

August 2009

Dear Lafayette Residents:

Your City Council has been very busy in the recent months, attending four Budget Committee hearings in April and two goal-setting meetings in April and June, in addition to our regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month.

Things will not lighten up this summer as we also will be attending additional meetings to begin the process of recruiting a new city administrator. For those who have not heard, longtime City Administrator Diane Rinks has announced her retirement. The City Council has hired the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments to help us recruit a new city administrator. If you have any opinions about a new city administrator's qualifications or qualities – either professional or personal – please contact us individually or as a group by e-mailing City Hall.

The city has started the 2009-10 budget year. In April, four budget meetings were held with the 13-member Budget Committee comprised of seven City Council members and six citizens. Below are the current items the city is saving for in the future, as well as how much was allocated in the 2009-10 budget and the total after that 2009-10 addition is made.

- Community Center Building Fund, \$969 (\$969).
- Fire Capital equipment (new fire truck), \$40,000, (139,000)
- City Hall Building Fund, \$35,000, (\$160,000)
- Water Capital Projects Fund (new reservoir), \$34,000, (\$59,000)
- Vehicle/Equipment Replacement Fund, \$8,000 (\$38,000)

In addition, during the Budget Committee process, we transferred \$85,000 from the General Fund to the Parks SDC Fund to capitalize on System Development Charges that require a city match, giving the city \$317,500 it can spend on parks projects this budget year. If you have any input on what you would like done with those funds relative to parks improvement, please contact us with your ideas.

The City Council recently awarded a bid to improve the intersections of Bridge and Washington streets with Third Street (99W). Please be aware that this work will begin in August, so be alert for detours. A new right-hand turn lane will be placed on Bridge, which will help traffic flow at that intersection, as well as reduce use of Washington Street.

The City Council voted in July to refer to voters a proposed Charter amendment. Currently, the charter includes a \$1 million spending limit. Anything over \$1 million per project must be OK'd by voters. That restriction was approved 449-164 by voters in November 2002. A \$1 million debt limit would be an option and the Council is asking citizens to consider the pros and cons of a spending limit vs. a debt limit, and vote accordingly. Please keep an eye out for future educational materials, the voters' pamphlet, newspaper articles and fliers (both pro and con), consider the arguments and, most importantly, vote.

Lafayette City Council

Mayor Chris Heisler (cjheisler@comcast.net), Council President Chris Pagella (candbpagella@yahoo.com) and Councilors Bob Cullen (bcullen@runbox.com), Leah Harper (leahharper@comcast.net), Nick Harris (nrharris23@gmail.com), Dean Rhodes (dean.rhodes@comcast.net) and Michael Roberts (michaeljri@yahoo.com).