

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

**CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2022**  
**7:15 PM**

**PRESENT:** Aldermen Garfield, Miller, Barragree, Cahoe, Marcier, Rushbrook, Alderwomen Ulfers and Musk and Mayor Allhands

**GUESTS:** Building Inspector Eric Brandt, Code Enforcement Officer Bill Stanley

Alderman Garfield opened the meeting at 7:15 pm. There was no public comment. Building Inspector Eric Brandt reported on the following:

**DNR Mitigation Grant:** Eric gave the committee a handout regarding monies spent, received and waiting to receive from the state. There were 109 properties in the grant, 45 demolitions have been done with owners and he is now working on rental properties. The current grant expires December 31, 2022 and will need to be renewed again at that time.

**Facade Grant:** There have been 19 paid out and there are 5 left that need to return paperwork for.

**Sign Ordinance:** Eric stated this is going to be a long process and very complicated. The sample ordinance he is working on has inspection done yearly with a \$30 fee. The committee stated no yearly fee is necessary. There was a lengthy discussion also on the temporary signs that gas stations have and with this proposed ordinance those will not be allowed. It was discussed that the size can be regulated for signs but not the language. Eric stated this proposed ordinance is more for permanent signs. It was stated to have a meeting regarding this ordinance and invite the business owners. Eric will be gone in March to a school so this will be in April.

**Electric Services:** Eric stated Ameren is on board with the new ordinance, so when they update a service or install a new service Eric will inspect it first and put a sticker on it so Ameren knows its done.

**Permit Fees:** Eric stated last month he asked the committee about raising the building permit fees and he recommends: Roof, Demolition, Fence, Pools all have a \$50 fee. He wants to keep the square footage and garage permits the same. The committee is ok with this and Eric will let Attorney Cainkar know so an ordinance can be drafted.

Code Enforcement Bill Stanley reported on the following:

**Crime Free Rental:** The seminars are done they only had about 60 people show up out of 250 landlords. They will be having another seminar when the snow bird landlords return for the summer.

**534 E Walnut St:** So far there is \$2500 in fines for the property. When Bill talked to Attorney Cainkar he suggested the city take the property and demolish the house. Bill doesn't believe this is a good idea as it will be more costly to the city. He would just like to leave it for and continue to put liens on the property.

**208 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St:** Bill stated the landlord is not wanting to pay for the clean up now. In the beginning he was ok with it. He is scheduled for court again in February.

**Junk Vehicles:** Bill issued 7 citations in December and they were all removed before court.  
**513 E Oak St:** This property has been turned over to Attorney Cainkar and a court date is pending.

Alderman Cahoe asked about W Oak St between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> St. He stated all the houses on the north side of the street need some serious cleaning up.

Alderman Cahoe also asked about 308 W Oak St. This will be looked at.

Alderman Garfield asked about the 2 semi's that are sitting at Scotchmons West. It was stated there are no plates on the trucks and no numbers. Bill stated the owner is sending the driver to school.

Alderman Garfield also asked about the orange semi setting on E Walnut St. Bill stated there is a title issue with that.

Alderman Cahoe stated the bid for Rt 1 & 24 will be let March 11 and the city will not have to pay for the parking lanes.

Alderman Garfield stated since Eric will not be at the March meeting could Bill fill in for him and Bill stated yes he could.

Alderman Garfield makes a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm and Alderman Miller seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.

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Mark Garfield, Chairman