

City of Watseka
201 Brianna Dr
PO Box 338
Watseska, IL. 60970

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 14TH, 2020
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Aldermen Garfield, Mayotte, Miller, Cahoe, Barragree, Rushbrook, Marcier (via Phone) Alderwoman Ulfers and Mayor Allhands

GUEST: Building Inspector Eric Brandt

Alderman Garfield opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. There was no public comment. Building Inspector Eric Brandt reported on the following properties:

O'Reilly Auto Parts: work is being done on the parking lot and on the interior as well as landscaping is being done.

Gas Depot: the new site plan is at Robinson Engineering for review

305 N Kay St. (Lynch property): the owners have signed the property over to the City

510 E Walnut St. (Snyder property): this is now City property and Eric will get it out for bids.

DNR Grant: 544 N 4th St owner is wanting to donate the property to the City and Ron Davis with the IDNR is ok with this so paperwork is being done. Eric reported the next 5 properties have a closing date of 4/22/20. The demolitions will start soon after that.

Sign Permits: Eric asked the committee about doing away with sign permits other than commercial properties. After some discussion the committee is ok with this. Eric will get with Attorney Cainkar to get this removed.

Flood Plain Ordinance-Accessory Buildings: Eric stated he has talked to Paul Osman at Water Resources and he recommends to use state guidelines for plumbing and require flood openings and make the square footage 24X24. There was some concern from the committee about people possibly living in the accessory buildings with the plumbing that will be installed. It was stated there will be no toilet or shower installed in these accessory buildings. Eric will get with Attorney Cainkar to get a new ordinance.

Accessory Buildings: Eric would like to remove the 60 foot setback on accessory buildings. There was a lengthy discussion concerning how many accessory buildings will be allowed on a lot. It was finally decided to allow only 2. Cargo containers were also discussed. There is an ordinance that states no cargo containers are allowed in the City unless a variance is gotten. It was stated there are a few places in the City where they have appeared.

Alderman Garfield asked about a garage ordinance on a lot that does not have a house. Mayor Allhands stated he has talked to Attorney Cainkar about this and he thinks this is a bad idea. It was also discussed when a property is torn down should all of the buildings go with it. It was reported with the DRN grant all buildings are torn down. Eric will get with Attorney Cainkar on these changes.

Code Enforcement Stanley was not in attendance.

Alderman Mayotte stated he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and they always put on the Fireworks on the 4th of July. He stated there is a shortage of fireworks and the company is wanting the entire payment of \$12,000.00. Knights of Columbus doesn't have all the funds that it needs for this purchase, the City usually donates \$5,000.00. Alderman Mayotte asked if the City would be willing to spend \$12,000 instead of \$5,000. There was some discussion about even having the fireworks, and maybe needing to move it back to August at the same time as the Festival. This will be discussed again in Finance.

Alderman Cahoe stated the old City Hall needs to be cleaned up around the building.

Alderman Cahoe stated the owners of 526 N 2nd are interested in purchasing the empty lot next to them at 524 N 2nd. The City owns this property and Alderman Cahoe stated he would like to sell it to them for a reasonable price and have them pay the attorney fees. The committee is ok with this. He will get back with them and bring more information back to another meeting.

Alderman Cahoe also stated the old Ford Garage on the north side of the lot is beginning to look like a junk yard. He would like to see it cleaned up.

Alderman Cahoe also stated there are trees behind Gas Depot and the Porky Barn that have been cut down or fallen down from a storm that need to be cleaned up.

Alderman Mayotte makes a motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm and Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.

Mark Garfield, Chairman