



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Meeting Minutes - Action Only

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
Mai Vang, Hearing Coordinator
Jean Birkholz, Hearing Secretary
legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-266-8585

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House

9:00 a.m. Hearings

Special Tax Assessments

- 1 [RLH TA 19-33](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 37 ATWATER STREET. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)

Sponsors: Thao

Rescheduled to Feb. 19 @ 9 am per appellant's request.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 2/19/2019

- 2 [RLH TA 19-40](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 500 BELLOWS STREET. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)

Sponsors: Noecker

Angelica Harmon, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$160

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$322

Gold Card Returned by: ANGELICA HARMON

Type of Order/Fee: TGW ORDER

Nuisance: FAILURE TO CUT GRASS

Date of Orders: 9-26-18

Compliance Date: 9-30-18

Re-Check Date: 10-1-18

Date Work Done: 10-3-18

Work Order #: 18- 109149

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: NO

VIDEO - crew cut grass on the entire property; rank plant grown cut

Ms. Moermond: grass in front was really wet; hard to tell if it was tall or not

-Noticed there was no history

Ms. Harmon: 1st time home buyer; closed Sep 26, 2018; officially move in 1 week after that; at closing, the previous owner admitted he hadn't been at the property for months

Ms. Moermond: Notice went to previous owner; you had no way to know -bring in your closing document

Ms. Harmon: OK; I have all the paperwork

Delete provided owner submits closing documentation to confirm closing date.

Closing documentation was submitted on 1/28/19 and was reviewed and approved by the hearing officer. Delete.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

3 RLH TA 19-37

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 530 CHARLES AVENUE. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)

Sponsors: Thao

Lewis Yang, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$440

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$602

Gold Card Returned by: LEWIS YANG

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY (remove appliances, furniture, concrete chunks, tire, cardboard, misc debris from blvd, front yard, rear yard & behind garage by alley)

Date of Orders: 9-27-18

Compliance Date: 10-4-18

Re-Check Date: 10-4-18

Date Work Done: 10-5-18

Work Order #: 18-110651

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 2-15-18, 3-29-18, AND 11-21-18 Orders ON TRASH AND FURNITURE

VIDEO - there's nothing on the blvd; crew removed furniture leaning up against the house, tables, improperly stored items, 3 wood chairs, recliner, strollers, high chair, mirror, refrigerator, misc debris from yard

-concrete chunks were on east adjacent vacant lot - did not remove

-did not remove kid's toys, tools, lawn mowers, swing

Mr. Yang: when was Video taken?

Ms. Moermond: Oct 5, 2018

Mr. Yang: my handy man went there Wed Oct 3 @ 10:30 pm & text'd me that the yard

was clean now; I'm confused; Oct 4 was the deadline, so I had him go look; we always have problems with people dumping on that empty lot & the city will come to us & say that it's ours; we keep telling the city that it's not our lot

Ms. Moermond: I checked the ownership of that lot; it's clearly not you; Ms. Martin is the Code Enforcement Supervisor for the Western half of the city; she just heard what you said & she will tell her team to be careful of that property boundary -the other stuff looks very much like the photo & description in SA

Mr. Yang: I have a copy of the Order; I'm not arguing with that but I'm puzzled about my caretaker's text
-we've evicted the tenant; asking if you can reduce the cost

Ms. Moermond: I don't know what to tell you
-I can't see if the door is still on that refrigerator
-this is a huge clean up here; I can't reduce the amount; it was there; the work wasn't done

Mr. Yang: we do always have people dumping on the garage side in alley; we can't just continue to pay for others throwing their stuff on the outside of the garage
-is it still valid to kick it into the street & the city will pick it up?

Ms. Moermond: the city is expecting that dumping will diminish greatly - starting Oct 1, 2018 when city-wide trash collection started; other suggestions: motion detector lighting; keeping yard maintained; fencing between yards

Ms. Seeley: there's always been dumping there

Ms. Moermond: notice was provided; there was a huge amount of material inside the yard; city did a lot of work

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

- 4 [RLH TA 18-687](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 769 COMO AVENUE. (File No. J1907A, Assessment No. 198506)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Lisa Marvin appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: LISA MARVIN

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY (remove sectional couch from blvd)

Date of Orders: 8-28-18

Re-Check Date: 9-4-18

Date Work Done: 9-5-18

Work Order #: 18-100632

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 5-11-18 ORDER ON MATTRESS OUTSIDE THE TRASH ENCLOSURE

VIDEO - crew removed sectional couch from blvd

Ms. Marvin: our challenge - right next to us on the right, it came from there; it started there & we asked them to pick it up; we do thousands of dollars in dumping - we just get rid of it; we're property manager for 1800 units; this was literally on their property; we mentioned to them to move it; the next morning, it was closer - in the middle between ours & their properties; we got Notice so we called Waste Management; they came but they couldn't find it (because they went in the back where our containers are); we had to call them to come back & pick it up & in that time, the city took it; I found out afterwards that we could have called in; I had a great conversation with a gentleman I talked with; he's from property management; I didn't know we could do that; 6 months ago, we had a freezer dropped that you could smell a half mile away; we actually budget \$3000/yr for dumping at that property along -whatever you can do to help with the cost

Ms. Moermond: only history - May 11, 2018 - mattress outside trash enclosure; otherwise, you have no history

Supervisor Lisa Martin: I recall this property; no history in that area; they maintain it very well

Ms. Marvin: our maintenance guy goes every other day just to try to keep it clean; we get mattresses every week

Ms. Moermond:

Public hearing continued to July 24, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce to \$100.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/13/2019

- 5** [RLH TA 18-692](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 943 CONWAY STREET. (File No. J1907A, Assessment No. 198506)

Sponsors: Prince

Jacquelyn Brustuen, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$326

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$488

Gold Card Returned by: Jacquelyn Brustuen

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Sofa on Blvd & all bags of garbage & misc rubbish from rear yard near alley

Date of Orders: September 4, 2018

Compliance Date: September 10, 2018

Re-Check Date: September 12, 2018

Date Work Done: September 13, 2018

Work Order #: 18-103163

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: snow walk 3/2/18, garbage 10/6/17 & 8/17/17, vehicle 4/18/17 (all abated by owner)

Ms. Brustuen: the history is from dumping; I had enough of it; did some research & someone next door suggested I call DSI; I called them Aug 30-31 & told them it was illegal dumping on my property; the woman said that they'd send somebody out; a few days later I got this letter; I assumed that communications had crossed; then, it was gone so I thought the city had taken care of it

VIDEO - crew removed sofa from blvd & stuff near garage (car bumper, boxes, tire, bags of garbage, etc, in alley)

Ms. Moermond: what did they tell you when you called in?

Ms. Brustuen: they took my contact info & said they would send somebody out; they didn't say anything more than that

Ms. Moermond: looks like obvious dumping; advised she put up cameras, motion sensor lights, cut plant growth, etc. & the neighbor needs to take care of her property

Public hearing continued to July 24, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/13/2019

- 6 RLH TA 19-42** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 726 EDMUND AVENUE. (File No. J1907A, Assessment No. 198506)

Sponsors: Thao

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/13/2019

- 7 RLH TA 19-32** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 984 IGLEHART AVENUE. (File No. J1905A, Assessment No. 198504)

Sponsors: Thao

Andy Taylor, property manager, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$160

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$322

Gold Card Returned by: Andy Taylor

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: TGW

Date of Orders: August 1, 2018

Compliance Date: August 5, 2018

Re-Check Date: August 8, 2018

Date Work Done: August 9, 2018

Work Order #: 18-092348

Returned Mail?: No

Comments: NOTE: assessment was paid by West Title on 9/17/18 per RE office.

History of Orders on Property: 2 complaints in 2017, Snow Walk 2/27/18

Ms. Moermond: the money was escrowed at a closing (?)

Ms. Taylor: I'm assuming; we closed on this Sep 13, 2018; a month after this occurred -I'm property manager for John Blitzer & Shangyan Blitzer in CA, who didn't own the property at this time

Ms. Moermond: this did happen prior to your owners acquiring the property but when the work happens during the previous ownership, that goes with the property

Ms. Taylor: it was paid by West Title, who assessed it to the previous owner

Ms. Moermond: right; when the payment comes after the mailing goes out to you guys, then, it gets deleted from the assessment role automatically; so, there won't be a 2nd charge on it

VIDEO - nothing

Ms. Moermond: photo taken Aug 8 with ruler; lawn is 12 inches tall

Work was done by the city, so bill which went to assessment is accurate. Approve assessment. However, payment was made by Title Company, so assessment should be deleted from roll and not assessed a second time.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/13/2019

8 [RLH TA 18-691](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 984 IGLEHART AVENUE. (File No. J1906A, Assessment No. 198505)

Sponsors: Thao

Andy Taylor, property manager, appeared.

Ms. Moermond: this assessment also occurred prior to the closing on Sep 13, 2018 but it doesn't look like the title company paid this one

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$288

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$450

Gold Card Returned by: Andy Taylor

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement

Nuisance: Failure to maintain exterior

Date of Orders: 8-17-18

Compliance Date: 8-24-18

Re-Check Date: 8-24-18

Date Work Done: 9-4-18

Work Order #: 18-098053

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: No

Ms. Moermond: I have photo of toilet from Aug 24, 2018

VIDEO - crew removed toilet from rear area by garage

Ms. Moermond: I'm going to recommend approval of this one; you'll have to go after the previous owner; it should have been disclosed; they are responsible but didn't disclose

-the Order was printed for the Appellant

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/13/2019

9 [RLH TA 19-45](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 880 JACKSON STREET. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Odi Akosionu, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: Odichinma Akosinou

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Overgrown Vegetation impeding alley ROW

Date of Orders: 9/25/18

Compliance Date: 10/2/18

Re-Check Date: 10/2/18

Date Work Done: 10/3/18

Work Order #: 18-109669

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: TGW 7/9/18 (abated by owner), TGW 5/12/17, 5/18/17 (abated by owner), Overhanging veg 6/22/17 (abated by owner)

Ms. Moermond: let's look at the Video; the photo isn't 100% clear to me that it's a problem

