

February

2022

City of Lafayette

Edition: 2022-02

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2021-2022 Council

Mayor: Sandie Peterson 507-276-4583

Council Members: Dave Reed 507-228-8264

Scott Portner 507-380-7463

Tom Polich 507-766-1874

Curt Tauber 507-276-7803

February 2022

1 – Pet tags return to \$8 each

3 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45 – Esther Avenue

3 – City Council – 7 pm – 791 Main Avenue

7 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

8 – Lions Meeting – 6:45pm – Community Center

8 – LCS School Board – 5:30pm – Tech. Rm

15 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

17 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45 – Esther Avenue

21 – Presidents' Day – Office Closed

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

28 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

March 2022

3 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45 – Esther Avenue

3 – City Council – 7 pm – 791 Main Avenue

7 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

7 – Blood Mobile - Community Center

8 – Lions Meeting – 6:45pm – Community Center

8 – LCS School Board – 5:30pm – Tech. Rm

15 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

17 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45 – Esther Avenue

17 – Happy St Patrick's Day!

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

28 – Ambulance meeting – Fire Hall

31 – Bookmobile – 10:15 to 10:45 – Esther Avenue

Garbage & Recycling info:

Recycling Dates: February 3, 17 - March, 3, 17, 31

Holiday Lights: Recycling of holiday lights and extension cords is ongoing; just drop them at the office during open hours.

Energy Assistance Program:

Now includes water and sewer utilities along with heating. Contact MN Valley Action Council (MVAC) Get help now, if you qualify.

Volunteering for the Community!

Have you considered joining the Lafayette Fire or Ambulance Departments? The time is now!

Contact Chief Nick Klingler or President Mark Dick for more information.

Note from Sandie Peterson, Mayor:

Happy Valentine's everyone! I hope everyone has a little fun on this day, you know it is not just for lovers, take your best friend to lunch or supper or visit with an elderly neighbor who has been cooped up all winter, be inventive.

If you know me, this is the time of year I am seriously sick of winter and just want to go to my camper and have warm sunny weather; but I do choose to live in Minnesota, so I will just have to buck up for a couple of more months.

Things are happening in town! We have the Polar Plunge, the Fireman's dinner which is going to be pork chops this year instead of ham, Lion's bingo is back at Dave's Place on Saturdays, meat raffles on Thursday nights, Texas Holdem is back on Tuesday nights at Dave's Place, and the park and recreation committee has their registration forms out.

I will end this message with the prayer that an early warm spring is just around the corner.

Sandie

Council Meeting Dates Temporarily Changed:

The city council meetings will be held on the first Thursday each month from February through May, to accommodate ambulance training on Mondays and Wednesdays for one of our members. Meetings will still be held in the council chambers at 791 Main Avenue at 7pm. (April's meeting will be at 6:30 for LBAE)

New Website:

We are launching a new website soon! The program our current provider uses will no longer be supported, so we researched and found a company who works with small cities and we absolutely love bringing Lafayette into more current technology.

Official Paper:

In January the city council approved the change of the official paper from the Lafayette Ledger to the Winthrop News. Residents can view all Legals free of charge at winthropnews.com. The obituaries and classified ads are available to read as well.

Polar Plunge 2022!

The Polar Plunge is back in St. Peter on Saturday, February 5th for the 16th year in a row! The St. Peter Plunge at Hallett's Pond has raised over \$1,141,699 in its 15-year history. Our Fire & Ambulance has participated since the start, and many years the Boy Scouts and other community members have joined them. Watch for details on social media or contact Nick Klingler, Marti Uhde, or Mark Dick for details on how to join them or donate to this wonderful cause!

The Polar Plunge is the biggest fundraiser for Special Olympics Minnesota. All funds raised by Plungers help Special Olympics Minnesota provide year-round training and services to thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities across the state. There will not be a wild game feed this year.

Lafayette Area Lions:

As of Saturday, January 29, Lion's Bingo is back, and starts each Saturday at 2 pm.

Lafayette Charter School:

February

8- School Board Meeting @ 5:30pm- Tech. lab

10- LCS Talent Show

24- Ag Fair

March

Heggie's Pizza Fundraiser begins-contact any LCS student or call 507-228-8943 for ordering - delivery is March 31st

Save the Date

Pre-K Open House & Kindergarten Round Up

Thursday, March 3, 2022

4-6pm - Come & Go

Meet the teachers, tour the school & pick up a school readiness activity bag

8- School Board Meeting @ 5:30pm- Tech. lab

23- Community Coffee - 2nd/3rd grade at 2:15pm - Stage Room – the community is welcome!

25- End of 3rd Quarter

29 & 31- Conferences

For more information contact 507-228-8943 or www.lafayettecharter.k12.mn.us.

The Local Food Shelf – It Serves all who need it!

