



City Hall and Court House
15 West Kellogg Boulevard

City of Saint Paul

Council Chambers - 3rd
Floor
651-266-8560

City Council Minutes - Final

Council President Amy Brendmoen
Councilmember Mitra Jalali
Councilmember Rebecca Noecker
Councilmember Jane L. Prince
Councilmember Dai Thao
Councilmember Chris Tolbert
Councilmember Nelsie Yang

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

10:00 AM

Council Chambers - 3rd Floor

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Council President Brendmoen at 10:02 a.m.

Present 7 - Councilmember Amy Brendmoen, Councilmember Dai Thao, Councilmember Chris Tolbert, Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, Councilmember Jane L. Prince, Councilmember Mitra Jalali and Councilmember Nelsie Yang

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1 **Ord 20-14** Creating Chapter 193 of the Legislative Code (Title XIX) pertaining to Tenant Protections.

Council President Brendmoen said Councilmember Jalali had one amendment with uniform support from the Council.

Councilmember Jalali said after multiple conversations with colleagues, the consensus date for the ordinance to go into effect was March 1, 2021, and she would make that motion in concert with Councilmember Prince.

Councilmember Tolbert asked staff about the plan for outreach, preparing for enforcement, the budget for implementation, and who was going to be in charge of that. Kristin Burch, Fair Housing Coordinator, said the Office of Financial Empowerment would continue to work with the Planning and Economic Development team, the Human Rights Department, Department of Safety and Inspections, to map out internal and external education and outreach. As required in the ordinance, they would report back to council, within 90 days of passage, with any budget considerations. They would work with multiple City departments along with district councils and other community partners on education and outreach, and were working on training platforms with additional partners. Councilmember Tolbert asked whether the Office of Financial Empowerment had the budget. Ms. Burch said with the addition of some evaluation requirements there may be some budget considerations for the future, but there was no budget ask currently. Councilmember Tolbert asked for confirmation that within 90 days the Council would have a report back on the full public

outreach and educational process as well as regulations for enforcement. Ms. Burch said they would be providing and update and plan for that.

Vote on amendment: Yeas - 7 Nays - 0

Council President Brendmoen said at the last meeting they put in a placeholder word "exemption" after a long discussion about the Public Housing Authority (PHA), and in order to have the public hearing cover that topic it would be good to move new language or revert to the Version 4 presented the previous week. She asked if there was a motion for Version 4 or a different version for review.

Council President Brendmoen asked Councilmember Noecker to move Version 4 from Legistar as a placeholder in advance of the public hearing. Councilmember Noecker said sure.

Councilmember Thao asked if they were able to amend the definition of affordable housing before moving Version 4. Council President Brendmoen said there were 24 people waiting to speak and staff standing by, and her understanding was that there was uniform support for the PHA language and changing the implementation date, but she didn't believe there was uniform support around amending affordable housing but it could still be done at 3:30. Councilmember Noecker said she had concerns about the language the previous week and still felt it was unclear, and was not comfortable moving the placeholder without the understanding that clearer language was coming forward from Councilmember Thao. Councilmember Thao said he agreed. Council President Brendmoen said to be clear, this was language so that it didn't have nothing, but it talked about an exemption for the PHA which could be tweaked at 3:30 to clarify the intention.

Councilmember Jalali said she would like to speak against moving Version 4 because nothing was done the previous week, and she didn't know why they would move any

particular version when they just wanted to talk about the issues. She said consensus was that Version 4 went too far and wasn't supposed to come back; she asked that the Council not move it. Council President Brendmoen said the intent of moving something forward was that if there was no placeholder language there would likely have to be another public hearing. She said there had been a week for alternative language to be submitted, and there wasn't any, so in the absence of anything else she was recommending that they move forward Version 4. Councilmember Jalali said they could strike the exemptions floating clause because base ordinance addressed the issue, but people wanted to do more in response to the PHA, but the language offered by the PHA was not before them. She said rather than trying to satisfy a new problem she would like to keep it as-is. Council President Brendmoen noted that Councilmember Jalali spoke in opposition; she said there was a motion on the table to move Version 4.

Councilmember Yang asked for confirmation that they were using this as a placeholder and it would still be up for a vote later today and they could still choose to make amendments. Council President Brendmoen said that was correct.

Councilmember Jalali said she would like to offer a different placeholder. Council President Brendmoen said Version 4 was in Legistar. She said she was trying to get to the public hearing, and she asked whether the Council wanted to discuss both versions again. Councilmember Jalali said she would simply like to offer a different placeholder so they could get to the public hearing, and it was Councilmember Thao's language from the previous week about conflicting requirements.

Council President Brendmoen asked for a vote on the motion, and said a second

*placeholder could be offered if the motion didn't pass. Yeas - 5 Nays - 2 (Yang, Jalali)
(Version 4 approved)*

Council President Brendmoen gave a reminder that there was a 3:30 meeting to continue the discussion. The ordinance would have to lay over in its final form for a week. The City Attorney's Office may determine that another public hearing was needed. The intent was to have the ordinance as close to its final form as possible in advance of the public hearing.

In opposition:

*Cecil Smith, Minnesota Multi Housing Association
Joseph Abraham, Pergola Management
Scott Hesselgrave (1896 Ames Avenue)
Clinton Blaiser (275 E. 4th Street)
Kathy Bell, Sibley Manor Apartments property manager
Kathleen Hogle (903 Ashland Avenue)
Sandy'Ci Moua (724 Lafond Avenue)
Teelee Lee (295 Hoyt Avenue East)
Chad Skally, Live Green Apartments
Jennifer Spadine, Guardian Property Management
Lucas Cameron
Linda Huber (2245 Knapp Street)*

The Council recessed from 10:49 to 10:53 a.m.

In support:

*Jamie Kavanah, Jewish Community Action
Khayree Duckett, St. Paul Area Association of Realtors
Martin Hernandez, West Side Community Association (WSCO)
Monica Bravo (359 Winslow Avenue)
Lorna Schmidt, Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Tram Hoang, The Alliance
Arline Datu, ISAIAH
Michael Dahl, HOME Line,
Katrina Mendoza, WSCO
Adam Fitzpatrick (1341 Furness Parkway)
Elaine Tarone, MICAH
Stephanie Stoessel, ISAIAH*

Council President Brendmoen thanked everyone for their testimony and said she was sorry not everyone who wanted to had been able to testify. She encouraged people to continue to send written testimony.

Public hearing held and closed; laid over to June 24 at 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Brendmoen adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

In-person meetings, or meetings conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.02 of the City Council, are not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 health pandemic emergency declared under Minn. Stat. Chapter 12 by the Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter. In light of the COVID-19 health pandemic, members of the City Council will participate in City Council meetings by telephone or other electronic means.

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Written public comment on public hearing items can be submitted to Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us, CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us, or by voicemail at 651-266-6805.

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