks, water to the middle building. New flooring in the meeting room and office, replace the two remaining doors. The consensus of council was okay with it, if they chose to do that. They will place an ad for 2 weeks for hiring firefighters.

**Unfinished Business:**

**RO Water Project:** Decommissioning of the Pilot was completed the week of August 24, 2023. The design is at 60%, there is a review set up with the health department before the final design is completed. October 5<sup>th</sup> the State House and Senate delegates will meet here at 4:15pm for a 25-minute briefing of the RO Project, to which we are seeking State funding.

**Ord. 144 Adopt Ord. Amending the Zoning Code:** After discussion ***Portner motioned to table Ord. 144 until October, the discussion of wording continued for a while before Polich seconded the motion, all ayes, motion carried.*** The proposed application and update of civic appointments will also wait until October, as they are tied to Ord. 144.

**Emergency Management:** Had been tabled in August due to the earlier motion to approve did not state which quote. After Fox clarified the two quotes, ***Polich motioned to accept the bid from Isenberg Electric of \$13,492.63, Tauber seconded. The motion passed by 4 to 1 with Polich, Reed, Tauber and Peterson approved and Portner opposed.***

## **New Business:**

**Resolution 2023- 12 September Donations:** Cash donations totaled \$955.00, of which \$775 was to the ambulance for an equipment purchase, \$80.00 from NU Fast Pitch for the use of the field, and a \$100.00 anonymous donation to the fire department. ***Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to approve Resolution 2023-12 September donations; all ayes, motion carried.***

**Resolution 2023-13 2024 Preliminary Levy:** Each year MN cities must approve the next year's levy in September and submit it to the county. The preliminary levy and budget will always be higher as there are many projection figures that will not be available until later in the year. Many wish list items for all departments had been discussed at the August 21<sup>st</sup> budget workshop. ***Reed motioned to approve the 2024 Preliminary Levy and budget of \$221,185.00 for General Fund, \$6,600 for New Ambulance, and \$35,285.00 for the RS Fiber Debt Service totaling \$263,070.00, which is a \$45,046 or 20.55 % increase over 2023. It was seconded by Polich; all ayes, motion carried.***

Burger announced that the Lafayette Council will hold two opportunities for public comment on the 2024 budget and final property tax levy. The first will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, prior to the final budget workshop. The second will be held during the Monday, December 11, 2023, council meeting after which the 2024 levy and budget will be approved, both meetings will be held at 7pm in the council chambers at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

**Mediacom WT Rental Agreement:** Burger has been working with Mediacom for an updated Water Tower rental agreement and Mediacom asked to change the term and payment from the current agreement to a 3-year and rental increase to \$3,000 per year. They may not be using the building past 2027, due to the transition over to IP Video delivery throughout their footprint. They would be responsible to remove the building if it was no longer needed. ***Motion by Polich and seconded by Portner to approve the change in Term & Payment for the agreement, all ayes, motion carried.***

**ESST:** Burger shared information of the new Earned Sick and Safe Time law and how it will affect the city. This law goes into effect on January 1, 2024. She has been researching and working with LMC on what the city will need to update in the personnel policy, time cards and PTO/ESST tracking prior to the new year. Due to no clarification as to employees of volunteer status, all fire, ambulance and council will need to track hours worked.

**Donation Request:** Sandy Kley is requesting to donate a bench around the ball fields in memory of her father. The consensus of the council was that it would be okay to do. The P&R is planning a few updates, so it probably would not happen until 2024.

***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm; all ayes, motion carried.***

The next regular council meeting is Monday, October 19, 2023, at 7pm in the council chambers at 791 Main Avenue at 7pm.

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Sandra Peterson – Mayor

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Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer