

May 21, 2020 Legal Affairs Committee Minutes

8am Members Present: M. Reynolds, M. Platteter, G. Schueller. Others present: A. Hraban, B. Groothusen, D. Willingham, R. Tatur, A. Albarado, A. Kenyon, A. Christianson

Call to Order:

Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 8am and presided.

Discussion of Flambeauland Laundromat:

Discussed with representatives from Rusk County that building was over 3 years delinquent on property taxes. County had begun the process of taking tax deed to property but has not completed the process. Approximate amount owing on property is \$4,428.63 in property tax, interest and penalties. Also owing are approximately \$3,500 in special assessments.

County would have an interest in taking tax deed, transferring property to City for \$1. County would write off past due property taxes and City would assume special assessment balance. City would proceed with demolition of building in order to facilitate future development.

Discussion of Former Methodist Church:

Discussed with representatives from Rusk County that building had been deteriorating for 18 years following the Labor Day Tornado of 2002. County currently holds tax deed to property. County looked into demolition costs around 3-4 years ago. Somewhere between \$80,000-100,000 at the time. Various people have kicked the tires on the potential of rehabbing the building for a new use, but nothing has materialized. Chair Reynolds noted serious safety concerns relating to the current condition of building and that it is relatively accessible to curious children who could be badly injured.

A. Kenyon mentioned there may be federal money available for demolition/redevelopment of property. He reported that he would know more about the program following a meeting he was scheduled to attend later that day. County representatives agreed to increase the priority of discussion of demolition of the property with City representatives. No commitments were made regarding financial obligations.

Action on above items:

Motion made by Platteter, Seconded by Schueller to recommend to City Council to purchase Flambeauland Laundromat from Rusk County for \$1. County will waive back taxes and City will absorb special assessment costs, plus any costs associated with building demolition.

Adjourn:

Chair Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 8:48am.