

February 2009

Greetings from Your Mayor!

One month into the job as Mayor, and I am feeling energized and encouraged as we proceed. Things will not change overnight and it is overwhelming at times, but I'm thankful for the progress I see and believe in the work being done to make Lafayette a great little town! I welcome your prayers and support for myself and the Council as we take steps forward that are often met by obstacles and adversaries. Here are a few things I'd like to share with you.

Highlights from the Town Hall Meeting, February 10th:

I gave an update regarding my focus during this first month in office, which includes improving communication with residents, developing citizen committee groups, and making positive changes to ensure we are working for YOU. Councilors were introduced, questions and viewpoints were shared about the new Charter proposal, and the 2004 Parks Plan was discussed. The final hour of the meeting was spent gathering suggestions and input from citizens, and this is what was said:

- Better communication with residents is needed
- Concern and questions were raised about ensuring proper oversight of City Hall
- Suggestion was made to review long term traffic issues on 3rd Street
- Library, Book Mobile or book swap desired by many residents
- City Hot Line for urgent issues suggested and email links for councilors on the city's web site
- More indoor recreational facilities and activities desired by residents
- Landscape projects suggested in cooperation with volunteer groups and donations
- Concern expressed about "gang" activity and graffiti, residents want aggressive action

These suggestions will be added to the focus of my position and I'm thankful for those that took the time to share their opinions. More Town Hall Meetings will be conducted in the future, and I'm looking forward to meeting you.

What's Happening

- I proposed that the Council Meeting Rules be changed to allow for more citizen input at Council meetings. This was approved at the February meeting and will be implemented going forward.
- I, along with other Councilors, are asking questions and getting answers to have proper oversight of city operations. Items are being added to the Council meeting agendas to make sure we're doing the people's business along with the city's business.
- The new Council rejected putting a new basketball court and parking lot at 12th and Bridge at this time. We're looking at the Parks Plan that was formulated by committee in 2004, listening to resident's opinion and reviewing all options first.
- Some volunteers have come forward to begin forming great citizen committees!
- Bonnie Purcel has volunteered and has been assigned to manage our Community Center in hopes to give rental activity and maintenance better oversight. Thank you Bonnie.
- The 2009 Budget Committee is forming soon. Please contact City Hall for an application, if you're interested in participating.

Reminders:

- We will continue to compile an email list for the purpose of open communication and notifying you of any issues addressing our city. Sign up by contacting Trena at trenam@ci.lafayette.or.us. Also, my Mayor web site remains active for information, suggestions and contacts at LafayetteMayor2008.com. Feel free to contact me anytime!
- The next Council meeting is Thursday, March 12th at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you there.

Your Mayor,

Chris J. Heisler