

TOWN MEETING - SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007
AGENDA (Without Council Present)

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School
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Council
meetings

10:00 a.m. PURPOSE OF MEETING

Introduce Facilitators - Chris Pajella, Chris Harper, Kenny Schweiger

The reason this meeting was called:

- Residents were not able to get answers or make progress at the monthly Council, Planning & Budget meetings
- We requested our City Council to schedule a Town Meeting, to no avail
- A group of about a dozen frustrated residents from the city meetings decided to become an organized productive force. Within less than 2 weeks, our organized group quickly had spread to 40-50 members, and is growing rapidly.

Our mission is to be a *positive*, unified force in Lafayette that works to get answers and promote change. WE ARE SEEKING ANSWERS AND PROGRESS.

Summarize Structure of Meeting:

We'll review the structure of our existing local government, review what our group has done so far to make progress, address specific concerns we are already aware of, and then allow some time to hear from you regarding specific concerns that have not already been addressed.

To ensure order and fairness, and also to maintain a positive, productive meeting, we're asking if you could save your comments and questions until we get through updating you on what's taken place so far.

10:10 a.m. OUR 6 COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE NOT HERE TODAY

Lisa Heatherly - not available

Jim Rue - not available

Art Bixler - no response

Bob Cullin - not interested in attending

Michael Roberts - had to work

Matt Smith - had other plans

10:15 a.m. SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT

City Charter - This is basically the constitution for the city of Lafayette

Welcome Brochure states what was intended as the mission of Lafayette

City Mission Statement can be viewed online and states the following

goals established for the local government of Lafayette:

- To foster a strong sense of community pride in the operation of the city, and the action of its elected officials, appointed officials and employees
- To promote citizen activism and get as many people as possible involved in decision making and the operation of the city
- To keep citizen informed as to what the city is doing and why
- To treat customers, citizens and the public in a courteous and friendly manner
- To be respectful of and listen to the views of everyone in the community and to recognize that every citizen has an equal access to the decision making process
- To always keep the best interest of the city in mind whenever any decision is made, policy is developed or program is implemented

CLUBHOUSE MEETING AGENDA

JULY 23, 2007

- 1) LEADERSHIP VOTES:** Mary Heisler, Darrell Flood, Chris Pagella, Bonnie Purcel(?)
- 2) WEB SITE UPDATE - THOMAS**
- 3) SARAH FLOOD**
- 4) TWO NEW INITIATIVES:**
 - A) BUILD A CASE AGAINST CITY ADMINISTRATOR**
Documenting Neglect of Duties and Abuse of Tax Payer Dollars by City Administrator. Gathering all the facts to be brought to each individual Council member to force them to take a stand against the corruption.

 - B) CLEAN UP OF OUR CITY'S NEGLECTED PROPERTIES**
We discovered through outside sources that we have a local government that has completely neglected to adopt proper codes to deal with unsafe and disheveled properties in our city.
 - We have absentee landlords have never been dealt with and 30 years of neglect by our local government in adopting proper code to keep our city clean and safe.
 - One public inspector told me we have 20-30 properties that should be condemned.
 - Most cities have either a Uniform Housing Code or a Dangerous Housing Code, to help the state and county public inspectors and law enforcement do their job, but Lafayette's local government has not chosen to adopt either code. Therefore, Yamhill County housing authority and public officials can't address the numerous calls they get from desperate tenants in Lafayette living with mold, mushrooms growing on walls, and huge other safety issues.
 - Lafayette is Yamhill County Housing Authority's biggest issue but our local government doesn't take the steps necessary to take action, and therefore they can't help.
 - One public inspector for Yamhill County wants to help us and said they've "just been waiting for SOMEONE to come and rescue this town."
 - Sheriff Tim oversees the code enforcement officer and says his hands are tied. He mostly just relies on complaints by residents and can't do anything about disrepair and disheveled buildings. He can only enforce what's in our very weak municipal code. (Online, Chapter 5)
 - A big safety hazard is the countless properties that have no address on the front. The public. Inspectors have serious concerns about this in case of fire or emergencies in our town.
- 5) WE NEED TO BE MORE PREPARED AND UNIFIED AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.** Discuss at next Council Meeting. Stick to major issues, decide who will speak on each topic.
- 6) PLANNING COMMISSION OPENING - Please consider**

After attending our first City Council meeting, my wife and I became aware that this was not happening in Lafayette.

DUTIES OF COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR (See Org. Chart)

The City Administrator is responsible to run the city efficiently, and is the *administrative* head of the city. The administrator is to perform the duties consistent with the Charter as directed by the Council and are to be accountable to the Mayor and the City Council.

Our City Administrator, Diane Rinks, and has been employed by our city for almost 4 years. She was terminated from her last position as City Administrator in the city of Brownsville, Oregon shortly before being hired by Lafayette. She is a full time employee with a base salary of around \$60,000 and about \$20,000 in additional benefits. Information regarding her Brownsville termination is on the table.

We are summarizing and highlighting just some of the concerns and details of our city today. To keep yourself informed, we have a internet sight established. If you want to stay informed, please sign up on one of the lists being circulated NOW - The "Think Tank" in addition to being a means to inform is also a public forum and as such there will be opinions posted that will not necessarily represent the purpose of this group

(Circulate Clipboards with sign up lists for the ThinkTank)

10:30 a.m.

