

August 2009

Dear Fellow Residents and Business Owners of Lafayette,

You may be wondering why this mayor letter is coming to you as a flyer on your front door. This is because the Council majority voted in June to stop the mayor letter from coming in your water bill unless I would agree to speak as one voice with them and allow them to censor the content of the letter. As I said to them at the meeting, I will always be a mayor for the *people*, not a mayor for the Council. I have told them that I will not speak as one voice until that voice is one with the people of Lafayette.

I'm thankful to Councilor Leah Harper and Council President Chris Pagella for their continual vote *for* the people of Lafayette. They fought to keep the mayor letter uncensored, but lost. I'm thankful for the businesses and residents that are helping me deliver this letter door-to-door. I believe that open, honest communication with you is vital and this is why I'll continue to write the mayor letter without censorship.

All my mayor letters (including previous) can be viewed online at my website below. I'll continue to post my communication there to keep you informed of voting records and vital information being decided at Council meetings.

Town Meeting

There will be a town meeting on Tuesday, August 11th, at 7 p.m. at Lafayette Community Church. This will not be a meeting of the Council, but a meeting of the people. I will just be there to facilitate, listen and answer questions. Please mark your calendars and come! There's a lot of work to do in Lafayette and I believe it is the people of Lafayette that will change this town. Bring your ideas and concerns on August 11th.

City Spend Limit At Risk

You should also know that Council President Chris Pagella and Councilor Leah Harper recently voted against the City Administrators initiative to make moves to eliminate the spending limit from our City Charter. The other four Councilors, however, won the vote and have decided to proceed in coming up with the right language to present this change to you in the November election. Councilors Harper and Pagella are outnumbered, as the Council majority is in lockstep with our City Administrator on almost every issue. I will keep you informed on the Charter change issue as it proceeds. You will have the final say in the election in November.

Email: cjheisler@comcast.net
Web: lafayetteoregonmayor.com

City Clean Up Day

On Saturday, August 22nd, from 8 a.m. – 1:00 p.m (or until containers are full), dumpsters will be provided behind City Hall for a city wide clean up event. This is available to Lafayette residents for free. Watch for details in your water bill, or contact Linda Lyon at 503-864-4539 for more information.

Downtown Improvements

The new banners went up downtown and I'm appreciative of our public works for doing the installation. If the banners appear a little small, please understand there are ODOT and pole height restrictions that prevented larger ones. I think it's a great start to improving our downtown for our businesses and our residents. More banners are coming soon. The businesses are doing a good job maintaining the flowers we placed in front of their shops and we are thankful for doing their part.

Code Enforcement

Residents have started contacting me with code enforcement matters. I think we've been successful at resolving most issues I've been called about. Our law enforcement is doing a great job and they are responsive when we bring issues to them. If you are not getting satisfaction with code enforcement complaints, please email me and I'll try and help you.

Business Association

Resident Linda Lyon has done a great job at continuing to meet with businesses downtown to improve communication. This has been a long time coming. These meetings are quickly developing into a Downtown Business Association. Due to her efforts, our law enforcement Captain Ken Somers is communicating with individual owners to improve crime prevention. Please support our downtown businesses that are doing their part to make Lafayette a nicer place to live and shop.

Communication

I'd like to keep this letter coming to your doorstep, but I know it will be difficult to get it to every house each month. Please share my website with your neighbors and we'll keep you informed that way. If you are willing to help distribute my letters to your neighbors periodically, please email me, as we really could use your help. **Also, please email me if you'd like to be added to my email communication list so I can keep you informed of meetings and events.**

Once again, thank you for allowing me to serve you. It really is a privilege. I look forward to meeting you at the town meeting so we can talk openly.

Your Mayor,

Chris Heisler

Email: cjheisler@comcast.net
Web: lafayetteoregonmayor.com