

Acting Mayor Dave Reed called the council meeting to order on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Lafayette Community Center, 540 7th Street, Lafayette. Present were: Acting Mayor Dave Reed, Councilors: Scott Portner, Tom Polich, and Curt Tauber. Mayor Sandie Peterson was absent. 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, Cassandra Postel – Lafayette Ledger, David Krueger – Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) , Lorna Sandvik and Shana Jackson – Nicollet County Assessors, Vanessa Holmberg – 311 8th Street, Mac Aalid – 660 Esther Avenue, Adam Prochniak – AP Lawn Service, Mike & Ann Atzenhoefer – 580 11th Street, Jessica Anderson – 471 Skyview Avenue, Dave Trebelhorn and Jemi Tollefson – Dave's Place.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acting Mayor Reed suspended the council meeting and opened the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization hearing. Lorna Sandvik and Shana Jackson from the county assessor's office confirmed that there was a quorum and there were members trained, then she explained the process and each person appealing was given time to explain their situation and the county made recommendations.

- 1) **Mac Aalid of 660 Esther Avenue** – Issues were discovered after the inspection of the property by the county assessor. ***Polich motioned to approved the county's recommended Estimated Market Value adjustment from \$133,900 to \$119,584, due to issues found upon an inspection of the property, Portner seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***
- 2) **Vanessa Holmberg – 311 8th Street** – Issues were discovered after an inspection of the interior and exterior, the county recommended to reduce the Estimated Market Value from \$174,400 to \$144,500. ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve the county's recommendation to reduce the Estimated Market Value from \$174,400 to \$144,500, all ayes, motion carried.***
- 3) **Mike & Ann Atzenhoefer – 580 11th Street.** The Estimated Market Value was \$128,700, Atzenhoefer felt this was way too high for their old house, which is in need of many improvements. After much discussion, ***Portner motioned to have the county review the property and make a recommendation to the County Board of Appeals and with no further discussion Tauber seconded the motion; all ayes, motion carried.***
- 4) **Jessica Anderson – 471 Skyview Avenue** The Estimated Market Value was \$169,600, the assessor's recommendation was reducing the value from \$169,600 to \$149,800. Ms. Anderson had a newly completed appraisal showing a \$124,000 value. After much discussion, ***Polich motioned to have the county review the property and make a recommendation to the County Board of Appeals and with no further discussion Tauber seconded the motion; all ayes, motion carried.***

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to close the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization hearing at 7:01 pm; all ayes, motion carried.

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve the Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve the Consent Agenda as amended; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were: 3/3/2022 minutes and bills totaling \$56,365.43.

Reports:

Fox: Had a request from a resident to plant rice in the rain garden, consensus of the council was to not allow. Highlighted from his submitted report: pop shack walls are up, submitted the MPCA Annual compliance report, listed upcoming trainings, including Sept 19-21 WWT refresher and exam prep for Brennan. Fire garage door was installed and the furnace ordered.

Klingler: Local Sheriff applied for a grant for fire & ambulance to update the pagers and have been awarded \$102,000. Fire relief's recent fundraiser served 400 porkchops.

Burger: Highlighted from her report that Lafayette received the Notice of Pay Equity Compliance, and listed Community Band concert nights. Burger has set up a Lafayette Appliance and Electronics drop off for Saturday, June 25th from 8 until 11 am. She attended the MN Clerk and Financial Officer Association's conference March 22 to 25th. It was a great conference with informative sessions and wonderful keynote speakers with an underlying theme of how to deal with stress. Also, attended the LMC Safety and Loss workshop in Mankato on April 6 - Cybersecurity, Land Use, HR, Emergency Preparedness and a speaker from Nami presented on Mental Health.

Unfinished Business:

RO Water Project: Dave Krueger attended to share cost and financing opportunities to council. The application for the Congressional Direct Spending (CDS) needs to be submitted by April 13, with possible 50% funding of the project. Options of possible funding for the remainder: USDA Rural Development up to 40 years, can have many stipulations that can cause higher fees, General Obligation (GO) or Revenue Bonds, PFA offers Water & Sewer projects low interest loans with possible forgiveness. Available money programs are still at the legislature with the eligibility or how it can be used is unknown, the session ends in May and all legislators are up for election, so should be getting things done. He suggested contacting a financial advisor to further discuss options.

