



# 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*  
*Joanna Zimny, Executive Assistant*  
*legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us*  
*651-266-8585*

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Tuesday, July 18, 2023

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House/Remote

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#### 9:00 a.m. Hearings

##### Special Tax Assessments

- 1     **RLH TA 23-247**     Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 16 DOUGLAS STREET. (File No. J2322A, Assessment No. 238528)  
  
          Sponsors:       Noecker  
  
          *Approve the assessment.*  
  
          **Referred to the City Council due back on 8/2/2023**
  
- 2     **RLH TA 23-281**     Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 521 EDMUND AVENUE. (File No. J2324A, Assessment No. 238531)  
  
          Sponsors:       Balenger  
  
          *Approve the assessment (noting it will be paid by contractor).*  
  
          **Referred to the City Council due back on 8/23/2023**

#### 10:00 a.m. Hearings

##### Special Tax Assessments

- 3     [RLH TA 23-231](#)     Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 340 LAWSON AVENUE EAST. (File No. J2309E, Assessment No. 238311) (Legislative Hearing on July 18, 2023)  
  
          Sponsors:       Brendmoen  
  
          *Delete the assessment.*  
  
          *Ka Vang, owner, appeared via phone*  
          *Chou Zang Her, owner, appeared via phone*  
          *Mai Vang interpreted*  
  
          *Moermond: Supervisor Martin and I have had a chance to look at the record, including*

*all 8 assessments out there for Excessive Consumption. 2 have already been levied. Ms. Martin audited these proposed assessments and will give her report.*

*Staff update by Supervisor Lisa Martin: there were 8 Excessive Consumptions many without photos, so no evidence to uphold those Excessive Consumption bills. 2 have been paid, so we'd recommend leaving those ones paid and delete the remaining Excessive Consumption fees and have them get the project done as soon as they can.*

*Moermond: so there were photos for the first two Excessive Consumptions they did pay, and none for the rest?*

*Martin: correct.*

*Moermond: the one in front of us today will be deleted. You may receive others; our intention is to delete all those forthcoming assessments.*

*Her: we are having a difficult time with our insurance but we did finally get an adjuster out. They did pay us \$10,000. We haven't received it yet, and don't know when they will come fix it.*

*Moermond: Ms. Martin, given the situation with the insurance company and contractor, what is your enforcement perspective on this?*

*Martin: I think we can recheck October 1. It is just the one post.*

*Her: I don't know when they will get it done. It may be November or later.*

*Moermond: if the work isn't done, how will your folks communicate with the Vangs about what comes next?*

*Martin: typically, we would issue an Excessive Consumption.*

*Her: I cannot guarantee when they will come out, it is up to the contractor. At that time when I went to cut the grass and they (the party who drove their car through the property and into the deck). I was there and nearly hit.*

*Moermond: could you put on your calendar October 1 an inspector will be coming? If it isn't done, reach out to Mai Vang and let her know the status of things with the insurance company and contractor, so she can email Lisa Martin and her team so they have that information.*

*Mai Vang: I advised him that once he receives payment he should begin looking for contractors.*

*Moermond: we have a plan. The two assessments that went through will stand; we have photographic evidence. The other six will be deleted, which includes this one today.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 7/19/2023**

**4**      [RLH TA 23-262](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1020 AURORA AVENUE. (File No. J2309E, Assessment No. 238311) (Legislative Hearing on July 18, 2023)

**Sponsors:**      Balenger

*Approve the assessment.*

*Ron Becker, o/b/o owner, appeared via phone*

*[Moermond gives background of appeals process]*

*Staff report by Supervisor Lisa Martin: a Vehicle Abatement Order was sent back on November 8, 2022 for a white Mazda with many violations. Compliance date of November 17. Issued an Excessive Consumption for noncompliance. Rechecked November 17, wasn't removed. No compliance until February 13, 2023. Four total Excessive Consumptions sent. There was a tow order issued eventually. Total proposed assessment of \$159. There is some history, 7 garbage complaints in 2023.*

*Becker: it took us six months through the court. Mr. Brown is still homebound with health issues, his tenants didn't pay and he had to evict through the courts. We started with an attorney last October. The end was May 23 when the sheriff was able to physically remove them. The attorney said we couldn't touch the things for 28 days. We couldn't do anything. As soon as we were clear of those 28 days, we've sold and closed on it and there are new owners there.*

*When I speak with my client he asks why when the tenants are committing crimes, one court says we can't do anything and the other says we're going to fine you for the actions of the person illegally living there. It is a confusing and hard place for a landlord to be, when one department gives one order and another a different one. I was trying to communicate the entire time with the Fire inspector, I thought I was being in contact with everyone, but it was only that department. I asked the tenant to remove the car and he told me he would. Then he threatened me when I told him I was going to have it towed. If I call the police there used to be a way to have a manager's tow but I was told that you can't do that. They told me to tow it to the street and leave it there. I told them I wasn't going to do that. I called several tow companies who told me I needed an order from the City, and I wasn't able to do it. Enough excuses from me, is there anything I can do now? When we closed last week Mr. Brown was assessed several things at closing to be paid for, I don't want the new owner to be assessed. Outside of paying is there any leeway for me? Any way to have someone take the car without title?*

*Moermond: you're talking about a manager's tow and a pending assessment at the property at time of closing. I assume this was escrowed. I see three pending ones. This one, then a property cleanup, and a boarding? Ms. Martin, you deal with the St. Paul Police Department on manager tow issues and abandoned vehicles. Certainly this appeared inoperable, it was missing front tires.*

*Martin: usually if the police find something in that condition they would consider it dangerous and tow it right away. To have it there that long is not very well maintained.*

*Becker: I didn't get any of the letters from the City I didn't get until closing.*

*Moermond: they were with Mr. Brown, who did receive legal notice. I guess I am struggling with how taxpayers at large should be responsible for removing a junk vehicle from private property. Responsibilities lies with the owner of the property and reaching out to the inspector.*

*Becker: it ultimately lies with the tenant.*

*Moermond: it is the private property owner who has a contract with the tenant. Abating nuisances have property taxes attached to them, and that is all about the owner.*

*Becker: right, I got it. Should I get rid of the car? Pay those assessments? Should I do something? Can you email whatever is owed and I will pay that. I can work on getting the car out of there soon.*

*Moermond: Ms. Martin, I am looking at a file a tow order was issued February 13. Did the St. Paul Police Department tow it?*

*Martin: I have no idea, I never got anything back. It could still be sitting out there.*

*Becker: there was a letter from the head of the Department, Angie Wiese, cancelling that tow.*

*Moermond: that doesn't sound like something she would do. Angie isn't in charge of the police. Ms. Martin, can you follow up? If that vehicle is still there, it can be removed.*

*Becker: I can find someone who can take it as a junk car, I wasn't comfortable doing that.*

*Moermond: I can't speak to what your attorney told you. Ms. Martin, I'm surprised Ms. Wiese would have put a hold on tow.*

*Becker: I have the email from Angie from June 6.*

*Moermond: and the writ of recovery must have a deadline. Did you share that time with her?*

*Becker: I did in a previous email to her.*

*Moermond: I'm not sure how much I would ask the Council take that into account since the hold was June and the Excessive Consumption was January, with orders first in November. I'm kind of in a space where no, and Ms. Martin will follow up with Ms. Wiese about the writ of recovery. Please send a follow up email to be added to the record. We'll have Joanna Zimny send the link to pay the assessments online.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 7/19/2023**

- 5 RLH TA 23-268** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1322 ELEANOR AVENUE. (File No. J2325A, Assessment No. 238533)

**Sponsors:** Tolbert

*Delete the assessment.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 8/23/2023**

- 6 RLH TA 23-269** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1777 RANDOLPH AVENUE. (File No. J2325A, Assessment No. 238533)

**Sponsors:** Tolbert

*Delete the assessment.*

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/23/2023

- 7      **RLH TA 23-274**      Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 584 SNELLING AVENUE SOUTH. (File No. J2325A, Assessment No. 238533)

Sponsors:      Tolbert

*Delete the assessment.*

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/23/2023

- 8      **RLH TA 23-280**      Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1921 ST. ANTHONY AVENUE. (File No. J2325A, Assessment No. 238533)

Sponsors:      Jalali

*Approve the assessment.*

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/23/2023

- 9      [SR 23-155](#)      Review Request of Stella Nwaiwu for the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for Property at 931 and 933 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST. (File No. J2318A, Assessment No. 238518). (Adopted by Council June 7, 2023).

Sponsors:      Balenger

*Reduce assessment from \$322 to \$161. (CPH 8/9)*

Received and Filed

### Special Tax Assessments-ROLLS

- 10      **RLH AR 23-59**      Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during April 19 to 28, 2023. (File No. J2324A, Assessment No. 238531)

Sponsors:      Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/23/2023

- 11      **RLH AR 23-60**      Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during May 1 to 11, 2023. (File No. J2325A, Assessment No. 238533)

Sponsors:      Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/23/2023

### 11:00 a.m. Hearings

#### Correction Orders

- 12      **RLH CO 23-7**      Appeal of Joseph Zimlich, Jr. to a Correction Notice at 880 ROSE AVENUE EAST.

**Sponsors:** Yang

*Grant to September 1, 2023 for compliance.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 8/2/2023**

### **Making Finding on Nuisance Abatements**

- 13**    [RLH SAO 23-11](#)    Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 643 EARL STREET in Council File RLH SAO 23-3. (Legislative Hearing on July 18, 2023)

**Sponsors:** Prince

*Nuisance is not abated and matter referred to DSI for potential additional enforcement.*

*Minutes pending.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 7/19/2023**

- 14**    [RLH SAO 23-33](#)    Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 1009 FULLER AVENUE in Council File RLH SAO 23-28.

**Sponsors:** Balenger

*Refer back to LH July 25, 2023 at 11 am.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 7/26/2023**

### **1:00 p.m. Hearings**

#### **Vacant Building Registrations**

- 15**    **RLH VBR  
23-37**                    Appeal of Boon Lor to a Vacant Building Registration Requirement at 1811 MONTANA AVENUE EAST.

**Sponsors:** Yang

*Waive the VB fee through October 25, 2023.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 8/2/2023**

- 16**    **RLH VBR  
23-38**                    Appeal of Akeem Lamina to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 2076 MARGARET STREET.

**Sponsors:** Prince

*Grant the appeal and release the property from the VB program.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 8/9/2023**

- 17    **RLH VBR  
23-42**            Appeal of Atnafu Yeshidagne to a Vacant Building Registration Requirement at 506 and 510 SNELLING AVENUE NORTH.

Sponsors:        Jalali

*Grant the appeal and release the property from the VB program.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 8/2/2023**

### 1:30 p.m. Hearings

#### Orders To Vacate - Fire Certificate of Occupancy

- 18    **RLH VO 23-29**            Appeal of Kamil Roowala and Muhammad Jiwa to a Revocation of Fire Certificate of Occupancy and Order to Vacate at 1351 THIRD STREET EAST.

Sponsors:        Prince

*Grant to September 1, 2023 for compliance with the June 21, 2023 orders.*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 8/2/2023**

### 2:00 p.m. Hearings

#### Fire Certificates of Occupancy

- 19    [RLH VO 23-27](#)            Appeal of Albert Vierling to a Correction Notice-Reinspection Complaint (which includes condemnation) at 20 EXCHANGE STREET EAST, APARTMENT B104.

Sponsors:        Noecker

*Grant to July 28, 2023 for compliance with the June 27, 2023 orders.*

*(minutes pending)*

**Referred to the City Council due back on 7/26/2023**