



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

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Thursday, October 10, 2019

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House

- 3 [RLH TA 19-771](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 984 ARMSTRONG AVE. (File No. CG1903B2, Assessment No. 190126)

Sponsors: Noecker

Reduce assessment from \$80.90 to \$60.83. Staff to reduce Q4, 2019 and Q1, 2019 assessments to \$60.83.

Mr. Larson, husband of appellant, appeared

Staff Report by Chris Swanson: resident is appealing \$80.90 for service for a small cart and three late fees for Quarter 2, 2019. Appealing because resident brings trash to Twin Cities Refuse and doesn't need service. They don't create much trash and can't afford the bill. All residential properties are required to have service and there is no opt out option, so we recommend approval. They are currently paying for small every week cart, they could reduce to a small every other week, but staff feels the assessment should stand.

Mr. Larson: so my property taxes go up again? It's not right, it's communism, I don't want to pay anything, we're on a set income. We can't afford hardly to live. I can't work, I have to take care of my disabled wife. I'm going to end up putting her in the home and I'll go on the street. The city passes a law, and now this. At one point it was vacant, I was in treatment, she was in a nursing home.

Ms. Moermond: there are a couple things we can do to decrease the impact financially. I understand you don't like the service, I have no control over whether there's a program or not. First, staff can you check for any previous assessments?

Mr. Swanson: there is one for Quarter 1 2019, for \$80.29, one small cart with 3 late fees.

Ms. Moermond: you have the smallest size, for every week service. You'd have a smaller charge with every other week service. It would be about \$10 less a quarter.

Mr. Larson: what about when I was in treatment and no one was there?

Ms. Moermond: what was the time period?

Mr. Larson: I got out in late October. My wife was in the home for almost 4 more months.

Ms. Moermond: so November onward, you were home, but your wife wasn't?

Mr. Larson: I don't want to pay for something I didn't use.

Ms. Moermond: what I'm going to say is you'd be better serviced by decreasing to every other week and save the few bucks you can by not using Twin Cities Refuse. Right now, you have two bills that went to assessment. Are you willing to trade your cart for every other week service?

Mr. Larson: I'd have to ask my wife, it goes against her name.

Ms. Moermond: if you choose to do that, I will get those assessments down, for Quarter 4, 2018, Quarter 1, 2019 and then this one as well. The Council could look at this differently, I know you don't want to pay it, but we'd get about \$80 off your bill for 2019, which I'd like to do.

Mr. Larson: sure, I'll try that.

Ms. Moermond: what does he need to do so the hauler can switch the carts?

Mr. Swanson: have the cart out and accessible on your service day, which is Tuesday, so next Tuesday put your cart, and they will switch it out.

Ms. Moermond: then they know to pick it up every other week. We'll get you a brochure with the schedule. I apologize we can't do more for you.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/13/2019