RO Project land acquisition: Fox explained the agreement presented for Option #2, a parcel of 100 feet by 60 feet for an asking price of \$35,000. The City would pay for staking, survey and legal descriptions and the filing fees, with the seller responsible for their own attorney fees. The city's upfront costs would be added into the total cost of the project. Fox explained that this was the best option from the engineer's study and for future city wells.

Portner made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the land as presented. In further discussion, Tauber was concerned with the city owning another prime piece of real estate and that the project should be built at the current location. Fox explained that the minimal savings would be eliminated once the old well needed maintenance, being it would be built above the well, the roof would have to be removed, etc. Tauber felt the new wells would be better placed elsewhere with just a pump house. Polich commented that the lots available have not sold, Fox reminded council that the scope of this project is the best place to build the RO system to reduce the Chloride levels at the WWTF to meet the new limits, and the closer it is to the current facility the better. Another lot next to this property was too small to meet State mandated setback requirements. Discussion continued for quite a while on available property, costs of the property, etc. **Polich seconded the motion made earlier by Portner, Reed asked for a vote: Polich aye, Portner aye, Tauber nay, Reed aye; motion carried.**

2022 Lawn Service: Three bids were received by the deadline: 1) River Valley Lawn Care - \$325 per mow, 2) AP Lawn Service - \$400 per mow, and 3) J Martin – 11 hours at \$60 or \$2,640 per month for 6 months. After brief discussion it was **motioned by Portner to accept the bid from AP Lawn Service for the 2022 mowing season, Tauber seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**

Quarterly Cleaning Service Bids: No bids were turned in.

New Business:

Resolution 2022-08 – A Resolution for Acquisition of Reconveyed Land: Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve Resolution 2022-08 – A Resolution for Acquisition of Reconveyed Land, all ayes, motion carried.

Worker's Comp annual Premium Option: Quote came in \$10,851 under the budgeted amount due to projections not as high as planned. **Motioned by Portner, seconded by Polich to approve the Workers Comp regular premium option; all ayes, motion carried.**

Permit LAF 2022-02 A Sjogren: Zoning permit for a garage at 711 4th Street. **Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve Sjogren's permit LAF 2022-02; all ayes, motion carried.**

Public Works Request: Fox presented a vehicle he was made aware of after advertising on the LMC Marketplace. A truck from Harmony was presented for which they were asking \$50,000, but being it was going to another city they offered it at \$45,000. This was an under used vehicle with just 24,000 miles. Points of discussion were: would it replace one of the current, Fox stated that this would be in addition to – this would be utilized more during snow removal times, it is smaller than one previously looked at, no CDL needed. The sides open up for easy of the tool cat to fill and an arm can be attached to double the plowing capacity. Polich suggested selling the Chevy to offset the costs, Fox stated the age of the other truck, it would be worthwhile to keep it for daily use. This truck would be about \$7,000 more than what has been saved and what is budgeted for this year for a new vehicle purchase, Portner was concerned of authorizing a purchase sight unseen. **Polich made a motion to purchase the truck contingent on an inspection of the vehicle, and to list the Chevy for bids, seconded by Tauber, Ayes: Polich, Tauber, Reed. Nays: Portner.** Fox will travel to Harmony to inspect and possibly purchase the vehicle.

New Firefighter: Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve the new firefighter, Wade Karstad, pending completion of the fire fighter physical and background check; all ayes, motion carried.

2022 Ambulance Officers and Wages: *Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to accept the ambulance 2022 officers and wages as presented, all ayes, motion carried.*

Firefighter Resignation: *Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to accept the resignation of Keith Schuelke from the fire department, all ayes, motion carried.* Reed thanked him for his years of service.

2021 Consumer Confidence Report: Fox presented the completed Consumer Confidence Report, it will be posted on the website and in the May 1, 2022, newsletter then will be submitted. As always, a printed copy is available at the city office.

Dave's Place Request: Dave Trebelhorn and Jemi Tollefson were present to request street closings for every other Wednesday night from June 29 through September 7, 2022 from 5 to 8 pm. Closures would be from 6th Street as an entrance to 8th Street as the exit, and also, for the July 30th Lafayette Days with inflatables and dance. ***Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve the street closings with the dates listed, seconded by Tauber, in the final discussion, Portner motioned to amend the motion to include the Saturday, August 27, 2022 Lions corn roast and Fire Relief's dance. All ayes, motion carried.***

FYI: Mini Park meeting, Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:30, council chambers. Burger will post the meeting in case three council members attend.

Motioned by Polich and seconded by Reed to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm; all ayes, motion carried.
The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm.

Dave Reed – Acting Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer