

Mayor Sandie Peterson called the council meeting and zoning public hearing to order on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Lafayette Community Center, 540 7th Street, Lafayette. Present were: Mayor Sandie Peterson, Councilors: Dave Reed, Scott Portner, Tom Polich; Curt Tauber was absent. Also present were Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, Fire Chief Nick Klingler and City Attorney Aaron Walton. Ambulance President Mark Dick was absent.

Guests present: Lee Zion – Lafayette Ledger, Marty Wacker – Resident 540 Main Avenue, Spencer Rieke – Resident 120 8th Street Apt 3, Greg Bieraugel – Resident 671 11th Street, Sharon Donnay – Resident 411 6th Street, Lori & Darren Saffert – Residents 531 Main Avenue, Sheri Portner – Resident 440 Skyview Avenue, Mark & Bobbie Schuelke – Residents 591 5th Street, Buck & Susie Wendorff – Residents 1160 Lafayette Avenue, Myron Isaacson – Resident 911 Lafayette Avenue, Dave Burger – Resident 580 Main Avenue, Keith & Anne Schuelke – Residents 400 Main Avenue, Kathy Eckstrand – Resident 151 7th Street, Marty & Suzzane Maffioli – Residents 480 10th Street, Cheri Le Brun – Resident 440 Wanser Avenue, Pam Morson – Resident 211 10th Street, Jessica, Brennan Moldan – Residents 660 10th Street, Damon Worvey – Guest 6104 Old Fort Road, Robert Peterson – Resident 620 Esther Avenue, Heidi Portner – Resident 671 5th Street, Aimee Altmann – Resident 391 8th Street, Sheri Liebl – Resident 531 Skyview, Greg Verhelst – Resident 360 6th Street, Lori Polz – Resident 440 6th Street, Matt Schiller – Resident 511 10th Street, Paul Schuelke – Resident 120 6th Street, Thomas Schreter – Lafayette, Bruce Prigge – Renville Sibley Sanitation, Jay Nielson – Waste Management Mankato.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Peterson suspended the council meeting and proceeded to the public hearing. The purpose of the hearing was to hear input from the public for changing the southern portion of the St. Gregory's parcel from residential to commercial.

D Saffert asked the purpose of the change. Myron Isaacson spoke on behalf of Lori Polz, who is purchasing the property, that the intent is to open a bar/restaurant, to make the front entrance facing north to Main Avenue, a walk-in cooler will be installed and the restaurant will be in the church fellowship hall and the bar area will be in the church. She plans the business to be open seven days a week, with her son and granddaughter helping and they will live in the house. S. Donnay was concerned about parking as she lives across the street. Polz showed the group where the proposed parking lot would be on the west side of the alley. D Saffert is neither for or against this but also had concerns of parking on 6th street, he is also concerned that the side of the building facing the school should not advertise with liquor signs, etc., M. Schuelke is for the change and stated it was a win, win for the community, there may be small concerns, but another business in town brings in tax revenue, and social interactions with town is a good thing. City Attorney Walton reminded the group that the subject is whether to change the zone from residential to commercial. M Wacker, for the change, noted that changing it to commercial will bring another business to town, not whether it is competition; to which Liebl replied competition makes for better business. S Portner was concerned of what could go into that property if this isn't rezoned? D Saffert read a list from the residential zone code. D Saffert also inquired about the plans for the empty lot; there are no plans at this time. There was a letter submitted by S Langhoff, "I fully support zoning for the purchase of said property. It is my opinion that our city has another business. Thank you." With no further discussion, mayor Peterson closed the public hearing and she thanked the guests and invited them to stay for the remainder of the council meeting or they were free to leave.

Mayor Peterson resumed the council meeting at 7:23 pm.

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

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were: 9/13 and 9/27 minutes, bills totaling \$81,236.79 and eight sump pump waivers from Abrahamson, Ahl, Burger, Holmberg, Maffioli, Maidl, Messerli, and J Portner.

Reports:

Portner: Park & Recreation held a meeting on October 10, they are working on the 501c3 status, looking into grants, etc. The parent board members are Andy Berdan, Sheri Berenek and Laura Hacker. Portner and Tauber are council representatives. They will have a park clean up on Saturday, October 30, all are invited to help. They will next meet on Sunday, November 14, at 5pm at the community center.

Peterson: Fox gave a tour that she attended with engineers from ISG, they were very impressed with the work that Al put into the pilot project, she recommended all council to set up a time with Al to see the water plant.

Klingler: Air packs are in service, a little different so easy to keep separate, but compatible, if needed. He will be attending the Chief's conference. Thursday, October 14 is a house fire training at 5:30.

Fox: Electrician is lined up to put in electrical when the flag pole is installed in the park and to the bandstand. Hydrant at the rink leaked, the parts have arrived and repair can be done without digging it up; the park restroom was closed for

the winter due to the water being shut off. Hydrants will be flushed October 18 – 22nd. THM-HAA5 returned to compliance. Lead -Copper samples were taken.

Burger: Two payment plans did not make a payment by the last due date. A letter was sent to bring it current before the next due date or the shut off process will begin. One account is an owner and could be certified to taxes. Nicollet County reported one potentially dangerous dog designation.

