

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Second Floor Conference Room

Attendance: Chairman Kyle Buettner
Committee Members: Jim Hopkins, Jim Trantham, Jordan Riley, and Gary Most.
Attendees: Mayor Stan Darter, Tina Charron, Joel Vogt, Matt Buettner, Sarah Deutch, and Mechelle Childers.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Kyle Buettner stated that he would like to amend the agenda to include “**Agenda Item #7 Comments**”.

Motion to amend the agenda as requested by Chairman Kyle Buettner was made by Alderman Riley and seconded by Alderman Most.

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 1: Petitions by Citizens on Non-Agenda Items: None

Agenda Item 2: Review 25-1-1 re: Chickens, Fowl in City Limits.

The ordinance was included in the packet and read aloud by the Chairman. Alderman Hopkins stated that the ordinance has served the city well and that chickens are more suited to agricultural settings.

A motion was made by Alderman Hopkins and seconded by Alderman Trantham to keep the existing City ordinance which prohibits the ownership or possession of fowl within the city limits.

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Review 3-2-5 re: Bees.

The current ordinance prohibits beekeeping within the city, and none of the surrounding communities have ordinances permitting an apiary.

A motion was made by Alderman Riley and seconded by Alderman Trantham to keep the existing City ordinance which prohibits the keeping of bees within the city limits.

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Review City’s Position on Gaming Licenses.

Mayor Darter stated he wanted to seek input from the Council regarding their perspective on the gaming license situation. Specifically, whether Waterloo has reached a saturation point with gaming, and are gaming signs and neon displays in establishments align with what we want for Waterloo? The committee members responded that they thought Waterloo had enough gaming facilities. Although not a member of the Ordinance Committee, Alderman Vogt remarked that businesses with gaming licenses are profitable. They do not go out of business nor relinquish their licenses. Deciding whether to extend or not to extend gaming licenses effectively favors some businesses over others by choosing who will profit and who will not. A discussion was held regarding capping the number of gaming licenses and how to prevent licenses from becoming a commodity. Additionally, the dialogue covered the process of maintaining an applicant waiting list and analyzing other municipalities' licensing regulations. Although this is not currently an issue, it can inversely affect the businesses of Waterloo or the future businesses of Waterloo. It was agreed that at this stage, sufficient information had been provided to initiate this process.

Agenda Item 5: Explore Creating a “Property Committee” for the City.

The City owns several properties; however, there is no dedicated committee responsible for managing these assets. Such a committee would not only oversee these properties but also the buildings and storage areas on the premises and assist in making long-term decisions about their use and maintenance. There is compelling evidence that this committee is needed.

A motion was made by Alderman Riley and seconded by Alderman Hopkins to create a “Property Committee” for the City.

Motion passed unanimously.

A new ordinance will need to be drafted, along with rules outlining the committee's responsibilities. It also will be necessary to contact the city attorneys to determine how to initiate the process for this ordinance.

Agenda Item 6: Review 14-1-2 & 14-1-3 re: FEMA’s Flood Insurance Rate Map.

This ordinance outlines the implementation of the floodplain code provided by the National Flood Insurance Program. The associated mapping and study sent by FEMA are set to take effect on August 19, 2025. A total of four (4) maps are located either within or just outside the city limits. FEMA has indicated the necessity for reviewing and updating the ordinance to align with state language requirements. JR will collaborate with Tammy to revise the ordinance with the updated language. The goal is to have this completed, reviewed by the attorneys, and ready for the City Council by August 18, 2025.

Agenda Item 7: Comments.

Alderman Most expressed his appreciation for the committees, stating that they broadened his thought process.

Alderman Riley agreed with Alderman Most, noting that these committee meetings enhanced his understanding and allowed him to consider different perspectives.

Mayor Darter stated that the City of Waterloo will host the Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors on August 28, 2025. The meeting is scheduled to take place at Vintage Wine Bar, and all Council members are invited to attend.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alderman Riley and seconded by Alderman Hopkins. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Submitted by Mechelle Childers