

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Building Inspection Ad-Hoc Committee  
Held on Monday, February 22, 2021 Pursuant to Notice Duly Given**

1. Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chairperson Schreiber
2. Roll Call: Mayor Heier, Joe Last, Al Schreiber (virtually), Sara Perrizo (also as recording secretary)  
Jeremy Wusterbarth, Josh Bostedt, Ron Daul, Mike Rehberg  
Excused: Kim Bronikowski  
Also present: Attorney Calvert
3. Approval of Agenda  
**Moved by Daul, seconded by Rehberg to approve the agenda as presented. M/C**
4. Approval of Minutes from 1/25/21 Meeting  
**Moved by Wusterbarth, seconded by Daul to approve the minutes as typed. 8 ayes**  
**Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.**
5. Correspondence/Public Appearances  
None.
6. Discussion/Possible Recommendation on:
  - a. Discussion on Allowing Residential Occupancy in Downtown  
Last researched other municipalities and their ordinances and found that all are different. This issue was brought up because some landlords have requested that residential usage be allowed on the first floor fronts of the buildings. If this were allowed, Last would recommend that it be restricted to buildings with three units or more so that they remain commercial buildings. Wusterbarth noted that adequate parking would have to be required and Last said that he would suggest two spaces per residential unit. Schreiber said that other buildings with residential usage upstairs already have their tenants parking on the street. He spoke with a couple of business people who are not in favor of allowing residential usages on the first floor. Things like toys, lawn chairs and grills could end up on the sidewalks on Main Street. How do you stop that?  
  
Daul stated that Oconto Falls has created a problem in their downtown and we are creating one here, too. Many of the downtown buildings are old and require extensive repairs, which deters people from opening businesses in them.  
  
Schreiber suggested polling the downtown businesses to see what they think. Wusterbarth suggested a public meeting as well.
  - b. Guidelines for Barn Wedding Venue  
Last spoke with a woman who owns a barn wedding venue and who sits on a barn wedding committee. All of the barn wedding venues that she knows of are zoned agricultural so they don't have to follow the commercial codes. However, because we are a city, we need to follow the commercial codes and create our own ordinance for these venues. Daul asked what is the difference between a barn and a hall? Last said that the barn in question has to follow commercial code in a residential building. Perrizo stated that a lot of the ordinances for banquet halls will be incorporated into the barn venue ordinance. Last noted that a meeting was held with the owners of the venue in question and they are willing to do things right and work with the city.

c. Political Sign Ordinance

Calvert stated that court cases on these types of ordinances vary from determining that there can be no enforcement of requiring sign removal to stating that there can be enforcement after a “reasonable” amount of time. He is concerned that our ordinance requiring signs to be removed within three days is too short based on these court decisions. Perrizo suggested that the ordinance also be changed to reflect language on defining a political sign that is included in the State Statutes. Perrizo, Last, Rehberg and Calvert will bring back proposed ordinance changes to the next meeting.

Regarding flags that have the names of politicians or elected officials, Calvert noted that the concept of requiring their removal has not been tried in court and he would not want Oconto to be the first to try such an action. The consensus of the committee was to continue with the current ordinance and not to include flags in the political sign ordinance.

7. Adjourn @ 4:01 p.m.

**Moved by Daul, seconded by Rehberg to adjourn.**

**M/C**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:  
Sara J. Perrizo, CPA  
Administrator