

Mayor Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7:00 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: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Dave Burger – 580 Main Avenue, Jessica Moldan – 660 10th Street, Brennan Moldan 1091 Lafayette Avenue, Tanya Hoffmann – 56033 350th Street, Sara Oberloh – Oberloh & Oberloh

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motioned by Reed 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 as presented; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were: 1/9/2023 council minutes, bills totaling \$72,135.15 and the treasurer's report including the January bank reconciliation, payrolls 1, 2, & 3 and receipts totaling \$56,271.51.

2022 Audit: Mayor Peterson called on Sara Oberloh to present the 2022 Audit to the council. She walked through the Annual Financial Report highlighting and explaining that the city is in good standing with the general fund unassigned balance at 74.4%, the city had previously adopted a policy regarding the minimum assigned balance with a goal to fund operations until the next semi-annual receipt of property taxes. The council's moving of funds out of general fund 'operating funds' into designated 'capital improvement savings' and also the \$250,000 bond for the water project showed in the audit report, but did not affect the overall budget as the money was just moved elsewhere. With few questions, **Reed motioned to approve the 2022 Audit by Oberloh & Oberloh, Portner seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**

Summer Street Closures: Dave Trebelhorn was present for the summer bike and car nights closure from 6th to 8th street from 5 to 8 pm, every other Wednesday night, May 31, June 14 & 28, July 12 & 26 August 9 & 23 and the finale on September 6. Also, for the summer dance closing from 7th street to the east end of the mini park. The other closure by the Lion's for the hog & corn roast and Relief's street dance on Saturday, August 26, 2023. After little discussion **Reed motioned to approve the summer street closures as presented and Portner seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**

Reports:

Fox: Siren has been fixed, there were a couple cold-weather related issues at the water tower and wastewater facility. Upcoming training on lead & copper rule, regional safety meeting and MRWA Annual training in St Cloud that he will attend.

Burger: Local Board of Appeals: this year we have three trained members whose terms will expire July 1, 2023. The Local Board of Appeals training will open in December and must be completed by council before the end of January for the LBAE to stay local. Doug Hoffmann met with ABDO for the relief audit and said the years of service amount will stay the same at \$2,500. **Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to keep the Years of Service pay at \$2500; motion carried with ayes for Peterson, Reed, Polich and Tauber; Portner abstained.**

FYI LMC update: pending legislation of LGA increase would be over \$21,000 for Lafayette and they are also looking at a \$10 per vehicle fee with half going to small cities assistance for streets and half to larger cities for roads and bridges, she urged council to contact representative for our area on the importance of these items.

Peterson: RS Fiber meeting Tom also attend, they added a few more customers and are updating towers to reach more, members suggested they advertise more, radio, newspapers, etc. Ambulance commission: letter sent to all members of minimum requirements, Rural fire – agenda item, 125th celebration meeting February 15, hoping for a good turnout. She had read through all the Centennial information and what they did then. An update to the history book is already in the works.

Klingler: Nick, one new application, Courtland applied for a thermal device grant it will need to be signed and the matching amount would be for about \$1200, he has looked into the Heros grant of up to \$1,000 to help local EMT and Fire with gear, he will apply. Mark Haler asked about the use of the fire barn for Foggy Youth's Annual Ham Bingo, he was okay with it but with the updated fee ordinance they need council approval. **Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to allow Ham Bingo on April 1, 2023 at the fire barn with the non-profit fundraiser fee; all ayes, motion carried.**

Unfinished Business:

RO Water Project: Federal Grant of \$1,000,000 was awarded to the RO project. Site evaluation and Geotechnical services have been completed for soil and investigation of the old wellhouse. The report has been forwarded to the structural engineers. Pilot will start no later than May 1, 2023, The water facility's existing electrical will be updated to a new 240V, 3-phase panel to feed the pilot study. Due to lead times, 480V service will not be available prior to the pilot study. Prospective bidders shall detail electrical power requirements for their pilot study skid The project, projected to start in the spring of 2024, will take 12 to 14 months to complete and there may be line items after that to follow up on. Once the Pilot study is complete, the engineers will work on a final design with total cost, and after receiving the PFA final funding package a public hearing will be set.

Fire Truck discussion: All council members attended the rural fire annual meeting on February 8, a committee was formed to look into an updated truck. Tauber volunteered to be on the committee, along with Klingler and others from the townships.

Ord. 142 – Amending the Fee Schedule: With no further discussion on the items updated ***Portner motioned and Tauber seconded to approve Ord. 142 -Amending the Fee schedule by updating the non-profit rental to include at the fire station and also updating the charges for services with and without equipment; all ayes, motion carried.***

New Business:

Resolution 2023- 04 – February Donations: ***Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve Resolution 2023-04 February donations; all ayes, motion carried.*** Donations totaled \$1888.21, of which \$1,805.21 was directed to the Ambulance fund and \$83 to the mini park project.

Zone 2023-01: Uhde utility shed application was discussed. There was no height listed for the 8X16 foot shed and council felt it was a concern. Burger attempted to call, but it went to voicemail. After discussion on the matter, ***Polich motioned to approve the Zone 2023-01 utility shed application by Uhde with the stipulation that it can be no higher than the surrounding buildings (house and garage), Reed seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***

Personnel Policy Updates/Clarifications: Burger brought up a few items for clarification:

Call Back: If an employee is called back to check on an alarm, etc. they will be compensated for the time by rounding up to the next full hour at time and a half of the current wage. (ex: a 15-minute check of an alarm would be compensated at 1 hour) ***Was this intended to be rounded up for the first partial hour or all partial hours. Example above a fifteen-minute check would be one hour. Council confirmed this was meant for the first hour.***

Weekend Duty: Council clarified that overtime would be paid for hours “worked”.

Juneteenth: The governor signed into MN State Law on February 2, 2023 adding Juneteenth – June 19 – as a State mandated holiday. **The personnel policy will be updated to reflect the change.**

Updated Utility Time Sheet: Reed Motioned and Polich seconded to approve the updated Utility personnel time sheet as presented; all ayes, motion carried.

Post Office Box: Currently the city has a PO Box, the Fire and Ambulance departments each have a free one with the City's. After discussing this topic with the auditor, it was suggested that the city should only have one PO box for all departments, Burger shared this with the council, being there have been cases of late fees being paid for invoices or payments not coming directly to the city office. There was much discussion on this, City attorney Walton concurred with the auditor saying there should only be one, adding that the relief association should have its own PO box, but stating it was council's decision. ***Portner motioned to leave the separate fire and ambulance PO Boxes, Tauber seconded, Polich was opposed to the motion, Reed did not vote, and with Peterson's aye, the motion carried.***

Zoning Discussion: The concern from past meetings was that every permit must come before council, and the council meets once a month, D Burger had suggested that being we have many experts in the industry to look over the code to see if it needed to be updated. A committee was formed to meet and look at the code to see what updates may be needed and to bring them to the council. Committee: Mayor appointed Clerk Burger and Utility Fox, Council Tauber & Polich volunteered, D. Burger volunteered, and Nick K, Mark D and L Van Deest were suggested to be asked to join the discussion.

Fire Fighter Physical Reimbursements: Portner was at a regional meeting and heard about this program. Burger contacted Steve Flaherty MN DPS about the program, and was directed to MN State Fire Department Association where there is a one-hour training for the recruitment grant program, Burger will check further into it.

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, March 13, 2023 at the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm

Sandie Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer

Approved 3/13/2023