

# JANUARY 2023

## City of Lafayette

Edition: 2023-01

791 Main Avenue/ P.O. Box 375

Office: 507-228-8241 Fax: 507-702-7220

City Office hours: M-F 7 am - noon and 1-4 pm

Email: [lafcityclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lafcliclerk@gmail.com)

Web: <https://lafayettemn.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/LafayetteMNcom>

City emergency contact: Al Fox 276-1707

### 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

"The City of Lafayette is an equal opportunity provider."

### January 2023

2 – Happy New Year! Office Closed

5 – Bookmobile – 10:15am to 10:45am – Esther Ave.

9 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

9– **City Council – 7pm Council Chambers**

10 – Lion's Meeting – Community Center

15 – Lions Dad's Waffle & Benefit – Fire Barn

16 – Martin Luther King Jr Day – Office Closed

17 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

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

Ave.

**25 – All Utility Payments Due!**

30 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

### February 2023

2 – Bookmobile – 10:15am to 10:45am – Esther Ave.

6 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

13 – **City Council – 7pm Council Chambers**

14 – Lion's Meeting – Community Center

15 – 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration meeting - 7pm Community

Center

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

Ave.

20 – Presidents' Day – Office Closed

21 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

**25 – All Utility Payments Due!**

27 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

### Garbage & Recycling info:

**Recycling Dates:** January 5, 19 February 2, 16

**Holiday Lights:** As you pack up your holiday decor remember to recycle your holiday lights and extension cords; drop them at the office during office hours.

### Energy Assistance Program:

If you are behind on your water /sewer bills, you may be able to get help! The 2022-2023 season (October 22 – June 23) includes water and sewer utilities along with heating. Contact MN Valley Action Council (MVAC) for information.

### **It is time to get your annual cat and dog licenses!**

January 31, 2023 is the last day to get your pet tags for only \$2 per pet, then they are \$8. Submit a 2023 form with updated vaccinations, if needed.

### **Note from Sandie Peterson, Mayor:**

Happy New Year and many blessings for the upcoming year to all our residents! With this cold weather be mindful to take precautions against the cold and check on your neighbors. Stop by and take the time to visit with an older neighbor who may be going stir crazy from being cooped up. Hopefully we will have a warmer February.

Please make sure fire hydrants are clear on your block.

I will be holding the first 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning meeting on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the community Center at 7pm. Please join us!

Stay Warm,

*Sandie*

### **Lafayette Area Lions:**

Mark your calendar for January 15!! Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast will be at the Fire hall, serving from 9am to 1pm, advanced tickets are \$10, or \$12 at the door. This is a Lion's community fundraiser for Elissa Ries, from the Lafayette Area, who lost her father earlier this year and her mom is in the nursing home. There will also be silent auction items, a Sewing Seeds quilt raffle and a Lion's cash raffle for the family.

### **Polar Plunge 2023!**

The Polar Plunge is back in St. Peter for the 17th year in a row on February 4<sup>th</sup>! The St. Peter Plunge at Hallett's Pond has raised over \$1,216,699 in its 16-year history and in 2022, 281 Plungers braved windchills and raised over \$75,000!

Our Fire & Ambulance has had a team since the start, and many of those years the Boy Scouts and other community members have joined them. Watch for details on social media or contact Nick Klingler, Marti Uhde, or Mark Dick for details on how to join them or donate to this wonderful cause!

The Polar Plunge is the biggest fundraiser for Special Olympics Minnesota. All funds raised by Plungers help Special Olympics Minnesota provide year-round training and services to thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities across the state.

### **DNR Snowmobile Safety Class:**

The snowmobile field day will be held Saturday, February 11 - click on the link below or Contact Steve Rykhus 507-216-3521 or email [rykhussteven@gmail.com](mailto:rykhussteven@gmail.com) for details. [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/events/safety\\_training.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/events/safety_training.html)

Must pre-register, no walk-ins.

### **Bookmobile is here for you!**

You can get a library card right at the Bookmobile, bring a picture ID with your current address. If you already have a card (New Ulm is the closest library, she can add it into their system when you fill out a form and show an ID) The Bookmobile stops in Lafayette each month and the dates are posted in the newsletter.

### **Park & Recreation Update:**

A little off-season work made fun! Join us once a month for a little practice! No registration required. Free. 6-7p.m. Lafayette Community Center. Follow the Facebook event! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/970058526441490/events>

Monday, January 16 - batting

\*please bring your bat if you'd like otherwise bats will be provided

Monday, February 20 - sliding practice

\*wear your tall baseball/softball socks, sweatpants and sweatshirt

Monday, March 20 - fielding

\*please bring your glove

Monday, April 17 - combination of all 3 nights!

\*bring your bat, glove and full sweats

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

(kwos-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uh l)

Local businesses, organizations, residents ... We would love for you to join us in planning a great celebration! 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is scheduled for February 15 at 7pm in the community center,

### **Legion Post #300:**

Paver sales will now be ongoing. Batches of 25 can be turned in to the company to prepare.