SUMMARIZE GRIEVANCES

- Recap Letter Sent to Council
- Inform of Council Meetings conduct
- This is NOT about the "staff" at City Hall.
- Introduce Darrell and to give 5 minute recap
- Chris Pajella to give brief recap/update of Parks project.

10:45 a.m.

WATER & SEWER SYSTEM CONCERNS

Angela Flood to give 5 minute summary of history and status of our sewer system.

Questions we want Answered

- What has been spent so far
- What the outstanding loan amount is
- Who is accountable for the mistakes made, and is there any recourse?
- Breakdown of further costs anticipated
- Are the *best* decisions being made for the future of Lafayette?

BUDGET CONCERNS

At the Council meetings over the past few months, residents have been asking for a clear picture of the city's revenue and debt.

A Line Item Budget has been requested by residents, but it has been declined, stating "it is not feasible".

We'd like a high level budget & debt analysis outlining the major past deficit for Lafayette, and

also a breakdown of major expenses to the city over the past 5-10 years. Where is all the revenue going from all the new subdivisions that have been built in the past 5-10 years?

Read highlight from the Annual Financial Report completed this year by Grove, Mueller, & Swank.

MISC. CONCERNS

Show of Hands: Is anyone concerned about the poor condition of some properties in Lafayette? Should ordinances be enforced to require landlords to clean up their properties?

ORDERLY PUBLIC QUESTIONING AND RESPONSE

We'd like to open up this time for anyone here that has something *additional* to bring up that we have not already addressed. You can do that 3 different ways:

- 1) Write your concern on the sheet that has been passed out
- 2) By posting your concern or suggestion on the group website
- 3) By raising your hand to speak publicly right here

11:30 a.m.

RECALL OPTION

Cover Recall Process (Dave Gilby) and Time Line
Cover Replacing City Administrator Process

11:40 a.m.

PLAN OF ACTION & PETITION SIGNATURES

Circulate Petition to consider recall of Council in July
Circulate Petition to replace City Administrator

11:55 a.m.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS

Any HOA Members (Please raise your hand)

12:00 p.m.

FINALIZE ACTION PLAN, CONCLUSION

HELP US RESCUE OUR CITY

www.newlafayette.org

HERE ARE SOME EXCEPTS FROM LAFAYETTE'S MISSION STATEMENT THAT OUR LEADERS ARE TO UPHOLD:

"To be respectful of and listen to the views of everyone in the community and to recognize that every citizen has an equal right to the decision making process. . . ."

- "To foster a strong sense of community pride in the operation of the city, the actions of its elected officials, appointed officials and employees, and the projects that are undertaken by the city. "
- "To promote citizen activism and get as many people as possible involved in decision making and the operation of the city."
- "To keep citizens informed as to what the city is doing and why."
- "To always keep the best interest of the city in mind whenever any decision is made, policy is developed, or program is implemented."
- "To be frugal in the use of public resources and funds and to do the best job we can with what we have to work with."

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With all the new subdivisions and added revenue to our city, why is none of it being reinvested into the community? Why have our streets, our parks, and our Community Center been allowed to deteriorate to the point that citizens are having to seek funding on their own to rescue our facilities?

WHERE IS ALL THE MONEY GOING?

On May 5th 2007, Residents held a Town Hall Meeting to address citizen concerns and all City Councilors were invited by certified mail to attend. NONE SHOWED UP. Since then, residents have continued to ask the Council to hold a town meeting to no avail.

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE A GOVERNMENT THAT IS WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE?

Our City Administrator was fired from the last city she worked for. Despite citizen concerns, our Council refuses to hold her accountable or monitor her spending. She violates our city Charter, Mission Statement, and the responsibilities laid out for her in the City Employee Handbook. Yet, the Council ignores citizens complaints.

ARE THEY WORKING FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY?

The mayor *elected* by the people of Lafayette felt forced to resign for asking too many questions and communicating too openly with the public that elected him.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR ELECTED MAYOR FLOOD?

Water & sewer system questions continue to go unanswered, project failures go unaccounted for, and residents are beginning to take the issues into their own hands.

WHY WON'T THEY LOOK INTO ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO OUR SERIOUS WATER AND SEWER DEBT?

LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

THIS THURSDAY, JULY 12TH

6:30 P.M.

CITY HALL BUILDING, SIDE ENTRANCE

PLEASE COME
AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR CITY!

Important issues are decided at council meetings that impact our home values, our water bills, and growth and change in our city.

If we want to see change in Lafayette, we need
to be there!

Even if you can only come for a short time, sign in and be in attendance during the "Citizen Input" time frame that typically occurs early in the meeting. Bring your concerns or just listen. Show our council that you care what happens in Lafayette and you are concerned about the decisions being made that affect all of us.

My Contract with Lafayette Residents

I want to be your Mayor to help bring transparency to our local government, and citizen input and involvement to our community.

My promise and commitment to you as Mayor is to do my best to:

- Bring the proper order to the city's management where the administration serves the council and mayor, and the council and mayor serves the citizens.
- Regain the trust between the residents and the leadership of Lafayette.
- Push for full transparency in our local government, doing my best to promote communication with residents regarding all city business.
- Ensure city code and ordinances are enforced fairly and consistently.
- Work toward a long-range plan for successful city administration.
- Ensure that all residents' dealings with city government are fair and consistent.
- Publish a clear, council agenda in advance of meetings and encourage public input.
- Work toward promoting an attractive environment in our city to attract new businesses, enhancing economic growth and restoring community pride.
- Help bring proper oversight to all government activities.

- Chris Heisler