VIDEO - crew cut back a small amount on the corner along alley

Ms. Moermond: what I was seeing wasn't that bad

Ms. Seeley: just that little corner coming out of the alley

Ms. Moermond: it was volunteer growth but it wasn't very bad

Delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

10 [RLH TA 19-30](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 699 JESSAMINE AVENUE WEST. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509) (Legislative Hearing continued to February 19, 2019)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Rescheduled per owner's request.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 2/19/2019

11 [RLH TA 19-46](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1186 MARGARET STREET. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)

Sponsors: Prince

Renee St. Jacque appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: Renee St Jacque (612-475-3273)

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Wood Furniture in rear yard near alley

Date of Orders: 9/25/18

Compliance Date: 10/1/18

Re-Check Date: 10/2/18

Date Work Done: 10/3/18

Work Order #: 18-109385

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: Nothing since February 2013 for snow and ice

Ms. Jacque: I never received a letter; it was sent to Amy Rogers, who's the person I'm purchasing the house thru a Contract for Deed, so I actually never received the letter

Ms. Moermond: it was sent to the Occupant & sometimes you really don't see mail that goes to Occupant

Ms. Jacque: my father was dying at the time; there was so much going on, I may have missed it

VIDEO - crew removed a broken dresser

Ms. Jacque: that dresser had been dumped in the alley in front of my garage; my next door neighbor said that he would break it up & put it in the trash; "Don't worry about it" because I was really kind of stressed; I thought it was gone but he had moved it & I didn't even see it because it was around the corner from my garage & behind a shed -I have lots of stuff dumped that I usually just take care of -I've lived there since 2012

Ms. Moermond: your history lists one tiny thing back in 2013 for snow/ice -you have a terrific record

Public hearing continued to July 24, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

- 12 [RLH TA 19-35](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1264 MARGARET STREET. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)
Sponsors: Prince
Approve; no show.
Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019
- 13 [RLH TA 19-15](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 507 MINNEHAHA AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1907A, Assessment No. 198506)
Sponsors: Brendmoen
Approve; no show but owner called to rescheduled. Rescheduled to 2/5/19 @ 10 a.m.
Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 2/5/2019
- 14 [RLH TA 19-48](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1475 PACIFIC STREET. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)
Sponsors: Prince
Approve; no show.
Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019
- 15 [RLH TA 19-19](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 733 SHERBURNE AVENUE. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)
Sponsors: Thao
Appellant called and wants to reschedule. Rescheduled to 2/19 @ 9 am.
Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 2/19/2019
- 16 **RLH TA 19-38** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1470 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)
Sponsors: Jalali Nelson
Heidi Farnham, owner, appeared.

*Supervisor Paula Seeley:
 Cost: \$316
 Service Charge: \$162
 Total Assessment: \$478
 Gold Card Returned by: HEIDI FARNHAM
 Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT
 Nuisance: FAILURE TO CUT BUSHES OFF ALLEY (overhanging vegetation on alley ROW)
 Date of Orders:10-4-18
 Compliance Date:10-11-18
 Re-Check Date: 10-12-18
 Date Work Done: 10-12-18
 Work Order #: 18-112475
 Returned Mail?: NO*

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: NO

VIDEO - crew removed brush piles

Ms. Moermond: looks like that brush had been there for quite a while (?)

Ms. Farnham: I trimmed & I had the brush stacked there so I could take it to the compost; it isn't open on Wed in my area, so I planned to take it the next day & the city got to it before I did

Ms. Seeley: 2 SA's were sent the same day; one was to cut overhanging vegetation; the other one was for the brush piles

Ms. Moermond: we just saw the brush pile; let's see the overhanging vegetation; then, we can do both together

Supervisor Lisa Martin: there was no cleanup done on the overhanging vegetation

Ms. Seeley: done by owner

Ms. Farnham: I went out & did all of the overhanging vegetation; it was the vine on my chain link fence; it's a clematis & is meant to be there

-the Ash tree often has dead branches; the utility company cut one of the branches that was close to a line & it was quite large; I cut it up but couldn't take it until the next day

Ms. Moermond: you have no history; you took care of the overhanging vegetation; you clearly made a good faith effort on the brush
-I'm going to recommend this be decreased to \$50

Reduce from \$478 to \$50.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

17 RLH TA 19-44

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1215 VAN BUREN AVENUE. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No. 198503)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Diane Brennan, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: Diane Brennan called

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Garbage/Rubbish; remove discarded furniture on driveway

Date of Orders: 7/23/18

Compliance Date: 7/30/18

Re-Check Date: 7/30/18

Date Work Done: 7/31/18

Work Order #: 18-088938

Returned Mail?: No

*Comments:**History of Orders on Property: Nothing since 2003**VIDEO - crew removed chairs, etc, from driveway*

Ms. Brennan: my husband & I have owned/lived at this property since 1983; we also own commercial property on Snelling Ave (hair salon); we were cleaning out the basement & had some salon equipment that we tried to get rid of on Craig's list; there were several pieces that people took when we put it out; that week, we were gone on our weekly vacation (time at lake from 21-28); our nbr takes in our mail; that letter came on the Mon that we were gone & I didn't get my mail from my nbr until the day after we returned; a different nbr told me that she had seen a truck pull up & pick up the stuff in the back; I dug thru the mail & found the letter from the city; had we been home, we would have taken care of the matter

