

**Mayor Sandie Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, August 9, 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 City Attorney Aaron Walton. Ambulance President Mark Dick and Fire Chief Nick Klingler were absent.

**Guests present:** Lee Zion – Lafayette Ledger, Marty Wacker – Resident 540 Main Avenue

**Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

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

**Motioned by Polich and seconded by Reed to approve the Consent Agenda; all ayes, motion carried.** Included in the consent agenda were: 7/14/2021 minutes and bills totaling \$25,676.26 and the annual LMCIT Waiver Form.

#### **Reports:**

**Fox:** He shared that the U of M Duluth COVID study has now been taken over by the MN Dept of Health. Minnesota is the largest study in the nation, there are 44 sites in MN or about 63% of the state is involved. They are able to predict where spike will happen. Future studies will look for variants and other pathogens. The humidifier at the water plant needs to be replaced **Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to approve the purchase of a new dehumidifier at an approximate cost of \$3500; all ayes, motion carried.** Fox also shared information of the MN Rural Water Servline. When an issue arises, the city covers repairs to the curb line, the homeowner's responsibility is from that line to the home. MN Rural Water and National Rural Water Association have a service called Servline, to which homeowners can purchase insurance to cover costs of broken lines, etc., they are requesting the City's permission to share this information with Lafayette residents and businesses. This insurance may also be available through a homeowner's current insurance company. **Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to approve the MN Rural Water to promote the Servline to Lafayette's utility customers; all ayes, motion carried.**

**Burger:** Reported a new business will be opening soon, a dog grooming business by Sherry Fluegge, in one of the rooms at the Isenberg Electric building.

**Peterson:** Night to Unite was a huge success, and the consensus was to hold it every year, thoughts were to add music. She also mentioned the final St. Gregory's service, its hard to leave home as these parishioners will do now.

**Reed:** Attended RS Fiber's annual meeting, there is a customer increase of 10-14% for the year, RS Fiber is concentrating on phone and internet, as video runs so high. There will be more towers built on the Renville County side.

**Klingler:** Was not present but shared with Fox, they would request the street be closed from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> street during the August 28 hog/corn roast and fire relief dance. Budget item, the city fire needs two air packs for \$16,000. The city pumper failed its pump test, waiting for a repair estimate.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

##### **Wastewater Permit:**

Fox shared that we are at the point to make a decision on the next step. The water analysis has been completed and forwarded to Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) to begin the following:

- 1- Table top overview on type of RO Treatment needed.
- 2- Preliminary Engineering report. Contracted service that would detail type of system, construction cost analysis and projected operational costs. Which needs to be submitted to the state, when the request is made to be put on the Intended Use Plan (IUP).
- 3- Add project to State Project Priority List (PPL).
- 4- Add project to Intended Use Plan (IUP).

Funding now through the Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) program is 80% grant, 20% loan. Additional grant money may be eligible, depending on variables while going through the process.

The report would have preliminary costs, 2 or 3 options, original, alternative and other treatment. He estimated the cost would be approximately \$10,000. After further discussion, there was a **motion by Polich and seconded by Tauber to move forward with SEH Engineering for the items listed above; all ayes, motion carried.**

**Mini Park:** Flag pole has been ordered. Committee will meet on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6 pm in the community center.

**Ord. 134 – Amending Code Title 9 Regulation of Nuisances:** Walton went over the ordinance, and after a brief discussion there was a **motion by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve the first reading of Ordinance 134 Amending Code Title 9 Regulations of Nuisances, all ayes, motion carried.** Walton mentioned he will add a section to the Weeds Ordinance for repeat violators of one notice per season, before the second reading.

**Band Stand undercarriage:** Burger reported that there were no bids submitted after running the information in the newsletter for two months. After brief discussion **Portner motioned to run it another month and post it on Facebook, there was no second; motion failed. A motion was then made by Tauber to scrap the undercarriage, seconded by Reed; ayes: Reed, Tauber, Polich and Peterson, nay: Portner; motion carried.**

**New Business:**

**Request for Proposals – Garbage Haulers: *Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to send out RFPs for Garbage Hauler 5-year contracts; all ayes, motion carried.***

**DNR Drought Designation:** Fox explained the DNR designation process, the city is only allowed a little over a million gallons of water a month per the order. After a discussion, it was decided a resolution would need to be passed in order to enforce the watering ban, Portner requested the resolution be added to the Budget Workshop meeting so a special meeting did not need to be called; Burger will post it as such. ***Portner motioned to create a Resolution for the watering ban, seconded by Tauber; all ayes, motion carried.***

**Park & Rec Update:** The mayor called the special meeting for Tuesday, August 10, to discuss with park & rec becoming a non-profit entity, become a 501-C3 and then could discuss an agreement between the two with who is responsible for what tasks.

**Permits:** 411 Skyview – Hartmann – deck & patio, 491 11<sup>th</sup> Street – Emerson – Fence, 540 Main Avenue – Addition. ***There was a motion by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve all three permits. All ayes, motion carried.***

**Commercial Properties - Blight:** A discussion was held as to the city blight code for commercial properties. A few points of concern were vehicles unlicensed moved to a commercial area and some areas of weeds. Reviewing the code, Walton shared that the ordinance does not differentiate between commercial and residential properties.

**FYI:** Burger gave each council member a hard copy of the budget to review, make notes and bring to Monday's Budget workshop meeting.

***Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm; all ayes, motion carried.*** The next Council meetings will be Tuesday, August 10, Special Park & Rec meeting, Monday, August 16 – Special meeting for Resolution 2021-15 and budget workshop, and the September council meeting 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