

City of Fox Lake
Committee of the Whole Synopsis
July 18, 2018

The July 18, 2018 committee of the whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Bednarek, following the Council meeting, in the Council Chambers. Those in attendance were alderpersons John Mund, Dan Ault, Dennis Linke, Peter Hartzheim, Robert Jenswold and Don Zilewicz. Also attending were city clerk Susan Hollnagel, city administrator Dean Perlick, police chief Jim Rohr and street superintendent Gene Huettner.

In the audience was Jim Behling.

Vacate 300 block of E. Cherry Street

Perlick stated Carl Huizenga's attorney contacted him and suggested the city declare vacating the street in the public's interest, then Huizenga doesn't have to get the signatures of abutting property owners. Perlick told him that in the city's opinion, Huizenga still needs to get the signatures of the abutting property owners. Jim Behling, property owner abutting to E. Cherry Street, said he opposes the vacation of the street. The Mayor said they should go through the proper procedure to vacate the street. Behling said he sent a letter to put it on record that he opposes vacating the street. Mund asked why Huizenga wants it vacated. The Mayor said if the road would go in, it would be 10 feet or less from their large shed.

Excessive grass/weed growth ordinance

The Mayor said property owners get a letter notifying them their grass has exceeded six inches in height and they need to cut their grass. Chief Rohr said they get one notification. The Mayor said we should put some type of notice on the water bill about the grass ordinance. The clerk said you would have two lines, on the water bill, to put this on. Hartzheim suggested putting a flyer in with the tax bill, that way every property owner would get it.

Perlick suggested amending portions of the city code to reflect the notice and the time residents/property owners have to cut their grass. He suggested giving 10 days written notice, instead of 5, by mail to the owner/occupant to cut the grass. He said the weed commissioner or his representative can go on any property, which has a public nuisance on it, without him being liable for trespass. Perlick also suggested amending the ordinance that once the first notice is mailed, no other notices will be sent out for subsequent violations. The Mayor also suggested putting a notice in the tax bill. Perlick said the clerk can do that but the weed commissioner will still have to send out the first letter to the property owner. Hartzheim suggested putting an informational page, in with the tax bill, and include on it the weed notice, snow removal, brush pick up and winter parking. Perlick said the amended ordinance would be on the August 1 council agenda.

Comm Center rental

Hartzheim said there was an incidence, about two weeks ago, where the hall was rented and there was damage done. He said they also stayed two hours past their leased time and left the floor a mess. He said the clerk/treasurer's office does the rental of the room and suggested taking a camera and video what

the room looks like before the rental. Perlick asked if the city should be charging a cleaning fee. He said sometimes there is a rental on Saturday and also on Sunday, and if the Saturday rental doesn't clean up, the Sunday rental ends up with a mess. He asked if the city should have the municipal building custodian clean it. The Mayor suggested doing an up charge to have the custodian clean up the center. The Mayor said this would be on the August committee of the whole. Hartzheim said most of the tables, in the community center, are junk. He suggested taking the rental fees and buying plastic tables so they will last longer.

TIF #2 & TIF #3 advances

The Mayor said the auditors told him the city should charge an interest rates on funds that are advanced to the RDA, for TIF #2 and TIF #3 project and improvements. He said this would be on the August council agenda.

Library minutes

Ault stated the library board had offered the librarian position to Erin Anders and she has accepted. He said the library board will be looking for someone to take the position Anders had at the library. He said Anders has been doing a good job and is a city resident. Ault said Anders will carry on a lot of what Paula Torgeson had started. No one had any questions regarding the July 10 library board meeting.

Rezoning for proposed Spring/Booth apartments

Perlick said the Planning Commission had recommended the rezoning of one parcel from two family to multi-family district and 4 parcels from business district to multifamily district to accommodate the proposed apartment building construction. The Mayor said the developers are going forward with project but had to make some adjustments to the setback off of Spring St. (STH 33).

With no other business to come before the committee of the whole, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.