

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2012**

**MINUTES**

The Community Development Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Thursday, June 28, 2012, in Conference Room No.1 at the City Office Building. Chair Dokken called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

**Present:**

Jim Dokken	Chair
Steve Ahmann	Council Member
Ron Christianson	Council Member
Dennis Anderson	Council Member
Bruce Peterson	Director of Planning and Development Services

**Others present:** Laura Becker

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Laura Becker inquired about the occupancy status of the new mosque at the former Lafayette School. She also asked about the installation of the required sprinkler system. Staff responded that the mosque had not been approved for permanent occupancy as the sprinkler system was yet to be installed.

**2. ANIMAL ORDINANCE (MOTION)**

Staff presented background information and proposed language for a new animal ordinance (see Attachment A). Committee discussion centered around the number of birds to be allowed in residential districts and the setback requirements for animal enclosures. It was recommended that the side setback be adjusted to a minimum of 10' to be consistent with the 10' rear setback requirement.

Following discussion a motion was made by Council member Ahmann, seconded by Council member Christianson, and passed for the following:

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the proposed ordinance parameters be approved with the side setback adjusted to 10', and that the City Attorney be directed to prepare an ordinance for public hearing.

**3. RENTAL HOUSING INSPECTION SCHEDULE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

The Committee reviewed the inspection plan for the City's rental housing inspection program (see Attachment B). It was noted that registration terms for the program had been adjusted a number of times. The Willmar registration and inspection schedule was compared to the process utilized in East Grand Forks. East Grand Forks allows their inspector to waive an annual inspection if the previous inspection yielded no corrections, although the fees are collected annually. It was determined that the Willmar program had no need for a waiver provision due to the fact that units

are licensed for a longer period of time. Staff recommended keeping the City of Willmar rental housing registration and inspection schedule as it currently is, but that the Council consider adjusting registration fees as they continue through the budget process.

**4. MISCELLANY (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Chair Dokken asked what the next steps were for the City relative to the Lakeland Hotel project. Staff offered the opinion that there were no further steps for the City to take at this time due to the withdrawal of the developer from the project. It was recommended that the City be open to other proposals for the redevelopment of the Lakeland building.

Staff was asked about conditions in the mobile home parks. There are ongoing drainage issues in the west park that the County has issued correction orders for. The owners of the parks are still working to remove as many bad homes as they can, and to consolidate the two parks into one.

5. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce D. Peterson, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development Services