



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
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651-266-8585

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House

Special Tax Assessments

9:00 a.m. Hearings (A-CleanUp)

- 1 [RLH TA 18-29](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1849 SEVENTH STREET EAST. (File No. J1805A, Assessment No. 188505; amended to File No. J1805A3, Assessment No. 188522, and to delete the assessment)

Sponsors: Prince

Delete the assessment; cameras were installed to prevent future illegal dumping at the property.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/11/2018

- 2 [RLH TA 18-151](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1737 BUSH AVENUE. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Prince

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 3 [RLH TA 18-63](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 123 CAYUGA STREET. (File No. J1804E, Assessment No. 188303; amended to File No. J1804E1, Assessment No. 188313) (Public hearing continued to October 3)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Sharon M. Prohofsky, owner, and Michael Garske, friend, appeared.

(3 assessments: Vehicle Abatement; Clean-up; Excessive Consumption)

Supervisor Paula Seeley:
Cost: \$122
Service Charge: \$35

Total Assessment: \$157
 Gold Card Returned by: Sharon Prohofsky called in
 Type of Order/Fee: Excessive Inspection for time period July 23 to August 18, 2017
 Nuisance: repair cement retaining wall
 Date of Orders: 05/19/17 - found east retaining wall deteriorated and falling apart,
 Correction Notice sent
 Compliance Date: 06/22/17.
 Re-Check Date: 06/22/17 (east retaining wall still in disrepair). Sent another CN on
 06/23/17 & 07/25/17 (wall still in disrepair. No change from previous inspections. No
 calls or voicemails by owner. EC & CN sent
 Date Work Done: Done by Parks on 06/02/17
 Work Order #: 17-041113, Inv # 1321026
 Returned Mail?: No

Mr. Garske: there's a big hole in the retaining wall; the wall is falling down; she cannot
 afford to have it repaired
 but I don't know if that wall is hers or not

Ms. Moermond: there's a Jun 1, 2017 photo of the wall; it shows a section of the wall
 has failed
 -Sean Westenhofer is the inspector; he will meet with the owner & the House Calls
 Program together out there & come up with a plan on how to tackle some of these
 things: getting a public health nurse in; getting some chore service; getting this wall
 fixed (Brush with Kindness); I'm concerned that you will need help to continue to
 maintain this property; some big things are happening that are going to cost money
 -I will continue this discussion to Oct 3, 2018 & if we can get that wall fixed by Oct, I
 will recommend that it gets deleted; we will need some charitable assistance to take
 care of that; that wall needs some serious assistance from contractors who know what
 they're doing
 -Mr. Westenhofer will get a conversation going so there's a plan of action that you can
 deal with DSI

Ms. Seeley: I will have Sean go out there with someone to see what agencies would
 help

Ms. Moermond: I think that there's some help that will actually be really useful for you
 without a charge

Continue to Oct 3, 2018 City Council Public Hearing; if the retaining wall is fixed by
 then, I will recommend deleting this assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/21/2018

4 [RLH TA 18-64](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 123
 CAYUGA STREET. (File No. J1803V, Assessment No. 188002)
 (Legislative Hearing on March 20)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Sharon M. Prohofsky, owner, and Michael Garske, friend, appeared.

(3 assessments: Vehicle Abatement; Clean-up; Excessive Consumption)

Supervisor Paula Seeley:
 Cost: \$746

Service Charge: \$162
Total Assessment: \$908
Gold Card Returned by: Sharon Prohofsky called in
Type of Order/Fee: Abandon Vehicle
Nuisance: Dodge Sportsman RV on property with expired tabs; unsecured; inoperable
Date of Orders: April 21, 2017
Compliance Date: May 1, 2017
Re-Check Date: May 12, 2017
Date Work Done: towed May 24, 2017
Work Order #: WO# 8154 (May 2017-Dodge Sportsman RV/White/RV 76493)
Returned Mail?: No

Mr. Garske: she can't afford the bill on that; she gets only \$800/month (Social Security); could not afford to get the vehicle fixed & tabbed

Ms. Moermond: Does she get any kind of assistance?

Ms. Prohofsky: no outside help yet

Ms. Moermond: I'd like to get you some help; House Calls Program might have some help to provide

Mr. Garske: property taxes are up to date

Ms. Moermond: I can make this payable over time; the other option is the possibility that it could be deferred for up to 5 years
-do you see yourself living in the house for a long time?

Ms. Prohofsky: yes; I plan to live there; I live by myself; people come over & check on me like Mr. Garske; I don't have a public health nurse

Ms. Moermond: I think they come for free; that might be helpful for you
-Recommend this assessment be divided over 5 years

—
Divide over 5 years.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/21/2018

5 [RLH TA 18-65](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 123 CAYUGA STREET. (File No. J1805A, Assessment No. 188505; amended to File No. J1805A1, Assessment No. 188520) (Amend to delete assessment)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Sharon M. Prohofsky, owner, and Michael Garske, friend, appeared.

(3 assessments: Vehicle Abatement; Clean-up; Excessive Consumption)

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$372

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$534

Gold Card Returned by: Sharon Prohofsky called in

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Garbage/Rubbish (remove grass, weeds, chair & other debris in rear yard)
Date of Orders: 10/13/17
Compliance Date: 10/20/17
Re-Check Date: 10/20/17
Date Work Done: 10/23/17
Work Order #: 17-206995
Returned Mail?: No

Mr. Garske: that was all cleaned up; we took care of it

Ms. Seeley: the Video doesn't work

Ms. Moermond: they say they took care of it & without having the Video record of the crew having been out there, there's not much I can do except recommend that this assessment be deleted

Delete

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/21/2018

- 6** [RLH TA 18-126](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 578 CHARLES AVENUE. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507) (Public hearing continued to October 3, 2018)

Sponsors: Thao

Judy L.M. Carvalho, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:
Cost: \$180
Service Charge: \$162
Total Assessment: \$342
Gold Card Returned by: JUDY CARVALHO
Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT
Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN PROPERTY
Date of Orders: 12-1-17
Compliance Date: 12-8-17
Re-Check Date: 12-11-17
Date Work Done: 12-13-17
Work Order #: 17-220873
Returned Mail?: NO
Comments: I BELIEVE THIS WAS ILLEGAL DUMPING
History of Orders on Property: NO

Ms. Carvalho: we own other properties on Lafond & Charles; in Jan of 2017, this property suffered a major water damage loss; we have our insurance with State Farm & we had to go to court in order to recoup funds & that is an amazingly meandering process; everything was done as timely as possible & because we own the property next door to 578, the dumpster for 578 was put in the back of 576 Charles; I watched that like a hawk; I've been in Frogtown for 22 years & I know what it is to have a dumpster; we went through 2 dumpsters; I don't remember off the top of my head if the dumpster was taken away in some part of Dec but my pattern is that I'd circle around Charles (alley & front); 2 other owners & I are hawkeyes, monitoring & abating & we know that we're dealing with drugs in the alley & in front; we go to the police meetings; I & one neighbor talk but some reason, there's also been a history over the years of

people dumping on that little tiny property right where the TV is (photo); when I saw the TV, the next day I dragged it over to across the alley to where it was before; then, it came back; I called my neighbors

