

City of Watseka
201 Brianna Dr
PO Box 338
Watsaka, Il. 60970

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
AUGUST 10, 2021
7:38 PM

PRESENT: Aldermen Miller, Barragree, Cahoe, Marcier, Alderwoman Ulfers, Alderman Garfield and Alderwoman Musk attended via phone, Mayor Allhands

ABSENT: Alderman Rushbrook

GUESTS: Building Inspector Eric Brandt and Brock Reed with Conxxus

Mayor Allhands opened the meeting at 7:38 pm. Brock Reed with Conxxus, a fiber optic company from Paxton spoke first about the boring that is being done in the city for fiber optic cable. It was stated Conxxus met with the public works director on May 13th regarding the work that will be done in the city. Mr. Reed stated they stay on the public right of way and before they begin, they go to each resident and put door hangers on the doors so the residents know what is going on and who to contact should an issue arise. Mr. Reed stated they get maps from the county regarding where the right of ways are. They are licensed and bonded. He also stated they come back 2-3 weeks later and do restoration work. It was stated they hit water lines in every town the go to, so Watseka is no different.

Building Inspector Eric Brandt reported on the following properties:

DNR Mitigation Grant: There are 4 more closing scheduled for August 20th and he has put 2 out for bids: 131 Brown (\$8650.00) and 204 W Park Ave (\$12,000.00). Lee Excavating was the lone bidder for an aggregate bid of \$20,650.00. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the aggregate bid from Lee Excavating for \$20,650.00 and Alderwoman Ulfers seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.** Eric stated the other 2 properties still have gas meters on them so they will go out to bid after the meters are removed (117 E Elm & 531 N 5th St). Eric stated the owners of 109 W Sheridan & 211 W Maple are going to donate the properties to the City. Attorney Cainkar will have ordinances for the full council meeting. Eric stated the last 6 will be down any day now.

303 S Yount Ave: Lee Farms will be tearing this down any day now.

125 Brown St: 2 bids were received: NBC for \$13,800 and Lee Farms for \$11,800.00.

Alderman Garfield makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the bid from Lee Farms for \$11,800 to demolish 125 Brown St. Alderman Cahoe seconded. Roll call carried 8-0. This will be paid from the demolition line item.

135 E Walnut, 100 W Walnut & 1121 N Jefferson St: In order for the city to inspect a warrant to enter the premise is needed. There was discussion about the pictures that Alderman Marcier took with his drone. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to proceed with getting a warrant to enter the premises to get them inspected and Alderman Marcier seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.**

Façade Grants: Eric stated 3 more applications have been received: Traditions (Mary Jones) for \$7500-\$8500 with 50% being about \$4250.00. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the Façade grant from Traditions (Mary Jones)**

and Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 8-0. 418 W Walnut (Coffee Hut-formally CD's) for \$5,000.00. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the Façade Grant from the Coffee Hut for \$5,000.00 and Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 8-0. Alderman Marcier makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the Façade Grant for 106 W Walnut St. (Exposed Tanning) for \$2658.00 for paint, windows and tuck pointing. Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.**

Community Rating System: Eric reported the city is at a Class 8 and will remain there until April 2022. It was stated the city will have a table at the Watseka Family Festival with pamphlets. Eric stated there are 93 total repetitive loss properties in the city and he has submitted 44 so far and 2 of the properties have been removed.

544 E Locust St: The demolition permit has been picked up and should be gone soon.

Code Enforcement Bill Stanley Report:

- a) Officers have been issuing city ordinance citations for minor crimes. This will increase with new changes in the laws
- b) Bill & Eric have both successfully completed the crime free instructor program and will be starting a program to introduce it to the community
- c) Junk vehicles are on the rise. Getting more cooperation from people reporting them and bringing the vehicles up to code or removing them.

Alderman Garfield stated the City and County will be hosting an electronic recycling event on September 11, from 9 till noon at Stock & Field parking lot. He asked the committee for volunteers.

Mayor Allhands made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm and Alderman Cahoe seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.

John Allhands, Mayor