



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

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Tuesday, April 19, 2022

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House/Remote

6 [SR 22-63](#)

Review Request of Rhoda Wellner to a Ratifying of the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1428 THOMAS AVENUE adopted by Council on March 23, 2022 under AR 22-19. (File No. J2214A, Assessment No. 228513)

Sponsors: Jalali

Reduce assessment from \$360 to \$100.

Rhoda Wellner, owner, appeared via phone

Moermond: we are looking at an assessment that was already ratified but we are looking at it again. I did review the photos.

[Moermond gives background of appeals process]

Staff report by Supervisor Joe Yannarelli: November 2, 2021 a Summary Abatement Order was issued to cut trim and remove overhanging vegetation obstructing the alley. Compliance date of November 9. Rechecked and found in noncompliance. Parks did an abatement November 10 for a total proposed assessment of \$360.

Moermond: Ms. Wellner, after the fact you asked this be looked at again. Tell me what your thinking was?

Wellner: I was going through an extremely bad time with depression back then, so I hadn't been checking my mail. I didn't even pull it out of my mailbox until the 10th. I went out that weekend and didn't see any evidence someone did the work, so I spent Sunday November 12th clearing out the area. Pulled the vine off the fence, removed everything from the ground. It is still clear now since it has been winter. I didn't see any indication anyone had been out. I can understand from the video it looks like they just removed a few inches of leaves. I have pictures from before I started working on the 12th and I cant see any difference from my picture and your before picture. On Monday I talked to Inspector McCullough and told him what I'd done. He told me he would take the assessment off and if I got more mail to call him. The record hadn't been updated that the City had come out. He also stated if he was the initial inspector he wouldn't have even written it up.

Moermond: he was the initial inspector on the November 2 orders.

Wellner: interesting.

Moermond: the first photo I have is from November 9th. The photo does look like what was described in the orders. It is evident if you are looking down the alley the overgrowth does extend a few feet into the alley. I did look at the video Parks. Some work had been done by you.

Wellner: I didn't do any work until the 12th.

Moermond: so you did work after the crew was out there?

Wellner: I have Parkinson's and two knees that need to be replaced. It took me many hours. I understand the point of the order. They went out on the 10th and I found no indication anything had been done. If I knew you'd been out and I was going to have to pay \$350 I wouldn't have busted my butt on the 12th clearing everything out. I just find it discouraging.

Moermond: I agree the crew didn't do a good job. They did a minimal amount. It is unfortunate they did that. Compliance is the ultimate goal. I have a couple concerns. You did blow the deadline for appealing the order, blew the deadline on appealing the assessment itself. That was six weeks.

Wellner: when was the appeal notification?

Moermond: the tax assessment that went out had information about appealing this pending tax assessment.

Wellner: I'm not trying to get out of anything, but I talked to Inspector McCullough and he said he was going to remove it.

Moermond: I'm going to recommend this gets reduced. The City sent a crew, the City did a bad job. That is absolutely true. You did your best after the deadline. Not great there either. I'll recommend it is reduced to \$100.

Received and Filed