

**Mayor Sandie Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Lafayette City Council Chambers at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.** Present were: Mayor Sandie Peterson, Councilors: Scott Portner, Tom Polich, and Curt Tauber: Dave Reed was absent. Also present were: Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, City Attorney Aaron Walton, Ambulance President Mark Dick and Fire Chief Nick Klingler.

**Guests present:** Lee Zion - Lafayette Ledger

**Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

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

**Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried.** Included in the consent agenda were: 12/13 minutes, bills totaling \$262,356.17 and one (1) sump pump waivers from Naumann.

### **Reports:**

**Portner:** Lions holding the Dad's Waffle event and fundraiser for the family of Aaron Thedens at the charter school on Sunday, raffle tickets available.

**Polich:** Looked further into information on electric charging stations. The state has received money for grants that will be available. Not thinking for the city but to have information for businesses in Lafayette who may consider. State Highway 15 is a proposed corridor for the grants.

**Tauber:** Had inquiries about warming house keys. An adult can check out a key from the clerk with a \$10 deposit and signed agreement.

**Klingler:** Relief is changing from the annual ham dinner to a pork chop dinner on Sunday, March 27, looking for more applicants to join fire.

**Dick:** February 5 is the annual Polar Plunge, the fire/ambulance has a team again. The ambulance commission is looking to update the bylaws, particularly for where the member can live or work to be on the department. They may lose seven members this year, many due to some bad calls these recent years. One new member has started classes. The State is making changes to the training, details will follow. Annual meeting will be the end of January and the commission in February.

**Fox:** Nicollet County Emerald Ash update: it takes about two years, residents should look for the top canopy to die off, also increased woodpeckers feeding on the bores. Most economical treatment is to cut down the tree. No transporting wood out of the county due to the quarantine. Xcel will do the underground electrical to the generator next Monday. Lead-Copper – MN Valley Testing is now an approved testing site, so no longer need to mail off to another facility. Fire station doors are ordered and scheduled to arrive January 24, 2022.

**Burger:** In addition to the report submitted, Burger spent time this week training with Expert Billing owner on a shared folder process they are starting with all clients. Previously we had specific people in the organization we were in contact with, but if they were absent the process lagged until they returned. Using this set up all can see what is happening in real time and act on it. Juracek will need to be added for her part of the reporting process.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Wastewater Permit:** Clean water appropriations were approved, but no guidance as of yet. The SEH engineers have completed the design options for the water plant RO projects, Fox continues to work with them and once other items on the study are complete, they will present it to the council. Financing updates: Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) 80 % of cost, Water Infrastructure finance - 10% maybe, depends on household income and affordability. Federal Level Activities: congress to pass legislation for a program or programs. Appropriations – monies have been released for the programs. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), monies will be released to the State Revolving Fund (SRF), 50% will be in the form of a loan with principal forgiveness (grant). This makes it easier to administer, some grant dollars available but may require more. Funding availability will be 2022-2026. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will release guidance for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) late January.

**Website Update:** Since last meeting Burger looked into other website companies and ruled out a few that would not be an upgrade to what we have. She and councilmember Polich reviewed the options and both recommended the quote from Immense Impact. **Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve the website quote from Immense Impact seconded by Polich; all ayes, motion carried**

### **New Business:**

**2022 Pay Equity Report:** Burger presented the report for approval. ***Motioned by Peterson and seconded by Portner to approve the Pay Equity Report as presented; all ayes, motion carried.*** Burger will submit the report.

**Zoning Permit:** Rick & Sherry Fluegge submitted a zoning application to add a living space to their business. ***Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve the zoning application as presented; all ayes, motion carried.***

**LMC Council Training:** The League of MN Cities training for council members will be held on February 4 -5, 2022, three members want to attend, but it would be over the planned budget amount for council training. It was discussed the benefit of this training was invaluable and was decided this would be appropriate to send Peterson and Portner to the Advance training and Tauber to the Foundations training for new members; Reed and Polich were unable to attend these dates. Burger will register the three council members attending. Council members will have online training to complete prior to the in-person sessions in February.

**Resolution 2022-01 - Civic Appointments:** Mayor Peterson recommended a few changes to the Civic Appointments: Board of Health add Klingler, Portner - City Beautification & Park, Utilities – Tauber, and Park Board representative – Polich. There was little discussion these items. Polich brought up concerns of the Lafayette Ledger as our Official Newspaper, the main reasoning was Mr. Zion attends each council meeting, but it is weeks before any information from the meeting is printed, and then with errors, Polich stated, “it’s very disappointing.” Another concern voiced was of the content of a few of his editorials. Peterson suggested a motion specific to this item and a roll call. ***There was a motion by Polich to change the Official Newspaper from the Lafayette Ledger to the Winthrop News and seconded by Portner. Roll: Ayes: Polich, Tauber, Portner, Peterson. Nays: None. Absent: Reed. There was then a motion by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve Resolution 2022-01- 2022 Civic Appointments; all ayes, motion carried.***

**Resolution 2022-02 - Authorized Signers:** ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve Resolution 2022-02 as presented; all ayes, motion carried.***

**Resolution 2022-03 Accepting January Donations to the City of Lafayette:** Included was a \$1,000 donation from the Lions for the updates to the Fire hall kitchen. ***There was a motion by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve Resolution 2022-03, January Donations to the City of Lafayette for Fire hall updates, as amended. All ayes, motion carried.***

**2022 Lafayette Council Meeting Schedule:** Polich suggested adding the spring council tour of the city at 6:00pm on June 13. ***There was a motion by Portner to approve the 2022 council meeting schedule as amended and seconded by Tauber, all ayes, motion carried.***

**2022 Lafayette Ambulance Debt write off:** Burger presented council with the annual amount, which after talking to Expert Billing included past calls of persons who have since passed away. The total for 2022 is \$2,636.64. ***There was a motion by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve writing off the old debts as presented, all ayes, motion carried.***

**Custodian update:** To date there have been nine inquiries, but only one application. Council suggested an end date and interview next week, hold a special meeting to hire the new custodian. Hoffmann who stepped in to help had inquired about possible getting an increase for helping out and training, council denied the request and said for that they would clean it themselves.

***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm; all ayes, motion carried.***  
The next council meeting will be held on Monday, February 14, 2022 at the Lafayette City Council Chambers at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm.

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Sandie Peterson – Mayor

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Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer