

Mayor Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, September 9, 2024, 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 attending were Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, City Attorney Aaron Walton; Fire Chief Nick Klingler and Ambulance President Mark Dick were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests present: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, resident Jessica Tauber – 660 10th Street, Dean Sabacky – REMAX, and John Upton.

Public Hearing: To certify delinquent utility payments. After due diligence to contact the owner, notification published and posted, no one was in attendance for the hearing and noting there were no comments submitted to the clerk prior to the hearing, the mayor closed the public hearing and resumed to the council agenda.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to approve the agenda as amended, removing the fire SOG; all ayes, motion carried.

Motioned by Tauber and seconded by Portner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were the 8/12 council minutes and 8/19 budget workshop recap, bills totaling \$44,112.58, the treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for August, receipts totaling \$49,562.92, and 2024 payrolls 17 & 18.

Reports:

Fox: Submitted his written report, updated that the spillway will be done in September, this year he would like to update the driveway to the ballfields compromised after the playground work, complete the gravel area by the pavilion behind the community center and do maintenance on the gravel road in the park running alongside 9th Street for \$9,695 **Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to complete the maintenance items this year as requested; all ayes, motion carried.**

Burger: Submitted a written report and highlighted a few items, gWorks onboarding will soon begin, briefed the council on the progress of the Post Office, and is working on contact updates for the utility accounts. Burger shared that the November meeting, which was scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, due to the Monday holiday, now falls on the Lafayette Lion's 45th Anniversary celebration and that council members are Lion members and may want to attend. She suggested that the November meeting be held on Wednesday, November 13. **Polich motioned and Tauber seconded to change the November meeting to Wednesday, November 13; all ayes, motion carried.** This will fall within the 10-day timeline to certify the election.

Peterson: Shared a letter inviting the city to a sendoff for the Guards going overseas – no one was available to go. Mentioned Burger has been with the city for ten years.

Polich: Attended the RS Fiber meeting – in the agenda, the next meeting September 25.

Portner: A complaint of the weeds around the fence at the ball park. Fox informed him that the contractor was working on them this afternoon.

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Utility Updates:** Nothing new to report for the RO or Permit. **Streams:** They are holding tech meetings every Wednesday to work on the design, etc. **Stormwater:** EPA sent a memo - Delta Institute Scope to Work (SOW). Fox explained the next step will be an MOU that sets up options for what may need to be done. **Lead Service Line Inventory:** Update sent to MDH 8/28 : 281 total connections, two Galvanized that need to be replaced and 21 unknowns.
- 2. Resolution 2024-17 Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Authorizing planning related to the establishment of a regional wastewater treatment facility. All Ayes, Motion carried.** This MOU is formalizing the previous approved letter of intent.

3. **Blight:** Burger reported working with the city attorney for certified letters of grass and nuisance. All were delivered in person or by mail informed Fox of the dates to proceed. There was a ***motion by Polich and seconded by Reed for Fox to hire our contracted mowing service to complete these two properties/ All ayes, motion carried.***

New Business:

1. **Resolution 2024–16 –September Donations:** ***Motioned by Portner to approve Resolution 2024-16 as presented, seconded by Tauber; all ayes, motion carried.*** A donation of \$51.00 to the 125th celebration from the FillMeUp bucket and \$300 from Bernadotte 4H to the fire department for the use of their building during the tractor pull.
2. **Resolution 2024–15** To certify past due utilities to the 2025 tax rolls, with no further discussion, ***Reed motioned by to approve Resolution 2024-15 to Certify the past due utilities to the 2025 tax rolls as presented, seconded by Polich; all ayes, motion carried.***
3. **RS Fiber:** Polich shared with the council the information from the meeting he attended. RS Fiber will default on its payments due to the higher interest rate and HBC has submitted a letter of intent to purchase it. The JPB has hired an attorney to look into the letter of intent and whether it includes any payback to the cities. RS Fiber's 8/29/2024 press release was shared in the packet. The next meeting will be held on September 25, 2024.
4. **MN PEIP:** A letter was sent updating changes for the upcoming health insurance renewal with the State's PEIP. The update is a four-year commitment with early termination options if the percentage of increase is 20% or more. ***Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to renew with PEIP, all ayes, motion carried.***
5. **New Firefighters:** Applicants Elias Webster, Cole Gostonczik, and Brian Longton ***Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve the hiring of the three applicants pending passing the interview, physicals and State Fire background, all ayes motion carried.***
6. **Snow Removal:** Lafayette Excavating three-year agreement was presented. Portner disagreed with the prices, Fox stated getting quotes from out-of-town companies would be higher and they would not get to town until after the roadways were open. ***Mayor tabled the discussion to October and requested Portner to get additional quotes and share them at the next council meeting.***
7. **Request from Polz:** The church property is being sold. A stipulation to Polz when the property was changed to commercial was that before the property was sold, the house water line was to be independent of the church service line, original church service line should be capped at the point of connection to a new line, all unmetered areas of either property will have to have additional water meters installed for usage and billing purposes, and if they cannot be metered, they will have to be terminated. After it was discussed in length ***Polich motioned to allow the sale, with one and a half times the final estimate of the work to be completed, including street repairs, curb and gutter, to be put into an escrow account, and contingent on approval by Fox and city attorney Walton. The motion was seconded by Portner and approved by all ayes.***

Adjourn: ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm; all ayes, motion carried.*** It was realized the levy was not approved. Mayor re-opened the meeting at 8:04pm, ***Reed motioned to approve the 2025 Preliminary Levy and Budget, Tauber seconded, all ayes, motion carried.*** There was no discussion as the budget was thoroughly gone through line by line by staff and council at the Budget workshop.

Polich motioned to adjourn at 8:05 pm Portner seconded; all ayes, motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next council meeting will be on Monday, October 14, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. Please notify the clerk if you are unable to attend the meeting. **Note: The November meeting has been changed to Wednesday, November 13, 2024.**