



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
Mai Vang, Hearing Coordinator
Jean Birkholz, Hearing Secretary
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651-266-8585

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House

9:00 a.m. Hearings

Special Tax Assessments

- 1 **RLH TA 18-585** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 432 BEACON STREET. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Jarrold Watkins appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: JARROLD WATKINS

Type of Order/Fee: SA

Nuisance: WOOD DEBRIS AND GARBAGE/RUBBISH NEAR THE ALLEY.

Date of Orders: 6/27/18

Compliance Date: 7/4/18

Re-Check Date: 7/5/18

Date Work Done: 07/10/2018: Done By Parks

Work Order #: 18-080447

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 9 COMPLAINTS IN LAST YEAR (TGW, GARBAGE AND VEHICLES)

Mr. Watkins: I cleaned up the garbage; we've had a lot of complaints; we've tried to work with some of the local homeowners; like the car thing: I'm not sure how we enforce that; why wouldn't the car be ticketed; it took me a while to track down whose car it was but it's a nbr, who keeps parking there; as far as the grass, I have a lawn service every 2 weeks because I couldn't keep up with it; it's an empty lot; there are several empty lots there; so, I wonder if we're getting his for one of the other lots (?)

VIDEO - crew picked up wood debris & garbage near alley

Mr. Watkins: I'm pretty sure that's not our lot; if it is ours, fine; I can't tell if there's 2 lots there or 3 lots; I'm pretty sure that old fence line you see is another property;

whereas, where you see the other house, maybe that section is ours
 -I don't recall getting a letter - no, I didn't get that; I've never gotten one with a picture on it

-Steven Bursen is the owner of the property & he lives in Lakeville; I'm the property manager; I don't get the mailings

Ms. Moermond: the Notice went to Mr. Bursen in Lakeville

-Ms. Mai Vang will check the property lines

-looks like Mr. Bursen will be responsible

-gave Mr. Watkins a copy of the letter

-Mai brought up an aerial

Mr. Watkins: OK; there are 2 lots there

Ms. Moermond: city did the work; talk with owner; have him call you when he gets these letters

-will recommend approval

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

- 2 RLH TA 18-562** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1151 BUSH AVENUE. (File No. J1902A, Assessment No. 198501)

Sponsors: Bostrom

Approve the assessment (No show)

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/2/2019

- 3 RLH TA 18-548** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1737 CARROLL AVENUE. (File No. J1901A, Assessment No. 198500) (Public hearing continued to October 16, 2018)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Susan Johnson, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$372

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$534

Gold Card Returned by: Susan Johnson

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Overflowing bagster

Date of Orders: June 1, 2018

Compliance Date: June 11, 2018

Re-Check Date: June 11, 2018

Date Work Done: June 13, 2018

Work Order #: 18-071591

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property:

*Ms. Johnson: a family emergency & I had to get out of my house; so, I purchased this home that needed a lot of work, which I was willing to do; I hired somebody in Apr to re-do the bathroom, so I got a bagster & a lot of people in the nbhd had used it; it was on my blvd & the man I hired was filling it but he did not get the job done, so I had to fire him & I'm still working on the bathroom; a couple of storms went thru & blew some stuff out of the bagster but I would put it back in; when I got the Abatement Order, it wasn't really clear to me what the deadline date was & with these bagsters, there's no time limit; so, when I realized that I needed to get it picked up, I called Waste Management in Jun & arranged for a pickup, which was going to be a week out, which was past the abatement compliance date; they said that the earliest they could pick it up was Jun 18 about; so, I didn't think there was going to be a problem; on Jun 14, I realized that it was gone & I thought that Waste Management had picked it up because I had called them to order the pickup; then, I got the bill from the city & I contacted Waste Management & they sent me a receipt; they charged me \$50 because when they went to pick it up, it wasn't there any more; I didn't realize that the city had picked it up; it would have cost about \$140 for Waste Management pickup & I'd certainly be willing to pay that but \$500?; that wasn't very clear to me how this process worked & they were going to pickup my bagster
-the bagster was there so long because the guy was very slow doing his work*

Ms. Moermond: asked Ms. Martin for a cost breakdown

Ms. Martin: base cost = \$372 (garbage abatement fee: \$260 & general refuse for 4 cu.yds: \$112); service/admin charge = \$162; total: \$534

VIDEO - crew picked up bagster on blvd

Ms. Moermond: explained the SA to Ms. Johnson

*Ms. Johnson: I didn't get anything that looked like that
-my husband had taken his own life; I missed the SA Order - it was in a pile of mail; because of the tragedy, I had a lot of things to deal with
-bagster was contained*

Ms. Moermond: you received the Notice but you didn't deal with it so, the city send out a crew to clean up the bagster with all the material in it; how is it not your responsibility?

Ms. Johnson: I'm asking you to understand the circumstances; I was not tracking things; I had a lot of things - a lot of deadlines; I don't think that it's a \$500 mistake; that's excessive & I do pay my taxes

*Ms. Moermond: I pay my taxes, too
-you, evidently, missed your first hearing (?)*

Ms. Johnson: No; I didn't miss it; I came - it was scheduled on Sep 18 & I came & they didn't have me listed; so they re-scheduled it for today; I did not miss that hearing; I was here - at the front desk; they did not see me on the list; so, I was re-scheduled

Ms. Moermond: if you had stayed, we hear everybody who's here in the room

Ms. Johnson: they told me they'd re-schedule it; it didn't sound like an option

Ms. Moermond:

To continue public hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$534 to \$267.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/2/2019

4 RLH TA 18-582 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 872 DULUTH STREET. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Bostrom

John Winter, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: John Winter

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Large pile of filled white trash bags on vacant lot

Date of Orders: 06/21/18

Compliance Date: 6/28/18

Re-Check Date: 7/2/18

Date Work Done: 7/6/18

Work Order #: 18-079285

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: Abandoned vehicle 2/23/16 and 5/30/18

VIDEO - crew removed white bags from chain link fence on vacant lot

Mr. Winter: stop that picture; do you see way in the back left corner?

-I got a letter from you guys & that's not mine; that's the neighbors; the stuff that you picked up off the fence was grass leaves; I tried to get a hold of Stephan; he didn't get back to me; I ran down there & I talked to Steve; I kept getting these tickets for vehicles, which didn't really make any sense; he looked it up for me; there were 7 or 8 of them; he went on his phone; there's an alley there.....

Ms. Moermond: I'm concerned about these bags

Mr. Winter: those bags are cleaned-up; when I got a hold of Stephan.... 3 days later; he told me that I should have left all that grass & leaves in a pile (it didn't sound right to me) because then it would have been a pile to pick up....

Ms. Moermond: but that was after the fact; you got the letter that told you to clean up but it was still there

Mr. Winter: that was going to the compost

Ms. Moermond: but they hadn't found their way to the compost

Mr. Winter: I've been getting tickets & I've been trying to figure out what other stuff needs to get done on that property; there are 4 houses on that street; 2 of those houses park in the alley because parking is at a premium; that's what was confusing me with all these tickets I was getting; when I got this, I wanted to verify & get caught

up - but it was a very confusing time about getting a hold of this man who never calls back; I went down & talked to the main person

Ms. Moermond: on Feb 23, 2016 looks like there was an abandoned vehicle; then on May 30, 2018, there was an abandoned vehicle; is that a trailer?

Ms. Martin: Order was for a trailer parked on the vacant lot

Mr. Winter: that was a neighbor's; I had somebody park a boat on my lot; it was the guy 3 doors down

Ms. Moermond: let's set aside the vehicle stuff

Mr. Winter: the bags were there; the whole thing is that I was trying to get a hold of the guy who sent me the tickets to understand what else he needed to be done on this property

Ms. Moermond: but you received a letter that said in all caps that you needed to remove those bags

Mr. Winter: nothing said "bags;" it said "trash"

Ms. Moermond: it said "white trash bags"

Mr. Winter: I didn't get that letter; I didn't get a picture; I wish I would have got a picture

-I was having issues with Stephan to understand..... the main guy explained.....

Ms. Moermond: but that's all after the fact

Mr. Winter: you're missing something --- but with this ticket here, there was more than just that ticket; there was like 7 or 8 vehicles that they took off

Ms. Martin: Oct 5, 2018 - multiple vehicles & trailers parked on a vacant lot, one displaying expired tabs; that's a current one, open right now - we have a Vehicle Abatement Order on that one

-there are some Excessive Consumption charges; I'd have to dig deeper into it but bottom line is that it's a vacant lot that the owner needs to maintain - to make sure that no one is parking on the lot, dumping on the lot, etc.

Ms. Winter: this goes back to Apr

Ms. Moermond: this goes back to 2016, at least;

-back to the white garbage bags; you're saying you didn't get the letter; this letter got mailed to your address; no mail was returned; if you don't want the Chippewa address used, you need to change that with Ramsey County Taxation; the city is always going to use Ramsey County Taxation's address

Ms. Moermond: there's a long history here; you didn't take care of this

Mr. Winter: I was trying to explain that I was having issues getting a hold of Stephan to figure out the.....

Ms. Moermond: you got the letter, then but you didn't do what you were told that you

needed to do

Mr. Winter: actually, I did; & I'll explain that

Ms. Moermond: then, why did I see a VIDEO with all those bags on it?

Mr. Winter: that's the 2nd time of going back & cutting grass

Ms. Moermond: specifically, "remove large pile of black & white trash bags on vacant lot near chain link fence on south side of property"

Mr. Winter: those were all white bags; --- it took Stephan 3 days to get back to me; then, he kind of figured it out; in the back, there's an alley...so, that's where I'm at

Ms. Martin: I found 3 Excessive Consumptions for noncompliance to previous Orders; those have been removed at this point; however, we do have 2 open files: 1) vehicles on a vacant lot; and 2) garbage on a vacant lot

Re-watched the VIDEO - crew removed white trash bags near chain link fence on vacant lot

Mr. Winter: the black & white bags got moved; those were different bags from the 2nd time I cut the grass

-how can I get straightened out about the alley?

Ms. Moermond: I'll recommend approval; it was done by the city; you have a long history; I have no way of knowing if those were different white bags; if they are different white bags, why did you put white bags back again - that's crazy!

Mr. Winter: it said remove black & white bags; they got moved; you said, white & black

Ms. Martin: another Work Order will be going out - looks like you've got improperly stored plows, scrap metal, rubbish, small trailer on your vacant lot, currently

Mr. Winter: plows are in one picture; that trailer is in the alley; it's not a trailer; it's a make-shift trailer

Ms. Martin: you can't have any storage on a vacant lot

Mr. Winter: what about the alley? Explain that to me; how am I going to get the alley straightened out?

Ms. Martin: I'll be happy to go out there; what phone number can you be reached at? I'll come by tomorrow

Mr. Winter: 651/592-4748; thank you very much

Ms. Moermond:

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

LEXINGTON PARKWAY SOUTH. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Noecker

Joe Homan, caretaker, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$288

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$450

Gold Card Returned by: BEBE JACQUE

Type of Order/Fee: SA

Nuisance: OVER HANGING VEGETATION BLOCKING PUBLIC SIDEWALK.

Date of Orders: 6/28/18

Compliance Date: 7/5/18

Re-Check Date: 7/5/18

Date Work Done: 07/09/2018: Done By Parks

Work Order #: PA 18-080388

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments: THIS IS AN APARTMENT COMPLEX

History of Orders on Property: MINIMAL

Mr. Homan: I was curious about what this was; I thought it was the trees in front were hanging too low; I trimmed the trees but we ended up getting... .

VIDEO - crew removed overhead vegetation over the public sidewalk

Mr. Homan: OK; I, personally, did not get the letter

Ms. Moermond:

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

6 [RLH TA 18-500](#)

 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 365 FULLER AVE. (File No. J1811E, Assessment No. 188323) (Amend to delete)

Sponsors: Thao

Tadesse B. Hailemichael, owner, & his friend Eyop appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$122

Service Charge: \$35

Total Assessment: \$157

Gold Card Returned by: Tadesse B Hailemichael

Type of Order/Fee: PAEC Fee

Nuisance: Failure to maintain exterior (couch in the yard)

Date of Orders: 2-27-18

Compliance Date: 3-6-18

Re-Check Date: 3-6-18

Date Work Done: (Parks crew there on 3-12-18)

Work Order #: 18-032281

Returned Mail?: No

Comments: Work done by owner/PAEC Fee (fee to dispatch the crew because it was not done by the deadline)

History of Orders on Property:

Mr. Hailemichael: my friend, Eyop, can explain for me

Eyop: the garbage is not at his place; it's at the place next door

Ms. Moermond: picture shows a couch in front of a green van

Mr. Hailemichael: that is not my house; my house is this way - that is my house (pointed on picture); he entered more pictures

Eyop: that's the neighbor's green van; the property line is here (on picture)
-the couch is at the property next door

