

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 16,2021
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Aldermen Garfield, Miller, Yates, Barragree, Cahoe, Marcier, Rushbrook,
Alderwoman Ulfers, Mayor Allhands

GUESTS: Building Inspector Eric Brandt, Code Enforcement Billy Stanley

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

DNR Mitigation Grant: to date 27 homes have been demolished. The next 7 closings are set for March 23rd. Bid packets were made available with only 1 being returned from Lee Excavating. Lee Excavating aggregate bid of \$54,900 to demolish 300 N 2nd, 522 N 3rd, 516 N 4th, 536 N 5th, 420 E Ash, 492 E Ash and 714 N Chicago. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the aggregate bid of \$54,900 and Alderwoman Ulfers seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.**

904 N Chicago: still a work in progress

445 E Walnut St; asbestos has been removed, now Lee is waiting on Nicor to remove the gas meter and Nicor is waiting on a permit from IDOT.

544 E Locust: currently nothing has been done to this house since the fire, it is not habitable. The current owners have no house insurance. After some discussion the committee stated to give the homeowners 60 days to demolish the home. It was discussed if the City has to demolish the home then the homeowners should deed the property over to the City.

Façade Grant: McDonalds at 504 W Walnut has turned in a façade grant asking for \$5,000 for a new sign. It was stated there will need to be more money transferred into the façade grant from the revolving loan account as the previous transfers are all spoken for. Mayor Allhands suggested leaving \$250,000 in the revolving account for a new business. After some discussion **Alderman Garfield makes a motion to recommend to the Council to transfer \$10,000 from the revolving loan account into the façade grant. Alderman Rushbrook seconded. Roll call carried 9-0. Alderman Garfield makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the façade grant application from McDonalds for \$5,000 and Alderwoman Ulfers seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.**

Community Rating System: Eric stated he and Mayor Allhands and Alderwoman Ulfers met with Lu Ann Patellaro with the Community Rating System Specialist today. At the present the city is at a solid 8 which would decrease homeowner flood insurance premiums 10% if the score could get down to a rating of 7 the flood insurance premiums could be reduced 15%. Eric stated public outreach is a big portion of this system. Everything the city does from clearing storm sewer drains to put a message on water bills would go towards the rating system. The City will also need to put links on the website to FEMA.

Bill Stanley reported on the following:

TPW Railroad: cleanup has started between 3rd & 4th St, it will take a couple of weeks and

they intend to clean up other areas also. Bill stated if an Alderman knows of an area that needs cleaned to let him know and he will pass it on. The spur along N 4th St. was discussed and Bill will bring that to their attention.

Union Pacific Railroad: They have not responded and they didn't show up to court so they were sent a fine for \$750 plus court costs. Bill mailed a letter advising them of this.

Sleepy: a vehicle and 2 mowers were removed. He has a court date on the 25th, if he doesn't show up or loses in court all the vehicles will be scrapped. Bill stated he has talked to Marvin about coming in and cleaning up the rest of the property.

Impound Lot: Bill stated he has talked with Marvin and the impound lot should be completed in a couple of weeks. Once that is done, Bill will send out letters to start the process to remove the junk vehicles that have been sitting for years.

Computer: Bill has the new computer and will be sending the outstanding fines to Midwest Fidelity very soon to start the collection process.

Alderwoman Ulfers asked about a property on E Locust St where the lot has a lot of fallen trees and debris. Bill will look into it.

Alderman Garfield asked about 2 houses on E Ash St that are in the process of being raised and nothing has been done for a long time. Eric stated he extended the permits once but they have expired and he is writing them tickets for the mess. Eric stated the homeowners say they have 6 years to get it finished and still qualify for the insurance proceeds. Eric stated he is not renewing the permit again.

Alderman Garfield makes a motion to adjourn at 7:14 pm and Alderwoman Ulfers seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.

Mark Garfield, Chairman