

November 2009

Dear Lafayette Residents:

At the October meeting, the City Council instructed staff to create an ordinance that would change Lafayette's water usage policy. The odd-even watering practice usually implemented in the summer months would become the year-round policy of the city. The two city wells that pump groundwater have been showing substantial decreases in water level after the summer months. Lafayette Public Works Director Jim Anderson advised that going to a year-round, odd-even watering policy would help the city rejuvenate the wells' groundwater levels during the wetter winter months and also reduce the demand on city water resources during the summer. Under the new policy, there are no limitations on how much water you can use on your day; it only prohibits watering your lawn on consecutive days. This will be a year-round ordinance. Like under the summer policy, residents will receive a warning on the first violation and then be subject to a fine on a second violation. The City Council voted to adopt the new water usage policy during a first reading on Nov. 12, and will take a final vote on the issue after a second reading on Dec. 10. If adopted, it will likely take effect in early January 2010.

The charter amendment to replace the \$1 million per project spending limit with a \$1 million debt limit was rejected by voters on Nov. 3 by a 340-228 margin. The city is still seeking volunteers to serve on a Charter Review Committee to review the city's constitution. If you are interested, visit the city Web site to download an application or visit City Hall to pick up an application.

The City Council interviewed two finalists for the City Administrator's position on Saturday, Nov. 7. Finalists were Tim Johnson of Portland, who used to be assistant to the city manager in San Diego, and Justin Boone of Burns, who served as city manager in that eastern Oregon town from 2006-08. The City Council arrived at a finalist, and we are currently negotiating a contract with the finalist with the hopes of approving a contract at the Dec. 10 meeting. Longtime City Administrator Diane Rinks' last day will be Dec. 18 and the new City Administrator will hopefully start Jan. 4.

Lafayette City Council

Mayor Chris Heisler (mayorheisler@ci.lafayette.or.us); Council President Chris Pagella (councilorpagella@ci.lafayette.or.us) and Councilors Bob Cullen (councilorcullen@ci.lafayette.or.us), Leah Harper (councilorharper@ci.lafayette.or.us), Nick Harris (councilorharris@ci.lafayette.or.us), Dean Rhodes (councilorrhodes@ci.lafayette.or.us) and Michael Roberts (councilorroberts@ci.lafayette.or.us.)