<https://www.facebook.com/LafMNAmLeg300>

### **Lafayette Area Lions:**

Lion's Bingo – Saturdays at 1:30pm

Meat Raffles Thursdays begin @ 6pm

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

### **Dave's Place Happenings:**

**Texas Hold'em:** Tuesday nights at 7:30pm

**Lion's Bingo:** Every Saturday, except holiday weekends @ 1:30pm.

**Meat Raffles:** Thursday nights at 6pm – added virtual horse racing.

<https://www.facebook.com/davesplace2022>

### **Garbage- Recycling FYIs:**

\* The 2023 Residential Recycling Schedule is included in your billing packet, and the backside shows the garbage rate increases.

\*While going through your holiday lights drop the ones that no longer work at the city office during open hours.

\*Cart issues – Wheels usually snap right back on, if the lid or wheels are broken contact the office.

### **Council Briefs 12/12/2022:**

**Public Hearing Rezone:** Heimat Properties, LLC (school property) requested rezoning the property from residential to commercial. Council and guests asked a few questions and attorney Roger Hippert was on hand to explain that this property will never be a school, it will not become a residence due to the renovation costs, there may be options if it is a commercial zone. Council approved the rezoning later in the meeting.

**Approved the consent agenda:** Included in the consent agenda were: 11/14/2022 council minutes, 12/1/ Special Pay Equity minutes, 12/6/2022 Truth in Taxation and budget workshop minutes, bills totaling \$71,503.58 and the three sump pump waivers presented.

**Guests:** Roger Hippert – Heimat Properties, LLC's Attorney – 218 N Center Street, New Ulm, Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Larkin VanDeest – 411 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Dave Burger – 580 Main Avenue, Nancy Reinhart – 600 Adolph Avenue, George and Karyl Putnam – 440 Avenue, Jessica Moldan – 660 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn Peterson – 660 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Brennan Moldan – 1091 Lafayette Avenue and Bradley Moldan – 540 Lafayette Avenue.

### **Council Briefs 12/12/2022 continued:**

**Reports: Fox:** The city was not awarded either the stormwater or fluoridation grants. The cost of the Fluoridation update was \$4865, council approved the update. The last time it was updated was about 20 years ago. After discussion of the MN Rural Water's program, the consensus of the council was to register for the PFAS Recovery program, at no cost to the city. **Peterson:** Invited all to attend Santa Day & tree lighting. **Burger:** month spent on budget, annual payrolls, year-end reports and preparing for end-of-year and audit prep. **Tauber:** NU Building officials met and will not offer Lafayette building official services. **Klingler:** Someone at UFC is interested in joining the Fire Dept., which would help for daytime calls. Inquired about the city's interest in the rural fire truck to replace the pumper.

**Unfinished Business: RO Project:** The RO Temp Bond money was received. PFA requested a WIF project information worksheet for real and projected operating costs and was submitted. Council authorized Fox to move forward with awarding the RFP for the RO project's site evaluation, Geo-technical Services and investigation of the old well house foundation location.

Council voted to not move forward to adopting the MN building code. And adopted the Pay Equity Step Plan and Placement for current FT staff.

### **New Business:**

Besides approving the rezoning of the Heimat Property council also set a public hearing for the January meeting for a CUP (conditional use permit) for a new solar garden next to the existing one.

**Approved:** Resolution 2022-28 – December donations of \$38, Resolution 2022-22 Certify delinquent utilities to the tax roll, Resolution 2022-27 Forgiving the Water fund loan from the Waste water fund. Fire officers for 2023: Chief – Nick Klinger, Asst. Chief – Mark Voges, Secretary – Savanna Clemon, Training Officers Logan Van Deest and Scott Portner, Truck Runners – Wayne Portner and Kenny Liebl, Fire Marshall – Joe Sondag, and resignation of John Richter and Corey Langhoff.

### **End of Year Moves:**

2022 Ambulance assessments: \$ 6522.80 to General Fund  
Streets to Public Works savings: \$25,000 for street sealing and \$5,000 towards equipment

Revolving loan local Funds to Culture for updates: \$11,957.49

Fire Department to Fire Equipment Savings: \$7,200

General Fund to General Fund Project Fund: \$10,173 remaining donated or grant funds for the band shelter update.

Culture porta potties charges coded to ARPA funds of \$1,829

Water Fund to RO Temporary Fund: \$20,000

**Resolution 2022-29** – Approved the 2023 budget and adopted the 2023 Property tax levy. General Fund Levy \$175,139, New Ambulance \$6,600 and RS Fiber Debt Service \$35,488 Total: \$218,277 or a \$35,488 increase (16.14%)

Before the final budget and levy were approved there was discussion of the city to use the budgeted mowing funds and purchase a lawnmower for the cost of around \$13,000 and mow in-house. Some felt it a cost saving measure for the long run, as we already pay our employees, others were concerned with after the pay equity hours adjustment, that other things would get neglected. Mowing bids will go out to be returned before the January meeting for further discussion.

**Next meeting:** January 9, 2023 at 7 pm meeting in the Council Chambers at 791 Main Avenue.