

Mayor Tauber called the council meeting to order at 7:00pm on Monday, May 12, 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: Tad Ulrich – Heimat Properties, Glenn Hauser – Brickside Growers, Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Residents Jessica Tauber – 551 5th Street, Mac Aalid – 660 Esther Avenue, Sandie Peterson – 620 Esther Avenue, Bob Peterson – 620 Esther Avenue, Phil Lund – 640 Esther Avenue, Nancy Reinhart – 600 Adolph Avenue, Earlene Rusch – 221 6th Street, Alyssa Besemer – 491 Lafayette Avenue, Dale Miller 491 Lafayette Avenue, Brian Longtin – 360 6th Street, Marj Hurd – 680 Esther Avenue, Laura Isaacson – 491 Main Avenue, Kevin Isaacson – 491 Main Avenue, and Norm Langhoff – 1020 Skyview.

CUP Hearing: Mayor Tauber suspended the meeting and opened the public hearing for the conditional use permit application for an indoor cannabis grow facility within a commercially zoned district. Mr. Hauser started to share what the operation would be like, before many concerns were shared. The most vocal voices shared their concerns of the potential hazards of crime in the area, that this should not happen within city limits, the city does not care about the children and any hopes of a daycare in town would be squashed, not in my backyard, it will be a magnet for crime, concern on not only outside crime, but the possible inside theft, it should be located in the correct building, not a school, may have to move out of town. Others asked about the security, how much traffic, how it will be transported out, etc. Mr. Hauser, explained the security that will be in place, the layers of security inside the facility, the vetting of employees, that this will bring in 10 full-time good paying jobs in year one, the State has authority over the business, they need to track everything from start to transport out. State has the authority to pull the license, if violations. Mayor Tauber interjected many times asking for calm. He shared that everyone has valid concerns and explained that with a conditional use permit there are criteria that must be met, if this criterion is met the city has to approve it, or most likely would face litigation. Burger read statements received from calls from Mark Schuelke – 591 5th Street, who said he and his family are in favor of this, Karyl & George Putnam – 440 Lafayette Avenue said they are against it, feeling it is not appropriate to grow within the city, too many little ones around. Maddie Robinson(Keim) – 471 Lafayette Avenue emailed and Debbie Schultz – 180 7th Street had called the office when the group first approached the subject at a previous council meeting, one stating they have young children and live close and would plan to move out of town, the other moved from Colorado after that state legalized Cannabis. Mayor Tauber thanked everyone for their sharing their concerns and closed the public hearing at 7:36 pm and resumed the regular council meeting.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve the agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried.

Public comments: Norm Langhoff asked what the city can do for the Tri-County recycling bins, the blows into his property when it is windy. Mayor Tauber said the County is looking for land to purchase to move them and build proper fencing to eliminate the issue. Hurd commented of dogs in the kiddie playground, Fox said there is a sign right by the door and the signs for the ballfields are on order. Miller asked if a new volleyball net can be ordered, the net and poles are shot.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were the 4/14/2025 council minutes, 5/7/2025 workshop recap, bills totaling \$47,741.38, the receipts totaling \$40,680.13. The treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for April, the 2025 payrolls 8 & 9 and Resolution 2025-11- May Donations totaling \$7,558.50 all towards the 125th Celebration, either sponsoring events or donations, as follows: \$500 Joe & Deb Maidl, \$500 Winthrop Publishing, \$3,458.50 Friends of the 125th Celebration volunteer group, \$2,000 United Famers Cooperative, \$100 Nicollet County Dairy Association, and \$1,000 Bernadotte 4-H.

Reports:

Fox: Submitted his written report and highlighted, community center floors done, landscaping around sidewalks, vents in park bathrooms installed, sand ordered for the fields, working on street sweeping, compost, Xcel will be doing transmission line inspections spring to fall of 2025, UV system at WWTF installed, repairs

on influent sampler and clarifier arm completed. Lead & Copper samples 3 of the 20 high we are required to distribute public notification. 2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will go out with May billing

Burger: Submitted a written report and updated a few items to the council on the progress to update the utility billing, 125th committee events, permits approved for Isaacson Sales & Service for an addition, Aalid for corner posts on property, Tauber P&H for new concrete, ARPA annual report submitted, will have to continue annual reporting until they figure out the compliance end of it. Cannabis – will meet at the county commissioner's workshop on May 20, Ord. 140 to 151 were sent to American Legal to start the process to codify them for approval into the code.