-I thought that my neighbor had called the city; in the meantime, I had either put it in the alley closer to where I know it was & the reason my memory is murky is because 3 blocks away on Lafond, one week before Thanksgiving, our other place suffered a major fire; so, now I have 2 things on my plate - same insurance company, State Farm; it's really stretching me

-the reason I have a PO box is so no mail is stolen because I've gone thru that before; so, I'm very deeply concerned & I'm so sorry; I don't remember getting the letter because when I get a letter, my pattern is to call the city right away & say that I got the letter; & I'm compliant - because I want to avoid this; if the letter was sent to 578 Charles Ave address, I'm sorry but I never got it; & unfortunately, my spouse is permanently medically disabled; certain things he can do; occasionally, he gets the mail & he tries to help out; I know that every once in a while his way of helping out is opening up the mail & putting it in a safe place or I call it "squirrelling it away" & I find it much later yet; I haven't found it yet; so, when the TV was gone, I called the neighbor & said thank you but she said, "I didn't do anything"

Ms. Moermond: you wrote in your notes here that this is the maintained property; in testimony, I heard that there's a good faith effort of 3 main owners in the area who monitor closely & abate nuisances

-if you have no history of getting city orders in this neighborhood, that speaks really well of your maintaining properties proactively

-if there's no other Orders by Oct, we'll just DELETE this outright

To continue public hearing to October 3 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 7 [RLH TA 18-124](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 800 COMO AVENUE. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Rescheduled per owner's request.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 4/17/2018

- 8 [RLH TA 18-122](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 143 CONGRESS STREET WEST. (File No. J1806A, Assessment No. 188506) (Amend to File No. J1806A4, Assessment No. 188529)

Sponsors: Noecker

Clifford Breffle, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$344

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$506

Gold Card Returned by: Clifford Breffle

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Garbage/Rubbish (remove carpet padding, furniture, misc rubbish near

back yard & alley)
Date of Orders: 11/21/17
Compliance Date: 11/29/17
Re-Check Date: 11/29/17
Date Work Done: 11/30/17
Work Order #: 17-217664
Returned Mail?: No
Comments:
History of Orders on Property: None

Mr. Breffle: we have illegal dumping in our alley & I called the city multiple times about it & somebody always picked it up; so, I thought that was just the city picking this up, I guess

-on Nov 3, we posted a community-neighborhood thing, asking for advice on what we should do; we have a picture of all the garbage dumped in the back alley (entered)

VIDEO - crew removed the items in the back yard/alley

Ms. Moermond: I'm looking at all this being on grass but the alley surface isn't grass

Mr. Breffle: there's a grass area between our back yard & the alley; that's where everything was dumped

Ms. Moermond: this isn't in the alley; this is on your property; I was looking at the photo of the TV & it was actually on the gravel

Mr. Breffle: the cabinet was dumped in the alley area

Ms. Moermond: I can sort of tell it's in the alley but..... I'm wondering why you didn't pick it up when you got the Notice from the city?

Mr. Breffle: I called the city multiple times; I explained to them that it was dumping; they said that they would come & get it (266-8989-DSI); I didn't quite understand the Notice & I didn't understand that I would be charged because they told me that since it was illegal dumping, they would just come & get it

Supervisor Joe Yannarely: if it's in the public right-of-way, DSI would send it to Public Works to pick up

Ms. Moermond: I think we have people talking past one another
-in the photo, I see it on private property & of course, that's your responsibility & you're saying that it's on the alley
-there's no history; you talked with the neighbors about all of this dumping seeking a solution; you talked to DSI 266-8989 number (at cross purposes)
-will recommend if no same/similar violation by Oct 3, 2018, I will delete this assessment

To continue public hearing to October 3 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/4/2018

9 RLH TA 18-130 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 847 COOK AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Bostrom

Mary Xiong, owner & her mother See Xiong appeared. Mai Vang interprets.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$430

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$592

Gold Card Returned by: MARY XIONG

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY (Remove broken furniture, drawers, scrap wood, misc junk & debris in rear yard directly behind the house.)

Date of Orders: 12-4-17

Compliance Date: 12-11-17

Re-Check Date: 12-11-17

Date Work Done: 12-14-17

Work Order #: 17-220705

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 8-29-17 SUMMARY ABATEMENT ON GARBAGE, BUT OWNER CLEANED UP

Ms. Moermond: there's quite a pile behind the house & foot of the stairs

*Ms. Xiong: this is my first home; bought it Oct 31, 2017; we started to remodel the kitchen in Dec 2017 because it's a very old home; the demo materials in the back yard are from the kitchen; there is no garage or shed on the property; so, we organized all those materials in the back of the house so that when we were finished, we would be able to use the appliances that we put out there; we put those close to the house so that they would not be an eye soar for the neighbors; my mom was there to see that this was done correctly so that we would be respectful of the neighbors
-I did not receive the Notice; the previous owner was coming to take the mail because she had not changed her address; I'm very attentive to the mail & notices that I get; however, I never saw this one until we came to the house to continue the remodel & all the supplies had been taken away; because everything from the back was taken away, including my mom's bags of leaves that she usually puts on top of her garden*

VIDEO - crew removed broken furniture, etc, from the rear yard near house

Ms. Xiong: some of the appliances were still usable & we had planned to put them back into the kitchen; they were underneath the wood

Ms. Moermond: is there anything in the bill indicating that appliances were taken?

Ms. Xiong: on Dec 14, we came to the city to find out if it was done by the city & that's how we found out; they gave use information about how to relocate the appliances but then the city was closing & we couldn't relocate the appliances

Ms. Seeley: there's one whole appliance fee of \$30

-there is only 1 permit out for replacement of a window; no remodeling permit pulled

Ms. Moermond: the city did send the Notice to the address that you gave as the official address, 847 Cook; you said that you're having problems with the previous owner taking the mail from there but that's the address that you gave

Ms. Xiong: I wasn't aware that after buying the house, I could still have mail sent to my current address at that time; now, I am living at 847 Cook; I want to continue to be a good neighbor; I wasn't quite sure how to handle this as a first time home buyer; I want to live here for a long time - to start a family there, as well

Ms. Moermond: I'm struggling because the Notice was sent more than a week before the clean-up happened; I get that there might have been a problem with the mail but the city's obligation is to send a letter to the address of record, which was 847 Cook; & this was construction debris & junk; also an appliance, which is not the way you treat an appliance in a long run

-I'm going to recommend the Council approve this divided over 5 years; is that useful?

Ms. Xiong: I'm not quite sure because having to re-buy all the appliances has been really hard on me, financially as well as the Xcel bill being over \$500 for this old house with not a lot of insulation

-is there any way that the fee could be waived / cut in half?

Ms. Moermond: the city did the work & the city incurred that expense; so any decrease or waiver that I would provide would be assumed by the taxpayers - can I justify that? in your situation, I don't think that I can; the Council could look at this differently

-good luck with you in your new home; check to see if you need permits for the work that you're doing

Ms. Xiong: on the day that we went to the city, we did clarify if permits were needed; that's why they recommended only that 1 permit, which is why we purchased it them

Ms. See Xiong: these materials were important to them; they were going to use them after the remodeling; why are you making them pay when these were valuable to them?

Ms. Moermond: when these things are outside, it is not considered proper storage; it's a nuisance that needs to be cleaned-up

Ms. See Xiong: if they'd gotten the letter, they would have done something about it

Ms. Moermond: the city can't control problems with the mail

Ms. See Xiong: reduce at least by half

Ms. Moermond: this is clearly the responsibility of the property owner from my perspective; the city did send the Notice & the city did the work

Approve & spread over 5 years.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

10 [RLH TA 18-94](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1084 EDGERTON STREET. (File No. J1806A, Assessment No. 188506) (Amend to File No. J1806A1, Assessment No. 188526)

Sponsors: Bostrom

Mallory & James Derrick, owners, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:
Cost: \$288
Service Charge: \$162
Total Assessment: \$450
Gold Card Returned by: JAMES DERRICK
Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT
Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY (remove excess litter behind bldg along alley)
Date of Orders: 11-14-17
Compliance Date: 11-20-17
Re-Check Date: 11-22-17
Date Work Done: 11-27-17
Work Order #: 17-216396
Returned Mail?: NO
History of Orders on Property: NO

Mr. Derrick: we were confused, initially, regarding the property boundary line; we were told that the abatement was for the alley; obviously, it's on our property but there was some confusion on where the property begins & where the alley begins; therefore, we were not sure that it was ours
-then, I was out of town for a week & during that time, we were unable to verify anything & the work was done by the time I returned; so, we were hoping for some forgiveness on your end regarding this; in the aftermath, we now understand that it probably was our property without having a survey done or looking at our property records

Ms. Moermond: looking at the photo, this looks like it's immediately next to the building

Mr. Derrick: we were told that the bldg backed up to the edge of our property but....

Ms. Moermond: the roof line is usually considered... then, there has to be a 3 foot setback from the edge of your property

Mr. Derrick: so, that's a garage & there is no roof overhang on it

Ms. Moermond: there still has to be a 3 foot setback, regardless
-if you weren't sure, why didn't you appeal or call the inspector?

Ms. Derrick: we just moved here in Aug 2017; we are brand new to the City of Saint Paul; also, we moved in the summer & there were green, lush vines covering all of that trash, so we didn't even realize what was back there; we have no reason to go back there in the alley; & we did not understand the implications of the letter; it was a short period of time that my husband was gone for work; it was also the Thanksgiving Holiday, so we were out of town

VIDEO - very narrow video; the photos are much better

Mr. Derrick: when I got back from work, I went to take care of it but it had already been done; we've been in contact with neighbors; we just didn't get it done

Ms. Seeley: that whole alley with garages gets a lot of litter & trash from across the alley; I suggest that you go out & check it once in a while; I spoke to the owner who is directly behind you across the alley; I said, "This is ridiculous"

Ms. Seeley: *the neighbors got Orders, too*

Mr. Derrick: *from what we were able to understand, the property owner for that bldg, the origin of the trash, just doesn't pay for trash service; it's up to the tenants & the trash service was discontinued for monetary reasons; so the trash piles up & blows into our area*

Ms. Seeley: *we have an on-going file on that property; they're getting fines*

Mr. Derrick: *if you can let us slide, we promise this won't happen again*

Ms. Moermond:

To continue public hearing to October 3, 2018 and if no same or similar, will reduce from \$450 to \$225.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/4/2018

- 11 [RLH TA 18-149](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1013 FARRINGTON STREET. (File No. J1808A, Assessment No. 188508)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 12 [RLH TA 18-153](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 837 FOURTH STREET EAST. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Prince

Delete the assessment; no summary abatement order was sent.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 13 [RLH TA 18-139](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1254 GALTIER STREET. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Da Wee Xiong, daughter, appeared o/b/o owner, Va Y Xiong.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$160

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$ 322

Gold Card Returned by: VA Y XIONG

Type of Order/Fee: SNOW ORDER

Nuisance: FAILURE TO REMOVE SNOW FROM PUBLIC SIDEWALK

Date of Orders: 12-18-17

Compliance Date: 12-21-17

Re-Check Date: 12-21-17

Date Work Done: 12-26-17

Work Order #: 17-224070

Returned Mail?: NO
Comments:
History of Orders on Property: NONE

Ms. Xiong: during that time, my mom was sick - going in & out of clinics, having tests done; she was also put on an oxygen tank; today, she didn't want to drag her oxygen tank around, so I came instead; & during that time when she received the Notice, we were so focused on getting her comfortable & getting her better, we didn't check the mail or shovel the sidewalk; I apologize for that; my siblings & I have met & have come up with a solution: we are going to be monitoring her mail & the weather

VIDEO - crew removed snow & ice

Ms. Moermond: will recommend reducing assessment to \$100; it's a pretty small amount of snow, about 2 inches; looks like it had been previously kept up

Ms. Xiong: it has always been maintained in the past; even with just a snow dusting, my mom will go out there with a broom to clear it

Ms. Moermond:

Reduce from \$322 to \$100.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 14 **RLH TA 18-156** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1027 GERANIUM AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Bostrom

James Barnes, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:
Cost: \$290
Service Charge: \$162
Total Assessment: \$452
Gold Card Returned by: James Barnes
Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order
Nuisance: Refrigerator near garage
Date of Orders: 12/04/17
Compliance Date: 12/11/17
Re-Check Date: 12/12/17
Date Work Done: 12/21/17
Work Order #: 17-220851
Returned Mail?: No

VIDEO - crew removed the refrigerator near the garage

Mr. Barnes: I didn't get a letter; my nephew was supposed to clean out my garage; he said that someone was supposed to get that refrigerator but I guess, no one came & I didn't know that it was there
-every time I have something, the lady across the alley will call

Ms. Moermond: I have a low threshold for refrigerators/freezers left outside; the letter

was sent & it gave a longer period of time than I would have given; I worry about kids getting in there & suffocating
-I want to be sympathetic to your financial situation & if it's useful, I can recommend that this gets divided over 5 years

Mr. Barnes: that will be useful

Ms. Moermond:

Approve & spread over 5 years.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

15 [RLH TA 18-78](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 570 HALL AVENUE. (File No. J1806A, Assessment No. 188506)

Sponsors: Noecker

Steve Lee, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$288

Service Charge: \$162.

Total Assessment: \$450

Gold Card Returned by: STEVE LEE

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO REMOVE BASKETBALL HOOP FROM BLVD

Date of Orders: 11-14-17

Compliance Date: 11-22-17

Re-Check Date: 11-27-17

Date Work Done: 11-27-17

Work Order #: 17-216570

Returned Mail?: NO

History of Orders on Property: NO

Mr. Lee: we've had problems with this tenant for a long time; he's out of the house now; left me with a \$5000 bill that I had to bring him to court with
-my complaint is - to move a basketball hoop 50 feet, \$450 is really expensive

Ms. Moermond: moving it? normally, the crew would remove it, not move it

Mr. Lee: they took it off the blvd & moved it into the back yard, 30-40 feet of moving

VIDEO - the crew removed just the base of the basketball hoop

Mr. Lee: so, it wasn't even the hoop; just the base; the base didn't have weight in it either

VIDEO again - to review removing base

Ms. Moermond: maybe the tenants pulled the hoop part into the back yard & the crew removed the base that was left in the blvd

Mr. Lee: I sent the tenant a picture of the Order & he said he took care of it; apparently, he didn't remove the base & I'm going to have to foot the bill on it

Ms. Moermond: you had Notice of this; you knew what was going on; it was a tenant thing but ultimately, you're responsible for taking care of business & it wasn't taken care of

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/4/2018

- 16 [RLH TA 18-152](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 72 HATCH AVENUE. (File No. J1808A, Assessment No. 188508)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 17 [RLH TA 18-125](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 714 JESSAMINE AVENUE WEST/761 COMO AVENUE. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507) (Public hearing continued to October 3, 2018)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Mary Borndale, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$338

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$500

Gold Card Returned by: TYME PROPERTIES LLC

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTIES

Date of Orders: 12-6-17

Compliance Date: 12-13-17

Re-Check Date: 12-13-17

Date Work Done: 12-14-17

Work Order #: 17-221602

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 11-7-16 ORDERS ON RUBBISH

Ms. Borndale: I can be very quick; can I just see the Video of what there was; we're just trying to get educated on what we're responsible for keeping clean there; we have a caretaker on site; after we got the Notice, he got rid of a couch; didn't know there was anything else on our property that he needed to take care of

VIDEO - crew picked 5 tires & trash bags from along the fence near alley; & pallet & misc debris from behind the garage

Ms. Borndale: those are our garages & that's our fence & dumpster; according to the survey of my property, I don't think it goes much past our fence; we have only several feet setback from our s- not sure if that's our property, I guess

Ms. Moermond: you have right-of-way responsibility through the mid-point of the alley

looking at photo - these tires are dumped up against your fence (illegal)

To continue public hearing to October 3, 2018 and if no same or similar, will reduce from \$500 to \$200.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 18 [RLH TA 18-140](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 995 MILTON STREET. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Ron Staeheli & Bryce Staeheli, friends of the owner, Patricia Fuchs, appeared.

Supervisor Joe Yannarely:

Cost: \$160

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$322

Gold Card Returned by: MARY PATRICIA FUCHS

Type of Order/Fee: SNOW ORDER

Nuisance: FAILURE TO REMOVE SNOW FROM PUBLIC SIDEWALK

Date of Orders: 12-18-17

Compliance Date: 12-22-17

Re-Check Date: 12-26-17

Date Work Done: 12-27-17

Work Order #: 17-224687

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments: CATEGORY 1 VACANT BLDG

History of Orders on Property: 2-7-18 ORDER ON SNOW BUT DONE BY OWNER

VIDEO - the crew did the work

Mr. Ron Staeheli: I called in about it; they told me that the work was done Feb 27, 2018 but it was actually done on Dec 27, 2017

Ms. Moermond:

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 19 [RLH TA 18-133](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 507 MINNEHAHA AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507) (Public hearing continued to October 17)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Rescheduled per owner's request.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 4/3/2018

- 20 [RLH TA 18-142](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1229 MINNEHAHA AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Prince

Stefanie Guindon, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: STEFANIE GUINDON

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY (remove detached storm door in front of garage)

Date of Orders: 12-15-17

Compliance Date: 12-22-17

Re-Check Date: 12-22-17

Date Work Done: 12-26-17

Work Order #: 17-224333

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: NO

Ms. Guindon: I am selling the property; we had removed the storm door & a scrapper was supposed to come & get it; the scrapper just pulled the metal off of one side of the storm door; so we set it out for the trash; and apparently, because our trash company was purchased by another trash company, there was some confusion; we had it leaned up against the front of the garage; later I moved it from the front facing portion of the alley to the side of the garage near the trash cans (thinking it would be acceptable); I wasn't expecting that it would be taken from that spot; I'm not arguing the fact that the storm door was there; I'm hoping to get some sort of deduction on the fee because it's money that I don't have

VIDEO - the crew removed the storm door leaning up against the garage

Ms. Guindon: my intent was to take it to the dump

Ms. Moermond: moving it to the side of the garage does not abate the nuisance; will recommend approval & spread the payments over 2 years

Approve & spread over 2 years.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 21** [RLH TA 18-129](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 803 OHIO STREET. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Noecker

3/20/18: Approve; no show.

04/5/18: Son of owner called and stated missed hearing. Rescheduled to 4/17 @ 9 am.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 4/17/2018

- 22** [RLH TA 18-132](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 186 PRESCOTT STREET. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Noecker

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

23 RLH TA 18-148 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1754 REANEY AVENUE. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Prince

Ethan Vang & Theng Vang, his dad, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$310

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$472

Gold Card Returned by: Ethan Vang called o/b/o Plia Vang

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: TV on property in front of garage

Date of Orders: 11/17/17

Compliance Date: 11/24/17

Re-Check Date: 11/28/17

Date Work Done: 12/01/17

Work Order #: 17-217334

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: SA 6/29/09 garbage in dumpster

VIDEO - crew removed the TV from in front of the garage

Ethan: my mom lives at this property; she does not read English so, I help her with the mail; we did receive the Notice regarding the trash & my father went out to take care of the other trash that was more to the left; he cleaned up the premises; I called Insp Suon that day, as well & left a message about illegal dumping on this particular property; when I spoke with him, he said that he normally gets back to the people who leave messages but there's a very high volume of calls on a day-to-day basis

Ms. Moermond: there was a letter sent indicating the problem with the TV set in front of the garage

Ethan: asked his dad about the TV in Hmong

Mai Vang interprets: they are monitoring the property all the time; when he got the letter, he went out to take care of the items but he didn't see the TV when he went to clean up

Ms. Moermond: I'm struggling with the letter saying, "Move TV on property in front of garage"

Ethan: my dad communicated to me that they had received the letter; I asked if it was something that he could take care of; my days clearly said that he did; so,.....

Ms. Moermond: I have a driveway with the TV in the corner; I will recommend approval

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 24 RLH TA 18-112** Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1511 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. J1805A5, Assessment No. 188524)

Sponsors: Henningson

LuAnn Hanrahan appeared o/b/o her daughter, Melissa Hanrahan, owner.

Supervisor Joe Yannarely:

Cost: \$288

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$450

Gold Card Returned by: Melissa Hanrahan/Lou Ann Hanrahan

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Overflowing container; TGW

Date of Orders: 10/11/17

Compliance Date: 10/16/17

Re-Check Date: 10/17/18

Date Work Done: 10/17/17

Work Order #: 17-205515

Returned Mail?: No

Comments: OLD FILE NO. J1805A, ASSESSMENT NO. 188505

History of Orders on Property: TGW 7/14/15 (WO), SnowWalk 2/18/16 (abated), TGW 5/26/16 (abated), 07/18/16 TGW (WO)

Ms. Moermond: No Video; need to Delete the assessment.

Delete the assessment due to no video.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 25 RLH TA 18-113** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1511 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Henningson

LuAnn Hanrahan appeared o/b/o her daughter, Melissa Hanrahan, owner.

Supervisor Joe Yannarely:

Cost: \$160

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$322

Gold Card Returned by: Melissa Hanrahan/Lou Ann Hanrahan

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Snow Walk

Date of Orders: 12/13/17

Compliance Date: 12/18/17

Re-Check Date: 12/27/17

Date Work Done: 12/27/17

Work Order #: 17-224702

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property:

*Ms. Hanrahan: my daughter is a single mom with a 1 year old; it's difficult for her to actually get out & do a lot of things; I'm appealing on her behalf to reduce any of these fees, if possible; she had a boyfriend, who was living with her but she kicked him out (abuse); so, there was a lot of excess trash; she couldn't pay her trash bill; so, I'm just pleading for whatever reduction is possible
-she knows that she needs to shovel her sidewalk, which she has been doing since*

VIDEO on the snow - city crew did the work

Ms. Moermond: will recommend approval, dividing it over 5 years

Approve & spread over 5 years.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

26 RLH TA 18-114 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1511 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. J1807E, Assessment No. 188306)

Sponsors: Henningson

LuAnn Hanrahan appeared o/b/o her daughter, Melissa Hanrahan, owner.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$122

Service Charge: \$35

Total Assessment: \$157

Gold Card Returned by: Melissa Hanrahan/Lou Ann Hanrahan

Type of Order/Fee: Excessive Inspection from 10/23 to 11/21/17

Nuisance: TGW/Garbage

Date of Orders: 10/11/17 (overflowing trash container & TGW)

Compliance Date: 10/16/17

Re-Check Date: 10/17/17-not abated

Date Work Done: 10/20/17-done by owner

Work Order #: 17-083655, Inv # 1337664

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property:

Ms. Hanrahan: by the way, the property was listed as vacant; my daughter will have been living there for 4 years in Jun 2018; when I talked to Mike Kalis, he said that the property was listed as vacant; I don't understand why it was listed as vacant when she bought the house almost 4 years ago; Mr. Kalis said that he would remove it from the VB list

Ms. Seeley: it's no longer on the VB list

Ms. Moermond: I will recommend dividing this assessment over 2 years

Approve & spread over 2 years.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

27 [RLH TA 18-154](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 95 WINNIPEG AVENUE. (File No. J1806A, Assessment No. 188506)

Sponsors: Thao

Rebecca Buck, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: Rebecca Buck called in

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Garbage/Rubbish (Please remove the mattress, cabinet, tire, concrete chunks, plastic tub & misc debris from behind the garage)

Date of Orders: 10/27/17

Compliance Date: 11/03/17

Re-Check Date: 11/03/17

Date Work Done: 11/08/17

Work Order #: 17-211276

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: TGW 5/27/16 (abated by owner); Illegal dumping 03/09/17 (sent to Parks); Graffiti 05/09/17

VIDEO - crew took concrete chunks, misc debris, wood parts, pet carrier (no mattress or cabinet) from behind the garage

Ms. Moermond: a good part of that was taken care of

Ms. Buck: we did take care of that; those concrete chunks came from when they tore up & fixed the road; we did pay to get rid of the mattress, cabinet, etc; we've lived in this neighborhood for 18 years; it's a terrible neighborhood & we constantly have dumping because I'm on the corner-end of the alley

Ms. Moermond: when I read the Order & all the things on the Order (quite extensive) & then I look at the Video & see what was actually taken, I think that a good faith effort was made to address what was in the Order & I'm going to recommend the rest gets deleted

Delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/4/2018

28 [RLH TA 18-138](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 937 WOODBRIDGE STREET. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507) (Public hearing continued to October 3)

Sponsors: Thao

Asia Original, Occupant, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$344

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$506

Gold Card Returned by: Esso Properties LLC

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Garbage/Rubbish (remove engine cabinet & cardboard in the rear yard & driveway area)

Date of Orders: 12/05/17

Compliance Date: 12/12/17

Re-Check Date: 12/12/17 - only the engine has been removed.

Date Work Done: 12/13/17

Work Order #: 17-221091

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property:

Ms. Orginal: I cleaned everything up; I moved everything from back there but then people dumped bikes back in the open field

*VIDEO - crew removed cabinets, bicycle wheels, shelf, trash, cardboard from rear yard, driveway area
(watched the "after" video twice)*

Mr. Original: I cleaned up the engine, bicycles & other stuff

Ms. Moermond: they were talking about the cabinet & cardboard; pretty minor; a good faith effort was made

Reduce from \$506 to \$253 and continue public hearing to October 3, 2018; and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete the other half.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

10:00 a.m. Hearings (E & P)

- 29 [RLH TA 18-136](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 55 COOK AVENUE WEST. (File No. J1807E, Assessment No. 188306)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Nancy Breheim, daughter of Gerald L. Breheim, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$122

Service Charge: \$35

Total Assessment: \$157

Gold Card Returned by Nancy Breheim

Type of Order/Fee: PAEC Fine

Nuisance: Failure to clean property by compliance date

Date of Orders: 10-26-17 (remove mini refrigerator, scrap metal, wood, plastic barrel & misc debris from the rear driveway area near the alley)

Compliance Date: 11-2-17

Re-Check Date: 11-3-17

Date Work Done: NA - Done by Owner

Work Order #: 17-208770 #Invoice 1340848

Returned Mail: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 5-17-17 Vehicle Orders

Ms. Moermond: you got it done but not on time

Ms. Breheim: it was clean; I went out there when they came & they looked around and said, "You've got everything cleaned; just pull that little piece of cardboard over by the trash & I won't charge you;"

Ms. Moermond: when they went out there, stuff was there; is that correct

Ms. Breheim: it was all gone when I was out there; so, I don't understand what they're saying; I was out there when he came & he said, "It all looks OK"

Ms. Seeley: these photos came in late

Ms. Moermond: I'm having a problem with the photos; there's no date on them -will recommend this be deleted; photo evidence doesn't show up

Delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 30** [RLH TA 18-141](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1928 FREMONT AVENUE. (File No. J1807E, Assessment No. 188306)

Sponsors: Prince

Approve; no show. Appellant sent in written letter for appeal.