Ms. Moermond: even if you're gone, you're still responsible; the work was on Wed the 31st; there was a few days in there to get this squared away; I know people put things out & others might take them but the city did dispatch a crew, who removed some items that had some size & substance to them; it wasn't nothing that happened -you have a clean record but the city did do work

Public hearing continued to July 24, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$478 to \$239.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/13/2019

18 RLH TA 19-53

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 899 JENKS AVENUE. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)

Neferti Goodlow, tenant, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$338

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$500

Gold Card Returned by: Neferti Goodlow appeared

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: TVs located front of garage and next to alley

Date of Orders: September 20, 2018

Compliance Date: September 27, 2018

Re-Check Date: September 27, 2018

Date Work Done: October 1, 2018

Work Order #: 18-108472

Returned Mail?:

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 5/31/16-garbage, 3 complts in 2017 for garbage

VIDEO – Oct 1, 2018, crew removed multiple televisions located in back of garage

Ms. Seeley: inspector on Sep 20 wrote up the TV's; on recheck on Sep 27, he wrote another SA on mattresses

Ms. Moermond: so today, we're talking about the TV's (\$338)

Ms. Goodlow: I was able to get rid of the mattresses; they were removed before Oct 4; I never got an Order for TV's

Ms. Moermond: it looks to me like dumping

Ms. Goodlow: I have had dumping; I think someone in my neighborhood was moving at that time; usually, if Calvin Burton gets an Order, he sends it to me

Ms. Moermond: can you remove that overgrowth on the side of the garage?

Ms. Goodlow: absolutely; there's no motion detector, camera or light pole in alley near my garage

-I plan to live there for a while

-could I get a copy of the Orders?

Ms. Moermond: Ms. Vang will get that for you

-looks like dumping

-if no same/similar to Jul 24, I will cut this in half & divide it over 2 years

Public hearing continued to July 24, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), I will cut this in half & divide it over 2 years

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

10:00 a.m. Hearings

- 19** [RLH TA 19-49](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1232 ALBEMARLE STREET. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)
- Sponsors:** Brendmoen
- Approve; no show.
- Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019**
- 20** **RLH TA 19-27** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1818 BLAIR AVENUE. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)
- Sponsors:** Jalali Nelson
- Michael Nayman, owner, appeared.
- Supervisor Paula Seeley:
 Cost: \$344
 Service Charge: \$162
 Total Assessment: \$506
 Gold Card Returned by: MICHAEL NAYMAN
 Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT
 Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY (remove overhanging vegetation on sidewalk public ROW)
 Date of Orders: 10-17-18
 Compliance Date: 10-24-18
 Re-Check Date: 10-25-18
 Date Work Done: 10-26-18
 Work Order #: 18-116916

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

VIDEO - crew cut back vegetation (hedge) up from sidewalk right of way

Mr. Nayman: I didn't even notice that but the complaint was, to my understanding, anything over above trees; when it said clearing the walkway, I assumed it was all one action; I didn't realize that the bushes were extending into the sidewalk; it was a misunderstanding on my part

Ms. Moermond: I thought it was pretty neat; extending into the sidewalk a little bit; whatever was overhanging wasn't present when the crew showed up; you made a good faith effort to address the situation
 -I don't think it was that much work &
 -you have a perfect history

Public hearing continued to July 24, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$506 to \$100.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

21 [RLH TA 19-20](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1230 EDGERTON STREET. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)

Appellant called and wants to reschedule. Rescheduled to Feb. 19 @ 9 am

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 2/19/2019

22 **RLH TA 19-22**

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 763 HAWTHORNE AVENUE. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)

Cynthia Basso, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:
 Cost: \$274
 Service Charge: \$162
 Total Assessment: \$436
 Gold Card Returned by: TAIWAN Basso
 Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT
 Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY (furniture leaning on tree in blvd)
 Date of Orders: 10-16-18
 Compliance Date: 10-23-18
 Re-Check Date: 10-24-18
 Date Work Done: 10-26-18
 Work Order #: 18-116782
 Returned Mail?: NO
 Comments:
 History of Orders on Property: 12-6-18 ORDER ON TOILET NEAR GARAGE; done by owner

VIDEO - crew removed a headboard leaning on a tree in front yard on blvd

Ms. Basso: we have 3 kids & were remodeling; it's the first time we put furniture out

for others to take; we didn't want to throw it out & we didn't have anybody to give it to; then, we got this letter & maybe in the midst of our remodeling - moving from downstairs to upstairs, we may have misplaced the Notice; we did mail back a card; it was just kind of a shock

*Ms. Moermond: be aware that you get 1 or 2 free bulky items; just call your hauler & let them know you have something
-what about that toilet?*

Ms. Basso: we replaced our toilet; my husband removed it himself

Ms. Moermond:

Public hearing continued to July 24, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$436 to \$100.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

- 23** [RLH TA 19-36](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 690 JUNO AVENUE. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)

Sponsors: Noecker

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

- 24** [RLH TA 19-47](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 325 MARIA AVENUE. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)

Sponsors: Prince

Lawrence Esso, Esso Apartments LLC, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$270