The New Ulm Area Emergency Food Shelf brings food packages to Lafayette each month. If you would like to receive a package to help with food insecurities for your family, submit a request for the box by the 20th of the month prior to the collection date. There are forms in the city office, or for more information call 354-7668, or search the website. <https://newulmfoodshelf.com/mobile-food-shelf/> The food drops are monthly at the 1st Lutheran Church.

DNR Snowmobile Safety Class:

The snowmobile field day will be held Saturday, February 12 - click on the link below or Contact Steve Rykhus 507-216-3521 or email rykhussteven@gmail.com for details. https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/events/safety_training.html

SERVLIN Water and Sewer leak protection!

The Servline Protection Plan adds Leak Protection to all of our residential accounts for house water and sewer leaks up to \$2500, per occurrence, for a low cost of \$2.05 per month and is included on your utility bill. **To decline protection and accept full responsibility for all excess water charges caused by a water leak call 1-888-977-7405; you can opt out at any time.** This insurance is not service line issues, from curb to house; that insurance may be offered to you at a later date.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

The MDA has enacted a quarantine for the entire Nicollet County to limit the movement of firewood and Ash material out of the county. Check out the MDA information at <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab>

Teacher/Para/Food Service Subs WANTED:

Interested in subbing? LCS is currently looking for substitute paras, food service and teachers. For more information, contact Tally Clobes @ 507-228-8943. Applications can be found online at <https://lafayettecharter.k12.mn.us/job-opportunities/>

Water & Sewer Rate Increases:

Rate increases begin with this billing. The water and sewer departments need to run like separate businesses from the general fund and are funded on user fees. As with everything else our costs have risen since 2018, the last time there was an increase.

Special council meeting 1/26/2022:

Council met for a special meeting on Wednesday, January 26. The items on the agenda were custodian, a subordination agreement and council meeting schedule. After much discussion, council decided not to hire any of the applicants and instead have staff clean the city building, fire & ambulance clean the fire hall and update the community center rental policy to include a \$30 cleaning deposit, which will be returned upon verification of the building being clean.

Approved the subordination agreement and updated the council meeting schedule to the first Thursday of the month from February through May to accommodate ambulance training on Mondays and Thursdays for Tauber.

Council Briefs: 1/10/2022

Approved the consent agenda including 12/13 minutes, bills of \$262,356.17 and one sump waiver.

Reports: Fox: Xcel to do the underground work for the generator next week, MN Valley testing now approved for Lead & Copper, so no more mailing samples, fire stations doors should arrive 1/24.

Portner: Lions holding Waffle fundraiser 1/16. **Polich:** received information on grants to soon be available for electric charging stations, although the city would not fund one, the information can be shared with local businesses, Hwy 15 is a main corridor road for this service. **Dick:** 2/5 Polar Plunge, the ambulance commission is looking to update bi-laws pertaining to where a member can live or work to be on the department. State is making changes to the ambulance training process. **Klingler:** Looking for more applicants to join fire, Relief is changing from a ham dinner to a porkchop dinner. **Tauber:** Had inquiries of the warming house. Keys are available from the clerk for a \$10 deposit. **Burger:** Expert Billing is changing process to a shared folder, so all who work with the billing process will have access. Juracek will be added for the reporting side of it.

Unfinished Business:

Waste Water Permit: Clean Water appropriations were approved, but there is no guidance yet. The S.E.H. Engineers have completed the design options for the water plant RO project, Fox continues to work with them and once other items on the study are complete, they will present it to the council.

Website: Burger and Polich reviewed website companies and recommended Immense Impact, council approved.

New Business:

Approved: Pay Equity Report, Permit for Fluegge's addition, annual Ambulance write-off amount of \$2,636.64 from payments 7 years and older, council meeting schedule for 2022, and authorized signers for 2022.

Council discussed the upcoming council training and the consensus was Peterson & Portner would attend the advanced training and Tauber to attend the foundations for newly elected. Polich has previously attended foundations and he and Reed have recently completed an on-line council training.

Annual Civic appointments were approved with a few changes. Klingler was added to the board of health, Polich replaced Tauber and Portner on the Park Board. Portner was moved to parks and city beautification, and Tauber to utilities; there was little discussion on these changes. The subject of the Lafayette Ledger as the official paper was discussed in length. With the biggest concern was that they attend each meeting but there is no recap in the paper for weeks, and then it as inaccuracies. **There was a vote to change the official paper to the Winthrop news: Ayes were Polich, Tauber, Portner, Peterson, there were no nays, and Reed was absent.**

Custodian update: There were 9 inquiries, to date only 1 application submitted. Council suggested ending it and hold a special meeting to hire. Council denied a request from Hoffmann for an increase to help out until someone was hire, they would clean it themselves.

The next council meetings: The next council meeting will be held on ****Change of Date Thursday, February 3, 2022** at the Lafayette City Council Chambers at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm.