

**Mayor Tauber called the council meeting to order at 7:00pm on Monday, January 12, 2026, at the Lafayette City Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.** Present were Mayor Curt Tauber, Councilors: Dave Reed, Tom Polich, Logan VanDeest; Andrew Hartley via Teams. Also attending were Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, incoming Clerk/Treasurer Cori Reinhart, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, Utilities Assistant Brennan Moldan, and City Attorney Aaron Walton.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Guests present:** Nick Klingler – Fire Chief, Doug Hanson – Winthrop News, Residents Jessica Tauber – 551 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

Due to Andrew Hartley attending via Teams, all motions were approved by roll call as indicated herein.

**Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve the Updated Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried.**

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

Included in the consent agenda were the 12/8 minutes and 12/29 special meeting minutes; bills totaling \$337,755.61 and receipts totaling \$220,651.49; Treasurer's report including December bank reconciliation, 2025 payrolls 25 and 26, annual PTO payout, and 2026 payroll 1; January Donations Resolution 2026-03: \$7,000.00 from Lafayette Area Lions for playground equipment bond, \$100.00 from Deborah Grant to Lafayette Ambulance, \$821.91 anonymous donation to Lafayette Ambulance, and \$946.59 anonymous donation to general fund for employee clothing; 2025-2026 sump waiver for Bode.

**Reports:**

**VanDeest:** Nothing to report.

**Hartley:** Nothing to report.

**Polich:** Nothing to report.

**Reed:** Attended Ambulance meeting on December 22, 2025; reported officers as elected and pay rate increases approved. **Motion by VanDeest and seconded by Polich to approve elections and increased pay rates as outlined below; all ayes, motion carried.**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Mark Dick</b>	<b>President Pay:</b>	<b>\$1400.00 / year</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Marti Uhde</b>	<b>Vice President Pay:</b>	<b>\$700.00 / year</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Gary Griebel</b>	<b>Secretary Pay:</b>	<b>\$700.00 / year</b>
<b>Run Data Officer:</b>	<b>Shari Beranek</b>	<b>Run Data Officer Pay:</b>	<b>\$400 / year &amp; \$5 / call</b>
<b>Infectious Control:</b>	<b>Eli Compton</b>		
<b>Training Officer:</b>	<b>Haleigh Platz</b>	<b>Training Officer Pay:</b>	<b>\$500 / year</b>
<b>Supplies:</b>	<b>Clete Goblirsch</b>		

**Tauber:** Shared that there was a pile of cardboard in front of City Hall that may have blown in from a recycling cart; it was cleaned up.

**Klingler:** New reporting system went live on January 1. Ham Dinner is March 22. Polar Plunge is February 7; several Fire and Ambulance members are signed up, and there's room for more; anyone interested should let Klingler know. Dick unable to attend to give Ambulance report so Klingler noted for Dick and VP Uhde that the steak fry regularly held in February will not be taking place in February this year; may be scheduled for a future date.

**Fox:** Submitted his written report and highlighted that staff is adding to the ice rink as temperatures fluctuate and ice thaws before refreezing; noted the F350 was hit by RSS garbage truck with minor damage but Fox will get an estimate then submit to RSS; highlighted the City will need an engineer to sign revisions of the Optimization Corrosion Control Treatment Plan (OCCT), and noted Fox and Moldan will attend an MDH-led session in New Ulm on February 3. Also highlighted that all city personnel will attend AWAIR BBP ERTK in Courtland on January 27, as members of the RSG (Regional Safety Group).

**Burger/Reinhart:** Submitted written report and highlighted that County Commissioners plan to meet in February to work on a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work with the City regarding the licensing and compliance of Cannabis businesses, which will need to be incorporated into an updated ordinance when the MOU is complete. Highlighted also that after this snow season, if Council decides to keep

policy of snow removal after two-inch accumulation, the Winter Parking Ordinance will need to be updated. Added that Capitol Day on the Hill is March 11; asked if and who planned to attend. Added that Reinhart's 90-day mark is coming up on February 10, the auditor will be here on January 29 and 30 to work on the audit.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. **Utility Updates: RO Project:** BABA Waiver approved. **MPCA Permit-MESERB:** Recap of sulfate parameters in wastewater; Fox reiterated that RO system is the best option for lowering the mandated sulfate levels. **STREAMS:** Things continue to progress; one more opportunity will be offered for potentially interested parties to join as stakeholders, otherwise additional parties in the future will only join as end users.
2. **Ordinance 156 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 151, The Zoning Code Regarding Cannabis Businesses:** Second reading of the ordinance pertaining to the Cannabis events to be licensed by the city, not the county. **Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve amending Code §151.007 (C)(4); all ayes, motion carried.**

**New Business:**

1. **Resolution 2026-01 Annual Appointments:** No discussion regarding appointments. **Motioned by Polich and seconded by Reed to approve annual appointments; all ayes, motion carried.** Discussion as to civic appointment duty descriptions with points made regarding appropriateness of consolidating some duties; for example, combining City Beautification & Park Boards Representative and Tree & Weed Inspector under a general Blight heading/title, and combining Street Lights and Streets into one role/title. Fox noted that because the City belongs to a Regional Safety Group (RSG), a civic Safety Committee may not be necessary; suggestion made by Burger to appoint a council member to participate in the RSG. General consensus was for all council members to look at the civic duty descriptions prior to February Council meeting and offer proposals for updating the descriptions and expectations for each role. Resolution 2026-02 2026 Civic Appointments was tabled to February Council meeting.
2. **Resolution 2026-04 Authorized Signers:** Burger drew attention to part 3. of the Resolution noting that she would continue to have access for banking purposes through January for the audit and would keep her City credit card until a new card is issued and activated for Reinhart. **Motioned by Polich and seconded by VanDeest to approve Resolution 2026-04; all ayes, motion carried.**
3. **2026 Council Meeting Schedule:** No discussion regarding 2026 Council meeting schedule and observed holidays for City office closures. **Motion by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve 2026 Council Meeting Schedule; all ayes, motion carried.**
4. **Certificate of Approval:** No concerns regarding Certification of Approval of Lot Combination. **Motioned by Polich and seconded by Reed to approve Certification of Approval of Lot Combination; VanDeest abstained, ayes by Hartley, Polich, Reed, and Tauber; motion carried.**
5. **Park & Rec Fencing Project Discussion:** Kayla with Park & Rec inquired with Tauber as to how many bids they are required to obtain for the fencing project. Attorney Walton confirmed that for projects that cost \$25,000.00 - \$175,000.00, a minimum of two quotes are required. Kayla also asked Tauber how much money from the 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration will go toward fencing, and inquired about the possibility of Park & Rec taking on park responsibilities. Council consensus to hold a workshop with Park & Rec to discuss these matters; Tauber will connect with Park & Rec to schedule. Polich asked if Park & Rec has held any recent meetings as he had not been notified, but should receive notification of meetings as one of the two City Beautification and Park Board Representatives. Tauber believed internal Park & Rec discussions as to the above were had via text messaging, and that there may have been a meeting this past Sunday, but he was not certain.
6. **Utility Assistant – attend Council meetings for training:** Discussion held regarding need for backup for Fox and beginning to prepare for eventual retirement; consensus that the sooner Moldan can begin attending Council meetings in a training capacity, the better. **Motioned by Polich and seconded by VanDeest for Moldan to begin attending monthly Council meetings in February; all ayes, motion carried.**

After all items on the Updated Agenda had been discussed, VanDeest initiated discussion regarding recorded meetings and possibility of streaming or publicly posting meetings. Reinhart noted, and Attorney Walton confirmed, there are accessibility requirements for streaming and publicly posting recordings; Fox noted there are retention schedules for recorded meetings. Tauber asked Reinhart to look into this matter.

**Adjourn:** *Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm; all ayes, motion carried.*

**Next Meeting:** The next regular council meeting is on Monday, February 9, 2026, both to be held at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

Corina Reinhart – City Clerk/Treasurer    Approved by Council on: February 13, 2026