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$432

Gold Card Returned by: LAWRENCE ESSO

Type of Order/Fee: SA

Nuisance: MATTRESS NEAR FENCED GARBAGE DUMPSTER (remove futon mattress propped up against fence)

Date of Orders: 10/10/18

Compliance Date: 10/17/18

Re-Check Date: 10/17/18

Date Work Done: 10/18/18

Work Order #: 114545

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: Very Extensive

Mr. Esso: purchased property Oct 2017; it looks like the previous owner had a lot of issues with their management so, I inherited a lot of bad blood; and there's also a neighbor, who lives very close by who just drives by, then makes constant calls to the city with complaints about this property; the city is also aware of this; I scheduled a meeting with the Councilmember & Travis Bistodeau, DSI Deputy Director; at that

meeting, we arrived at a game plan on how to try to rectify some issues; I felt that I wasn't given a fair shake to try to turn things around because the property has such a history; whenever this neighbor makes a call, the city just sends an inspector there right away; at the meeting in Jun 2018, we brainstormed & created a strategy - since that meeting, I implemented everything that was recommended; I put new asphalt; we built a fence around the dumpster area; I have changed all tenants except for 3; it's an 11 unit bldg & before it had a lot of tenants that had drug issues, etc; we've cleaned it up; it looks beautiful; we're very proud of it; the city will testify that calls have gone way down; so, everything is working that we did; we even put in a camera system; we also agreed in that meeting that rather than the city sending an inspector right away when there's a call from this neighbor, they will give us a courtesy call to give us time to take care of this issue but we never received a call from the city regarding this; I even have an email here acknowledging that they missed that

-the reason I'm here today is to humbly ask you guys to look at this fine; I feel like it's a little bit excessive because of the history of the property but if you look at what has happened since I bought it, it's a completely different property; it's completely stabilized; it's the nicest apartment property on the block

-a futon mattress, OK

Ms. Moermond: kind of propped up against the side
-so, do you get your mail telling you there's an Order on the property?

Mr. Esso: that's the thing; we didn't get any mail regarding that in Oct but that is our address; usually, when we get a Notice, we get on it right away; so, I'm not sure what happened there

-one of the recommendations the city made was to have trash collected twice a week, so we do have it picked up twice a week, which is why I'm not sure how it lasted there 7 days because we also have a caretaker on site, who goes to work & comes back at 5 pm & checks around to pick up anything needed to be picked up; so, we have a lot of things in place to prevent something like this from happening; I just find it hard to believe that it was sitting there for 7 days when we have trash pick up twice a week

Ms. Moermond: and yet, it appears to have been
-you had your meeting in Jun 2018 (paging thru many pages of previous history)
-when you bought it in Oct 2017, there continued to be a similar level of problems but you had this meeting & it looks like this is the only thing that's happened since that meeting; that's really positive; but you are responsible for dealing with this whether or not you get a "heads up" phone call from DSI

Mr. Esso: I agree with you

Ms. Moermond: I will decrease this; you have been working the program; it's been 6 months since that meeting & I think this is kind of a singular circumstance; you deserve to get some credit

Mr. Esso: thank you so much; I really appreciate it

Reduce from \$432 to \$100.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

25 [RLH TA 19-39](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1650 MARION STREET. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

- 26** [RLH TA 19-41](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 155 MARYLAND AVENUE WEST. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Rescheduled to 2/19 @ 10 a.m. per owner's request.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 2/19/2019

- 27** **RLH TA 19-34** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 702 PREBLE STREET. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)

Gary Hittle, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$160

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$322

Gold Card Returned by: GARY HITTLE

Type of Order/Fee: TGW ORDER

Nuisance: FAILURE TO CUT GRASS

Date of Orders: 10-15-18

Compliance Date: 10-19-18

Re-Check Date: 10-23-18

Date Work Done: 10-23-18

Work Order #: 18-115995

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: NO

Ms. Moermond: photos look bad; let's see the Video

VIDEO - crew cut grass over 8 inches tall

Ms. Moermond: looks like it's gone to seed

Mr. Hittle: vacant lot; bought it 2-3 years ago thru a tax forfeit program; I came today because I didn't know what this Notice was for; I didn't receive any mail on it; I've been maintaining it since I bought it; I cleaned up the property quite a bit; there's a tree line on the east side that needed a lot of attention; I carry a garbage bag with me each time I go to pick up all the beer bottles, etc, thrown on the lot

-I do plan to build a house on the lot some day

-I'm here to ask for leniency based on my history of maintaining the lot except for this time; I would have taken care of it had I received Notice

-I go to the lot every 2 weeks

Ms. Moermond: no history; you're taking care of it proactively

Public hearing continued to October 10, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$322 to \$100.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

28 [RLH TA 19-43](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 955 SIXTH STREET EAST. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No. 198503)

Sponsors: Prince

Anthony & Jackie Browne appeared.

Supervisor Paula Seeley:

Cost: \$372

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$534

Gold Card Returned by: Anthony Browne

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Garbage/Rubbish (remove sofa & overflowing bagster in front yard)

Date of Orders: 7/17/18

Compliance Date: 7/23/18

Re-Check Date: 7/24/18

Date Work Done: 7/25/18

Work Order #: 18-086789

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 7/13/16-sofa on blvd

VIDEO - crew removed the bagster from the front yard

Mr. Browne: we looking for the expungement of this cost

*-this property was our primary residence from Oct 2005 to four years ago when we re-located to St. Louis Park; we did not receive the Notification; we learned about this assessment following up with our title company when we closed on the sale of the house on Sep 28, 2018; the process of discovery on this was they had escrowed an amount for a special assessment for a lighting project on the street; at that time, they hadn't returned the overage that they were holding in escrow & they wanted to send that overage to the city for this nuisance assessment that was on the city website from Aug 2 to current; they didn't catch it during the closing process; we weren't aware of it until we were following up on that overage being returned to us; we started to follow up on Jan 2, 2019; last Mon, Jan 14, I spoke with Lynn in Assessments (don't recall her last name); she printed out all of the mailings; the property's track record from 2005 - current, we haven't had any nuisance related items; we have maintained the yard.....
-we didn't get mailings*

Ms. Moermond: I see that in Jul 2016, there was a sofa on the blvd that got called out; so there was 1 item noted in the record

Mr. Browne: I stand corrected & I apologize; we are proud property owners & in the interest of the Video that you saw, the Sale signs were in the yard & in any market place, it would behoove the listing person to keep their property tidy & organized; we had 2 previous bagsters (Waste Management); we put in the order for the original 2 on Jul 5, 2018; they came & picked it up on Jul 12, 2018; we had already put in an order for this 3rd bagster, which is the issue we're here for today; when we showed up to continue to ready the property for Sale, it was gone; we assumed that Waste Management had picked it up

Ms. Moermond: were you billed?

Mr. Browne: we were not billed

Ms. Browne: it was on our credit card, which we just pay off every month; we don't know

Mr. Browne: on Dec 8, we received a text from our realtor saying "Merry Christmas; you're money is being returned"

Ms. Browne: the money never came; that's how all this came about

*Mr. Browne: the point of going thru all these dates & detail is to show the fact that we take care of things as soon as we learn about them; that is why we're here today; I spoke with Mai Vang as early as the 15th, the day after I visited with Lynn
-as far as the bagster's condition, all 3 of our bagsters have been rummaged thru into disorder; I would tidy them back up
-in the original complaint, there are items on the blvd; we, too, put items out for people to take & they are usually gone within minutes; those that were there for more than a couple of days, we took care of on our own
-in the spirit of common sense & accountability as well as accuracy of our actions.....*

*Ms. Moermond: here's what it comes down for me in all of what your telling me: you're saying that you didn't get the Notice & that's why you didn't take care of it
-the bagster was sitting there for a very long period of time; the grass was dead underneath it
-it's not your property anymore; you've sold it
-2 letters went out to the same address*

*Mr. Browne: from what Lynn printed out for me, there's one addressed specifically to Jackie & one specifically to me, same address- so, all of that's accurate; that's the puzzling element
-to address the dead grass with the heat & humidity from the rainy summer..... but... I hear your point*

*Ms. Moermond: the city did send Notice to the owner of record with Ramsey County first class mail; you're saying that you didn't receive the Notice or you would have taken care of it; it appears that you were in the process of taking care of business; but there was quite a bit removed from the property
-I'm going to split it down the middle*

Reduce from \$534 to \$267.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/13/2019

Special Tax Assessments - ROLLS

29 RLH AR 19-8 Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during October 1 to 12, 2018. (File No. J1909A, Assessment No. 198508)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

- 30 [RLH AR 19-7](#) Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during October 12 to 29, 2018. (File No. J1910A, Assessment No. 198509)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/6/2019

11:00 a.m. Hearings

Summary Abatement Orders

- 31 [RLH SAO 19-3](#) Appeal of Paul Stefanyshyn to a Summary Abatement Order and Vehicle Abatement Order at 98 GARFIELD STREET.

Sponsors: Noecker

Paul Stefanyshyn, owner appeared; also, Lauren Lightner from The House Calls Program, Ramsey County.

Ms. Moermond: we have a couple of things going on here; I see on the Orders that your mom, Adelheid, is listed; is she still with us?

Mr. Stefanyshyn: she passed away 4 months ago

Supervisor Lisa Martin: there are 2 Orders: 1) Vehicle Abatement Order - 2 vehicles lacking tabs & appearing inoperable; and 2) Summary Abatement Order for the actual yard; specifically, remove vehicles, etc. & refuse from around the garage; compliance date was Jan 15, 2019 for the yard; compliance date for the vehicles was Jan 22, 2019

Ms. Moermond: what's going on & what are you looking for today?

Mr. Stefanyshyn: my brother John & I are co-owners; I would like to clean up the mess; my brother has a huge hoarding issue; I've been there cleaning up the place; this is a duplex; my brother was living on the 1st floor but there wasn't an egress window in there, so he moved upstairs before mom passed; I live a block away & I'm trying to help my brother clean this up; after mom passed away, I had gotten some bills to pay on this property; I had gone to John with a friend from church & I told him that I didn't want to be stuck with all the bills for the house; that we should try to rent out the upstairs to get some income; Pastor Walt, former pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, contacted me & asked if I had a place; we went to the house to look at the upstairs & he would move in Nov 1, 2018; my brother was in agreement with this; I cleaned the place & I thought we were OK with things; there had been an Order for Protection filed between John & I that was dismissed last Mon; I was so upset that I couldn't even talk when I went over there (that was my Order against him); it's been an on-going problem; my brother was gone for 4 years - the place was cleaned up nice; he came back in 2011 & it's going down hill; I can't even get into the garage-so much stuff; I spoke with the inspector about cleaning it up because if John doesn't do it, everything rests on my shoulders-gets dumped into my lap; you may remember when the house was Condemned, my brother packed up & left with his girlfriend; he only came back after things were pretty much cleaned up & my mom invited him back; I'm not sure what I could do if John called the police on me; I could say I have an Abatement Order but there needs to be some other intervention; John had mentioned that he wanted me to buy him out, which would be great & I'd be happy to do that but I don't know what he would do; he was living in the Tetons before he came back; then,

up north

-the vehicles are John's; he does have license plates for the one vehicle that's parked on the grass but he doesn't know where he put them - somewhere in the house; he had applied for collector plates; the other vehicle he is talking about converting into an RV -I don't know where to begin there; my hands are kind of tied; when mom was alive, she wanted the bathroom on the 1st floor cleaned out so that the bathroom could be used for caregivers that came to help her; I couldn't get my brother to do that back in May; he had agreed that he would help me do it & he didn't do it; he's on the 1st floor

Ms. Moermond: have you rented the 2nd floor to this pastor?

Mr. Stefanyshyn: correct

-the hoarding is a huge problem; John flipped out on me when he heard me say, "Let's just bring the recycling bin in;" I was just going to throw a bunch of recycling things into the container

-I'm appealing so that his vehicles aren't impounded & so that we have some additional time to clean up

-Mon we went before Honorable Referee Street, who tried to help us by sending us to mediation; I paid \$675 for a mediator; it didn't seem to help; so,.....

-Father Clay will be 93 & retired; I visited him Oct 1 in Highland

-I've had Pastor Walt come to try to talk with John; he was our Assistant Wrestling Coach in High School

-I'm not sure what can be done

Ms. Moermond: I had hoped that Father Clay would have been able to help with some of that communication but if he's retired, he may not be able to do that anymore; it's too bad

Mr. Stefanyshyn: I gave John a copy of these Orders; I put it in between the storm door on the side of the house & I mentioned it in court last Mon & he got a copy of these Orders addressed to the house

-I don't have my brother's contact information; he doesn't give it out to me or any of our siblings; usually, I just go to the house

-I was cleaning up & he changed the locks on me 4 times; he actually changed the locks on our mother; I sent a friend of mine over to crawl thru the basement window to unlock the door so that she could get into her own house

Ms. Moermond: we've got a great big mess on the side of the house (exterior & interior items) & we're assuming that his apartment is also hoarded but we don't know for sure

Mr. Stefanyshyn: I don't want to have the house Condemned; Mark Kaisersatt was there last year

Ms. Moermond: right; we haven't been inside the house; there hasn't been a call to do that

-I'm wondering...

Ms. Lightner: House Calls was involved last year & your brother was willing to work with us; your mom was temporarily out of the home; we got the bedroom, bathroom & kitchen cleaned up & functional; John was cooperative then; it's just all this conflict between you guys

-I'm willing to get him a dumpster; try to get into the home; I know that the basement was a significant concern before; we weren't able to spend as much time on that

Ms. Martin: I was also on the property with John on Mar 9, 2018 & everything was clear; there were no issues & no Orders were issued for the interior of the property

*Mr. Stefanyshyn: the items outside the house do belong to John; I'd throw 90% away; the garage it also packed; I'd like us to work together
-mom & I were joint tenants; I brought a copy from Ramsey County because John is claiming that he is 75% owner; I spoke with John's attorney & she explained it to me & I informed him of that; I called Property Records & was told the same thing*

Ms. Moermond: so, you both have an ownership position with the house; if the city goes in to clean this up, the cost will be an assessment onto the property taxes; the cost will be based on how much time it took to do it & the volume of stuff removed; it will probably be at least \$1000 worth of work

Ms. Martin: the vehicles will be a lot more than that; this clean up will be around \$1000

Ms. Moermond: I would not like to be a neighbor of this property

Mr. Stefanyshyn: we have very nice neighbor; we are very blessed

Ms. Moermond: your deadline, in both cases, was a week; I'm concerned that John is predisposed to not deal with this because of his history with hoarding & giving more time won't necessarily solve it but let's give it a shot

Mr. Stefanyshyn: court had ordered John to go for a psychiatric evaluation & to go for hoarding, which he complied with; I went with him but there's no one to follow up to see if he's continuing with what was recommended; could there be follow up to see if he's continuing to go to counseling classes?

*Ms. Moermond: Deadline: Feb 22, 2019; I will look back on Feb 26 to see if things were taken care of; if they have been taken care of, great; we'll close the book on this chapter; if they haven't been taken care of, staff will have the authority to go in & do some clean up work & tow the vehicles
-Ms. Vang will send a letter to you & to John Stefanyshyn giving the deadline
-if you feel that you need to have the courts involved to give some direction, bring it to the attention of Referee/Judge Street*

Ms. Lightner: we can work together on it; dumpster; we can also pick up some appliances outside & make some recommendations; perhaps get some help from Public Works for the other things

Ms. Moermond: you can share this information with Pastor Walt or anyone else who might be able to help from the neighborhood

*Mr. Stefanyshyn: our court case has been dismissed; Referee Street said that he didn't feel that he could help us - that we weren't in the right court; this is more of a housing issue; he deals with harassment/restraining orders/orders for protection, etc.
-if I'm there cleaning up & my brother calls the police, what can be done at that point?*

Ms. Moermond: you are part owner of this property so, you have the right to be there; your brother also has a right to be there; there are no restraining orders; you need to respect the officers direction but you do own this property along with your brother & you do have a Order from the city (put it in your pocket)

Ms. Lightner: I will try to meet with John; we can put together a work plan

Ms. Moermond:

Grant to February 22, 2019 for compliance.

A new resolution will go before Legislative Hearing on February 26 to determine if the nuisance conditions have been abated.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/6/2019

32 [RLH SAO 19-4](#)

Appeal of Reyna Irazoque to a Vehicle Abatement Order at 425 BRAINERD AVENUE.

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Reyna Irazoque, owner, appeared. (Spanish interpreter also appeared.)

Supervisor Paula Seeley: Vehicle Abatement Order: we received a complaint about 2 commercial vehicles parked in a residential district: 1) large commercial truck with commercial plates; and 2) tow truck - flat bed that says: We Buy Scrap -compliance day was Jan 16, 2019; I spoke with Ms. Irazoque on language line; I told her that I'd give her until Jan 27, 2019 to remove the commercial vehicles from the property; she indicated that her family was sick; she'd have to file an appeal if she wanted more time

Ms. Moermond: basically, that is a month from when the original order was issued -what are you looking for today?

*Ms. Irazoque: I want to get a little bit more time; the weather is really cold & my husband suffers from pain in the bones; & the tow truck doesn't want to start; right now, my husband cannot work with the pain that he is suffering; & tomorrow, I'm having an operation on my hand
-we are looking for a place to park them*

Ms. Moermond: are these vehicles used for your family business?

Ms. Irazoque: my husband used to work for a mechanic but now, because he has this bone illness, he's not working with him anymore so, we're selling all these vehicles; he cannot work with these vehicles anymore because of his bones; I don't like the idea of having the vehicles parked out front

Ms. Moermond: are they listed "for sale" now?

Ms. Irazoque: yes but no offers yet & the tow truck is not working properly; that's why I'm here to request more time - until it gets a little warmer so he can work on the truck

Ms. Moermond: City Council Public Hearing is Feb 6, 2019; at that time, I will recommend that you get until Mar 1, 2019 to remove the vehicles; I will have a hearing on Mar 5, 2019 to confirm whether or not the vehicles were removed & if they have not been, staff will be empowered to remove them & they will go to the police Impound Lot -if you want more time, you'll need to talk to the City Council on Feb 6, 2019 -you'll get a letter of confirmation of today's hearing results; it will take about a week because we have to have it translated first

Grant to March 1, 2019 for compliance on the two vehicles.

A new resolution will go before Legislative Hearing on March 5, 2019 to determine if the nuisance conditions have been abated.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/6/2019

11:30 a.m. Hearings

Orders To Vacate, Condemnations and Revocations

- 33 [RLH VO 19-2](#) Appeal of Arron King/Crystal Gulette to a Correction Notice - Re-Inspection Complaint at 341 ARBOR STREET.

Sponsors: Noecker

Layover to February 19. Need new or revised Power of Attorney from owner to give appellat permission to reside at the property.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 2/19/2019

1:30 p.m. Hearings

Fire Certificates of Occupancy

- 34 **RLH FCO 19-7** Appeal of John S. Jagiela to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 134 MONTROSE PLACE.

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Grant to March 1, 2019 for all the items except the peeling paint throughout the exterior which is granted to July 1, 2019.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/27/2019

2:30 p.m. Hearings

Vacant Building Registrations

- 35 **RLH VBR 19-8** Appeal of Abraham Resendiz Rubio to a Vacant Building Registration Renewal Notice at 622 BUSH AVENUE.

Waive the VB fee for 90 days.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/27/2019

- 36 **RLH VBR 19-6** Appeal of Gwynne Evans to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 455 GRAND AVENUE.

Sponsors: Noecker

Grant to April 1, 2019 to get Fire C of O reinstated (main item is completing the kitchen rehabilitation); grant to November 1, 2019 to comply with the retaining wall.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/27/2019

- 37 RLH VBR 19-7** Appeal of Davi Yang to a Vacant Building Registration Renewal Notice at 1614 SIXTH STREET EAST.

Sponsors: Prince

Waive the VB fee until May 6, 2019.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/27/2019

- 38 RLH VBR 19-9** Appeal of Jane Barnstable Jones to a Vacant Building Registration Fee Warning Letter at 874 RAYMOND AVENUE.

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Waive the VB fee for 90 days and allow permits.

Referred to the City Council due back on 2/27/2019