Klingler: Was absent, but reported to Burger that all the new firefighters have passed their tests and burns except on needs to complete the Hazmat test and is working to get it scheduled this week.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Utility Updates:** **RO:** Waiting on the bonding bill. THM high elevated, a report was submitted, RO will take care of that issue. **MPCA:** Sulfate Variance: five-year time frame, EPA to approve with MPCA, interim not to exceed the limit set, reduction strategies must be implemented, after the variance expires must be able to meet the standard. MPCA will hold informational meetings, Lafayette has been selected to participate in the discussions. **Stormwater Grant:** Meeting with Nicollet County on April 15 to discuss tentative projects and possible permitting. **STREAMS:** Tech team met with MPCA April 3, 2025 to go over permitting and PPL scoring appears to be favorable for all involved.
2. **Council Technology Update:** Fox and Burger shared information for remote meetings. Fox brought a quote for and OWL camera and microphone system, it is very user friendly, scans the entire room, moves, portable, basically plug and play. **Reed motioned to approve the quote from Kemske for \$1,306.77 to purchase the OWL, VanDeest seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**

New Business:

1. **Resolution 2025-12 Conditional Use Permit (CUP):** City attorney Walton explained the process of the CUP and the resolution's 'Findings of Fact'. The 'Findings of Fact' were written from information submitted by the applicants, that council needed to read through them point by point and decide whether or not it is a true statement. Burger read through the nine points of the 'Findings of Fact' and council agreed they were all true. **Polich motioned to approve Resolution 2025-12 - Conditional Use Permit, Hartley seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**
2. **Chickens:**
 - a) Ord. 152 Amending the Animal Code 91 - The Keeping of Backyard Chickens. After a brief discussion on the time frame to remove deceased chickens, council amending line A- 5 from 24 hours to 48 hours, and a couple corrections to the titles of sections **VanDeest motioned to approve the first reading of Ord. 152 – Amending the Animal Code to Regulate Chickens, as amended, Hartley seconded the motion; all ayes, motion carried.**
 - b) Chicken Permit Application: VanDeest suggested the renewal fee amount should be added to the application: **Motioned by Polich to approve the Permit to Keep Chickens application as amended, Hartley seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**
 - c) Ord. 153 – Amending Code 33.05 – Fee Schedule: With little discussion **Polich motioned to approve the first reading of Ord. 153 Amending Code 33.05 as amended, VanDeest seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**
 - d) Update Resolution 2025-01-02 – Appointing a Chicken Compliance Officer – was tabled until the ordinance is approved and adopted.
3. **Park and Recreation:** Fox brought up a few issues: one was a discussion of the park and recreation and liability insurance for their organization, concerned that the city could be liable if some incident should occur. Walton mentioned it is hard to require when we just approved a contract with them. Another item was the AED, the city purchased one with the park board agreeing to pay half, now they do not want it in the pop shack. The discussion continued that the city should pay for it and install it in the pop shack and when the season is over it will be brought to the city office building during the remainder of the year. **Polich motioned for the city to cover the cost of the AED and install it in the pop shack during the summer**

season and be brought to the city building for the rest of the year; Hartley seconded, motion carried.

4. **Hiring Committee:** There was a brief discussion to set a hiring committee to begin the process of posting to replace Burger when she retires in February. ***Motioned by VanDeest and seconded by Polich to appoint a hiring committee of Mayor Tauber and Acting Mayor Reed, Burger and Fox; all ayes, motion carried.***
5. **Mosquito Spraying:** VanDeest asked about spraying for mosquitos in the city. Burger and Fox shared that it had been looked into a few years ago and most people felt it was up to them, not the city to use or not use chemicals for mosquitos. The consensus of the council was to have Burger put it in the newsletter.

Adjourn: ***Motioned by Polich and seconded by VanDeest to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm; all ayes, motion carried.***

Next Meeting: The next regular council meeting will be held on Monday, June 9, 2025 at 7:00pm, to be held at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer Approved by Council on:6/9/2025