

Mayor Sandie Peterson called the Special council meeting & Budget Workshop to order on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Lafayette Council Chambers, 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette. 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 Ambulance President Mark Dick and Fire Chief Nick Klingler were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Resolution 2021-15 Restricting Water Use During Drought:** - Council approved the resolution in a 5-0 vote, with the following restrictions: lawn watering only once a week on Wednesdays and only hand watering using the odd/even every other day based on address is allowed. No car washing, filling swimming pools, etc. They ask everyone to reduce water consumption during this time. They will follow the DNR updated designations. There will be a \$50 fine per day of violation.
- 2) 2022 Budget:**
 - a) General Fund – (council, clerk, city offices/shop building) left draft budget for all lines, except added \$2000 for the zoning map update, will double check worker’s comp to be sure the increase is enough.
 - b) Fire Department – (fire dept & fire building) discussion on city pumper, needs work – no estimate yet. The four city air packs are close to expiration and need to be replaced for a cost of over \$31,000. There is a price increase on September 1 and again November 1 and being this is a safety issue a purchase order will be signed and council will approve the purchase at the next council meeting.
 - c) Ambulance – They are looking at up to six new trained EMTs by July 1, 2022. The training budget may need to be higher, looking into if we can prepay a portion of it from the 2021 budget. Ambulance is funded by household assessments for all households in the service area. If they spend less, it goes into the ambulance savings balance, if over spend it draws from savings. The goal is to have enough in the fund to purchase the next new ambulance without having to search for funds. The city started an assessment of \$6600 per year (with Resolution 2018-12), until the general fund advancement of \$33,000 is repaid, and then it will be designated for a future ambulance. Mark noted they changed their member requirements to if they work in town, or if they are able to respond to calls in a reasonable manner, they can remain on the department.
 - d) Public Works – (streets, lights, compost, misc. city) nothing was changed from the draft. Discussion on how the GF payroll changes between depts each year, due to what the needs of the city is at the time.
 - e) Culture – (parks & community center) discussed the water and sewer being installed this year, and if needed additional funds will be moved from the Revolving Loan fund. The concern if waiting is that it would not be completed by the time the season starts.
 - f) Water – Enterprise Fund – runs as a separate business, meaning it funds itself from user fees. Will do a rate study to see where we sit as far as fees.
 - g) Sewer – Enterprise Fund – runs as a separate business, meaning it funds itself from user fees. Will do a rate study to see where we sit as far as fees.
 - h) Garbage – Is an in and out account. The fees will be set by the garbage hauler chosen by council.
 - i) Revolving loan – We have \$51,832 to reloan out from the original loan repayments. Once the reloaned money is paid off, that becomes local funds to be used for public use.
 - j) RS Fiber Debt service – With refinancing, the annual amount to levy for the RS Fiber project will be \$2,984 less than the previous amount.
 - k) ARPA Funds – We will receive the second payment of \$26,083.90 next summer, no clear plan for the funds as of yet.

There was brief discussion of mail in elections saving over \$2400, currently \$3300 is in the budget to cover election costs for 2022, and along with the water-sewer fee schedule, council was asked to review the fee schedule with any updates to take place on January 1, 2021 by an amended ordinance.

After all wish list items added or removed, the General Fund Preliminary Levy has an increase of \$22,562.23 or 17.32%, the ambulance stays at \$6,600 and the RS Fiber dropped \$2,984 to \$35,488 – a total increase of \$19,578.23 or 11.17%

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Reed to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm; all ayes, motion carried. The next Council meetings will be held on Monday, September 13, 2021 at the Lafayette City Council Chambers at 791 Main Avenue, Lafayette at 7:00 pm.

Sandie Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer