

# September 2025

## City of Lafayette

Edition: 2025-09

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### 2025-2026 Council

Mayor: Curt Tauber 507-276-7803

Council Members: Dave Reed 507-228-8264

Tom Polich 507-766-1874

Andrew Hartley 507-276-9334

Logan VanDeest 507-766-6545

"The City of Lafayette is an equal opportunity provider."

### September 2025

8 – Fire Meeting – Fire Hall – 7:30pm

8 – City Council – 7pm Council Chambers

9 – Lions Meeting – Community Center 6:45pm

16 – Legion Post 300 – Community Center

25 – All Utility Payments Due!

29 – Ambulance Meeting Fire Hall

### October 2025

6 – Fire meeting – Fire hall - 7:30pm

11 – City-wide Garage sales

13 – City Council – 7pm Council Chambers

14 – Lions Meeting - Community Center  
6:45pm

18 – Fall City-wide Cleanup

21 – Legion Post #300 – Community Center

27 – Ambulance Meeting Fire Hall

### Other City Information:

#### Recycling Dates:

September: Holiday Schedule Friday, 5 –  
garbage only, Recycling 11 & 25.

October 9, 23

City-wide Garage Sale: Saturday, October 11.

Contact Kathy Eckstrand or Rachel Hoffmann  
to sign up. \$10 covers the cost for advertising  
and printing maps - please pay this if you will  
be participating.

#### Cleanup Dates:

October 18 to the curb before 7 am.

String Lights: Recycle holiday string lights and  
extension cords year-round; drop them at the  
office during office hours.

#### Bookmobile Dates:

Fall hours are 10:30 to 11:00 am.

Fall dates: September 18, October 2, 16, 30,  
November 13, December 11. No card, no  
problem – bring a photo ID and register for a  
Library card!

Register your cat and dog. There are many  
dogs and cats in the city that are not registered  
or registration updated – stop in and get them  
up to date.

Lost & Found: There are still a few items left  
from the 125<sup>th</sup> a few keys, sunglasses with case  
& the red scooter it still here! Guessing  
someone is missing it!

## Next up... Fall Garage Sales!

Saturday, October 11, 2025!

Contact Kathy Eckstrand 507-276-1912 or Rachel Hoffmann 507-276-1118  
to get on the list.

They will need the \$10 fee for advertising and a list of what you are selling  
– before the map deadline of Wednesday, October 8, 2025

### **IMPORTANT - Did you know that mowing your grass into the street violates local nuisance code? Do you know why?**

**Safety:** This can cause hazardous conditions for driver, especially motorcyclists and bicyclists due to reduced traction and potential loss of control.

**Water Pollution:** grass clippings and leaves in the street can end up in storm sewers, eventually reaching rivers and lakes, contributing to water quality issues like algae blooms.

**Best Practices:** Mow with intention. Make your last pass the closest to the roadway to blow your clippings into your lawn.

Aim wisely: position your blower to mow clippings into your yard.

**Clean it up:** If your clippings go into the street. Sweep them up and take them to the compost pile.

**Munibilling:** If you are having issues trying to register for online access, try clearing your browsing history. It also seems typing in the website address seems to work better. If you are newly signing up there should be a line that states that, follow the setup using the code on the bottom of your bill. *Also, if you make a payment and do not submit your payment stub, PLEASE write your account number on your check!*

**Tri County Upcoming Fall Collections:** Le Sueur, Nicollet and Sibley Counties.

**Hazardous Waste Collection** - Thursday, September 11, 2025 10 am to 3 pm

Nicollet County Highway Shop in Klossner (57575 Old Fort Road off County Hwy 5)

**Tire Appliance & Electronics Collection:** Wednesday, September 24, 2025 9 am to 4pm.

Sibley County Fair Grounds in Arlington. (801 W Chandler Street)

**Tire Appliance & Electronics Collection:** Saturday, October 4, 2025 9 am to 1pm. Nicollet County Fair Grounds in St Peter (400 W Union Street)

For further information call Tri-County Solid Waste Office 507-381-9196 or

[www.tricountyrecycling.org](http://www.tricountyrecycling.org).

**Fall Citywide Cleanup:** Will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025. Items must be to the curb by 7am. If you need the information to what is acceptable, stop by the office for another copy. ***These are all great opportunities to clean up your yard & home before winter sets in!***

**Annual Tree Trimming:** It's that time of year to trim your trees back. Code 90.01 in part states: All trees shall be pruned to sufficient height to allow free passage to pedestrians and vehicular traffic nine feet over sidewalks and pathways and 13 feet over streets, pathways and alleyways. There are many trees over roadways, sidewalks and covering signs.

#### **TREX Plastics Recycling for Benches:**

The garden club is just 390# away from our goal of 1,000#s! We are an earth conscience community and everyone likes to recycle the plastics and slowly we have gotten the wrong items out of the collection process! ***Only stretchable plastics, clean and dry. Salt bags with plastic handles need to be cut off. NO dog food bags, candy wrappers, frozen food bags, etc. Turn the bags inside out to be sure they are clean & empty & remove receipts from store bags.***

The project consists of collecting the proper plastics, bagging them, weighing each bag and sending a photo to TREX – in turn they send a bench once the 1,000 #s of plastic is achieved! We have the process down pat – are you willing to do it next? This project will continue as long as a group or organization will volunteer the time and effort. With a few good sources we have gotten that provide clean stretchable wrap, the amount adds up. Any organization can register to collect and receive a bench. It will be nice to have a few additional benches on Main street when there are summer events down town!

For more information, fact sheets are at the city office or check out the TREX website:

<https://nextrex.com/view/educate>.

### **125<sup>th</sup> Items for SALE:**

125<sup>th</sup> t-shirts only XXL grey remain, \$24 each.

The Centennial book 1900 -2000 – reprints are available for pre-order \$40  
The Next 25 years 2000-2025 – available at the office or bank \$30

### **Lafayette Area Lions:**

Thank you all for attending the Pork chop and Corn event August 23. It is turning fall and soon the bar bingo and meat raffles will begin. Watch their Facebook page for updates! The Lafayette Lions are a service organization that helps so many in our community and surrounding area! Consider joining them!

<https://www.facebook.com/Lafayette-Area-Lions-1815080668713552>

**Playground Upgrade:** The Lions are making donations to the city to pay the equipment bond payments for the playground. They are doing fundraising and using gambling proceeds to make these donations. Help them by participating in the Lions events or making a donation to the Lions directly for this project – see Taylor at the bank, if you wish to donate directly to the Lions.

### **Lafayette Park & Recreation:**

Youth Soccer ages 4- 8 Tuesday nights, 9/2 through 9/30 from 6 – 6:45 pm. \$10 fee.

<http://lafayettetparkandre.wixsite.com/minn>

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Lafayette-Park-and-Recreation/61556096219153/>

**\*\*Remember to recycle your cans in the trailer at the C-Store.**

### **Legion Post #300**

<https://www.facebook.com/LafMNAmLeg300>

Paver orders are ongoing. Reach out to the Legion or stop into the city office for an order form.

### **Bike & Car nights:**

The grand finale is Wednesday, September 3, 2025 – another year wrapped up.

### **Lafayette Study Club:**

The Lafayette Study Club is our local book club that meets monthly on the third Tuesday. Our book club is in its 106<sup>th</sup> season! The first meeting is on Tuesday, September 16 at 7pm and will be hosted by Sandy Hartley at her home. If you are interested in attending to check it out, contact Sandy Hartley at 507-276-4692, or Sandy Burger 507-351-9731

## **Council Briefs:**

**8/11/2025 – Guests:** Doug Hanson – Winthrop Publications, Residents Jessica Tauber – 551 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Michele Schroeder - representative for Congressman Brad Finstad's district office. Nick Klingler - Fire Chief, Mark Dick – Ambulance President.

**Recognition:** Presentation of a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our city and a flag flown over the US Capitol by Michele Schroeder, district outreach representative for Congressman Brad Finstad.

**Approved:** Agenda and Consent Agenda including the 7/14 minutes, bills totaling \$105,635.18, the receipts totaling \$126,036.28. The treasurer's report including the bank reconciliation for July, the 2025 payrolls 15 & 16 and First Lutheran's request LG240B application to conduct excluded bingo.

**Reports:** **Fox:** submitted his report and highlighted that the condenser at the community center needs replacement, it is original from 1993, fence repairs will be done this fall, council approved a maintenance agreement with McGuire Iron for \$2,500 every other year for cleaning the water tower. **Burger:** Two leak claims this month, is working with one for a payment plan. Council approved moving forward with the payment plan, if the applicants agree. **Walton:** Researching the August 1 law changes for remote meetings. The need for the remote council member to be in a public place was stricken, as was only three times per year. At least one member must be at the regular meeting place. **Dick:** Multiple cardio calls back-to-back, needed to borrow the AED from the community center until the pop shack one was available to be used until pads were replaced. Another push to get new members for both fire and ambulance. Commented the need for organization for brooms/mops in the community center & fire hall. **Klingler:** Unofficial ISO for the city fire dropped from a 7 to a 5, lower being better. If the city would choose to sell the pumper, considered a reserve, it would not drop the rating much. **Tauber & Reed:** Both had many positive comments of the 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

**Unfinished Business:** **RO:** PFA has indicated the project will be funded next spring and shared the new timeline. Fox gave options for the \$250,000 short term bond, due 12/1/25, the council would need to act by October. **Stormwater Grant:** Fox met with the EPA – Delta for a review of the report and discussed the proposed project in detail. The option chosen would give the city the most flooding relief for the city. EPA-Delta will look for grant availability for preliminary engineering design and check on triggering MS4, permitting requirements. **STREAMS:** project is on the 2026 bonding bill request, will anticipate a bus tour site visit in Winthrop, the team will next meet August 13.

**New Business:** Approved the Fire Relief years of service from \$2,500 to \$3,000 as of January 1, 2025 and set a special meeting prior to the August 18, 2025 budget workshop to review and approve a formal resolution for a split lot request approved in June of 2021 by a motion.

**8/18/2025: Special meeting:** council approved Resolution 2025-21 Certificate of Approval of Lot Split. Council closed the special meeting and moved on to the 2026 budget workshop. **Budget:** Discussed items of in-person election, in-house mowing vs contracted, ISO rating and city pumper, pay stipend for the chief, vice and secretary, hiring a custodian for the community center, rate changes for the water and sewer funds and adding a capital improvement amount to start setting aside for a basketball, pickle ball, ice rink area. The session ended with a 19.98% preliminary increase and will meet again on 8/26/2025 to further the discussion.

**8/26/2025: Special meeting:** council approved Resolution 2025-19A Certificate of Approval of subdivision for correction of the legal description. **Budget:** Increased election costs to \$4700 from \$1500 for in person elections, council will need to decide by the December meeting, to stay with mail in or in person. Increased insurance costs in case it is needed for a new clerk, council removed mowing contracted costs and changed costs to purchase a mower and to hire seasonal personnel to mow, left the wages to hire a custodian for the community center, increases officer pay for chief, asst. chief and secretary and to match this, officer pay for ambulance president, and vice president. Discussed the city pumper and will add that to the September agenda. Also, the decision to try to fix the fence at the park instead of replacing it will be added to the September agenda to reverse their decision. This is after a discussion with park & recreation they are moving forward with replacing both fences, and any work done would be removed for the new fencing, thus wasting city money. The discussion changed to the fencing, as there is nothing wrong with it, once removed and with the proper poles, it could be reused for the future basketball/pickleball area and possible future dog park.

The council ended the session by dropping the increase to 15.66% (\$43,556) from 19.98% (\$55,556). The council will hold one more workshop on 12/ 2, after more precise information is available for different items such as insurance. A lot of the increase is due to clerk training up to two months doubled, adding an election increase, if changed to in person and the purchase of a mower and mowing costs over and above the original projected mowing service cost, year one is higher due to purchasing a mower. The preliminary budget/levy will be approved by resolution at the September meeting.

The preliminary budget levy is always higher than what the final budget levy will be approved in December.

**The next council meeting will be held Monday, September 8, 2025 , 2025, at 7:00 pm in the council chambers 791 Main Avenue.**