Ms. Martin took a look at the photos, too (scanned)

Ms. Moermond: I will recommend this gets deleted; Notice went to the wrong address (could be a typo)

Delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 10/24/2018

- 7 RLH TA 18-589** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 887 GERANIUM AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Bostrom

Lucila Martinez, owner, appeared. (Language Line - Spanish)

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: Lucila Martinez

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Chair, pile of wood, debris in yard

Date of Orders: 6/21/18; 6/27/18

Compliance Date: 6/27/18; 7/3/18

Re-Check Date: 6/27/18 and 7/2/18 (more garbage)

Date Work Done: 7/6/18

Work Order #: 18-079973

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 5/31/18, 6/13/18, 6/18/18- garbage/rubbish

Ms. Martinez: the only thing they took was the plastic box

VIDEO - crew removed pink chair; broken chair in wheel barrow & crate were removed

from side of house

Ms. Martinez: it was not garbage

Ms. Moermond: it's clear that it was a decent chair but it wasn't supposed to be outside; it's an interior chair; the other chair was a broken, upholstered chair

Ms. Martinez: people drop furniture & I put it in the corner; I had already called....

Ms. Moermond: so the gray upholstered chair was dumped
-since the time the clean-up has occurred, the city has moved to a new garbage collection system that allows residents to dispose of large/bulky items as a part of their regular garbage service so the city is hoping that there is going to be less dumping

-because there is some history at the property, I'll cut this assessment in half if there's no same/similar violation(s) by Oct 16, 2019

To continue Public Hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$478 to \$239.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

8 RLH TA 18-588 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1483 HURON STREET. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Jinning Qi, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$476

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$638

GOLD CARD RETURNED- JINNING QI

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order & Tall, Grass & Weed Letter

Nuisance: REMOVE THE APPLIANCES, CAR PARTS, DOORS, METAL DEBRIS, BINS, PAILS TRASH BAGS, WOOD DEBRIS AND ANY OTHER GARBAGE/RUBBISH ON THE DRIVEWAY AND

ALONG THE GARAGE AND THE TV ON THE BLVD and TGW

Date of Orders: 6/19/19 (garbage/rubbish) & 6/25/18 (TGW)

Compliance Date: 6/25/18 (Garbage) & 6/29/18 (TGW)

Re-Check Date: 6/27/18 (TGW); 6/25/18 (Garbage/Rubbish)

Date Work Done: 7/9/19 (TGW) & 7/10/18 (Garbage/Rubbish)

Work Order #: 18-080205 & 18-080206

Returned Mail?: No

Comments: *NO PHOTOS TAKEN BUT THERE ARE VIDEOS

History of Orders on Property: TGW 5/29/18, Garbage 4/13/18, Abandoned Vehicle 4/13/18, 12 Complaints in 2017

Mr. Qi: I bought it on Jul 18, 2018

Ms. Moermond: the Orders went to the previous owner;

-I have bad news for you; it is incumbent on the seller to tell you that there are pending Orders on the property that could result in an assessment; the cost attaches to the

property; all this happened before you purchased the property; the previous owner got the Orders; the work happened when previous owner had the property; the previous owner is responsible for paying for it but you're going to have to go after him; we can provide documents for you; your realtor can help you

Ms. Mai Vang: I can email you the video

Ms. Moermond:

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

- 9 RLH TA 18-590** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1874 HYACINTH AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Bostrom

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

- 10 RLH TA 18-587** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1922 LINCOLN AVENUE. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Catherine Deavel, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$316.00

Service Charge: \$162.00

Total Assessment: \$478.00

Gold Card Returned by: CATHERINE DEAVEL

Type of Order/Fee: SA

Nuisance: CARPETING AND DISCARDED FURNITURE NEAR THE ALLEY

Date of Orders: 6/29/18

Compliance Date: 7/6/18

Re-Check Date: 7/6/18

Date Work Done: 07/10/2018: Done By Parks

Work Order #: 18-080755

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: NONE

Ms. Deavel: my family drove to Washington State starting Jun 24, 2018; the letter is dated Jun 29; we arrived back on Jul 11 & opened the SA; after opening our mail, I called immediately & the person who answered said that she had no record of the Order but the carpet was gone; we put the carpet in the parking space in the back near garage; it did not occur to us that it was a nuisance; it wasn't a problem as far as I could tell; it wasn't blocking anything; we tried to act in good faith

Ms. Moermond: the city did give Notice; the city did the work; looking at the picture of the carpet roll behind the recycling/garbage containers near the garage; also a shovel & plastic table; this hasn't been a problem in the past; I'd like to give some

consideration

To continue public hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$478 to \$239.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

- 11 RLH TA 18-584** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1083 MARION STREET. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Jesus Pliego Martinez, owner, appeared. (Language Line - Spanish)

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$288

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$450

Gold Card Returned by: Jesus Pliego Martinez

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Door with glass next to garage

Date of Orders: 6/29/18

Compliance Date: 7/6/18

Re-Check Date: 7/6/18

Date Work Done: 7/10/18

Work Order #: 18-080776

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: Vehicle on 10/17/17 (resolved), one in 2015 for metal box springs, 2 in 2014

Mr. Martinez: I wasn't here; was on vacation in Mexico; came back Jul 28, 2018

Ms. Moermond: OK; I'm going to look at the Video to make sure that the item was removed; there isn't much of a history here; I'm inclined to be sympathetic

VIDEO - crew removed door from beside garage

Ms. Moermond: OK; at Jan 16, 2019 City Council Public Hearing, I will ask Council to continue the matter to Oct 16, 2019 & if no same/similar violation(s) thru Oct 16, I will recommend cutting the assessment in half

-we can arrange for an interpreter if he calls us ahead of time

To continue public hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$450 to \$225.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

- 12 RLH TA 18-577** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 261 MARYLAND AVENUE WEST. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Tarryl Olson, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:
Cost: \$274.00
Service Charge: \$162.00
Total Assessment: \$436.00
Gold Card Returned by: TARRYL OLSON
Type of Order/Fee: SA
Nuisance: Send SA Trial Letter - 6/20/18. Found scrap wood against the garage
Date of Orders: 6/21/18
Compliance Date: 6/29/18
Re-Check Date: 6/29/18
Date Work Done: 07/03/2018: Done By Parks
Work Order #: 78928
Returned Mail?: NO
Comments:
History of Orders on Property: IN THE LAST YEAR: 4 TGW'S, 1 SNOW/WALK

Mr. Olson: plain & simple, we didn't get the Notice; I received a Notice on Jun 21 for scrap wood, which I personally took care of

Ms. Moermond: you got the Notice for the scrap wood that you took care of

Mr. Olson: OK

Ms. Moermond: that's what we're talking about today

Mr. Olson: No

Ms. Moermond: that's what the Order says we're talking about today - the scrap wood

Mr. Olson: this says Jul 3

Ms. Moermond: that's when the clean-up occurred & so that span of time you're looking at in the letter is for when the Parks crew actually showed up on the property, not when the Order was issued; they are billing you for work that occurred in that span of time & the work they did was on Jul 3, 2018; you're saying that you took care of the scrap wood

Mr. Olson: I received a Notice for scrap wood; I took care of it & then, someone in my office called & said that this bill was for scrap wood, scrap metal & car parts & I don't have that on my Notice

VIDEO - crew took scrap wood against the garage

Mr. Olson: wasn't this bill for other items?

