

Clerk Burger called the council meeting to order on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7:02 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: Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, City Attorney Aaron Walton and Fire Chief Nick Klingler; Ambulance President Mark Dick was absent.

Guests present: Adam Prochniak – Adam’s Lawn Service, Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Larkin VanDeest – 411 10th Street, Dave Burger – 580 Main Avenue, Jessica Moldan – 660 10th Street, Brooklyn Peterson – 660 10th Street, Laura Brown – Development Services, Inc, and Brian Martens – 36073 545th Avenue, Lafayette.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Clerk Burger conducted the Oath of Office for Mayor elect Peterson, Council elect Reed and Polich and then turned the meeting over to Mayor Sandie Peterson

Mayor Peterson opened the public hearing for the Conditional Use Permit for DSI - MARY Solar Garden project. Laura Brown of Development Services, Inc (DSI, Inc.) was on hand to share a brief summary of the planned project and answered a few questions, there were no comments given to the clerk prior to the meeting and mayor Peterson closed the hearing at 7:16pm.

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

Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve the Consent Agenda; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were: 12/14/2022 council minutes and bills totaling \$291,820.79.

Reports:

Fox: With the recent storms most time has been spent on snow removal. Park & Recreation is holding a Hockey day at the rink on January 29 and inquired about having a fire ring for warmth. The consensus of the council was that it was okay.

Burger: Total receipts since last council were \$211,994.84. Asked which council members would attend conference so she can register them, Peterson Polich, Portner and Tauber confirmed and Reed will check. Coordinated with Nicollet County Public Health for a Flu clinic and Covid boosters on Wednesday, January 31st, is revamping utility staff time cards to incorporate the personnel policy updates, will bring to council in February. Band concerts dates are set, June 2 is a maybe, but confirmed are June 16,22,30 and July 14,21,28.

Peterson: Has set a February 15th meeting for the City 125th celebration.

Klingler: Had sentence to serve clean the firehall. Relief’s accountant quit and they are looking in to Abdo in Mankato.

Dick: Was absent but gave Burger the following information: Polar Plunge February 4, still looking for more EMTs, none for this session of training, but possible for starting in July. They had eight at the annual refresher and two more will do refresher at another location. Need to replace their ambulance defibrillator or purchase a device that monitors temp, BP, etc. and is a defibrillator as well, they will hold a Steak fry for equipment on February 11 at Dave’s Place. He also mentioned that Nicollet County wrote a grant for defibrillators and will have some to donate out into the rural areas when they get their replacements –one possibly for the community center, these are only two years old.

Unfinished Business:

RO Water Project: They will be conducting soil sampling on Thursday, January 12.

Ordinance 141 – Rezoning a Parcel of Land: After the Public Hearing in December council approved the rezoning of the School parcels from residential to commercial. Ordinance 141 is the formal document for the transaction and also directs the update to the zoning map to be completed. ***There was a motion by Polich to approve Ordinance 141 – Rezoning a Parcel of Land from a Residential District to the Commercial District, Tauber seconded. Roll: Ayes: Polich, Portner, Peterson, Reed and Tauber.*** The Ordinance will be published.

Resolution 2022-26 - Park & Rec Agreement: Council reviewed the minor changes from the Park & Recreation organization and with no further discussion, Portner motioned to approve Resolution 2022-26 - An Agreement between the City of Lafayette and Lafayette Park and Recreation, Polich seconded; all ayes, motion passed.

Fire Truck discussion: Klinger presented a few options that they are looking into for a new truck. What they are proposing is to eliminate the city pumper and it would be replaced with an updated tanker truck, which would be shared between rural and city fire. To more clearly understand the proposal, Peterson suggested as many council members as possible to attend the rural association annual meeting on February 8, at the city fire hall at 7 pm. Burger will post a Notice of Gathering, in case a council quorum is present; information gathered will be brought to the February council meeting the following week.

New Business:

Zoning Permit - LAF – 2022-15 – & Conditional Use Permit for Martens Solar: *Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to Zoning Permit 2022-15 and the Conditional Use Permit for the DSI Mary Solar garden; all ayes, motion carried.*

Resolution 2023-01 – 2023 Civic appointments: Mayor Peterson made a few changes to the civic appointments: acting mayor Polich, combining city beautification and parks and park board representatives and named Polich and Reed, Polich to the Executive Personnel Committee and Portner to Streets, there was little discussion and after a time, **Reed motioned to approve Resolution 2023-01 – 2023 Civic Appointments, Tauber seconded it; all ayes, motion carried.**

Resolution 2023- 02 –2023 Authorized Signers: *Motioned by Reed to approve Resolution 2023-02 Authorized Signers for 2023, seconded by Polich; all ayes, motion carried.*

Resolution 2023- 03 – January Donations: *Motioned by Polich and seconded by Portner to approve Resolution 2023-03 January donations; all ayes, motion carried.* Donations totaled \$857.73, of which \$757.73 was directed to the Ambulance fund and \$100 to the fire department.

2023 Council Calendar: After discussion the following changes were made due to a holiday and fire meeting schedule: July meeting will be on Wednesday, July 12 and the September meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12. ***Portner motioned to approve the 2023 Council Schedule as amended, Tauber seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***

Annual Fee Review: After discussion, adding rental of the fire hall for a non-profit fundraiser event approved by council and fire \$50. Service charges change in charges only to: (operator without equipment) from \$50 to \$100, Service charge (operator with mower) \$60 to \$120, Service charge (operator with truck or loader) from \$75 to \$150 ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich approve the first reading of ordinance 142 – Amending code 33.05 Fee Schedule, all ayes, motion carried.***

2023 Mowing Bids: Four bids were received by the posted deadline. River Valley Lawn Care \$450 per mow plus \$150 per spray, Annual \$11,700, Hartley Diversified, Inc. \$385 per mow, Adam Prochniak, \$425 per mow and annual \$11,500, Helget Lawn Service \$755 per mow and \$22,200 annual. ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Reed to approve the bid “per cut” from Adam Prochniak of \$425 per cut; ayes: Peterson, Reed, Polich, Portner, nay: Tauber, motion carried.*** Prochniak’s proposal also included an adjustment if gas was over \$5 a gallon.

Zoning Permit Discussion: D. Burger and L. Van Deest asked to discuss the zoning permit process and why all permits must come to council prior to approval. They work in the industry and find it odd that someone would have to wait 30 days to be approved. N Klinger, also a contractor shared a case of why: it was raining and could not work on the scheduled project, so he bumped up a small project for the day in a neighboring town and went to the clerk’s office and got the permit that day. Burger and Van Deest inquired about a committee of possibly a council member, clerk, Fox, and an expert from the community, maybe one other to first review the zoning code, like a planning and zoning committee, and decide which permits, if they met the criteria council be approved by right away. If it was a variance, CUP or certain questions, it would wait for a council meeting for review and approval. Council will add it for further discussion to the February meeting.

Motioned by Polich and seconded by Portner to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm; all ayes, motion carried. The next Council meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023 at the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm