

March 7, 2017
Public Hearing Minutes

A public hearing of the Common Council of the City of Fountain City regarding seeking input from the public on the development of ordinances to address lawn/weeds, dumpsters and snow emergency was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 7, 2017 by Mayor Kevin Hutter. Alderpersons present: Bobbi Farrand, Barb Schmidtkecht, Gwen Katula and Sol Simon. Absent: Judith Ganger and John Sagan. Public present: Rosemary Binkley, Brenda Burt, Fran Burt, Paul Duellman, Ann Bohri, Chris Todd, John Schlesselman, Jen Tepovich, Nick Lorenz, Paul Lorenz, Betty Farrand, Bob Platteter, Josh Eckelberg, Molli Eckelberg, Ann Murphy, Bill Katula, Craig Farrand, Neil Isakson, Janet Alcamo, Nikki & Jerry Kafer, Kathy Bowman, Sarah Hemker, Ross Patzner, Mike Lynch, Claire Waters, Officer Delton Hoyt, Scott Hansen, Cally Ligman and her father Jack.

- ✓ *Mill Street: Not put on notice - but Sol has a concern.*
 - *Bob Platteter, Buffalo County Highway Commissioner: Where did the amount to be charged come from? They have been paying to Alma for years – twice the amount for less than half the miles; used to having to pay, but amount should be fair; contact Corp. of Engineers about maintenance as Trempealeau County does that.*
 - *Paul Duellman: discriminated against; not paying for being on other roads; lift to get water off street; should have had a ban on.*
 - *John Schlesselman: swell depicted via pictures of melting snow from tennis court; sand pile is within city limits; corp. to be issued a permit with appropriate fee charged; condition of permit could be road maintenance fees.*
- ✓ *Lawn/Weed:*
 - *Ann Murphy: City ask HS students if they can help.*
 - *Rosemary Binkley: Couple places in town where they border properties where lawn is not maintained; without sidewalk the yard is out to the road.*
 - *Mike Lynch: what is prairie grass? (Bill Katula seconded that concern.); how much would it cost to mow and is it the best use of our officer's time?*
 - *Jen Tepovich: clause exception regarding slope-places in Fountain where it is impossible to mow.*
 - *Nick Lorenz: too steep to maintain; need City to help out with water so it doesn't flow onto neighbor's land. (Kevin explained Nick's concerns to Ross Patzner who couldn't hear.)*
 - *Bill Katula: compliant with weed regulations on City properties?; benefactor of fines-where would fines go? to beautification fund?*
 - *Neil Isakson: lot with building proposed – raw lot not addressed in ordinance*
 - *Ann Bohri: City property Eagle/Liberty Street weep whipped by a blind man*
 - *Betty Farrand: drainage ditch been a problem since we lived there; not cleaned out*
 - *Fran Burt: hilly slopes & how far up; landscaping as hedges/bushes to be trimmed is out of line as well as fines*
 - *John Schlesselman: marked in red concerns he has; yard definition; unoccupied and unobstructed; pompus grass and crown vetch; back of yard for native grass; clarification of enforcement – verbal warning then written, but feels fine amount is too high*
 - *Officer Hoyt: definitions in wording about landscaping is not defined; some is repetitive; concerns about penalties with enforcement by formal arrest should be stuck out; parts go over types of citations; VII standard how citations are written – leave address and codes left out.*
 - *Scott Hansen: has some of the same concerns; look at fine amounts; trimming around buildings*
 - *Craig Farrand: effort of City Council urge all to know that the intent is to better overall appearance*
 - *Sol Simon: encourage all to come to committee meetings where there will be more detailed discussion*
- ✓ *Dumpsters::*
 - *John Schlesselman: regulation is appropriate, but redundant to have it plastered on side of dumpster; length of time is too short; ability to extend dumpster permit to at least 60 days; enforcement expenses; apply to large trailer or does trailer fall under 48 hour parking ordinance?*
 - *Fran Burt: agrees with John; extension should be without additional charge*
 - *Ross Patzner: agrees with John; 30 days is too short; waiting for contractors, but last project took 4 months; feels should be 60-90 days and that the ordinance is totally anti-business*
 - *Sarah Hemker: should not be penalized for getting a dumpster; without driveway, forced to place on street*
 - *Jerry Kafer: Why are we doing this?; agrees with Ross*
 - *Bill Katula: punitive and counter productive*
 - *Neil Isakson: same sentiment; less tax it – more don't tax it*
 - *Bob Platteter: keep in mind Ftn. City has two state highways going through it and if it impedes, County can remove*
 - *Ann Bohri: incentive to keep properties looking good*
 - *Claire Waters: problem in Town of Buffalo; call Sheriff's Dept. if they have a controlled burn; sufficient staff to handle a controlled burn*

✓ *Snow Emergency:*

- *Kathy Bowman: Public Works Supervisor is allowed to determine location of dumpster; 12 hour no parking after snowfall; City can't get their work done; address how City removes snow; more uniform and more concern about people living in this town; citations should be signed by who wrote it; more considerate of other people*
- *Ross Patzner: snow removal = don't go there-needs to be removed; Public Works can back up to the dumpster; again anti-business*
- *Jerry Kafer: best snow removal this year since he has lived here; church parking lots used; agreements have been done in the past*
- *Fran Burt: don't know how alternate side parking will work; many places where you can't park on the other side*
- *John Schlesselman: Main Street – 23 cars on the block, 7 empty spaces to park; not enough parking spaces; would have to drive more than ¼ mile to park*
- *Sarah Hemker: buy dilapidated buildings for parking lots in City*
- *Molli Eckelberg: not much parking where they live; plus renters overuse of spaces*
- *Josh Eckelberg: more than one sign; he didn't see it; put out more than one no parking in a given area*
- *Nick Lorenz: snow removal on weekend when home vs. snow removal on weekday when gone*
- *Jen Tepovich: alternate side for snow emergency with 4"; designated streets only; not all or signed differently*
- *Rosemary Binkley: apply to every single street?; any streets exempt or applied to only some?*
- *Cally Ligman: 4" visible snow?*
- *Bob Platteter: no parking after should be riverside of STH35 from first to last building agreement; one side would be clear; Buffalo County feels it is still in force*
- *Bill Katula: alternate side parking was never enforced then?*
- *Jerry Kafer: sympathize with Public Works clearing streets; could we tap into resources?; phone calling to remove cars?*
- *Letter from Angie read: concerns about time of removal; sign should have a time on them; signs state snow removal with times for snow event or snow removal like county uses*
- *Sol Simon: committee thought that there were no regulations to control mowing your lawn at all; areas are hard to mow and wanted input; took enforcement from ordinance #22*
- *Gwen Katula: for the record, opposed to lawn/weed ordinance; and yes she is still on that committee*

Kevin commended all for coming and we tried to address their concerns. This is how a City should run was stated. Thank you to everyone that came and/or had an opinion. He encouraged all to watch for future Streets-Roads/Recycling Committee meetings on the city calendar as well as postings. John Schlesselman wanted to commend all for being very respectful as at the county it is not always that way. Kevin announced adjournment at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet LaDuke, Clerk-Treasurer