Ms. Moermond: No; it's for the items that appear in all caps

Mr. Olson: I did remove scrap wood; what's in the VIDEO must have been put there after I removed what I removed; for some reason, we're a haven for dumping; people leave crud all the time

Ms. Moermond: I'll recommend approval of this; I don't find it sufficiently plausible that the exact same violation occurred by accident within that narrow a time period

Mr. Olson: so, \$436 for one table top

Ms. Moermond: it didn't look like a table top to me

Mr. Olson: it looked like a table top to me; I removed the chairs, etc; I have a note here in my own writing that I cleaned it up on Jun 22; I don't have pictures but I cleaned up what was there

Ms. Moermond: looking at your history & the description of the item & seeing that it matches what's in the Video; I don't know about a table top

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

13 RLH TA 18-592 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 670 ROBERT STREET NORTH. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Noecker

Jessica Brellenthin, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$270

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$432

Gold Card Returned by: Jessica Brellenthin

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement (Remove mattresses, box springs & shelf from the bldg & dumpster areas)

Nuisance: Failure to maintain exterior

Date of Orders: 6-21-18

Compliance Date: 6-28-18

Re-Check Date: 6-28-18

Date Work Done: 7-2-18

Work Order #: 18-078469

Returned Mail?: No

Comments: November 2017 garbage

History of Orders on Property: Nov 2017-garbage order

Ms. Brellenthin: I'm the property manager; I wanted to see what proof you have; we have a document

Ms. Moermond: I see 2 photos; it could be that both things are true - outside dumpsters; mattresses beside a shed

VIDEO - crew removed box spring & shelf between dumpsters

Ms. Moermond: photo is not consistent with Order

Ms. Brellenthin: my people removed all items near dumpster/garbage area to the shed -we were just confused as to what needed to be done; we wanted clarification on that for the future

Ms. Moermond: language is general enough that it would capture moving the mattresses to beside the shed; the picture is of them being beside the shed; however, that wasn't picked up; what was picked up was the bookshelf & a box spring between the dumpsters

To continue public hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$432 to \$216.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/2/2019

- 14 RLH TA 18-539** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1238 THIRD STREET EAST. (File No. J1902A, Assessment No. 198501)

Sponsors: Prince

Approve; no show (2x)

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/2/2019

- 15 RLH TA 18-591** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1509 UPPER AFTON ROAD. (File No. J1902A, Assessment No. 198501)

Sponsors: Prince

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/2/2019

10:00 a.m. Hearings

- 16 RLH TA 18-576** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 488 AURORA AVENUE. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No. 198503)

Sponsors: Thao

Kristin Grinstead, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$270.00

Service Charge: \$162.00

Total Assessment: \$432.00

Gold Card Returned by: KRISTIN GRINSTEAD

Type of Order/Fee: SA

Nuisance: MATTRESS ON BLVD

Date of Orders: 7/10/18

Compliance Date: 7/17/18

Re-Check Date: 7/17/18

Date Work Done: 7/19/18

Work Order #: PA 18-084818

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: ONE VEHICLE ORDER IN LAST 2 YEARS. NO OTHER WORK ORDERS

Ms. Grinstead: did not receive first letter; I replied to 2nd letter; I believe that this is

for my neighbor; they have had a portable dumpster/bagster in their yard for months; they had grills, mattresses, etc. in there; they or someone else put the mattress in my yard; I have photos

Ms. Moermond: looking at the photograph within the Order - picture of bagster that has mattresses/box springs similar to what's in your blvd area; it's clearly your property but it's their stuff; the city did send you a letter to deal with it; the city had to do the pick-up; ideally, in most cases, you'd pick up the phone but

Ms. Grinstead: I didn't get the first letter; I'm the owner/occupant; I sent back the yellow card with a note:

Ms. Moermond: here's what I'm going to do:

To continue public hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

17 RLH TA 18-552 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 974 CONWAY STREET. (File No. J1902A, Assessment No. 198501)

Sponsors: Prince

Roseanne Tate appeared; my mom is Nancy Tate, owner.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$288

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$450

Gold Card Returned by: Nancy Tate

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Vacuum cleaner and laundry sink, near garage next to alley

Date of Orders: June 20, 2018

Compliance Date: June 27, 2018

Re-Check Date: June 27, 2018

Date Work Done: June 29, 2018

Work Order #: 18-078136

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: No history since 2005

Ms. Tate: my mom resides there with my brother who just recently passed away; if I'd known it was there, I would have moved it; our trash collector didn't pick it up; my mother lives around a lot of rental property; things get dumped; we try to watch it; my brother & mom have been in & out of the hospitals

-I understand this happened; I'm hoping that we can get it declined because of the financial hardship; my mom doesn't have a lot of money; none of us have money right now; she is 87 years old - a vulnerable senior citizen; she wants to live in her house -she is competent but she waits for me to look thru her paperwork; she looks at it but waits for me; I do her finances once a month

-I called Insp Williams & talked with him

Ms. Moermond: there's no history here; the mail goes to my mom

Ms. Tate: with my brother passing, everything just got shuffled

Ms. Moermond: this property has never had a problem; so, I'm looking at it it's really close to the garbage container

To continue public hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete. If same or similar violation, will ratify and spread over 5 years.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/2/2019

- 18 RLH TA 18-580** Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 723 EDGERTON STREET. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No. 198503)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Delete the assessment. Summary Abatement Order is blank.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/2/2019

- 19 RLH TA 18-579** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1431 EDMUND AVENUE. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No. 198503)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Kai Mikels, Ms. Reuther's friend, appeared. Cindy Reuther, owner, lives in Washington.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$288

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$450

Gold Card Returned by: Cindy Reuther

Type of Order/Fee: SAO

Nuisance: Over hanging Vegetation

Date of Orders: 7/13/18

Compliance Date: 7/20/18

Re-Check Date: 7/20/18

Date Work Done: 7/24/18

Work Order #: 18-086168

Returned Mail?: Mail FWD to Cindy Reuther, 431 N State St Apt 2, Bellingham WA 98225

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: No; 7/5/17 - over hanging veg (unfounded)

VIDEO - crew cut over hanging vegetation in alley right-of-way

Ms. Mikels: the timing of this was difficult for Ms. Reuther; she didn't receive Notice until after the work had been done; she was on vacation & didn't receive the Order until days after she returned from vacation on Jul 24; had there been time, she would have done it; & had she not been on vacation because she has people waiting to work for her; after the work was done, she called immediately but by then.... they said the work had already been done

Ms. Martin: there is a C of O on this rental property; the owner is listed as owner & responsible party

Ms. Moermond: she has a good history; the work was Noticed; the work was done by the city
-I don't think that it was a significant over hanging issue

To continue public hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

20 RLH TA 18-586 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1208 RAYMOND AVENUE. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No.198503)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

21 RLH TA 18-578 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 652 STRYKER AVENUE. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No. 198503)

Sponsors: Noecker

John Prokopiuk, Yohan Holdings LLC, owner, appeared.

Mr. Prokopiuk: my property is unique; it's on a corner; I have one neighbor, who has an easement across here (points); I've owned this property for 14 years; the neighbors have continually parked on my side; they haven't had garbage service since I've owned this property; they've been using my dumpster; just recently, the city made them get garbage service

Ms. Moermond: let's start with the staff report

Supervisor Lisa Martin:
Cost: \$348
Service Charge: \$162
Total Assessment: \$510
Gold Card Returned by: JOHN PROKOPIUK
Type of Order/Fee: SA
Nuisance: TRASH AND DEBRIS FROM AROUND THE DUMPSTER & BOULEVARD AREAS
Date of Orders: 7/6/18
Compliance Date: 7/13/18
Re-Check Date: 7/13/18
Date Work Done: 7/18/18
Work Order #: 18-083702
Returned Mail?: NO
Comments: A vehicle abatement order also written on 7/6/18 but it was abated on 7/16/18
History of Orders on Property: 6 GARBAGE COMPLAINTS AND 2 VEHICLE COMPLAINTS IN THE LAST YEAR.
-this has been an issue, continuously; I know that Sean has worked with the owner, who's been very respectful & responsible; we've called him many times to let him know

that there's been tires dumped & garbage by the dumpsters, which belong to his neighbor, as he explained; unfortunately, we still continue to have overflowing garbage in the dumpster area

-we have open Orders with the neighbor at this time

Ms. Moermond: the photos in the Orders show what could be pallets propped up against the fence but the photo taken Jul 13 shows a lot more material: tires; car seat from back of a car; other things; my point is that Jul 13 shows a ton more stuff & I'm not sure that I see what was originally in the Orders, which was propped up against the fence

Ms. Martin: I think we have to look at the Video; 652 is an apartment complex; one of the units there had a hoarding issue; they had vehicles filled with debris, as well

VIDEO - crew removed tires, trash & debris around dumpster, vehicle parts

Ms. Moermond: I don't see the stuff propped up against the fence

-will recommend this gets deleted

Delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

22 RLH TA 18-581 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1483 WYNNE AVENUE. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No. 198503)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Morgan Weinert, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin:

Cost: \$160

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$322

Gold Card Returned by: Morgan Weinert

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: TGW

Date of Orders: 7/17/18

Compliance Date: 7/21/18

Re-Check Date: 7/24/18

Date Work Done: 7/25/18

Work Order #: 18-086810

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: No

VIDEO - didn't work

Ms. Weinert: we closed on the property on Jul 25, 2018; we did our final walk-thru of the property & noticed all the tall weeds; we requested that the lawyer of the people we were buying the house from hire somebody to take care of it; it was clearly negligent on their part; then, we got back with our keys & saw there had been a mystery weed whacking; when we were going thru the mailbox, we found the letter from the city addressed to the previous owner; we didn't own the property at the time

Ms. Moermond: it's kind of a funny situation here; the Orders went to the previous owner but by the time the work was done, it was under your ownership; & so you did not have a chance to abate it during your ownership; I'll recommend that it gets deleted

Delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

23 RLH TA 18-594 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1067 VAN DYKE STREET. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No. 198503)

Sponsors: Bostrom

Edgar Orozco, Magnolia Properties LLC, owner, appeared.

Supervisor Joe Yannarely:

Cost: \$344

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$506

Gold Card Returned by: Edgar Orozco

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Garbage/Rubbish

Date of Orders: July 19, 2018

Compliance Date: July 26, 2018

Re-Check Date: July 27, 2018

Date Work Done: July 31, 2018

Work Order #: 18-088742

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: Garbage in April 2018

VIDEO - crew removed metal trunk, scrap wood, trash, debris, cardboard, loose scattered trash, bricks, litter, wooden boards, cement/concrete blocks, beer bottles/cans, bags, plywood, dirty diaper, garbage & rubbish dumped in the wooded area west of the parking lot

Mr. Orozco: we hired a surveyor to find where our property line ends & where the parking lot is

-we've been having issues with people in the area dumping garbage from car engines to 40 mattresses ...; I spoke to city inspector Jill; when I showed her what has been happening to us, she told me to find out where our property line is; she saw what we cleaned up - there was more than that

-and we did not receive the Notice; the address that you have for me doesn't have Unit 101 (1846 Magnolia Ave E, Unit 101)

-we only got the letter at 2400 Blaisdell Ave Ste 100 (my corporate office)

Ms. Moermond: where did that letter go to, Ms. Martin?

Mr. Yannarely: 1846 Magnolia Ave E for Edgar Orozco & 2400 Blaisdell Ave Ste 100, Mpls for Magnolia Properties LLC

Mr. Orozco: when we receive Notices from the city, we always try to comply as soon as we can; when we see people dumping, we take it away quickly

Ms. Martin: on the actual SA, it says: Edgar Orozco, 1846 Magnolia Ave E 101 - you can come & take a look at this

Mr. Orozco: in process of putting in cameras, too

*Ms. Moermond: the cleanup occurred in a wooded area (Video)
-fencing on the back of your property may work, too; signs saying you have cameras*

Mr. Yannarely: history-had a garbage complaint in Apr 2018; exterior complaint in Apr 2016

Ms. Moermond: what does Ramsey County have for addresses?

Mr. Martin: Ramsey County has: Edgar Orozco, 1846 Magnolia Ave E 101 (responsible party)

*Ms. Moermond: the SA did have the right address
-here's what I'm going to do:*

To continue public hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

Special Tax Assessments - ROLLS

- 24 RLH AR 18-89** Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during July 2 to 12, 2018. (File No. J1903A, Assessment No. 198502)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

- 25 RLH AR 18-90** Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during July 10 to 30, 2018. (File No. J1904A, Assessment No. 198503)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 1/16/2019

11:00 a.m. Hearings

Correction Orders

- 26 [RLH CO 18-37](#)** Appeal of Michelle Camilo to a Correction Notice at 679 COOK AVENUE EAST.

Sponsors: Bostrom

Michelle Camilo & another woman appeared.

Ms. Camilo: we did the temporary repair on the retaining wall

Ms. Moermond: come up here & look at photos; you cleared out the rubble

Ms. Camilo: yes; we patched it with cement - same as the other patch; we called for a bid but they haven't responded to us yet

Ms. Moermond: we'll send Inspector Martin out to see if, in her opinion, it will hold thru the winter; if she says, "OK," I'll grant your appeal

Supervisor Lisa Martin: I'll swing by there today

Ms. Moermond: Ms. Martin will take a picture of the patch job; if there's a concern, we'll talk to you again; if additional work is required,

Grant the appeal if inspector confirms the temporary repair to the retaining wall is acceptable.

Update: Lisa Martin inspected the property and found the patch cement repair is acceptable; however, owner has put some cement rubble on top of the retaining wall. Ms. Moermond recommended granting the appeal provided owner removes the cement rubble.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/7/2018

27 [RLH CO 18-41](#)

Appeal of Richard Johnson to a Correction Notice at 88 BELVIDERE STREET EAST.

Sponsors: Noecker

Richard Johnson, owner, appeared.

*Supervisor Lisa Martin: On Oct 3, 2018, a Correction Notice was issued for missing siding on the house; compliance date is Jan 1, 2019; quite a few pictures; all reviewed the photos
-an appeal was filed to get a contractor*

Mr. Johnson: also has photos; we're taking the house back to it's original look of 1910; all the siding will be removed; it's time consuming; we're trying to find a contractor that will take the time to do it in wood clapboard or cement board -- it will be a \$60,000 siding job; I'm trying to see the craftsmanship of the contractor we did find but he won't give me an address of a house he's worked on; so, I'm a little nervous -in the winter I don't work on the house; I work out of state & come back in the summer; the Jan deadline won't work; painting exterior doesn't work in Jan

Ms. Martin: I have a concern; I noticed that there's a permit in 2012 for repairing cement block; replacing doors & windows & siding, as needed; it was pulled by Mr. Johnson; estimated value was \$2000 but it looks like there's been quite a bit of work done on the property; there's no active permit at this property

Mr. Johnson: we have pulled several permits through the course of the years; a lot of work has been done: back end replaced; front end replaced; we also replaced the front door & front window - could be the permit she's talking about

Ms. Moermond: sounds like the contractor you used just didn't call to get the permit

finaled so there was no inspection following up on that

Mr. Johnson: could be

Ms. Moermond: the city would be looking for that; I'm looking for a plan of action & for evidence that you have the available funds to pay for it; sounds like you're not comfortable with this contractor

Mr. Johnson: we've actually talked to several contractors & they all talk about vinyl siding; they don't want to entertain a 3-4 week project

Ms. Moermond: is that tar paper around the windows? those windows would not get a final sign-off from the bldg inspector in their current condition; they're not finished

Mr. Johnson: what you're not seeing is that the house used to have 2 different sidings on it; there was a siding overlay over all of the siding; the middle part of the house had Coolidge Clapboard on it

Ms. Martin: nothing is finaled & Mr. Johnson is the contractor

Mr. Johnson: I'm the general contractor, they say, because I tell others to do the work

Ms. Moermond: if you pulled the permit, then you are

Mr. Johnson: it had siding over the siding you're looking at - 2 sidings on it; one laid over the top of the other; that siding was taken off last year; that's why the windows looked the way they do; when the windows were put in, the tar paper was put around them & the 2nd siding was laid over the top of it

Ms. Moermond: your permit has not only expired but you wouldn't get a final on it; so, I need a specific plan; if you want to go out a year & you can give me a contractor, I'm comfortable with that; I'll give you 2 months to bring me a Plan of Action by Jan 1, 2019; could be a signed contract with someone who's going to do the work within the next construction year

Mr. Johnson: I won't be in the state; I'm leaving tomorrow & I'll be gone until Apr 15, 2019; I work out-of-state

*Ms. Moermond: because this has been languishing for so long, I really do need something firmer
-who manages your property while you're gone?*

Mr. Johnson: nobody; my brother comes over when it snows to shovel; I can do the best I can with what I can find; I'll hire somebody to do a temporary fix, if that's what you want, pending the fix that I intend to do

Ms. Moermond: it can't stay the way it is; that's the city's position; it's not a finished exterior wall in many places; the Order is on "missing siding" - means get siding where there is none - provide a continuous cover; it doesn't say that you need to do the entire house; although, it makes perfect sense to do it all at once

Mr. Johnson: I could rip off the tar paper & it would look better because the siding is actually there & I could get someone to put up some siding where there is none

Ms. Martin: noncompliance would result in Excessive Consumption

Ms. Moermond: I think you'll need to hire a handyman type person to just deal with this aspect of the problem (before you hire your Hardy siding contractor)

Grant to May 1, 2019 to repair the siding.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/7/2018

28 [RLH CO 18-40](#)

Appeal of Christine Newman to a Correction Notice at 1898 BERKELEY AVENUE. (To be referred to Legislative Hearing on December 17)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Christine Newman, owner and James Jardine, Attorney, appeared.

Ms. Mai Vang: I left a message for Lauren at the House Calls Office & her cell phone

Supervisor Lisa Martin: Correction Notice issued Oct 2, 2018; 3 items on the list: 1) exterior wall - scrape & paint garage; 2) garage roof is deteriorated; and 3) gutters falling down on side of garage roof; compliance by Nov 1, 2018; previous Corr Not on this matter issued: Mar 15, Jun 6, & Aug 22, 2018

Mr. Jardine: Ms. Newman was being foreclosed upon about 5 years ago; she was determined to be totally disabled by Social Security; she gets \$780/month which will double when she is 62; Audrey Chelberg is her mother, who is an 85 year old widow; she co-signed when Ms. Newman bought the property in 1990 but she is not a great source of help at this point; they finally worked out the problem with the foreclosure & Ms. Newman has a son who has a \$13/hr job & is helping pay the mortgage

-she has gotten some contractors to look at the garage work; I called Insp Sean Westenhofer, who referred me to Lauren Lightner, who said that she was going to be here today; she also said that she might be able to help us figure out a way to handle this; Ms. Newman has purchased some materials but it's not a job that she can do herself

-we would like to talk to Lauren about their programs that could help us like a 'junk out' of the house because her disability has hampered her from being able to maintain the property as she would like

-the garage is full

-the inspectors talked about the garage roof & I've never seen any intrusion of water into the garage; not disputing replacing the garage roof; she is also looking to replace the house roof

-we'd like some time to talk with Lauren; get a program to help Christine out; she is willing to do what she can; she's already cleared the vegetation; the garage can't be done by Nov 1; we need an extension

Ms. Moermond: now is a good time to apply for money; Ms. Martin can list some resources

Ms. Martin: you can get a dumpster thru House Calls; put in an application for Brush with Kindness (painting), a program from Habitat for Humanity; Lauren would have a lot more resources; MN Housing Finance Agency - for low income loans

Ms. Moermond: -garage is in a significant state of disrepair & it's an eyesore; check city website, Dept of Planning & Economic Development (PED); they may have

programs specifically for owner-occupants - maybe a forgivable loan or a loan at a reduced rate

Ms. Newman: I think that we can get the scraping & painting done but the roof will need extra help

Ms. Martin: there's a PAEC from Aug 2018

Ms. Moermond: I would like to see some plan on how we're going to get this under control; filling out applications; you can find out about the Brush with Kindness Program; an organization called NeighborWorks, a community development corporation - 651/292-8710; you can work on cleaning out the garage/house with House Calls' dumpsters

-we will continue this matter for 2 months, Dec 17, 2018 LH

To be referred back to Legislative Hearing on December 17, 2018 for a work plan to address the exterior repairs to the garage, including timelines.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/7/2018

- 29** [RLH SAO 18-70](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 1004 EDMUND AVENUE in Council File RLH VO 18-43. (Public hearing continued from October 3)

Sponsors: Thao

Mark & Vicky Schuch, owners, appeared.

Ms. Moermond: Ms. Martin, you were there yesterday; what's your report on current status?

Supervisor Lisa Martin: current photos in Amanda

-they've made a huge amount of progress

-vehicles are all abated

-the interior issues are done & the house looks great

-exterior issues: he wants to keep 1 shed; I asked him to go down to Zoning to make sure that the location & the size of the shed would be approved; he asked for a 2 week extension to get the rest of the yard cleaned up; we agreed to that; I told him that he didn't need to be here; that we'd just extend it for 2 more weeks; he is still tearing down the lean-to on one side of the garage, which will be done next week; he has a dumpster on site; it looks like a new property

Ms. Moermond: the resolution before City Council right now is asking if the nuisance conditions have been abated; and I'd like to close this out

Ms. Martin: I'd be happy to follow-up on this if you'd like to close it out

Ms. Moermond: OK; let's do a fresh Summary Abatement Order on the lean-to & the shed he wants to keep with reasonable deadlines; and I will recommend to the Council that the nuisance conditions have been abated & the matter resolved

Nuisance has been abated and the matter is resolved.

Referred to the City Council due back on 10/17/2018

- 30 [RLH SAO 18-66](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 547 STINSON STREET in Council File RLH SAO 18-45. (Legislative Hearing on October 16)

Sponsors: Thao

No one appeared.

Supervisor Lisa Martin: I've left many messages for Mr. Harlan Dorman; due to his health issues, he's been in & out of the hospital

-Erica from House Calls has been trying to assist, as well; neither one of us have been able to get back into the property

-I took a bunch of photos when I was out there yesterday; I've tried to stop by randomly to see if I can gain access

-the difficult part of this case is that the owner of this property is deceased; this was his grandparents' home; his mother in 2012 had the same situation going on with the house being packed with stuff; she, apparently, is the heir to the property but doesn't have the funds to change it over into her name; so, she has her son, Harlan, living in the house and she is living elsewhere; so, technically, it should be a C of O property but because of the disability & all the issues, we were trying to work thru this to try to get them the assistance to get the house cleaned out; they have removed at least 1 dumpster so far & there is a dumpster on site now that is 3/4 full; the yard looks pretty clean; they are obviously moving stuff from the inside of the house to the outside because there's a bunch of stuff stacked next to the dumpster; but I haven't been able to verify the interior

-on this situation, we wrote up a lot of Orders but for some reason, Amanda wasn't saving them & we lost them; so, we are trying to get back in to re-do the Orders to see what else is there

Ms. Moermond: wondering - we've got things going on with the Correction Notice but the Summary Abatement Order is about removing the garage & its contents; & I'm assuming the garage is in a very deteriorating condition

Ms. Martin: and that is not done; the garage roof is really bad; they understood that the garage would probably be torn down; the problem that we have is it would just end up on the property taxes because the owners are deceased

Ms. Moermond: so, my recommendation to the Council is that the nuisance condition is not abated & DSI can proceed with the abatement of the nuisance condition

Ms. Martin: the demolition of the garage (\$1500-\$3000)

Ms. Moermond: that assessment, itself is appealable & could be made payable over several years; that should be explained to Mr. Dorman when he is reachable

Ms. Martin: we're trying to have House Calls get legal assistance for them so they can get the house in their name

Ms. Mai Vang: listed unpaid taxes; the property will forfeit in 2019

Nuisance is not abated.

Referred to the City Council due back on 10/17/2018

11:30 a.m. Hearings

Orders To Vacate, Condemnations and Revocations

- 31 [RLH VO 18-48](#) Appeal of Raul Torres to a Re-Inspection Fire Certificate of Occupancy with Deficiencies, including Condemnation at 620 OAKDALE AVENUE.

Sponsors: Noecker

Raul Torres, tenant, appeared.

