

**CITY OF GRAFTON
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee of the City of Grafton was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Grafton, North Dakota at 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 3, 2020.

Chairperson Chris West presided. Members present: Dave Fellman, Don Hutson, Chris Lipsh, and Shane Mohn. Others present: Greg Young, Brian Sieben, Phil Ray, Mary Stark, Nick Ziegelmann, Tony Dumas, Kevin Sevigny, Rock Desautel, Russ Geddes, Loree Osowski, Roch Tweten, Shirley Burns and Todd Morgan.

ABATEMENTS

An application for Abatement and Settlement of Taxes was submitted by Roch Tweten for 150 West 15th Street, N ½ of Lot 11 and all of Lot 12, Block, 3, Southside 4th Addition. The property was valued at \$162,500 for 2018 and 2019 tax years. City Administrator Nick Ziegelmann, who is certified as a Class II Assessor, reported he and County Tax Director Ed Sevigny inspected the property and after entering the information into the assessing software there was an updated value of \$146,000. Mr. Tweten's basement has not been completed after it flooded in 2013. On recommendation of Mr. Ziegelmann, it was moved by Mr. Hutson and seconded by Mr. Mohn that it be recommended to the City Council to change the total true and full value of Parcel No. 10731, N ½ of Lot 11 and all of Lot 12, Block 3, Southside 4th Addition for 2018 and 2019 to land value unchanged at \$11,800 and structure value \$134,200 for a total true and full value of \$146,000. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

An application for Abatement and Settlement of Taxes was submitted by Loree Osowski Rentals, LLC for 515 Prospect Avenue, Lot 5, Block 19, Original Townsite. The property was valued at \$50,000 for 2019 tax year. Mr. Ziegelmann reported County Tax Director Ed Sevigny inspected the property and recommended the true and full value be reduced to \$36,000. It was moved by Mr. Lipsh and seconded by Mr. Fellman that it be recommended to the City Council to change the true and full value of Parcel No. 8550, Lot 5, Block 19, Original Townsite for 2019 to land value unchanged at \$2,400 and structure value to \$33,600 for a total true and full value of \$36,000. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Mr. Lipsh and seconded by Mr. Hutson to recommend the City Council approve transferring uncollectible accounts as listed to the bad debts account. The City Administrator reviewed the process for collections including the Assignment of Claims and SWS Collections. All members present voted in favor thereof; Chairperson West declared the motion carried.

Mr. Ziegelmann said there have been a few mobile homes with recurring base charges and no consumption and now one address has a \$1,200 uncollectible bill. The property owner knows no one has been living in the trailer. We are questioning whether an ordinance should be drafted which requires an account transfer back into the property owners name after a certain number of months of inactivity. A plan for resolving this issue will be presented in April.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Lipsh, seconded by Mr. Hutson and carried to adjourn the meeting.

* * * * *

Chris West, Chairperson

Wanda L. Ensrude, Deputy City Auditor