

Building Department

Mission statement:

"To gain compliance with the minimum standards regulating building and structures."

I would add that we need to look at revisions to the mission statement, while very matter-of-fact, we do much more....

Potential additions/changes:

To efficiently and professionally serve the citizens and business of Waterloo with inspections to help in the protection of individuals, employees, structural safety, infrastructure, and the general public. The Building Department strives to help create a safe living, working, and visitor environment in the construction and growth of the community; as we continue to see new development, rehabilitation, and redevelopment of the built environment.



Building Department

- General construction, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, fire safety, footing drains, F.O.G., rental



Building Department

- Staff:
 - Community Planning & Development Director
 - Building Official
 - Building Inspectors (6)
 - Property Safety Inspectors (2)
 - FOG/FDD Inspector (1)
 - Permit Writer (1)
 - Administrative Secretary (1.75)



Note – we are eliminating the Plans Review Examiner position by reorganizing department with elimination of Department Head and Maintenance duties from Building Official allowing that position to do more plan review, and by cross training the Permit Writer for plan review.



Building Department

- Daily:
 - Permits at permit counter for all residential, commercial, and industrial site plans
 - Processing fees collected for permits by fax, email, electronically
 - Permit inspections in field for City and for County (by contract)
 - Questions from public

Monthly:

- Contractors Board, Plumbing Board, Heating Board, Electrical Board, ADA Commission.
- Testing for licensing, processing for licensing and fees every month.



Building Department

- Permits:

Last year:

Residential new: 205 new residential units

Residential garages: 62 new garages

Commercial new: 11 new buildings

Commercial additions: 15 commercial additions

Other permits for repairs, plumbing, heating, electrical: 10,620 total permits

That would average 41 permits per day. Or about 7 inspections per inspector per day.

Black Hawk County

- The City of Waterloo is hired by contract, and bills per hour spent for County work.

Through this partnership, the professional staff of the City of Waterloo is able to help Black Hawk County for appropriate inspections for construction in the unincorporated areas of county.



Building Department

The staff has professional training for certifications for expertise in their respective fields.

Furthermore, the staff has cross training to help cover each other in times of vacation, sickness, training, etc. to help avoid over time costs when we possible.

We have two combination inspectors to help for backup of other inspectors. The Rental Inspector is able to help with Fire Safety inspections, the Combination Inspector can help backup the FOG./FDD Inspector, and the FOG/FDD Inspector can backup as a Combination Inspector certified as well.



Building Department

- The Building Department has further increased its availability and efficiency in recent years by allowing permits to be paid by credit card, having electronic submissions of permits (when possible) by email or web site contact.
- The Inspectors are armed with laptops with connection to the Permit System and office to be able to write permit information and inspection sign-offs in field when possible.
- So we are making ourselves more available to the public, and improving our ability to process information without repetition of work.



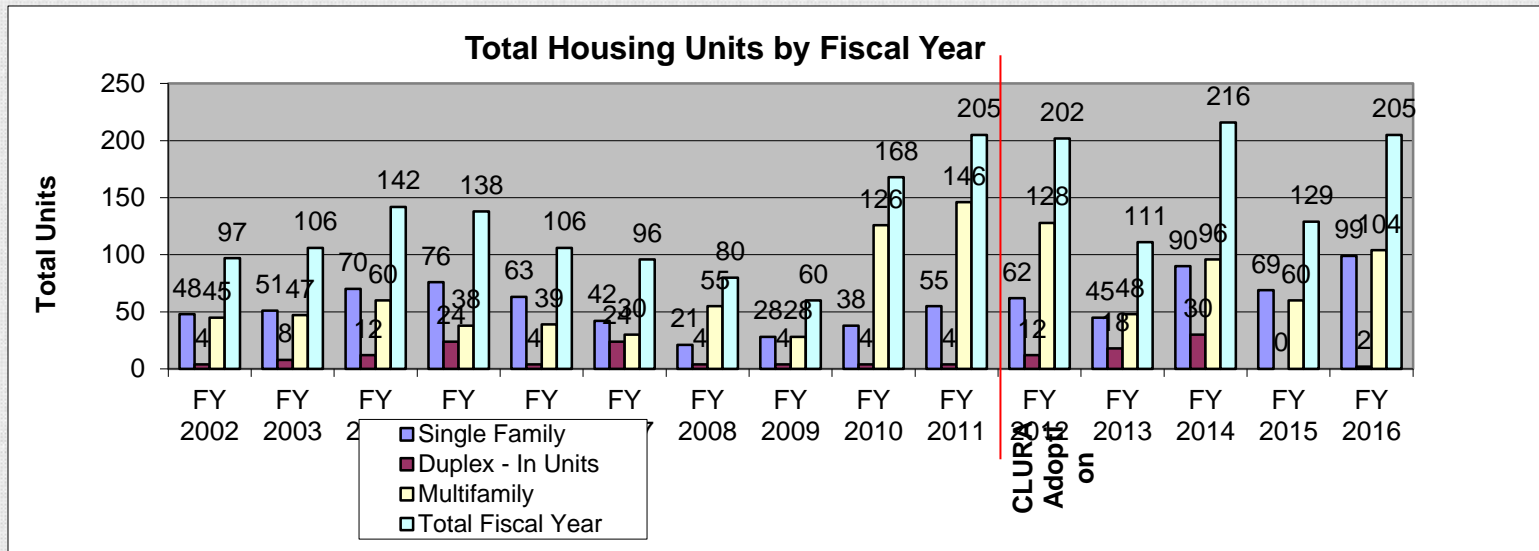
Building Department

- Economic Development
 - The City Council weekly agenda goals state, as the number one goal, "*Support economic development efforts that attract, retain, and create quality jobs resulting in a diverse economic base and increased population.*"
 - Having a professional and efficient Building Department is crucial to continued development of the City of Waterloo. The Building Department staff is critical to making projects commence, stay on time, to help developers and investors meet their timelines for development of projects.
 - The City of Waterloo previously received an ISO rating (system of measuring the effectiveness of Building Department as a whole which is scored after a visit and review of our entire department by International Building Code Board) of 3.1. The lower the score the better, and three is considered to be an excellent rating.



Building Department

- I show this slide again to show the increase in activity in the Waterloo area in housing, and the reduction in staff we are proposing and still meet the demands of efficiency and professionalism.



Building Department

- This past year at a glance:
 - Second highest total in permit valuation at **\$127.513 million**
 - Second highest total in total residential unit construction at **205 new units**
 - Highest total in new single family homes at **99 homes**
 - Highest one month total in new single family homes with **25 homes** in March
- Redevelopment of Logan Plaza started
- Major roadway connections with Kimball finished, Geraldine Road finished, MidPort Boulevard connection made, Fitzway/Galactic connection made (first roundabout)
- Con Agra opened up David Sunflower Seed expansion
- KWWL redevelops historic office building to continue to call Waterloo home
- Multiple residential projects underway in Downtown Waterloo
- Multiple new subdivisions being built, filled, planned (Audubon, Hummingbird, Kiefer)
- Martin Road area exploding with multiple projects
- Highway 20 continues to see new projects with Green Acres opening up
- Tech Works campus redevelopment underway
- Crossroads area sees several new restaurants, stores



Building Department

- Looking ahead, Goals:
 - Continue to look at new codes for proper safety and building design and construction
 - Continue to look for efficiencies in making contact with the public and contractors electronically, Permit System upgrades, etc.
 - Continue to efficiently and professionally perform over 10,000 inspections
 - Continue to cross train employees through training, certification, and hiring practices