I have reviewed the owner's letter and the record of code activities. I can identify what I think are 3 distinct code issues over the last year: tent, construction/scrapping materials and a fire pit. I am recommending that the assessment be decreased by \$122, from \$279 to \$157. -MM

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 31** [RLH TA 18-143](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1990 HOYT AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1807E, Assessment No. 188306)

Sponsors: Bostrom

Maria Dennison, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$122

Service Charge: \$35

Total Assessment: \$157

Gold Card Returned by: Maria Calatayud

Type of Order/Fee: Excessive Consumption (for not letting the inspector back in)

Nuisance: Failure to make repairs to the electrical & hire a licensed contractor

Date of Orders: 7-26-17

Compliance Date: 11-6-17

Re-Check Date: 11-7-17

Date Work Done: NA

Work Order #: 17-053109 #Invoice: 1340782

Returned Mail: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: Still open File

Ms. Seeley: read Inspector Suon's notes from when he & Ms. Martin were out there on Dec 11, 2017: Orders were sent Jul 26, 2017 to make repairs to the interior of the house; compliance date of Nov 6; went out & work wasn't done; an EC was sent -there's going to be forthcoming ECs
-notes Feb 15, 2018: re-inspected- many electrical & plumbing violations; the hoarding issues have been resolved but we've not yet been able to get back in to find out exactly if Maria has hired a plumbing & an electrical contractor to evaluate what really needs to be taken care of

Ms. Dennison: OK; this is what happened: remember the first time? he gave me about 12 things I needed to fix; I fixed them; I came here & showed pictures to you; you told the inspector to go out again to check it out; when he's coming again, he say, "Oh, one more thing; one more thing; one more thing.....;" this inspector never stops; every time he comes, there's one more thing

Ms. Moermond: right now, this bill is because you didn't have the electrical repairs done when you were supposed to have them done; that's all this is about

Ms. Dennison: No; I'm done; the only thing is; he needed me to cover the cable; I said, "OK; I'll cover the cable;"

Ms. Moermond: this charge is because this was Ordered in Jul; checked the deadline in Nov; & the electrical work wasn't done in Nov; the conversation you're talking about is the one we had a month or two ago; the charge is because he had to make a trip out here & the work wasn't done; basically, it's a trip charge

Ms. Dennison: when will this all be finished? Every time the inspector comes, there's one more thing; this is making me more sick; they need to stop; they never finish; stop; I don't want to see any inspector in my house any more; you give him the power to bother me.....

Ms. Moermond: the conditions were bad; we're trying to get things straightened out; you have a list & you are working on that; you say you're done; I'm looking at this one bill today, not the other Orders

Ms. Seeley: no, she's not done; there are no permits for electrical or plumbing

Ms. Moermond: OK

Ms. Dennison: like I say; I don't have the money for paying somebody to come in & fix that; my house is old; my brother-in-law fixed the electricity; I spoke with you about that. ..

Ms. Moermond: you can pull your own electrical permit; you don't have to hire an electrician to pull that permit; you can do that work on your own or your brother-in-law can do it

Ms. Dennison: he did it already

Ms. Moermond: you just need to pull a permit on it; that's all; an owner can do their own electrical work; that's OK

Ms. Dennison: Mr. Suon had an appointment with me & I told him, "No, because I had

to go get my treatment because my doctor told me, "Maria, you need to continue your treatment;" & I told him that I'm working right now because I need to pay my bill because my husband gave me only \$1000 for this month; & I need to pay \$450 for electricity every month; I work from 10:30 pm to 6:30 am; the court decides how much my husband pays for child support

Ms. Moermond: you're splitting up

Ms. Dennison: he says he wants to go; I want to keep my house for me & my kids

Ms. Moermond: so, your electrical got fixed by your brother-in-law; you or him can go pull the permit for the work that was done (general electrical repair); get an inspector to check the work; & if you get that permit taken care of by Apr 30, 2018, I will recommend that this assessment gets deleted

*Ms. Seeley: she needs a plumbing permit, too; that toilet is
-if you want to take the toilet off & cap the sewer line, that's fine*

Ms. Moermond: the deadline for the most recent Orders were from Feb 15, 2018; you had asked for an extension to Mar 15; then, you cancelled the re-inspection to see if you were done; are you ready to have an inspector come in to check to see if that list is done yet?

*Ms. Dennison: yes
-inspector said I needed a door in the basement; I bought the door at Menard's; the guy was trying to put the door in & he said that it was not possible to put in that door because of the metal beam; that's why there was a little door; we can't change that door*

*Ms. Seeley: I don't know what she's talking about but we need to focus on the electrical & the plumbing; if she's pulls the electrical permit & gets the toilet sewer line capped; that's about it
-later on, we'll need to deal with the tree house in May; will have to ask Ubl about that*

Ms. Moermond: electrical permit is needed; toilet taken off & sewer line capped; if you keep missing your deadlines, you'll keep accumulating fees; so, you've got to let the inspector in to show him that it's done

Need permit(s) finalized by April 30 and will delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 32** [RLH TA 18-137](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1976 IVY AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1807E, Assessment No. 188306) (To continue public hearing on July 11, 2018)

Sponsors: Bostrom

No one appeared. To be laid over to July 11, 2018 Public Hearing to go with other assessment appeals. Code Enf. staff will check on July 6 and if done, will reduce the fee in half.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 33** [RLH TA 18-111](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1118

LEXINGTON PARKWAY NORTH. (File No. J1804P, Assessment No. 188403)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Delete the assessment; waiver on file.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/4/2018

- 34 [RLH TA 18-119](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 694 SNELLING AVENUE NORTH. (File No. J1804P, Assessment No. 188403)

Sponsors: Henningson

Delete; waiver on file.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/4/2018

Special Tax Assessments-ROLLS

- 35 **RLH AR 18-24** Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during December 1 to December 29, 2017. (File No. J1807A, Assessment No. 188507)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 36 **RLH AR 18-25** Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up, Improvement and/or Emergency Abatement services during December 2017. (File No. J1808A, Assessment No. 188508)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 37 **RLH AR 18-26** Ratifying the assessments for Excessive Use of Inspection or Abatement services billed during October 23 to November 21, 2017. (File No. J1807E, Assessment No. 188306)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

- 38 **RLH AR 18-27** Ratifying the assessments for Graffiti Removal services during November 27 to December 22, 2017. (File No. J1805P, Assessment No. 188404)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/2/2018

Summary Abatement Orders-Making Finding

11:00 a.m. Hearings

- 39 [RLH SAO 18-11](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 237 BATES AVENUE in Council File RLH SAO 17-102. (Legislative Hearing on March 20)
- Sponsors:** Prince
- Nuisance is not abated.*
- Ms. Moermond: it wasn't installed under permit; it's in an HPC district; the city can go forward to abate*
- Referred to the City Council due back on 3/21/2018**

11:30 a.m. Hearings**Orders To Vacate, Condemnations and Revocations - Code Enforcement**

- 40 [RLH VO 18-10](#) Appeal of Chad Van Veldhuizen to a Notice of Condemnation as Unfit for Human Habitation and Order to Vacate at 1570 STILLWATER AVENUE.
- Sponsors:** Bostrom
- Rescheduled per owner's request.*
- Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 3/27/2018**

2:30 p.m. Hearings**Vacant Building Registrations**

- 41 [RLH VBR 18-16](#) Appeal of Juliet B. Seropian to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 693 ARLINGTON AVENUE EAST.
- Sponsors:** Bostrom
- Cat 1 was closed and will be back to a preliminary file.*
- Withdrawn**
- 42 [RLH VBR 18-14](#) Appeal of Kianna Ballard to a Vacant Building Registration Requirement at 554 CHARLES AVENUE.
- Sponsors:** Thao
- Brad Ballard, K-3 Investment, owner, appeared. (Kianna Ballard is his daughter.)*
- Fire Supervisor A.J. Neis:*
-this is the result of a Condemnation of a Fire C of O by Fire Inspector Laura Huseby after an issue with the gas; we received a complaint in Feb 2018 about the heat not

working in the property; when she inspected, she found that a new furnace had been installed with a possible leak; the Fire Dept & Xcel were called out to the property; the gas had been shut off to the bldg; Insp Huseby identified that the new furnace had been installed without permit; the next day, we received a phone call that they could smell gas again, so, someone had turned the gas back on into the house; the occupant advised that the property manager had sent somebody over to "fix the problem" but made the matter even worse; when the Fire Dept arrived, there were higher levels of gas in the home, which required the house to be ventilated; Xcel came out & capped & pinned the meter; based on the fact that they have had a history of installing illegal work & then on top of it, turning the furnace back on after it had been shut off, which could have killed someone, we recommend that this be a Category 2 Vacant Building & go through a full code compliance inspection

Ms. Moermond: how was the vacate handled?

Mr. Neis: we Condemned the bldg; occupants were told that they could no longer stay at the property; it was referred to the VB Program; the inspector went back the next day & found multiple violations: faucet not connected to sink; wall switches recessed & not working; baseboard heater not working, breakers were tripping, etc. Orders are in the Feb 8, 2018 letter - Notice of Condemnation/Order to Vacate

Ms. Moermond: we received & processed the appeal on Mar 5, 2018; although the Condemnation is dated Feb 8, 2018, it wasn't loaded into STAMP until Mar 6, 2018; our computer systems weren't communicating properly

Mr. Neis: the letter would have been generated & mailed out but if they don't hit "Send" on there, it doesn't send it to STAMP

Ms. Moermond: we'll make sure that's attached to our record

Mr. Ballard: the building is empty

Ms. Moermond: it looks like you're appealing the VB status but we also have the Vacate Order & more than 10 days have passed since the appeal time period which would have been 10 days from Feb 8, 2018.... what are you looking for?

Mr. Ballard: that fee; I'm willing to correct whatever violations there are; Twin Cities Heating is trying to pull a permit to correct the violation but they can't because of the Condemnation Order

Ms. Moermond: I'm seeing 2 things: 1) the VB fee itself, which I can work with you on; and 2) the Code Compliance Inspection Report; because this is a Category 2 VB, you'd need to get that report before permits can be pulled; I'd be happy to give you a 90-day waiver on the VB fee - no problem; if you can get the work done in 90 days, you don't have to pay the VB fee at all; if it takes you longer than 90 days to get it done, I'll process this as a tax assessment on the property & I can prorate it if you appeal it

Mr. Ballard: I understand the Code Compliance Inspection but it's a month out, so is that included in the 90 days

Ms. Moermond: yes; you've got to go apply for it

Mr. Ballard: so, if they don't come out for 30 days, then, I have only 60 days; is that what you're saying?

Ms. Moermond: your VB Registration's dated Feb 16; so, the waiver would go to May 16, 2018 (90-days); after that, it'd go to assessment & we could deal with prorating your fee

Supervisor Matt Dornfeld, Vacant Buildings: the trade inspectors are from 2-4 weeks out (estimate)

Ms. Moermond: make sure you put a lock box on the door & give the city the combination so that inspectors can access the bldg whenever they are available

Waive VB fee for 90 days.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/25/2018

- 43** [RLH SAO 18-15](#) Appeal of Paul L. Belmonte to a Summary Abatement Order and a Vacant Building Registration Renewal Notice at 632-634 LEXINGTON PARKWAY NORTH.

Sponsors: Thao

Paul L. Belmonte, owner, appeared.

Summary Abatement Order & Vacant Building Registration

*Supervisor Matt Dornfeld, Vacant Building: Review
-this pertains to a fire wall in a tuck under garage; Mr. Belmonte lost his Certificate of Occupancy due to the fire wall not being repaired back in 2016; it was sent to Vacant Buildings; some appealing was done; appeared in front of Council, where it was denied & denied; you advised that I & Steve Magner meet Mr. Belmonte at the property; we did that & we went over the interior & laid a little ground work; Mr. Belmonte was teter-tottering between possibly filing a lawsuit against the Council ruling*

Mr. Belmonte: it's too expensive; I can't afford it; I always wanted to see the city take me to court instead so I could talk to a judge but they don't do it

Ms. Moermond: you can file on your own, you know

Mr. Belmonte: I don't understand that I can file on my own

Mr. Dornfeld: Mr. Magner allowed time for the lawsuit to possibly be filed but it was not; so, we moved to scheduling a PDI & put it on the night check list; on night checks, we found Mr. Belmonte at the property; he admitted to occupying the house; hence, the Summary Abatement to Vacate & Secure; so, here we are - it all reverts back to the fire wall

*Mr. Belmonte: it says right here: "fire protection or remove the car;" I removed the car; so, how come it doesn't end there; that's what I don't understand
-at home, I have all the sheet rock I need; all the insulation I need; I have the fire doors that close themselves; I want to put it up but if I do that, I'm going to give all you guys prestige (Aha! We made him do it!) & you're not making me do it; I already removed the car; everybody wants a nice garage & I want a nice garage; I want it done right; I'm going to be working with Virgil Thomas; he's going to come out & look at everything; I want to do that but every time I start, something happens like this; I removed the car & I don't understand why this doesn't end there; he brought up the*

letter dated Feb 1, 2016 that says, "...or remove the car;"

Ms. Moermond: it also says a number of other things here, too

Fire Supervisor A.J. Neis: this is nothing more than a broken record; you're in the same place over & over again; the Order to Repair/Remove the garage issue was addressed with the City Council; the 2012 C of O was approved; no one's disputing that; this happened when Mr. Belmonte decided to install the heating systems; when those were done, they simply took away the fire separation & were not properly put back - that's what caused this to spiral downward; that heating system was installed after the C of O inspection in 2012, which is what compromised the fire separation system; he was given the option by our office to remove the car, which was not done within the time that was allotted, which is why they decided to move forward with that; the fire separation would be required for that use as a garage; it was advised that if he wasn't going to use it as a garage, then the fire separation wasn't required; the intent of him removing the car was to give him additional time to make the repairs & make it safe in the interim

Mr. Belmonte: there's no engine in the car; no gas in the car; no doors on the car; you can't start it & drive it out; then, I decided to get rid of the car; we had to have it towed out & put into storage; what's wrong with the car sitting there if it doesn't run?

