Meeting Notes – Jun. 15, 2021

The LaFayette Rotary Club held its weekly meeting today, Jun. 21, 2021. Mayor Kenneth Vines was the guest speaker. Mayor Vines is a LaFayette native and proud father of three and grandfather of one. Mayor Vines previously retired from the City of LaFayette after serving her citizens for 27 years, including serving as police chief and Public Safety Director. He is currently employed with Allied Universal as head of security at Auburn University on East Glenn Ave., in Auburn. He has a BS degree in criminal justice and a Master's degree in secondary education both from Alabama State University. His law enforcement training comes from Jacksonville State University.

Mayor Vines spoke primarily on the budget today. The Utilities/Electric department is the department that generates the most revenue. Other areas, such as EMS and the waste water plant generate revenue, but not enough to cover their expenses and they actually operate in the red. The city does receive some revenue from various taxes and state/federal grants. The current budget is in the black, and actually has a surplus, but not a large enough surplus to allow for unexpected expenses and projects that would benefit our town. Mayor Vines has proposed to the city council the option of a one-cent sales tax. The first public hearing on this will be on June 28. Our current city and county sales tax rates are at 9%. Most of the communities/areas around us are at 10-11%. The increase is projected to generate in the neighborhood of $250,000.00. The tax increase would not be designated for one particular project or area, but could be used as needed to address the many needs in the city.

In addition to the mayor speaking, Dantz Frazer was awarded his Paul Harris Fellowship status and pin by President Dr. John Caldwell. Congratulations to Dantz!

Steve Wheeler has been in contact with the new principal at JP Powell Middle School in LaFayette and she has expressed her desire to update the landscaping around the school's entrance. We will discuss how the club may help with this at next week's meeting.

Peyton's Pals has promised us to have a team from their corn hole tournament that we can sponsor at the district tournament.

Next week we will also discuss the proposed written response from our club to RI regarding their goals. We will also elect officers.

Diane Sherriff

Secretary / Treasurer