

March 2009

Hello Lafayette,

As we welcome spring and a new season, I want to share some of the changes that are occurring in city.

The residents of Lafayette overwhelmingly voted for change and I'm doing my best to honor that. Council meetings have become more lively and engaging, and I believe this is a good thing. There's a great deal of discussion taking place when topics are brought to the table as some of us are trying to build a new foundation and alter the way this city is being led and served.

Here are some of the highlights of the March Council meeting:

- We enacted to receive weekly updates from the City Administrator to inform us of projects being worked on, time off, and status of major tasks being performed in that position.
- We voted to change the Council Meeting Rules to allow more citizen input.
- We voted for a documented update from City Hall following each Council meeting to include a summary of Council decisions and action items.
- Applicants for the Budget and Planning Commission Committees were selected. Thank you to all who applied and are willing to serve Lafayette!
- We discussed concerns about increased graffiti and the need to be more aggressive with graffiti clean up. Our police force participated in the discussion and it is clear that residents must report and cleanup graffiti on a timely basis. I've begun looking into establishing a graffiti taskforce and one resident even began cleanup of our community on his own after the Council meeting. We should all be thankful for this kind of initiative.
- Some of us, including residents and outside sources have raised concerns about Lafayette's residential and business code ordinances. Discussions have started to ensure proper codes are established and enforced in the most fair and vigorous manner. We're gathering information and will continue our discussions. I welcome your feedback regarding this.

Personally, I'm continuing to gather information regarding our sewer bond and water and sewer rates. I've met with several Mayors from neighboring communities and have some great ideas on issues that face our city and will continue meeting with other leaders to bring information to Lafayette. As your new Mayor and Council, we've scheduled a special goal and planning session for April and we'll share our ideas with all of you in the near future. I'll be bringing some of the residents concerns from February's town meeting to be discussed with our planning goals. I'll be planning another Town Hall Meeting in the near future.

The next Council meeting is Thursday, April 9th 6:30 P.M. at City Hall. There is citizen input time and we welcome you to bring your concerns and ideas, or just come to see what's going on with your leadership. I appreciate and look forward to meeting all of you who make the time to attend.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

Mayor Chris Heisler