

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
7:31 PM

PRESENT: Alderman Garfield, Miller, Barragree, Marcier, Cahoe, Alderwomen Ulfers and Musk and Mayor Allhands

ABSENT: Alderman Rushbrook

GUESTS: Building Inspector Eric Brandt and Code Enforcer Bill Stanley

Alderman Garfield opened the meeting at 7:31 pm. There was no public comment. Building inspector Eric Brandt reported on the following:

DNR Grant: to date there have been 41 homes demolished. The city is waiting on 2 more this will happen when the gas meters are removed. There are about 8-10 left that people are not responding to. Eric is now moving on to the alternate list of empty rental properties. There are about 18-19 of those. There has been about 2 million spent so far with the property purchases, demolitions, and appraisals etc. No more properties can be added to the lists at this time.

209 W Maple & 109 W Sheridan St: These properties are being donated to the city and ordinances have been prepared to pass at full council this month.

117 E Elm & 531 N 5th St: the fire department will be using these for training before they are demolished.

544 E Locust St: the home has been demolished and the only thing left is the hole needs to be filled in and the contractor has been sick so it's taking a little longer than usual.

125 Brown St: the home has been demolished just waiting on it to be seeded.

135 E Walnut St. (Lamplighter): The owner is currently working on the property and Eric requests he be dropped off the list to have an engineer inspect it. The committee is ok with this.

100 W Walnut & 1121 N Jefferson St.: the inspection is scheduled for September 30th.

Façade Grants: Eric has received more requests and Nichols Paint & Fab has requested to be removed from the grant list. **Iroquois County Historical Society is requesting \$5000.00.**

Alderman Garfield makes a motion to recommend to the Council to pay the Iroquois County Historical Society a façade grant in the amount of \$5,000 and Alderman Miller seconded roll call carried 8-0. Smith Real Estate is requesting \$5,000.

Alderman Marcier makes a motion to recommend to the council to pay Smith Real Estate a façade grant for \$5,000 and Alderwoman Ulfers seconded, roll call carried 8-0. Scotchmons East is requesting \$5,000. Alderman Garfield makes a motion to

recommend to the council to pay Scotchmons East a façade grant of \$5,000 and Alderman Barragree seconded. Roll call carried 8-0. Jim Lundmark (Lamplighter

Building) is requesting \$4750. Alderman Marcier makes a motion to recommend to the Council to pay Jim Lundmark a façade grant of \$4750. Alderman Garfield

seconded. Roll call carried 8-0. Stonegate Inn is requesting \$5,000. Alderman Garfield makes a motion to pay Stonegate Inn a façade grant of \$5,000 and

Alderman Marcier seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.

Dumpsters at Public Works: There was a lengthy discussion about landlords using the dumpsters when renters move out. It was stated all building materials need to stop asap and signs posted at the dumpsters also stating that.

Adopting 2018 or 2021 building codes: Right now, the city is currently using 2006 building codes. If the city moves into 2018 or 2021 sprinklers will be required for new residential's homes. It was also discussed if the city would adopt one of those years it would help with iso ratings and crs ratings. There will be more discussion at a later meeting.

Code Enforcement Bill Stanley reported on the following:

TPW Railroad: Bill stated his contact has left the railroad so he is talking with the general manager now. They are wanting to press charges for criminal damage to property, Bill will proceed with citing under city codes. The railroad is still a work in progress with cleaning up property.

Animal Hording House: Bill stated there are at least 5 cats and several dogs in the home. He and several other officers have tried to make contact but no one will come to the door. He has sent a \$150.00 citation to the owner. Bill also stated there is no animal control at this time either.

Junk Vehicles: This is a work in progress

Alderman Garfield thanked Alderwoman Ulfers, Aldermen Marcier and Miller and the FFA for helping with the electronic recycling on Saturday. They had 244 cars show up but the volume was down he believes. Alderman Garfield stated his contract Brian with BLH is willing to set a 20 foot container in the city for a cost of \$600 and it could be filled up as needed and would only be emptied as needed and then the city would be billed as its dumped but then another \$600 would be due for the new dumpster. This will be discussed again in council next week.

Alderman Garfield makes a motion to adjourn at 8:07 pm, and Alderman Miller seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.

Mark Garfield, Chairman