

Mayor Tauber called the March council meeting to order at 7:00pm on Monday, March 10, 2025, at the Lafayette City Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. Present were Mayor Curt Tauber, Councilors: Dave Reed, Tom Polich, Logan VanDeest and Andrew Hartley. Also attending were Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, and City Attorney Aaron Walton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests present: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Residents Jessica Tauber – 551 5th Street, and Nick Klingler – Fire Chief, Marge Hurd - 680 Esther Avenue.

Mayor Tauber opened the Public Hearing for Ord. 151 Updating the Zoning Ordinance - Cannabis. M. Hurd inquired about the 500 feet to the park, N. Klingler inquired about a windmill. M Aalid 660 Esther Avenue stopped into the office to say he is against the cannabis ordinance. With no further discussion, mayor Tauber closed the public hearing at 7:04pm and the council meeting resumed.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve the agenda as amended; all ayes, motion carried. Chicken ordinance and revision of the personnel policy was added to the new business.

Motioned by VanDeest and seconded by Hartley to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were the 2/10/25 council minutes, bills totaling \$63,640.95, the receipts totaling \$68,565.72. The treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for February, the 2025 payrolls 4, 5 and Resolution 2025-09 - March Donations including; \$7,500 from the Lions for the 125th celebration, to the ambulance fund from donation and tips for the steak fry: D & G DeBoer \$100, J & D Maidl \$400, J Gieseke \$50.00, P Guggisberg \$30,00, D Webster \$50.00.

Reports:

Fox: Submitted his written report and highlighted information of monthly reports, PFAS was below detection in the initial round of testing. Lead service line round two opened – signed up for the grant.

Burger: Submitted a written report and highlighted that LGA will be sending 9.4% early this month, the remainder will follow as scheduled in July and December, Ambulance had \$1,676 in donations and tips, another check will come from the electronic tips. They will meet with a new ambulance billing company in a few weeks. Reminder that the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization will be next month at 6:30pm, Shana Jackson will be sending information prior to the meeting. Residents will see a valuation statement coming at the end of March – these are for the tax value of the property for the 2026 payable year and residents will need to follow the appeal directions on the statement.

Tauber: Attended the City Day on the Hill with Fox, met with Senator Frenz and Representative Schwartz for the RO bonding, STREAMS and OSHA fire regulations, and tax relief for volunteer EMS, also attended the LMC Leadership training, he and Fox met again with Rural Fire.

Polich: Attended the LMC Leadership training, great sessions on Friday. There were discussions on Cannabis.

Klingler: Relief Ham Dinner March 30th. Rest on New Business

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Utility Updates: RO:** Senator Frenz has signed and entered a bill in the senate supporting our request for \$1,893,000. Representative Schwartz has signed and entered a bill in the house supporting our request for \$1,893,000. Both elected officials have made our project a top priority in our district. Resubmitted the Intended Use Plan (IUP) for 2026. **MPCA:** Nothing new. **Stormwater Grant:** Fox showed the council some tentative projects, he reached out to Nicollet County, as they would be involved in right-of-way issues and water management. **STREAMS:** Will meet on March 12, 2025 with all cities at 7pm in the Winthrop council meeting room.
- 2. Resolution 2025-07 – Authorizing Title and Summary Publication of Ord. 150 - An Electrical Franchise Agreement: Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve Resolution 2025-07 as presented; all ayes, motion carried.**

3. **Ord. 151 Amending the Zoning Code Regarding Cannabis Businesses:** with no further discussion *Polich motioned to accept the second reading and adopt Ord. 151 – Amending the Zoning Code Regarding Cannabis Businesses, Hartley seconded the motion; all ayes, motion carried.*
4. **Resolution 2025-08 – Authorizing Title and Summary Publication of Ord. 151 - Amending the Zoning Code Regarding Cannabis Businesses.** *Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve Resolution 2025-08 as presented; all ayes, motion carried.*

New Business:

1. **Street Sweeper:** Fox presented a street sweeper for sale by the City of Jasper, who had recently updated theirs and have no use for it. They were asking \$9,500, Fox inquired if \$8,000 would be accepted. It is refurbished and used. It will need a new broom and gutter brush for about \$800. *Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to allow Fox to go and look at it and offer them \$8,000 contingent on it passing inspection; with no further discussion, all ayes, motion carried.* Fox and Moldan and Mayor Tauber will schedule a time to check it out.
2. **Nicollet County Local Mitigation Survey:** After brief discussion explaining the Nicollet County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, and local survey, *Hartley motioned to approve the Nicollet County Local Mitigation Survey with Lafayette's data, VanDeest seconded, there was no further discussion; all ayes, motion carried,*
3. **New Firefighter:** Jordan Herzog is on the NUF, but lives in our area, he will need no training. The fire department will vote to approve him on 3/13/2025. *Motioned by Polich and seconded by Reed to approve the hiring of Jordan Herzog, pending the fire department's approval; all ayes, motion carried.*
4. **Fire Fighter resignation:** *Motioned by Hartley and Seconded by VanDeest to approve the resignation letter from Nick Hacker; all ayes, motion carried.*
5. **Pickle Ball:** VanDeest would like Lafayette to have a pickle ball/tennis/basketball area in the park.
6. **Chicken Inquiry:** Burger had an inquiry into raising chickens, mayor has also had inquiries. Burger will compile information for the April Council meeting.
7. **Personnel Policy:** Polich brought up that some fire members were unsure of the wording in the last update pertaining to the new Fire and Ambulance zero tolerance section on page 17. *Participation in any other activities where the firefighter or ambulance personnel is serving as a representative of the Fire or Ambulance Department, either officially or unofficially.* They would like to strike the words "or unofficially". After brief discussion it was *motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve the removal of the words "or unofficially" from the policy; all ayes, motion carried.*
8. **Other:** Hartley explained to council he has returned to trucking and may or may not be able to attend some meetings. He is enjoying being part of the council, but is wondering about attending remotely. City attorney Walton reviewed the statute. To be a voting member and abide by open meeting laws, Hartley would need to provide a public address as to where he would be, a notice would need to be posted three days prior to the meeting with the location. All members would need to be seen and heard by all members. The city would need to subscribe to a Zoom subscription, purchase equipment, such as a camera and microphone or combination. Burger and Fox will look into it and update the council in April.

Adjourn: *Motioned by VanDeest and seconded by Reed to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm; all ayes, motion carried.*

Next Meeting: The next council meeting and Local Board of Appeals and Equalization will be held on Monday, April 15, 2025 at 6:30pm, to be held at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. The time difference is for the annual LBAE hearing.