

SCity of Watseka
201 Brianna Dr
PO Box 338
Watseska Il 60970

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 9TH, 2024

6:37 PM

PRESENT: Aldermen Miller, Anderson, Barragree, Cahoe, Marcier, Alderwomen Rohlfs and DeLahr and Mayor Allhands

ABSENT: Alderman Muench

GUESTS: Resident Jim Lamphear, Building Inspector Eric Brandt and Code Enforcement Bill Walver

Alderman Miller opened the meeting at 6:37pm. During public comment resident James Lamphear stated he has a trailer parked on the lot next to his house that is a city lot (DNR) and Building Inspector Brandt has requested he remove the trailer. He believes there are more important things to be doing in the city than asking him to move the trailer. He stated the city has 2 inspectors and that is too many. Mayor Allhands stated that lot is a DNR lot and has a restricted deed on it until it becomes the city's and that trailer could potential hurt the program if he doesn't remove it. Mayor Allhands also stated the code enforcement/building inspector positions are filled properly.

Building Inspector Eric Brandt reported on the following properties:

IDNR Flood Mitigation: Eric stated he is working on getting the transfer of deeds on 22 more properties

Ordinance Citations: 9 warnings and 4 citations were issued

440 E Oak St: asbestos removal will start 4/18 and demolition will start 4/22

520 N 2nd St: 2 bids were received: Lee Farms \$27,700 and KB&E \$16,200, Eric stated all structures will be removed.

Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the council to accept the bid from KB&E for \$16,200 and Alderman Barragree seconded.

Roll call carried 8-0. Eric reported Attorney Cainkar wants the city to wait for the Sheriffs sale on May 13th before demolition begins.

306 W Oak St: Eric stated the owner agreed to donate the property to the city when the tenants are out but she is not returning phone calls now. Eric ask for permission to begin demolition proceedings and the committee agreed

Adopt A Lot: Josh Douglas owns the property at 428 E Elm St. and his tenants want to use the property for a garden. **Alderwoman Rohlfs makes a motion to let Josh Douglas adopt the lot at 428 E Elm St and Alderman Miller seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.**

Canady Building: the owner wants to donate the property to the city. There was discussion about the condition of the building. **Alderman Miller makes a motion to recommend to the council to not accept the donation and Alderman Anderson seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.**

Façade Grant: Craig and Julie Massey are requesting \$3800 for there business at 116 E Walnut St. They plan to replace broken windows and get a new awning and a new sign. **Alderman Miller makes a motion to recommend to the council to give Massey Design a façade grant of \$3800 and Alderwoman DeLahr seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.**

Mayor Allhands stated there is a developer that is interested in bringing a solar farm to the city. 1 property is outside the city limits and the other property is inside the city limits. The committee has a draft ordinance to look over. There was a lengthy discussion about solar farms. This will be discussed more in upcoming meetings.

502 E Ash St: this is the Hanford house, the foundation is finally finished, Eric has a copy of the elevation certificate, and she will be starting on the deck and stairs next. She is also waiting on the painters.

Code enforcement Bill Walver reported on the following:

Crime Free Rental: 3 seminars were conducted

Inoperable Vehicles: 2 owner notifications were sent out, 7 tow notifications were sent out, 7 vehicles removed or now in compliance, 3 vehicles were towed to the impound, 1 junking certificated was sent to the secretary of state.

Other interactions for February: 15 warnings for miscellaneous violations

Golf Cart Inspections: 2 inspections were done. There was a lengthy discussion about the golf carts and lawn mowers and bikes with motors on them.

Alderman Miller makes a motion to adjourn at 7:20 and Alderman Barragree seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.

Don Miller, Chairman