

Ruthven City Council  
Special Meeting  
June 23, 2013

The Ruthven City Council, of the City of Ruthven, Iowa, met on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of June, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in special session, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, pursuant to law and to the rules of said council.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor, David J Kirk, in the Chair, and the roll being called, the following members were present: Anderson, Forey, Henningsen, Johnson and Schoning (arrived at 6:40 p.m.). City employees present: Loder and Tatman

Visitors present: Tom and Jan Eisenbarth, Ernie Pooler, Joan Cate, Gilson Ricke, Maxine Hansen and Rick Voss.

Discussion was held on the City of Ruthven Nuisance Abatement Code Enforcement. Mayor Kirk stressed to the visitors in gallery that he and city council members were all unified on the clean-up effort. The nuisance violation clean-up will continue as planned. There has been NO change to the nuisance ordinances; they are only enforcing the ordinances that are already set. The main reason for the meeting was the roll out of the program.

In review, the council hired Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Council to handle nuisance abatement services for the City of Ruthven at the April 21, 2015 council meeting. It was the mayor and council's understanding that a company was hired, not just an employee for the services. The letters that went out between June 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> should've been held for mailing until employee of NWIPDC returned from vacation on July 7<sup>th</sup> or there should've actually been someone else in the NWIPDC office that could answer questions regarding the letters when someone called in. Council and Mayor knew it was a new situation, but general roll-out of the program was poorly planned and executed, it should've been flawless. Another concern was that there were only 36 properties on the list provided to the council and mayor and there are many, many more that should've also received letters at the same time. Clerk Tatman was directed to contact NWIPDC employee Bumgarner in regards to attending the July 7, 2015 council meeting regarding these and other concerns with the program.

Comments received from citizens in attendance; Eisenbarth, Cate, Hansen and Pooler were that they were all in support of the city council for hiring the outside company to help clean-up the town. Questions to the council from citizen Voss were why they hired a company that is so expensive when council could've done it themselves and also if the city is cleaning up the town, why not fix streets too. Mayor shared that council has been doing the violation check each year and that program has not worked, so the council decided to hire an outside company that would be un-biased and would be able to enforce the program on everyone that is in violation. As for the streets, the city council has initiated a street survey to be done by both I+S Group and P.A. Co Engineer for a plan that the city can follow the next several years regarding streets to fix and when. There are a lot of streets in town that have underlying problems that need to be addressed at time of repair or replacement so they will last the 10-15 years planned. Mayor wrapped up the discussion stating that "the people who don't keep property clean are costing the city money. If all citizens help by keeping their property clean than it will bring in more families to house or build new homes and that will help with the tax base which in turn helps with infrastructure repairs etc. Ruthven is losing money now so spending a little now will save us greatly in the future."

Motion by Henningsen, second Schoning to adjourn meeting at 7:15 p.m. Ayes; Anderson, Forey, Henningsen, Johnson and Schoning. Nays; None. Absent; None.

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David J. Kirk, Mayor

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Margaret Tatman, City Clerk