

Mayor Tauber called the council meeting to order at 7:00pm on Monday, October 13, 2025, at the Lafayette City Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. Present were Mayor Curt Tauber, Councilors: Dave Reed, Tom Polich, was present via interactive technology, Andrew Hartley arrived at 8:16pm and Logan VanDeest; Also attending were Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, and City Attorney Aaron Walton.

Verified Polich could see and hear council and council could see and hear Polich.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing: Mayor Tauber opened the public hearing for the rezoning request from Doehling Farms, Inc. No one was present to comment on the request. Mayor had one person text him against it. Burger had no calls or written notes regarding the request. Mayor Tauber closed the public hearing at 7:02pm

Guests present: Nick Klingler – Fire Chief, Doug Hanson – Winthrop News, Residents Jessica Tauber – 551 5th Street, and Aimee Altmann – 391 8th Street.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve the agenda as presented; VanDeest, Polich, Reed, and Tauber ayes, Hartley absent, motion carried, motion carried.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; VanDeest, Polich, Reed, and Tauber ayes, Hartley absent, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were the 9/15. Bills totaling \$64,764.72, and receipts totaling \$36,390.17. The treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for September, and the 2025 payrolls 19 & 20. Donations Resolution 2025-23A – correcting the resolution to code \$500 to ambulance instead of fire. Resolution 2025-25 – Totaling \$1,895. \$1320 to ambulance, \$100 to fire, \$475 to the 125th; a full list of donations is listed on the resolution and also approved the 2026 Dave's Place liquor license renewal.

Reports:

Fox: Submitted his written report. The second quote for the ice-skating rink reshaping was \$5,000 and the original quote was \$3,270. After much discussion the consensus of the council was that Tauber and VanDeest will volunteer to do the work, it will need to be done before frost. MDH continues to deem that the THM, HAA5 violation is ongoing and we need to send a letter with the October billing. Lead and Copper samples were completed and 4 of the 20 samples were over the threshold, so public notification will need to be sent prior to November 2, 2025. Hydrant flushing this week, found one hydrant with a seal leak, it will be repaired this week.

Tauber/Fox: There was a complaint sent via the city website from A. Altmann. The mayor read the sections of the complaint. Her first concern was the concrete for the pavilion by the rain garden. Past discussions were to move it which would cost of \$15,000. It was discussed to have it repaired, council asked Fox to get a quote for mud jacking. The second issue is the water in the streets from sump pumps, and weeds growing in the water. The RD project fixed the leaks in the sanitary sewer lines; sump pump water cannot be pumped into the sanitary sewer system per MPCA and the City Sewer Code 53.05. The city has no storm sewer system. The city has looked into this in the past, once during the RD project and a few times since, to build a stormwater system, but the cost is millions and the previous councils felt it was too costly. Currently the city has been working on a storm water solution without spending \$10-\$15 million dollars on a dedicated stormwater sewer system.

Burger: Submitted a written report and reported that the property casualty premium for this year is about 5% less than budgeted. She has been working with the DEED representative for the SCDP, the city's RO project would qualify for the remaining money in the account. To utilize it, the city must send a letter to all residents to ask the total who live in the household and total household income to verify that we fall within the criteria.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to direct Burger to send the survey letters; ayes VanDeest, Polich, Reed, and Tauber. Hartley was absent. The candidate that council approved last month withdrew her application and the position was posted again on October 3rd, with a due date of October 22, 2025, 3pm.

Klingler: Will attend conference on Wednesday. Retired members passed. A New Ulm retired fire member passed, they will take trucks to the funeral.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Utility Updates: RO Project:** CDS/EPA received grant agreement and award notification on 10/2/2025. This is for construction costs only. We have secured a waiver for in-kind work. We may qualify for the BABA (Build America Buy America) waiver as well. Grant is automatically awarded on October 23, if no rebuttals or is disputed. **PFA:** 12 other projects are ahead of us, seems unlikely that funding will be available to us. **Bond:** The update is it will cost the city \$10,237.50 to cover interest due and issuance costs. **MDH:** Concerns of the well #1, the age built in 1941, submitted well records, well maintenance can be done through the roof, 1981 lining was completed without grout between the inner and outer lining, but was welded at the top, MDH presented a list of concerns of this relining currently working on response. Alternative site for well #5 if well #1 needs to be removed. **STREAMS:** Updated council that STREAMS dissolved its relationship with Kimley-Horn due to irreconcilable differences. The team has partnered with SEH and met on September 17. The letter outlining the SEH proposal is in the packet. After discussion the Lafayette portion of the proposal for this next step is \$46,100. **Motioned by Polich and seconded by Reed, to approve the SEH proposal and the Lafayette alternative analysis cost of \$46,100; ayes. VanDeest, Hartley, Polich, Reed and Tauber, motion carried.** This cost analysis would be needed whether or not the city continued with STREAMS. The Minnesota House Capital Investments Committee will be visiting STREAMS at the Winthrop city hall on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 8:40 am.

New Business:

1. **Resolution 2025-24 Resolution Regarding a Rezone Application:** With brief explanation of the process, by city attorney Walton, Burger read the fact-finding questions listed in section 7 a through h, with corresponding answers prepared by Walton from answers given by the applicant. Council made no changes. **Hartley motioned to approve Resolution 2025-24 as presented to DENY the applicant the rezoning from industrial to agriculture, Reed seconded the motion; ayes VanDeest, Hartley, Polich, Reed, and Tauber, motion carried.**
2. **Resolution 2025-26: Declaring Equipment as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of the same.** Klingler shared a proposed for-sale ad along with the resolution. **Reed motioned to approve Resolution 2025-26 and the for-sale ad, VanDeest seconded the motion; ayes VanDeest, Hartley, Polich, Reed, and Tauber, motion carried.**
3. **Meat Bingo Request:** The Legion Post #300 would like to use the fire station for Turkey Bingo on November 22nd, the Lions will submit the LG230 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling. The fire chief previously approved the fire station use. **Hartley motioned to approve the request to use the fire station and the Lions off-site gambling permit, Polich seconded the motion; ayes VanDeest, Hartley, Polich, Reed, and Tauber, motion carried.**
4. **Retirement:** After serving on the ambulance department since June 15, 1992 Craig Portner submitted his resignation on September 30, 2025. **Reed motioned to accept Craig Portner's resignation, Hartley seconded; ayes VanDeest, Hartley, Polich, Reed, and Tauber, motion carried.**
5. **Utility Rates:** Fox presented proposed rates, he explained that, once built, the entire city would have reverse osmosis quality water. With the permit limits changing and rates have not increased for a few years, all water and sewer rates increases are needed. Burger reminded the council if the rates are to take effect on January 1, 2026, the fee schedule will need to be approved by ordinance and will present a copy for first reading at the November meeting.
6. **Past Due Utility Accounts:** Burger presented council with a list of past due accounts. She will send the second notice this week along with the reminder of the potential for the past due amount to be certified to the tax roll, or give the option of a payment plan to catch up. She will update council in November of any payment plans or the need to set a public hearing to certify for the December meeting,
7. **Civic Duties:** Mayor Tauber explained that council approves civic duties every year, but what do these actually mean for the council assigned to the duty? He suggested council look through this list and come up with descriptions or ideas for each duty. For example. The City Beautification & Park & Rec Board Representatives, these council members could drive through the city May - October and report back any blight issues, or repair items. Burger suggested the street light appointee should check the street lights after dark and report to Fox if any are outages, as he works during the day.

Adjourn: *Motioned by Hartley and seconded by VanDeest to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm; all ayes, motion carried.*

Next Meeting: The next regular council meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00pm, both to be held at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer Approved by Council on: _____

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