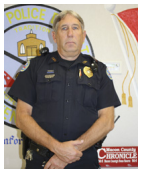
Written by Jessie Williams
Tuesday, September 11, 2012



Lafayette City Council members met in regular session last Tuesday, September 4, voting to accept the resignation of Lafayette Chief of Police Ray Amalfitano and appoint Corporal Henry Behr, a five-year employee of the Lafayette Police Department, as the City's interim Chief of Police.

Chief Amalfitano resigned from his position on Friday, August 31, telling the *Chronicle* that his decision was based on 'recent events and conflict with some of the City Council members' that made it difficult for him to fulfill his duties as chief of the department.

Amalfitano's resignation came after accusations of misconduct involving Keith Douglas Pippin, who was arrested on March 22nd after allegedly attending a parent-teacher conference while intoxicated.

During the vote to accept his resignation, council members Pam Cothron and Jerry Wix voted against the motion, which passed 4-2.

Council member Cothron has these words to say in reference to her vote:

"I believe this investigation that resulted in Chief Amalfitano's resignation is suspicious in nature, and I have yet to see a report that resulted in this investigation, and I cannot in good conscious vote to accept his retirement. That's not saying that I will not be behind and try to help anyone that accepts this position, either interim or permanent, as Chief of Police as long as tries to the best of ability and tries to work for the public good and keeps personal vendettas out of it."

Following the vote to accept Chief Amalfitano's resignation, City Mayor Richard Driver announced his recommendation to appoint Officer Behr as the interim Chief of Police.

Officer Behr has 15 years of experience in law enforcement, served in Vietnam and Desert Storm and retired from the Army as Sergeant Major after 27 years.

Officer Behr addressed the council, speaking about his experience at the Lafayette Police Department and his goals at interim Chief.

"This department has always had a reputation for being a tough department and a good department in Central Tennessee," he stated. "I was glad to get the job here and enjoyed working here… in the last year, year and a half, it hasn't been that way. I don't think we need to discuss all of the problems and everything but I'll tell you this, as interim police chief I'll make sure that the training is back on track, I'll only deal fairly with people … I believe in doing things by the book … treat everybody fair, serve the public here, protect the citizens of the City."

"I feel like this department has stumbled a little bit, but I don't want its reputation to change. We have some stellar officers here."

Behr stated that he has also submitted his resume for the permanent position of Chief.

The council voted to confirm Behr's appointment to Interim Chief and added that if the City Charter allows it, to pay him the Chief's salary during his time in the position.

Following his appointment, Mayor Driver stated that the City will be taking applications for the permanent position of Chief.

"I want to let it be known that just because he has been selected as interim police chief, it does not give him any advantage over anybody else (for the permanent position)," the Mayor remarked.

Also affecting the Lafayette Police Department, the council voted unanimously to accept the letter of resignation submitted by LPD patrol officer Rejena Parker, effective August 31, 2012.

In other business:

- Minutes from the August 8, 2012 council meeting were dispensed and adopted by the council.
- Ordinance 624, an ordinance to zone newly annexed property owned by C.J. Ray) was adopted on second and final reading.
- Ordinance 625, an ordinance to zone newly annexed property owned by C.J. Ray and Bob & Shirley Haynes) was adopted on second and final reading.
- Resolution 09-04-2012A, a resolution elected one member of the Board of Directors to the Industrial Development Board of the City of Lafayette, was adopted by the council. The term of the board member elected, Steve Cothron, will expire on September 10, 2018.
- Resolution 09-04-2012B, a resolution calling for a public hearing to determine whether property located at 1031 Akersville Rd., owned by Roy and Christine Carter, should be annexed to the City of Lafayette, was adopted by the council. The public hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2012 at 6:45 p.m.
- Resolution 09-04-2012C, a resolution calling for a public hearing on the plan of service for the proposed annexation of property located at 1031 Akersville Rd., owned by Roy and Christine Carter, was adopted by the council. The public hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2012 at 6:45 p.m.
- Council members adopted Ordinance 626, an ordinance to annex property located at 1031 Akersville Rd., owned by Roy and Christine Carter, and to incorporate the property within the corporate limit of the City of Lafayette, on first reading.
- Resolution 09-04-2012D, a resolution calling for a public hearing to determine whether property owned by Charles and Julie Caruthers, located at 1030 Akersville Rd., should be annexed to the City of Lafayette, was adopted by the council. The public hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2012 at 6:48 p.m.
- Resolution 09-04-2012E, a resolution calling for a public hearing on the plan of service for the proposed annexation of property located at 1030 Akersville Rd., owned by Charles and Julie Caruthers, was adopted by the council. The public hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2012 at 6:48 p.m.

- Council members adopted Ordinance 627, an ordinance to annex property located at 1030 Akersville Rd., owned by Charles and Julie Caruthers, and to incorporate the property within the corporate limit of the City of Lafayette, on first reading.
- Resolution 09-04-2012F, a resolution calling for a public hearing to determine whether property located at 974 Akersville Rd., owned by Betty Hersey, should be annexed to the City of Lafayette, was adopted by the council. The public hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2012 at 6:52 p.m.
- Resolution 09-04-2012G, a resolution calling for a public hearing on the plan of service for the proposed annexation of property located at 974 Akersville Rd., owned by Betty Hersey, was adopted by the council. The public hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2012 at 6:52 p.m.
- Council members adopted Ordinance 628, an ordinance to annex property located at 974 Akersville Rd., owned by Betty Hersey, and to incorporate the property within the corporate limit of the City of Lafayette, on first reading.
- Resolution 09-04-2012H, a resolution calling for a public hearing to determine whether property owned by Roger Jent, located at 973 Akersville Rd., should be annexed to the City of Lafayette, was adopted by the council. The public hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2012 at 6:56 p.m.
- Resolution 09-04-2012I, a resolution calling for a public hearing on the plan of service for the proposed annexation of property located at 973 Akersville Rd., owned by Roger Jent, was adopted by the council. The public hearing is scheduled for October 2, 2012 at 6:52 p.m.
- Council members adopted Ordinance 629, an ordinance to annex property located at 973 Akersville Rd., owned by Roger Jent, and to incorporate the property within the corporate limit of the City of Lafayette, on first reading.
- Council members approved the consultant engineering services of Chris Ballou, with Mid Tenn Engineering in Lafayette, for the Highway 10 waterline relocation project for the future Hwy 10 construction. TDOT is requiring all waterlines and any gas lines that would interfere with the Hwy 10 project to be relocated before before construction begins in December 2013. Approximately 1.8 miles of water line will be relocated.
- Annual September employee evaluations and possible salary increases were approved for the following City employees: Sheila Hunter, Office; Clint Hestand, Police; Jeff Roark, Waste Water; Mary Ray, Police
- The Council voted to accept the letter of retirement submitted by Becky Johnson. Johnson's last day will be September 28, 2012. She has worked for the City of Lafayette for the past 24 years. A retirement luncheon will be held in her honor on Friday, September 28, 2012.

- It was announced that the Lafayette Municipal Airport is looking to purchase an AWOS, or Automated Weather Observing System. The system will report the exact weather conditions at the airport to pilots. It was stated that 95 percent of the system will be funded by the FAA and/or State.
- Council members voted to proceed with the Select Tennessee project by spending a maximum of $30,000 from the City's Industrial Fund for core drilling, soil testing, mapping, graphic surveying, etc. of lots 12, 13 and 14. The property surveying will provide information about the land to potential industries considering locating to Lafayette.