

Mayor Tauber called the council meeting to order at 7:00pm on Monday, August 11, 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: Nick Klingler – Fire Chief, Mark Dick – Ambulance President, Resident Jessica Tauber – 551 5th Street, Michele Schroeder.

Presentation of a Certificate of Congressional Recognition and a flag flown over the US Capitol by Michele Schroeder, district outreach representative for Congressman Brad Finstad to honor our city's 125th anniversary.

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

Motioned by Polich and seconded by VanDeest to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried. Included in the consent agenda were the 7/14/2025 council minutes, bills totaling \$105,635.18, and receipts totaling \$126,036.28 The treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for July, the 2025 payrolls 15, 16 and First Lutheran's LG240B application to conduct excluded bingo.

Reports:

Fox: Submitted his written report and highlighted, that the air conditioner condenser unit in the community center needs replacement, it is original since 1993. Fence repairs will be done in the fall, (WINS) Wastewater Infrastructure Survey to be completed, this helps the MPCA understand the future funding needs. Continuing work for the Lead Service Line Inventory, awaiting results for the THM, HAA5, MDH 3rd quarter, if needed will send letters with the end of September billing. Tentatively set up a maintenance agreement with Maguire Iron for cleaning the water tower every other year from 2026 to 2035 for \$2,500 per year. ***Reed motioned to approve the maintenance agreement with Maguire Iron for \$2,500 every other year from 2026-2035, seconded by VanDeest; all ayes, motion carried.***

Burger: Submitted a written report and highlighted that there were two leak claims this month, is working with one family for a payment plan and asked council to approve the plan if the application is completed; they would pay \$34 plus the current charges for six months, ***motioned by Polich and seconded by Reed to follow up with the payment plan if the applicants agree; all ayes, motion carried.***

Walton: He is researching the August 1st law changes for remote meetings. The need for the remote member to be in a public accessible place was stricken, as was the only three times per year. At least one person must be at the meeting place.

Dick: Multiple cardio calls back-to-back, needed to borrow the AED from the community center until the park & recreation was done and the pop shack one could be used until the pads were received. Another push to get new members for both ambulance and fire.

Klingler: The unofficial ISO for the city fire department dropped from a 7 to a 5, lower being better, if the city should choose to sell the pumper, it is considered a reserve, it would not drop the rating by much.

Tauber and Reed: Both had many positive comments of the 125th celebration.

Unfinished Business:

1. Utility Updates: PFA has indicated our project will be funded next spring and shared the updated timeline, a public hearing will be needed once funding is understood. RO Short Term bond: due 12-1-2025, options are to do a one-year extension with a likely rate of 4.5%, or option two would be to refinance with a 3-year term, with a possible point higher interest. Council would need to initiate the process by October and to close on December 1, 2025 to take advantage of a lower interest rate. **MPCA:** Nothing new to report.

Stormwater Grant: Fox met with EPA – Delta August 7, 2025 for a review of the stormwater report, discussed the proposed project 1A in detail, as this would give us the most flooding relief for the city. EPA – Delta will be looking in to grant availability for preliminary engineering, estimated engineering costs

associated for a preliminary engineering design, and check on triggering MS4 permitting requirements. **STREAMS:** the project is on the 2026 bonding bill request, we anticipate a bus tour site visit, if that happens it will be in Winthrop council chambers. They will meet August 13 to discuss engineering.

New Business:

1. **Years of Service:** With a brief discussion, ***Reed motioned to raise the recommended years- of-service from \$2,500 to \$3,000 as of January 1, 2025, Polich seconded; all ayes, motion carried.***
2. After Burger briefly explained that a resolution approval is needed to formalize the previously motioned approval of a lot split in June of 2021, for a sale can move forward. If the updated survey information is presented in time to create a resolution, a special meeting should be added to the budget workshop. ***Motioned by Polich and seconded by Reed to add a special meeting if the resolution can be prepared in time, to approve a resolution to approve the lot split by resolution on Monday, August 18, 2025 to the budget workshop, all ayes, motion carried.***

Other discussions:

Dick brought up the need for more organization for the community center utility room, and the fire hall furnace room. Polich brought up the need to look to future updates to the community center kitchen. These are budget items and can be discussed at the budget workshop.

Adjourn: ***Motioned by VanDeest and seconded by Hartley to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm; all ayes, motion carried.***

Next Meeting: There will be a budget workshop, with a special meeting to approve a resolution on Monday, August 18, at 7pm. The next regular council meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00pm, both to be held at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette.

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