

City of Watseka

Witseka City Council

Special Called Meeting

January 2nd, 2024, 6:30pm

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Mayor Allhands, present were Alderman Muench, Cahoe, Marcier, Miller, Barragree, and Alderwoman Rohlfs with Alderwoman DeLahr via phone. Alderman Anderson was absent.

A Motion was made by Barragree, seconded by Rohlfs Approval of Garrells Revolving Loan for the former KFC Building for \$100,000. Motion passed 7-0.

A Motion was made by Marcier, seconded by Barragree Ordinance #2700 Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property Commonly Known as 223 E. Walnut St. Watseka, Illinois for \$6000.00 and the city is forgoing the fines. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion and Possible action of 215 N. 5th St. (Murray Schaumburg house). Discussion was had on this property. Mayor Allhands shared the starting bid was \$35,000 he went back with a counteroffer of \$29,500, someone is looking at the property also and they may purchase it. This would be a good piece of property for a well, a storm shelter, heating and cooling station and extra storage space for the fire department. Discussion was had it is a critical piece of property, the current house would be torn down, this property is out of the flood plain and if the water is good this could be a good piece of property. The city does own other properties and could one of those spaces be utilized for this. The City decided to pass for now if the property does not sell for \$35,000 the city would entertain the idea of offering the \$29,500. And more discussion can be had later. No action was taken.

Discussion and Possible action of Carlisle Bid for remainder of Opera House Inspection. Mayor Allhands shared that the opera house needs further inspection and that it could be salvaged for \$36,080.00- \$37,080.00. Discussion was had on any structural issues, truss, and the roof repairs. Alderman Miller went inside the truss is solid, there is timber wall to wall, it should be salvageable the building has not shifted the bricks have some cracks they were repaired 30 years ago so it could be saved. The city would like to see it marketable, painting and adding an awning might help it some. No mold was found. If it's made marketable maybe the city could flip it. Motion waws made by Barragree, seconded by Rohlfs Carlisle bid for the remainder of the Opera House Inspection. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion and Possible action on Teska TIF 1 District for Downtown. Mayor shared that everyone had a letter in front of them this is for economic development, then he read what a TIF District is. Discussion was had start at the railroad tracks, north around the elevator to the alley behind Oak St. taking it to 6th Street, there are different phases that need done. He asked that the council please look over the map

and documents he gave them, and this can be discussed at the next Finance committee meeting. No action was taken.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Barragree to Adjourn at 7:22pm. Motion passed 7-0.

Amanda Hibbs

City Clerk