

Mayor Tauber called the Special Council Meeting to order at 6:30pm on Monday, December 29, 2025, at the Lafayette City Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. Present were Mayor Curt Tauber, Councilors: Dave Reed, Tom Polich, Andrew Hartley, Logan VanDeest. Also attending were Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, Clerk-in-training Cori Reinhart, and Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox.

Guests Present: Nick Klingler – Fire Chief; Resident Jessica Tauber 551 5th Street.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Meeting Business:

1. **Resolution 2025-32 EOY Moves:** Burger stated that after a discussion with the auditor to leave the fire equipment savings in place for now. The Celebration Fund and Ambulance fund would need to be adjusted after year end information is available. Council approved.
2. **History Cabinet:** there was brief discussion and all were in favor of the cabinet and approved.
3. **Utility Rates:** There was a lot of discussion on the rates. Burger reminded council that we have assessments of approximately half of the annual bond payment of over \$88,000, only until 2032, then the water and sewer rates will need to cover 100% after that. Council members VanDeest, Hartley and Tauber were concerned about some residents not being able to afford the rate increase as proposed, Polich and Reed were concerned of not raising them enough to sustain the enterprise funds and have enough saved to pay the full amount of the annual bond payments when the assessments receipts have been completed, thus causing even higher rates in the future. With the current projects of RO and STREAMS and also if any issues should arise, the lower utility rates now, will cause the need to be addressed in the future. Council had Fox do adjustments on the proposed rates to see the difference in the impact. They all agreed that the rates need to be addressed more often, every year or every other year until there is a good fund balance for both utilities. VanDeest motioned to approve the amended Ordinance 155 and Hartley seconded, Tauber also approved. Polich and Reed opposed the amended motion, which was approved.
4. **Approve Non-GF 2026 Budget:** Once rates were decided the remainder of the 2026 budget was approved with the adjustments to the water and sewer rates, with Tauber, Hartley and VanDeest in favor and Reed and Polich opposed.

Adjourn: Motioned by Hartley and seconded by Polich to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm; all ayes, motion carried.

Next Meeting: regular Council Meeting on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 7:00pm, to be held at Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette, Minnesota.

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer and Cori Reinhart – Clerk-Treasurer in training
Approved by Council on: _____