

Mayor Tauber called the council meeting to order at 7:00pm on Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Lafayette City Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. Present were Mayor Curt Tauber, Councilors: Dave Reed, Tom Polich, Andrew Hartley and Logan VanDeest; 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, Myron Isaacson, and Ella Clobes and Brian Sullivan representing Xcel Energy and Jason Tews – United Farmers Cooperative.

Public Hearing: Mayor Tauber opened the Public Hearing for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) submitted by Excel Energy and Joe and Deb Maidl. Xcel Energy's Siting and Land Rights Agent, Brian Sullivan, explained the reason for this need as the current substation is to the end of capacity and the equipment is aged. The upgraded system will provide connectivity to the local needs and directly to downtown Minneapolis. The update will increase capacity for potential growth and reliability. Total area is five acres, with the equipment in a graveled area with a 10-foot chain fence to prevent vandalism, there will be an area for the parking of equipment when they are working on projects in the area. The only comment came from Myron Isaacson, who is on the First Lutheran Cemetery board and had questions on the driveway as there was a discrepancy of the property lines in the surveys. Mr. Sullivan said they would give a permanent easement for the part of the driveway in their parcel. Burger reported there were no comments submitted prior to the hearing. Mayor Tauber closed the public hearing at 7:08pm.

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

Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were the 6/9/2025 council minutes, bills totaling \$160,103.15, and receipts totaling \$245,893.49. The treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for June, the 2025 payrolls 12, 13 & 14 and Resolution 2025-16 - July Donations totaling \$2,864.00 - Compeer donated \$250 to the ambulance fund and all of the remaining towards the 125th Celebration, either sponsoring events or donations, as follows: \$200 Pheasants Forever, \$500 Carita Hoffmann, \$30 C-Store bucket, \$250 Sibley Nicollet Corn and Soybean Growers, \$200 from the descendants of John and Anna Lindquist, \$125 from the Winthrop Golf Course, \$300 from Frant Farms, \$1,000 from CIA.

Reports:

Fox: Submitted his written report and highlighted, the fence repair on first baseline will be done after the season is over. There were five full-sized trees and garbage bags filled with dog feces at the compost. The site is permitted and he has no prior warning when an inspection could occur. If this situation would occur when a visit happened, it could be shut down. Attorney Walton inquired of cameras to catch parties committing the infractions. MPCA inspection, letter of warning, due to rain event bypass and percent of removal, he will reply with in the 30-day timeline. Moldan will be at MWOA conference and re-exam, 7/22 to 7/25 and Fox will attend MPCA Wastewater Treatment training in Mankato 8/12 – 8/14/2025

Burger: Submitted a written report and highlighted that Munibilling is going well, a lot of advertising planned for this week and next for the 125th, the Next Twenty-Five Years books are here and selling and things are coming along. Code update is in the final stage before it can be adopted into the code by the council.

Dick: Burger reported that the ambulance will not be manned as a first aid station. Any committee member can call Mark if there is a minor need for band aids and such, but anything more must just call 911.

Tauber and VanDeest: Both had inquiries of the weed on the streets. Moldan completed the east side and will continue this week.

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Utility Updates:** PFA need to resubmit the grant by the end of July, ranking of all projects will be by the end of September; fundable projects will be listed by then. **Congressional Designated Spending (CDS)**
- EPA asking for a packet, application, new timelines were developed the application was submitted Friday,

July 11, 2025. The funding is there and ready to draw once construction starts. **MPCA:** Sulfate Variance: After the first session all others were cancelled and have not been rescheduled.

Stormwater Grant: Fox asked for questions of the Stormwater Resiliency Assessment and Action Plan he handed out to the council in June to review. Basically, one choice would take care of the flooding in the park area, the other would be either a one-acre retention pond, or a two-acre retention pond, he has discussed the possibilities with the land owner. The EPA has a grant soon to open for the stormwater resilience final design. **STREAMS:** State bonding request has been submitted; the cities will need to meet soon.

Resolution 2025-20 - Authorizing the City of Lafayette to submit a Point Source Implementation Grant Application (PSIG). Motioned by Polich, seconded by VanDeest, to approve Resolution 2025-20, all ayes, motion carried.

2. **Resolution 2025-15 – Authorizing Title and Summary Publication for Ordinance 152, Pertaining to chickens. Motioned by VanDeest to approve Resolution 2025-15 as presented it was seconded by Hartley, all ayes, motion carried.**

New Business:

1. **Resolution 2025-17 – Certification of Approval of Subdivision – Xcel and Maidl. Motioned by Reed and seconded by VanDeest to approve Resolution 2025 -17 – to subdivide a parcel with Xcel Energy and Joesph and Deborah Maidl; all ayes, motion carried.**
2. **Resolution 2025-18 Conditional Use Permit - Xcel Energy.** City attorney Walton explained the CUP process, Burger then read through the 'Findings of Facts', as laid out in the ordinance, and once the council agreed with the nine points, and there was no further discussion, **Reed motioned to approve the Conditional Use Permit Resolution 2025-18, seconded by Polich; all aye, motion carried.**
3. **Resolution 2025-19 – Certification of Approval of Subdivision UFC - Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve Resolution 2025 -19 – to subdivide a UFC parcel; all ayes, motion carried.**
4. **Blight:** A certified letter was sent to the owner of 400 Wanser, there was no appeal and the amount of time stated in the ordinance has passed without any progress. **Motioned by Polich and seconded by VanDeest to approve Fox to have either have staff or hire someone to remove the issue of the blight, by mowing and trimming the yard.**
5. **Personnel Policy Update:** Addition to Section 9 'Step Increases with Licensures and Certification: Upon an employee achieving license certification for Water, Waste Water, Bio-Solids, becoming a Minnesota Certified Municipal Clerk (MCMC), or Minnesota Master Municipal Clerk (MMMMC) an increase of a step will be awarded for each obtained. With little discussion **VanDeest motioned to approve the update as amended and Hartley seconded the motion, all ayes, motion carried.**
6. **RS Fiber update:** Shared in the packet was a letter from Mark Erickson, updating the council on what is happening with RS Fiber.

Other discussions:

VanDeest again inquired about spraying, for at least the parks for the celebration, after a lengthy discussion the consensus was that the city not spray the parks.

Adjourn: Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm; all ayes, motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next regular council meeting will be held on Monday, August 11, 2025 at 7:00pm, and there will be a budget workshop on Monday, August 18, at 7pm, both to be held at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer Approved by Council on: _____