

## Watseka City Council Meeting

June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor John Allhands at 7:00pm. Present were Aldermen Garfield, Barragree, Marcier, Cahoe, Miller, Rushbrook, & Alderwoman Ulfers and Musk.

Motion was made by Garfield, seconded by Ulfers to approve the City Council meeting minutes of May 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. Motion passed 8-0.

Public Comment: None

A Motion was made by Barragree, seconded by Garfield Public Hearing on an Ordinance Providing for a Budget and Appropriation for General Corporate and Other Purposes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2021 and Ending April 30, 2022 for the City of Watseka. City Attorney Cainkar shared this was published in the Times-Republic there were no questions. Motion passed 8-0. A Motion was made by Ulfers, seconded by Barragree to close the Public Hearing and return to the regular scheduled meeting. Motion passed 8-0.

Merrill Crowley- Mr. Crowley was not in attendance or at the meeting when his name was called. Alderwoman Musk shared she had been contacted by Mr. Crowley she read an email to the council of their conversation. Mr. Crowley is concerned about burning at the yard waste facility and in town. Mr. Crowley feels his neighbors burn whenever they want to and nothing is ever done. Mr. Crowley showed up to the meeting at 7:15pm the Mayor then let him speak. Mr. Crowley stated he has attended 3 meetings regarding the burning issue and that nothing has been done. He gave a handout to the Council and read dates of these burning issues. Mr. Crowley stated that mid-May he and his wife opened their windows at home and within 1 hour their home was filled with smoke Mr. Crowley's wife has a medical condition and this make it hard for her to breathe, he then stated the smoke affects Glenn Raymond School, the high school and the hospital. Mr. Crowley states that burning green wood puts of chemicals that are harmful, Mr. Crowley then shared that he went to the Public Works Director Marvin about the burning issue he asked him to put it out, Marvin explained the fire started and it was an accident it was not intentional. Mr. Crowley then shared some of the conversation between him and Marvin and that he has provided the Council several times with costs and information on a machine (air burner) that will help with this, the cost average anywhere from \$42,000 to \$169,000 and yet they have done nothing. So the must not care about the citizens of Watseka. Mr. Crowley did indicate he has spoken with the EPA about this and he would like to see the city move the yard waste facility to the north side of town, Alderman Rushbrook explained at this time there is no place to move it to. The Council did not budget for this machine and if this machine is purchased a full time person must be hired to use this machine at the yard waste facility. Alderwoman Musk is willing to work with Mr. Crowley to do some research to see if there are any grants available that can help with the cost of this machine Mr. Crowley has agreed to this, the council will wait to hear back on what they find. According to the EPA the Watseka City Ordinance is good by them.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Agreements & Proclamations

- **Ordinance #2613-** Providing for a Budget & Appropriations for General Corporate And Other Purposes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2021 and Ending April 30, 2022 for the City of Watseka
- **Ordinance #2614-** Authorizing a Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environment Protection Agency Under the Public Water Supply Loan Program
- **Ordinance #2021-1-** Approving an Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement by and Between the City of Watseka and the State of Illinois, By and Through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, for the City of Watseka Flood Hazard Mitigation Project.

#### Consent Agenda

- **Ordinance #2613-** Providing for a Budget & Appropriations for General Corporate And Other Purposes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2021 and Ending April 30, 2022 for the City of Watseka
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A Motion was made Garfield, seconded by Ulfers to set the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Barragree, seconded by Garfield to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 8-0.

#### Standing Committee Reports

- **Finance, Legal and Audit**

A Motion was made by Garfield, seconded by Marcier to pay claims in the amount \$388,740.60 Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Barragree, seconded by Miller to Accept and Place on file the May Treasurer Report. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Ulfers Jason Langellier payrate \$22.04/hour effective 5-1-21. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Marcier, seconded by Garfield Austin Kidwell payrate \$21.28/hour effective 5-1-21. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Miller Dustyn Ulitzsch payrate \$20.52/hour effective 5-1-21. Motion passed 8-0.

- **Public Works-None**

- **Public Safety**

A Motion was made by Ulfers, seconded by Barragree KC Communications purchase 25 Portable Radios for \$16,875.00 pay for using COVID money. Motion passed 8-0.

- **Code Enforcement**

Business License Discussion- No action was taken

A Motion was made by Garfield, seconded Rushbrook 303 S. Yount put out for bids to demolish. Motion passed 8-0.

JC Penny Building Discussion-Discussion was had on this, the Council agreed to get a structural engineer in to look at the building this could be a safety hazard Alderman Rushbrook has photos. 135 E. Walnut St. (Lamplighter Building) Discussion-Eric (Code) to contact the City attorney so that he can proceed.

203 E. Walnut St. (Zillegen) Discussion- Eric (Code) to contact the City attorney so that he can proceed.

209 E. Walnut St. (Garcia) Discussion- Eric (Code) to contact the City attorney so that he can proceed.

Hard Surface Parking Lot Ordinance- Alderman Garfield shared either we need to do away with it or enforce it no action was taken.

326 W. Victory St. Discussion- Alderman Cahoe shared that there is an individual wanting to purchase this property for \$500 plus attorney fees, Alderman Cahoe is waiting to hear back from the individual City Attorney Cankar said an Ordinance would be needed to sell to let him know.

- **Water/Wastewater Report-None**

- **Miscellaneous Business**

-Pence Oil fuel tax letter discussion-Terry Pence from Pence Oil Company was in attendance, the Mayor read a letter from Mr. Pence dated June 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 to the council in regards to the 5 cent per gallon increase effective 7-1-21. Pence Oil Company has suffered a loss this past year and half due to COVID, Mr. Pence felt that the city's timing was bad, and adding a tax cuts into their margins along with credit cards fees this has been harmful to their business Mr. Pence did not feel that the Council did their research on this prior to passing the increase. Discussion was had on this and some conversation with Mr. Pence occurred at this time the council feels there is no other way to generate funds to fix our roads, discussion was had that there is no way to calculate how much the city will receive that the information comes from the distributor and most are not willing to share that info. Mr. Pence did not feel that the City has given the State MFT a chance.

-Ad Hoc Committee Restructure of Committee Chairman's Discussion- Mayor shared that he would like to appoint Alderman Miller & Cahoe along with Alderwoman Ulfers to this committee. A Motion was made by Marcier, seconded by Rushbrook to appoint Miller, Cahoe, and Ulfers . Motion passed 8-0. Alderman Rushbrook did ask about a possible 4<sup>th</sup> appointment.

-Discussion of Leadership Options for Department of Public Works Mayor shared that Jason Langellier and Austin Kidwell have been in charge since Marvin resigned and it seems to be working well, Mayor shared that they are working off a list that Marvin left for them.

-Buying houses on contract-Discussion was had on this no action was taken.

Reports from Officers- None

Open Discussion- Alderman Garfield shared that Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 from 9a-11a is open for another electronic recycling event is it ok for him to check with the county to see about this, everyone was in favor of this. Alderman Garfield shared that are looking for a new location to have this he will keep the council posted. Alderman Barragree found the MFT income for the record for 2018-2019 \$133,795, for 2019-2020 \$189,964, and for 2020-2021 \$186,425.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Garfield to Adjourn at 8:29pm. Motion passed 8-0.

Amanda Hibbs, City Clerk