-I'm going to start working on the house in April

-yes, I used to live on Englewood; that was my mother's house & she passed away last May; I stayed by her; she was legally blind; she couldn't hear; she took a reverse mortgage out on that house; so, eventually, the bank took it; there was a sheriff's sale in Oct & I moved to Lexington on Jan 14 & now I have a lot of extra time to work on the house; I'm doing it all myself & should be done in Jun

Ms. Moermond: you know because of the way things have gone, other enforcement actions have happened; we're not talking about the simple stuff that was going on 2-3 years ago; you moved yourself into a Registered Vacant Building, which is against city law

Mr. Belmonte: it wasn't registered because I did what I said; that's why the car it shouldn't be a Reg VB

Ms. Moermond: you disagree & you did not win your case & you haven't brought it to court; you haven't done those other things; so, pure disagreeing with it doesn't mean that the city's going to forego enforcement action; there's a way to get you in there legally & that's what I want to see - to get the fixed up in a way that everything is safe & sound, according to the law; you'll need to get a Code Compliance Inspection & be working with more than just Virgil; first, you'll have to apply for the inspection report (an application form was given to him) & you have to get a lock box on the door to let the inspectors in

-I think you should work with a community development corporation or someone to help you finance this thing

Mr. Neis: that was also done after the last hearing; we brought Greater Frogtown CDC out to the property to advise him & he did not want to apply with them

Ms. Moermond: since, then, they've merged & become NeighborWorks; the logical place to start is NeighborWorks, 651/292-8710, at 533 Dale Street North
-after the inspection, you'll have more fixes than the fire wall

Mr. Belmonte: what kind of fixes? the wiring's up to code; the plumbing is up to code; I have all new copper tubing when I put the new furnaces in; Christi Dick came out & OK'd it; I don't understand

Ms. Moermond: you had your Certificate Revoked; it's been a Reg VB for a couple years; you have other problems with the bldg
-you need to figure out somewhere to be while you get this fixed; you've got to get it fixed to move back in or, alternatively, you could sell it & find someplace else to be; the choice is yours
-you need that inspection report to sell it

Mr. Belmonte: it costs \$600 to get that report & I don't have it

Ms. Moermond: you say you have too much money to qualify for something & you don't have \$600 to get that report

Mr. Belmonte: why should I pay \$600....

Ms. Moermond: you're arguing about paying the \$600 but you're not

Mr. Belmonte: now, I don't agree with you; can this go to Wed night? What happens when you board my house up? And, what happens if I take those boards off? My sister will help me & put them in my pick-up truck & go to the governor's mansion & dump them; what happens? Because that's what's going to happen

Ms. Moermond: I don't know; it's pretty straight forward what's happened with your house here; it's pretty straight forward that you don't give two licks about what the codes are

Mr. Belmonte: I do care; that house is perfect except for the fire separation

Ms. Moermond: that's not true & you've ignored the other parts in the Order for years; we keep coming back; you're bull headed about this; I get that's who you are & how you want to approach it; you've used those same words yourself
-there's a path out of this

Mr. Belmonte: every time you come out, you add something; I have a newspaper article here proving that; why do you always add stuff when you come out to my house? this dates back to Oct 2011: 30 landlords got together & say that you keep on adding stuff when you come out; why do you do that?
-I don't mind going to jail for this because I feel that I'm right; both my sister & I
-there's nothing wrong with that house
-the only concern is the fire separation & I want to do that; I already have all the stuff

Mr. Dornfeld: I certainly would not take any joy or satisfaction out of having to pull Mr. Belmonte out of this house for simply pulling boards; hopefully, it doesn't come to that; that would be awful

Ms. Moermond: I'd like to get an inspector inside that house to write a list of things that need to be done so that we can get it done; that's the path out of here; it's going to be more than one or 2 items

Mr. Belmonte: if I do this, can I stay in my house?

*Ms. Moermond: I don't know that I'm ready to negotiate that without knowing what's going on in your house; I need to be assured that there isn't a problem; if there's not a problem, we can get you out of the VB Program
-if you're as good as you say you are, we don't have a problem but right now, I don't know that*

Mr. Belmonte: I don't think that I should have to pay \$600 to have the code compliance inspection report; the house doesn't need that; let's go to City Council

*Ms. Moermond: the City Council Public Hearing is Apr 18 which gives you plenty of time to order the code compliance inspection to prove the house is safe & sound; if it's a real light list, I can see you living there but I don't see that right now; I see a man who's moved into the house, knowing that it's Condemned & Ordered Vacated
-I'm happy to waive the VB fee for 90 days & to talk to you about prorating if after that if you can't get the work done*

Mr. Neis: make sure you fix the holes in the walls; they are potential fire issues; I'd advise you to get help; we gave you 30 more days & you didn't do it; you kept saying that you were going to do it; we tried to buy you time NeighborWorks might be able to help you; I don't want you to be displaced

Mr. Dornfeld: confirmed Mr. Belmonte's contact info

Mr. Belmonte: you can still send mail to Englewood; we have until Nov 9 to get everything out; my sister lives there; I'm maintaining the sidewalk; & I could be living there

Ms. Moermond: I'm going to recommend that Council deny your appeal; you can't live there while this is getting sorted out; you bring me the inspection report - some proof that things are looking good, I'm happy to work on getting you back in there

Deny the appeal but will waive the VB fee for 90 days.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/18/2018

44 [RLH VBR 18-15](#) Appeal of Boon Lor to a Vacant Building Registration Requirement at 805 ORANGE AVENUE EAST.

Sponsors: Bostrom

Category 1 VB has been closed. Water has been turned back on therefore the condemnation has been lifted.

No one appeared.

Discussion at LH:

Fire Supervisor A.J. Neis: the inspector lifted the Condemnation after the water was turned back on; therefore, the VB changed to a Category 1; inspector notes that the rest of the building is in compliance

Ms. Moermond: can be out of the VB Program are you thinking?

Ms. Neis: yes; it can now

Ms. Moermond: do people want to move back in?

Mr. Neis: if so, I'm hoping it's not the same residents; I was hoping the Appellant would have been here to have a nice talk regarding the criminal element of the occupants that were occupying this space

Ms. Moermond: they appealed the VB Registration; I'm going to recommend that the VB fee be waived for 90 days; let them get their C of O re-instated if they want it to be a rental property; it's Cat 1; people can move back in

Withdrawn