

Council met at 6:30 pm at the Community Center and split into two vehicles to do the posted blight tour of the city, they returned at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Sandie Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Lafayette Community Center. Present were: Mayor Sandie Peterson, Councilors: Dave Reed, Scott Portner, Tom Polich and Curt Tauber, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger and Fire Chief Nick Klingler and Associate Attorney Justin Alderman; Ambulance President Mark Dick was absent.

Guests present:

Tad Ulrich – Heimat Properties (LCS), Joe Maidl – Mages Realty, Logan Van Deest – resident 631 10th Street, and Bradley Moldan – resident 540 Lafayette Avenue

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Peterson opened the zoning hearing at 7:01pm. Tad Ulrich had requested to have the property of the charter school rezoned from residential to a commercial zone. He would like to put a storage container onto the side of the gymnasium for storage of gym, staging and other equipment to free up the space in the upstairs storage area; storage containers are not allowed in residential zoned areas.

Council asked a few questions, Burger shared that just four residents had inquired about the request and three were okay with the with it, the other just wanted the information, B. Moldan was present and was against it. Mayor Peterson closed the public hearing at 7:12 pm.

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

Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve the updated Consent Agenda; all ayes, motion carried.

Included in the consent agenda were: 5/10/2021 minutes and bills totaling \$89,107.20

Reports:

Fox: Updated council on the ongoing projects completed and to be completed. Pop shack's estimated plumbing into the building is \$2,249.35, Tauber located a 3-compartment sink, cooler with prep table top and hand washing sink. The floor plan and plumbing will need to be sent to and approved by the MNDH, Aaron Bode will assist with the paperwork and Mayor Peterson will call a park & rec committee meeting to explain the process. **Peterson:** has had inquires as to what will happen with the undercarriage of the band stand. After a brief discussion council directed Burger to post it in the newsletter for a closed bid to end prior to the August meeting. She would like to attend the LMC annual conference, Burger asked if any other members would like to attend and she will register all at once. **Burger:** Local Recovery Plan application is available, LMC suggest to apply asap, the exact amount of funds is uncertain at this point. Permit: Klingler explained his permit for a shed and is not building it until next year, he wanted clarification, council felt as long as he started the process within the year, he would not have to renew it. **Motioned by Reed to approve the Klingler permit and seconded by Portner, all ayes, motion carried.** **Polich:** Was in Michigan and noticed a few things passing through small towns: electric car charging stations, he will look into this also, he noticed another small town had recognition to its area graduates of banners on light poles and thought that was a nice community idea. **Klingler:** He and K. Schuelke will attend the chief's conference in Duluth, washing machine installed and working, the hog & corn roast and relief dance is being held this year on August 28, 1 new firefighter passed the exams.

Unfinished Business:

Wastewater Permit: Fox was incorrect in the amount of the RO testing, last month council approved the \$1400 amount, but it was actually \$1906; **motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to have the RO testing done, all ayes, motion carried.** Fox explained the process of Phosphorus trading and there may be some credits in the area.

Mini Park Committee update: Peterson highlighted mini park recap from the meeting on June 7, the Legion will donate up to \$1500 for the flag, the band is putting out a bucket for donations to help with the project. She said the city has put \$20,000 so far into the project and is hoping individuals or organizations will fundraise for the project as the city cannot fundraise. Motioned by **Portner to move ahead with the flag pole and completing the electrical, seconded by Polich, all ayes, motion carried.**

Custodian: Burger recapped the process up to the two interviews, one as an employee and the other a contracted service. There was brief discussion and **a motion was made by Portner and seconded by Polich to hire Jenna Wenninger as the city custodian, starting at \$15.00, all ayes, motion carried.** Wenninger will train with Hoffmann at all buildings. Hoffmann has offered to be a back-up, if ever needed.

UFC Lots: Joe Maidl – county gave approval for continued use of the existing access onto the lots 2 and 3, lot one has access onto Skyview. Due to no access to the lot 4, he asked council's permission to leaves lots 1 and 2 as they are and to combine lots 3 and 4 which are parcels 15.002.0400 and 15.002.0500. **Motioned by Reed and seconded by Tauber to approve the combining of lots 3 and 4, parcels 15.002.0400 and 15.002.0500, all ayes, motion carried.** Maidl also mentioned that St Gregory's auction for the church, rectory and western cemetery lot will be held on Sunday, August 15, 2021. He also addressed the blight property by that cemetery parcel.

April Blight: Photos were taken of the property and there was a **motion by Reed and seconded by Portner to move forward with the process to clean up the property, all ayes, motion carried.** Burger will send the photos to the city attorney to draft a letter.

Heimat Properties, LLC (Tad Ulrich): After much discussion of the zoning change from residential to commercial to allow an 8-foot by 40-foot storage container for gym storage, **Portner motioned to deny the zoning change request by Heimat Properties, Polich seconded, all ayes, no nays, motion carried.**

New Business:

Logan Van Deest Request: Logan addressed council with a request to rent the fire hall for his wedding and reception on Saturday, August 13, 2022. After brief discussion, **Portner motioned to approve the request, with Van Deest getting a one-day insurance policy and to come back to council if anything else is needed, Polich seconded, all ayes, motion carried.**

Resolution 2021-10 Resolution to Accept the Local Recovery Funds: Burger explained that no dollar amount is available as of yet. **Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve Resolution 2021-10 to Accept the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Established under the American Rescue Plan Act, all ayes, motion carried.**

Resolution 2021-12 Rescinding Resolution 2021-05 Amending Resolution 2020-06 COVID-19 Related Authorizations: **Reed motioned and Polich to approve Resolution 2021-12 Rescinding Resolution 2021-05 Amending Resolution 2020-06 COVID-19 Related Authorizations, ayes: Polich, Reed, Tauber, Peterson; Portner abstained, motion carried.** July 14 Council meeting will be held at the city council chambers at 791 Main Avenue.

THM: Fox shared that the THM level at the WWTF were high and triggered a notice of violation for the entire city, that is a long line that uses only about 600 gallons a month. Public information was sent out in the May billing and a compliance plan must be completed within 45 days. The plan is to further flush and optimize chlorine residuals and will look into treatment options and associated costs. The next testing is July 20.

Zoning Map: Burger updated council that the preliminary cost to update the city zoning map could be as high as \$5,000. The map is not electronic and would have to be done from scratch, there is an option of summer interns working on it, which could bring the cost down and also, if we could obtain a CAD drawing from a previous project, that would bring the cost way down. The last update to the zoning map, which was created in 1983, was in 1990. Burger explained that with a soon to be house sale, there will be over \$8,000 returned to the local funds from the Revolving Loan Funds, this would be a beneficial project for those funds. This map should be updated with any change to the city and by bringing it up to date electronically any future updates would be much easier and less costly. **There was a motion by Polich and seconded by Portner to start the process to update the zoning map, all ayes, motion carried.**

Council suspended the meeting to complete the city Blight tour at 9:05 pm, Reed had a commitment and had to leave at this time. Mayor Peterson resumed the council meeting at 9:20 pm

Blight Tour: Council and staff worked through the lists of properties with blight, unlicensed vehicles, weeds and trees that need to be trimmed. Burger will work to send letters to the property owners.

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 pm; all ayes, motion carried. The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at the Lafayette City Council Chambers at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm.

Sandie Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer