

Mayor Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Lafayette City Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. Present were: Mayor Sandie Peterson, Councilors: Scott Portner, Tom Polich, and Curt Tauber; Dave Reed was absent. Also present were: Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger, and Fire Chief Nick Klingler; City Attorney Aaron Walton and Ambulance President Mark Dick. (Klingler and Tauber left briefly at 7:30pm for an ambulance photo.)

Guests present: Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Jessica Moldan – 660 10th Street, Dave Burger – 580 Main Avenue.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motioned by Polich and seconded by Portner to approve the Consent Agenda as amended; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were: 4/10/2023 council minutes, bills totaling \$51,826.02 and the treasurer's report including the April bank reconciliation, payrolls 8 & 9 and receipts totaling \$28,279.70.

Reports:

Fox: UV started 5/1, signs updated, street sweeping started, park restrooms opened, P&R request for concrete work – they will donate \$3,000 to the project, requested \$2000 from Lions leaving \$728 for the city; ***motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve the concrete work by the pop shack \$728.00 with or \$2,728.00 without Lion's donation, all ayes, motion carried.*** CCR Report will be in the June newsletter. There was discussion of ARPA funds for the backup generator quotes for the community center, city building and fire hall, ***Polich motioned for both city building and fire generators, there was no second and the motion failed.*** After continued discussion ***Portner motioned to purchase the generator for the fire station, Tauber seconded; all ayes, motion carried.*** The remaining ARPA fund will be used for another need in the city.

Burger: Nicollet County will do the 5-year property reviews starting with Lafayette – letters and postcards were sent. The Lions are working to update the community center kitchen equipment and will submit a list of donated items, will meet gWorks again and also another utility billing company, ***Polich motioned and Portner seconded to update the lease agreement for 2-years \$250.00 per month. All ayes, motion carried.*** This would match New Auburn's lease agreement that was just approved.

Portner: Fire will do an LP burn training and asked where it could be done. ***Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to use the triangle by the salt shed; ayes: Tauber, Polich, Peterson, Reed was absent and Portner abstained.***

Tauber: Stray cat issue – was discussed.

Polich: Reminder in newsletter for dog owners to be in control of dogs.

Peterson: Presented dates for an outdoor market for June - August and asked to advertise it in Winthrop and New Ulm papers ***Polich motioned to approve advertising and Portner seconded; Polich, Portner, Peterson ayes, Tauber and Reed absent, motion carried.*** Read the Certificate of Commendation to the city from State of MN for the WWTF.

Klingler: Two firefighters completed classes.

Dick: The steak fundraiser was a good turnout and will still have about \$700 coming in from tips from credit card purchases. The money will be used to update the defibrillator for the ambulance. He also updated council of the donation of a defibrillator for the community center, which should be coming later this month.

Unfinished Business:

RO Water Project: Fox received the EPA grant implementation guidance, reviewed and started the application. Hook up completed 5/8/2023, 5/15/2023 the technicians will be on site to begin the RO Pilot study.

Fire Truck discussion: Fire truck committee met and looked at used options, nothing decided.

Zoning Committee: Met on 4/19 and made a few more updates, the city attorney will look at the variance updates needed and also the sign ordinance. Once completed, it can be brought to council for discussion and first reading.

125-Year Celebration: Peterson explained that setting up a separate checking account for the committee did not work. After Burger contacted the city auditor, the donations were transferred to the city account and a fund was set up in CTAS for the committee. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10.

New Business:

Resolution 2023- 07 – May Donations: Donations totaled \$2,230.21.00 , \$1,755.21 to the ambulance and \$475.00 to the 125th celebration. ***Motioned by Tauber and seconded by Portner to approve Resolution 2023-07 May donations; all ayes, motion carried.***

Permits: Zone 2023-04 – Schiller Shed: Discussion on the size of shed, setbacks and the drive through to the back yard. ***Motioned by Curt, seconded by Polich to approve Zone: 2023-04 Schiller shed with the stipulation that the water shut-off be accessible at all times*** after continued discussion ***Tauber amended the motion to add that the drive through not be permanent and Polich seconded the amended, ayes: Peterson, Polich, Portner, Tauber; motion carried.***

Ord. 143 Adopt the Interim Ord. Amending the Zoning Code: ***Portner motioned to approve the first reading of Ordinance 143 Amending the Zoning Code and set the public hearing for the June 12 council meeting, Polich seconded, all ayes, motion carried.***

Fire Relief Liquor License: ***Tauber motioned to approve the Fire Relief's temporary liquor license for Friday, July 28, 2023, seconded by Polich; ayes: Tauber, Polich, Peterson, Portner abstained, motion carried.***

Snow Policy Review: There was much discussion on the snow policy, wanting clarification on when a vehicle can be towed. As there was no agreement Mayor Peterson suggested to table it and think about it. ***Portner motioned to table the snow policy discussion, Polich seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***

Short-Term CD: Burger explained that the current savings is .35% and changing to a Woo-hool savings would increase the interest to 1.75%, a recent month's interest which was \$244 would have been around \$1400. Also, Citizens has a special CD currently a 4% 15-month term with interest accrued quarterly. She suggested changing to the higher savings account and moving \$200,000 to a 4% 15-month term CD. ***Tauber motioned to approve updating the savings and moving \$200,000 into the 15-month CD, Polich seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***

PFAS Recovery Program: Fox recapped the PFAS recovery program, which council had previously approved. The information he received after doing so was that of a firm which would handle litigation should there be an issue in the future for PFAS mitigation. City attorney Walton reviewed the retainer agreement and saw no downside, it was a contingent agreement with no upfront costs. ***Portner motioned for Fox to sign the retainer agreement and Tauber seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***

FYI: Peterson handed out packets for the blight tour in June. Each council member has a section to review and submit a list to clerk prior to the meeting to set a route to look at the flagged properties.

Motioned by Tauber and seconded by Portner to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm; all ayes, motion carried.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 12, 2023 council will hold a blight tour at 6:00pm and council meeting will follow at 7:00pm at the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

Sandie Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer

Approved: 6/12/2023