Dick: Absent, but gave the following information to Burger. Submitted the reporting for the \$15,000 covid grant, have had more runs than last year total, not covid, more accidents, have three starting class in December to become EMTs.

Unfinished Business:

Wastewater Permit: Discussed operational capacity for the proposals, currently the plant can run through 200,000 gallons per day, it would only make sense to build the water softener system to the same capacity. The water to run through the current filtration prior to the softer system.

Mini Park: Peterson got a quote from River Creek Nursery for six trees; five Arborvitae and one Autumn Maple for \$1055.04; this would include the planting and a 3-year guarantee. The city would have to water them. **Portner motioned to approve the quote and purchase the trees, Polich seconded it, all aye, motion carried.** She updated that N Hoffmann had contacted J Mages about the flag pole paver area and he is looking for a community project, also L Uhde is looking at this for his Eagle Scout project. The committee will meet again in January.

Resolution 2021-19 Authorizing a Summary for Ord. 134 – Amending Code Title 9 Regulation of Nuisances: Walton explained when an ordinance is too large to fully publish, a summary is allowed. ***Motioned by Polich and seconded by Portner to pass Resolution 2021-19 Authorizing a Summary for Ord. 134, all ayes, motion carried.***

Garbage RFP: Prigge of Renville Sibley Sanitation in Gibbon and Nielson from Waste Management in Mankato presented their proposals. Council and staff asked questions. ***Portner motioned to stay with our current contractor Renville Sibley Sanitation, as he does a good job, Polich seconded, with no further discussion, all ayes, motion carried.***

Amending Code 33.05 Fee Schedule: Fox presented a recommendation for water and sewer rates, the consensus of the council was that they agreed, they looked at other fees with a few changes and Burger will update the ordinance and present it at the November meeting for a first reading.

2022 Budget item – PEIP renewal: Burger explained the option of a three-tier system verses a two-tier option. The three- tier would have a \$2183 across the board savings. ***Reed motioned and Polich seconded to approve going to a three-tiered option for employee health care, all ayes, motion carried.***

Respectful workplace: Burger was asked to check with the League of MN Cities if the program was connected to insurance premiums. It is not, but many cities across the state have the training in their personnel policy to do every year or two. The city personnel policy respectful workplace section and a sample of the league's was given to council with no action taken.

Fire Doors: There was much discussion on the fire doors replacement verses the city pumper repairs. Two bids were presented for the doors, NJK Construction came in at \$4800 and Nosbush was \$5264, it was unclear if the Midland doors in the bids were the same rating. The pumper repairs were discussed and Klingler explained that the pressure drops with in seconds to a failure rating. Portner motioned to order the doors now to be paid in 2022, Reed pointed out the cost difference and the motion failed with no second. Burger suggested the door bid verify they are the same rating and bring back next month. ***Polich stated that he thought the pumper needed to be fixed now and motioned to get the truck fixed now with a priority of getting the doors done next year, Reed seconded it all ayes, motion carried.*** There was also the discussion of the saving for an upgraded pumper, setting aside the money has only been done a few years.

New Business:

Resolution 2021-20 Accepting October Donations to the City of Lafayette: Included were donations of \$200 to the fire department from Christensen Farms, Lafayette Legion Post 300 donated \$1500 toward the flag pole and a donation of a curio/display case donated from the Virgil and Shirley Youngblom family valued at \$1500. ***There was a motion by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve all Resolution 2021-20 October Donations to the City of Lafayette. All ayes, motion carried.***

Lafayette Excavating: ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Reed to approve the Lafayette Excavating 3- year Contract as presented, all ayes, motion carried.***

Rezoning Application – Ordinance 136 – An Ordinance Rezoning Part of Parcel of Land from the Residential District to the Commercial District:

Walton discussed with the City Council and determined the following: The property is no longer used as a church, and is under contract for sale to a private party who desires to make commercial use of the entire property; it is in the best interests of the community to allow the church property to be repurposed for other reasonable uses of the property; rezoning the southern approximately half of the parcel is logical to make the entire parcel commercial property; and that activities and uses permitted in the commercial district will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the residents, surrounding properties, or other nearby properties within the City; **Portner motioned to adopt Ordinance 136 to Rezoning Part of Parcel of Land from the Residential District to the Commercial District, Polich seconded. Roll call: Ayes - Portner, Polich, Reed, Peterson. Nays – None, Absent: Tauber. Motion carried.** The Official Zoning Map of the City shall be amended to reflect the rezoning of this parcel.

Certify Utility: Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to proceed with the certification process for the property presented, all ayes, motion carried.

MPCA Inspection: Fox reviewed the inspection report with council. Even though the Inflow & Infiltration violations were caused by the extreme rain events, the city discussed to move forward to look into another reduction plan. Fox will submit the letter to the MPCA.

Quasquicentennial: Mayor Peterson reminded council that the Quasquicentennial is a few short years away and a planning committee should be formed to do such things a history book update, etc. **Reed motioned to form a Quasquicentennial committee, Peterson seconded, all ayes, motion carried.**

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm; all ayes, motion carried. The next council meeting will be held on Monday, November 8, 2021 at the Lafayette City Council Chambers at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm.

Sandie Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer