



See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
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Chamber of Commerce:
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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
 Regular Meeting: Monday, July 22, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Planning Commission Meeting
 Monday, Aug. 5 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Design Review
 Monday, July 22, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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Lafayette City Council votes for ask for sales tax measure to fight looming deficit

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Next, City Manager Niroop Srivatsa gave a presentation of the City Council Staff Report for July 8. She covered the two potential options for dealing with the deficit budget, either placing a sales tax measure on the November ballot or making cuts to Lafayette's budget. She noted that with the information previously given by SRI, the staff recommendation was for a one percent tax raise with a seven-year sunset and citizen oversight committee.

The City Council members immediately began discussing the new chart in the SRI presentation. In particular, they became increasingly concerned with the

one percent tax raise, which peaked at 48% approval and after arguments dropped to 42.5%. Susan Candell stated that a three quarters tax would be safer while providing funds for necessary, non-ongoing projects. Wei-Tai Kwok noted that support increased with outreach and could continue to do so. Mayor Gina Dawson argued perhaps these numbers indicated that they needed to find the right way to present the tax raise to voters. Candell disagreed. "I understand why you're saying you still want to go for the one [percent] but this is too risky to miss. If we miss this, we are," she paused and then continued, "not happy."

John McCormick stated how worried he

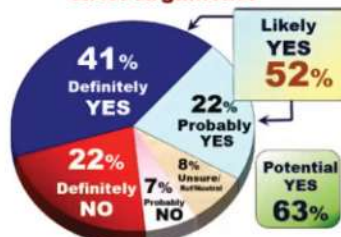
was over failure and wanted to prioritize a smaller success over a larger failure. Carl Anduri argued that a half percentage with plans to ask the voters if they wanted to fund more projects in the future would be best. The discussion quickly shifted to exclusively half or three quarters percent. While Dawson and Kwok made arguments for the viability of the three quarters percent tax raise, Anduri and McCormick continued to argue for the half percent. "I'm worried if we reach too far, we'll have a disaster," said Anduri. Dawson asked the City staff for recommendation and was informed their previous recommendation came before the new chart and that they cur-

rently supported the half or three quarters percent.

Dawson asked what each of the council members thought. McCormick said he thought the half percent for 10 years was the best option. "We can't lose," he said. "I'm just too scared. I want a solid single right now, not a home run." The rest of the council agreed and Kwok moved that the Council direct the staff to prepare a resolution. After arguments from Manross and Mayor Dawson, the committee agreed to seven years instead and the motion was amended to a resolution for a general-purpose half percent tax for seven years with an citizens' oversight committee to be voted on Nov. 5.

Figure 7B TEACHING POLL June 2024

Support for Up to 1% Increase After Arguments



Support by Threshold of Willingness to Pay

Support at Threshold	Definitely YES	Probably YES	Likely 100% Def + 50% Prob	Potential 100% Def + 100% Prob
1%	35	15	42.5	50
3/4%	49	12	55	61
1/2%	51	12	57	63

Image SRI presentation

Yoga studio Yoga Village opens in Lafayette

By Elaine Borden Chandler

This April, a new yoga studio opened its doors in Lafayette. Yoga Village is located in two tidy, white walled rooms with the occasional hanging

vine and accents of teal and pale pink. Upon entering, its founder Valerie Moore, a friendly woman with alert eyes, welcomes visitors and

gently answers their questions. "I really wanted to create something here that is for our community, that is about connection, because that's what I was craving in the last ten years," she said sincerely as she gave a tour of the studio. "Lamorinda is a great place for young families and we need more support for that."

Moore started her career in the notoriously grueling profession of dance in New York City, performing modern dance and ballet. When

she stopped after giving her last performance while five months pregnant with her first child, yoga was the only way she found that let her heal physically and emotionally. Inspired, she soon became a trained instructor, teaching in New York and then in New Mexico. However, when she moved with her family to Orinda in May 2020, Covid forced her to pause her teaching.

This time off proved motivational for Moore. She had previous experience with how isolating

motherhood could be and how hard it was to create a community. "That's when I really started thinking, 'Why doesn't this exist? And can I make it exist?'" Moore said as she nimbly balanced on a chair to turn on the AC unit.

She started planning how to make her dream reality. Her first step was to establish herself by teaching yoga at the elementary schools in Orinda and Lafayette. She designed her classes to act as a bridge between PE and psychological

wellness, with emphasis on the latter. "Yoga is healing physically but the root of it is mental health," Moore said firmly. Moore's next step was to start looking for a place where she could teach adults and eventually make into a community space. She wanted to find somewhere in Lafayette due to its cute downtown with local stores and central location within Lamorinda. She looked for a year and a half without finding anything that met her needs when she saw an article on the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce website. It was about Holistika, a newly opened conscious social club in Lafayette. Intrigued, she reached out to the owner Ash Lew and, upon finding a common interest in creating healing communities, they agreed to share the same space. Less than two months later on April 2, Yoga Village opened.

Moore felt that it was important to choose teachers that she would want to learn from. "I've collected these amazing people that really know their stuff. That kind of hunger for learning is what I love about yoga — there's so much to learn," she said before enthusiastically describing all of her teachers and their specialties. One teacher is no doubt familiar to many, "Coach" Chris Walsh who was formerly a PE teacher and the track coach at Cam-polindo. He teaches an Absolute Beginner class as well as Viniyoga — a gentle, slow yoga with a strong breathwork. Another more unusual class is Yin yoga, where poses are held for three to five minutes, taught by Cyndi Lezcano. Dave Larot teaches the Gentle / Slow Flow class and Michelle White teaches Flow and Restore.

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