

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

**FINANCE, LEGAL & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2021
7:00 PM**

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

Alderman Barragree opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. There was no public comment.

Alderman Barragree makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the September Treasures report and Alderman Marcier seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.

Alderman Barragree stated the committee has before them the bill from IMLRMA (liability insurance) for \$158,335.65. This has gone up some because of increased payroll, newer vehicles, and auto damages. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to pay IMLRMA \$158,335.65 and Alderman Marcier seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.**

There was lengthy discussion about the newly imposed 3% liquor tax allocation. Mayor Allhands gave a power point presentation regarding the community needs assessment valuation that was received when the survey was sent out a few months ago. Mayor Allhands would like to put the liquor tax dollars into a new line item called business districts projects. These funds could then be used to attract people to the downtown area. Mayor Allhands would like to bring more dining, wine tasting etc. to the downtown area to attract people here from other communities as well as Watseska residents. There was also discussion about putting these funds into the police pension. Alderman Rushbrook also suggested each department could give back 5% of their budgets to the police pension fund. Alderwoman Musk asked why the park district does nothing with the parks? Maybe they could help promote the downtown area with some of there funds. Mayor Allhands stated he would like to see half of the liquor tax go to the business district project fund and the other half to the police pension fund. After more discussion **Alderwoman Ulfers makes a motion to recommend to the Council to put the liquor tax monies into the police pension fund and Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 5-4 with Aldermen Barragree, Cahoe, Miller, and Mayor Allhands voting no.**

Alderman Cahoe stated he has a quote from IPC for \$96,500.00 to do improvements on S 7th St. from Locust to the intersection of Mulberry St. approx. 320 LF to the south. Alderman Barragree stated this could be taken from Capital equipment as at yearend he hopes to be able to transfer more into this line item. **Alderman Rushbrook makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the proposal from IPC for \$96,500.00 to do the improvements on S 7th St from Locust to Mulberry and pay from the capital expense line item. Alderman Marcier seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.** Alderman Cahoe stated he would like to have a streetlight installed on the east side of the street along the sidewalk which will be an added extra expense. Alderman Barragree stated he has looked into the ARP monies

that the city is receiving to see if they could be used on city streets and they can't unless the road was not usable during COVID. This money can be used for a new well. Alderman Cahoe stated he has a list of roads that he would like to see getting engineering done for mill and overlays over the winter months: Oak St from 5th to 8th, Ash St from 4th to 8th, Hickory from 5th to 8th, N 6th from Walnut to Elm St, N 7th from Walnut to Hickory, Herron Ct and Division St, W Mulberry from Brown to Park Ave., Chicago north from Newell to Iroquois, Market from Lafayette North to W Iroquois St, Virginia north to Iroquois St, Wabash North to Jackson St, Jefferson Ave between Belmont to 5th St, Grant St from 10th to Ralph St, S 8th St from Walnut to Locust-Complete rebuild S 3rd from Mulberry to Jefferson, Adams from S 2nd east to S 4th St. Alderman Cahoe stated the city could use the new gas tax monies, MFT and Rebuild Illinois funds for these projects. This will be put on the agenda for next week. Mayor Allhands stated when rt. 24 construction begins next year the city will be responsible for the parking areas in the downtown on both sides of the street.

Alderman Barragree makes a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm and Alderman Cahoe seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.

Brandon Barragree, Chairman