

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**  
**May 10, 2007**

I have chosen to use this month's report to the City Council to provide answers and insights to some of the issues that have been raised concerning the adequacy of the city's operations. I would also like to address some of the allegations and accusations that have been directed at me in recent weeks.

City Council meetings in Lafayette, as in other cities, are held to conduct the business of the city. Per the adopted Council Rules, there is time set aside during each regular meeting for Citizen Comments. The rules dictate that the Council shall not take action on issues raised during this portion of the agenda until a later date. Because of the amount of business that needs to be conducted during the meetings, this cannot be the place to answer every question a citizen might have. At almost every meeting, the audience is advised, and encouraged, to contact City Hall for information, to file complaints or to advise us of situations they feel need our attention. I have offered to meet after normal office hours with anyone who may have difficulty coming in during the day.

A statement was also made that intimated that the Council refused to answer questions about problems plaguing the new sewage treatment plant and high water bills. In fact, at the February meeting, answers to questions concerning the cost of our utilities were given, and audience members were urged to contact City Hall for additional information, given the complexity of the issue. The construction of the new sewer plant, and the problems associated with that project have been discussed at almost every meeting of the council for the past year. Recently, an Executive Session was held to discuss certain aspects of this project concerning potential litigation. Obviously, people understand that issues discussed during an Executive Session cannot be, and should not be, discussed.

People cannot expect to come to one meeting, taking time away from council business, to become educated on issues that have been openly and thoroughly discussed at numerous previous meetings. As stated above, people are always encouraged to contact City Hall for that information. If a request is made during a meeting for a specific piece of information that is not readily available, it is most common for the person requesting the information to approach me after the meeting to get the information or leave me contact information where I can send it. It is not appropriate and should not be expected that the answer to any question asked will be placed as an agenda item for the next meeting. The request for bond interest rate information requested by Mr. Heisler has now been forwarded to him. The wastewater bond rate is 5.276% and the water bond rate is 4.700% to 6.000%.

Answers to other questions raised at the last meeting are as follows:

The city does have a bulk mail permit.

There is nothing wrong with the quality of the drinking water in Lafayette. The machine in the Council Chambers is not a filter, it provides hot and cold water. It was in place before my time with the city and is most frequently used by people attending meetings.

Bank deposits are made weekly. Any interest lost would not add up to as much as reimbursing an employee for mileage to and from the bank if it was required to make deposits daily. As it is now, one of us volunteers to drop the deposit off on Friday evenings on our way home.

When the sewer plant was first discussed and planned in the mid 90's, "green" projects were not being considered. The outcry of the citizenry over the projected costs of the first proposals, which led to the recall of a mayor and councilors, resulted in the "bare bones" design currently being built. The additional costs of a more innovative design would certainly not have been tolerated, even if it meant saving money in the long run.

The DEQ has granted an extension of our MAO (Mutual Agreement and Order) and we have met that new deadline with the start-up of the plant last week.

Yes, a log is kept of fuel used in city vehicles.

My reimbursement requests are signed off on and approved by another staff member that can verify the legitimacy of my request.

There are no sensitive documents stored outside city hall and there is no mold in the area that is currently used for storage.

It is not appropriate to have items placed on the agenda solely at the request of citizens. Ideas or concerns expressed by citizens are always considered and, if they are determined to merit further attention by the council, they would be included on a future agenda.

The door between the lobby area and the offices in city hall was installed after the office staff expressed concern to me about their personal safety.

In response to the statement by Mary Heisler in the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 News-Register article, I have the following response. As stated about, the construction of our new sewer plant has been openly and thoroughly discussed at numerous public council meetings in recent years. Only discussions with the City Attorney dealing with potential litigation have been held in Executive Session as is allowed by state law and as any reasonable person would expect them to be. If there are "unanswered questions regarding millions of dollars", please ask those questions. As of this date, no one has. I will be glad to answer any questions that I legally am allowed to concerning this project. The insinuation that there has been mismanagement of this project by the city is presumptuous.

As for the last part of the statement concerning me being forced out of my last job and writing checks with no accountability, I state the following facts. I do not now, nor have I ever, "written" a check for the City of Lafayette, nor do I sign checks. I do not have the accounts payable system on my computer and do not know how to enter the data to prepare the checks. My job is to oversee the entire financial process and provide the "checks and balances". Any request on my part for reimbursement of expenses, which happens quite infrequently, is signed off on and approved by another staff member who can verify the legitimacy of the request. During my time with the city, our required annual audits have been prepared on time and have been "clean". Comments made by

our state certified auditors to the past councils have been highly complimentary of the processes we have in place that ensure accuracy, accountability and security. I have never been accused of any misappropriation of funds or misuse of my authority, either here or at my previous place of employment.

Yes, I was terminated at Brownsville, after serving the community for over 14 years and I have first-hand knowledge of what a single person with a personal vendetta can do to a city. Because I required a person to obtain building and flood plain permits before he could start constructing a house, he was upset and boasted that he would get me fired. It took him four years, and a week before he was recalled from the city council by more than a slight margin, he finally accomplished his goal. Any suggestions or accusations of theft of money, gas, or anything else being the reason for my termination are totally untrue.

I am committed to do the best job I can for the City of Lafayette. I feel that is evidenced by the sixty to seventy hour weeks that I work, to the detriment of my health and through times of personal loss. To be told that I am not to be trusted and that I should not be allowed in city hall without supervision, and to have my honesty and integrity questioned is very offensive to me and I take it as a personal insult.