Mr. Torres: so far, we have filled 1 1/2 dumpsters; & I'm going to take the cats to the Humane Society

Ms. Shaff: I went out there last Mon; at that time, there were 7 cats; there's still a lot of stuff in the house although, a lot has been removed, it's still very concerning; Mr. Torres shared with me that his lungs have shrunk quite a bit & I have some huge concerns regarding the cat smell; it's quite strong

Mr. Torres: I want to shampoo the rug but it makes no sense to do it with all the stuff in there

Ms. Shaff: with your health condition, I fear prolonging this; going up the stairs, there was evidence of cat feces in the carpet; I have huge sanitary concerns throughout the house & Mr. Torres can't get this all done by himself due to his medical condition; all this was discussed at the original hearing

Mr. Torres: the daughters are doing it all because I can't go up the stairs; my lungs aren't working anymore; we have a litter box downstairs; if a cat does go on the floor, I pick it up; a lot of the stains are my fault from dropping things; there's a giant difference between the first pictures of the house to the pictures Ms. Shaff took last week

Ms. Shaff: with animals urinating, we have cleaning issues & much of that carpet will probably have to come out; the floors, walls & woodwork need to be treated properly

Mr. Torres: the lady who came before Ms. Shaff said something different; & the one before that one, said something different; each inspector says something different; the first one said to get 50% of the stuff out & at least 50% is out; the cat thing: I used to have a cleaning company, the cat urine can come out; it depends on what products you use; I can get it done; I just need time to get it done; I'm the only one home all day; my wife works & my granddaughters go to school; my other daughter works; I will get the house clean; I can clean & I'll make sure that there's no smell; you're trying to make it sound like my house is - like I can't do it; & it can be done; I just need to time to do it

Ms. Shaff: I've been thru a lot of houses in my career; including ones that have strong cat/animal urine smell; it's not just about shampooing carpet; it permeates the entire structure; Mr. Torres is not capable of cleaning this house; I fear for his longevity just going up a flight of stairs; I agree that a lot of things have been taken out of the house; it's not like I'm trying to boot them from their house; that's not my intention; I

have huge concerns for the occupants & what it's going to take to actually clean this up

Ms. Moermond: have you talked with Guardian Property Management about what's going on with all of this?

Mr. Torres: I have called & emailed them; they know what's going on but they don't respond until we're behind on the rent; then, they'll call; they hardly ever come around

Ms. Shaff: looking at the Orders for the other side of this duplex, it looks like there's probably too much going on in that house, too; plus there's exterior issues

Ms. Moermond: I don't want you to lose your housing but I don't want you to continue to live in these conditions & I want to be super clear about what the expectations are for you to be able to continue to live there; pull up a chair & together we'll look at these photos; and either these things are taken care of or you guys will need to find new housing; we'll pick a deadline

photos with notes: (scanned)

-move bunk bed/organize & store materials properly

-all except 1 cat must go this week

-all soft fabric furniture, curtains, carpet, rugs, clothes: shampoo & wash

-living room looks a lot better; lot's of furniture; 50% or more floor vs furniture

-make window accessible in dining room (50% floor)

-kitchen - very few cupboards; remove 50% of material from the kitchen; 50% floor area

Mr. Torres: we have no water pressure at all; I've been complaining about it but nothing's happened; they don't do anything

-a lot of the rooms don't look like these pictures now

Ms. Moermond: more photos

-keyed dead bolt can't be on the interior upstairs door (put that dead bolt on the basement door that goes outside)

-other rooms & basement: 50% floor; 50% volume gone

-this bathroom looks a lot better

-hallway should be clear; stairway clear

-upstairs bedroom - 50% floor; 50% volume

-attic is cleanest room

-I want to see the repairs taken care of; if the Property Mgr doesn't come to do them, maybe we can get the Community Stabilization Project to help out (cracked window, etc.)

-I want to see you clean this because sometimes landlords us this to get rid of tenants

-I want to see orderly storage, not piles; vacuum; sweep

-we'll talk again Nov 6 LH; at some point, Ms. Shaff will get some fresh pictures; see how things are going; if they're not going well, we will figure out when you guys have to move but I don't want to do that

-there are chemicals in cat urine that are dangerous for people; there's bacteria from cat feces that's dangerous for people; you have compromised health & we're really concerned about that part in this whole equation

-talk with your family about the notes/pictures

-Ms. Shaff can talk to the landlord about the next inspection so that the landlord or representative could even be there so that we could show them what repairs they need to do, like the water pressure restored, handrail fixed, window replaced, etc.

Layover to November 6. Forthcoming recommendation, pending November 1, 2018 inspection.

Deadlines for reducing the volume of clutter and removal of cats are described in the photos given to Appellant and attached herein.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 11/6/2018

1:30 p.m. Hearings

Fire Certificates of Occupancy

- 32 [RLH FCO 18-178](#) Appeal of Kaojia Vang to a Correction Notice - Re-Inspection Complaint at 837 CASE AVENUE.

Sponsors: Bostrom

Kaojia Vang, owner, appeared.

Fire Supervisor A.J. Neis: Fire Certificate of Occupancy Correction Notice based on a complaint; it's the 2nd re-inspection issued by Fire Insp George Niemeyer Ms. Vang is requesting additional time; I'm not opposed to granting add'l time; however, I am especially concerned about the carport; I don't know if it will survive another winter

Ms. Moermond: puzzled by the Order on the carport roof but siding is also in poor condition

Mr. Neis: looks like the worst part is the roof

*Ms. Vang: the carport is gone now
-I'm asking for more time for the foundation repair; Insp recommended I appeal for more time; he wanted some extensive work done; when he emailed that to me on Oct 1, I immediately got bids; my first bid came back on Oct 4; I have been in contact with the inspector to see, if this was, in fact, what he was looking for as far as repairs of the foundation; he just got back to me on Mon saying that he spoke with my contractor about the permit, etc; and we are on the books for the repair to be done in Nov; so, I know that I need an extension*

Mr, Neis: I see no problem with that

Ms. Moermond: I will recommend that you get an extension to Jan 1, 2019

Grant an extension to January 1, 2019 for the foundation; remaining items will be inspected on October 30 at 11:30 a.m.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/14/2018

2:30 p.m. Hearings

Vacant Building Registrations

- 33** [RLH VBR 18-75](#) Appeal of Thomas Lieberman to a Vacant Building Registration Fee Warning Letter at 1519 MARSHALL AVENUE. (Legislative hearing on October 16)
- Sponsors:** Thao
- No one appeared.*
- Ms. Moermond: this property is in the Vacant Building Program because they were Revoked on Jul 31, 2018; they had roof, steps & south side walls to work on & they hadn't done that; hence, the Revocation of the Certificate of Occupancy -there are permits now to work on all of it; there was already a permit on the front steps & now there's permits for the other work but I'm looking for a definite date for that permit to be closed*
- Supervisor Rich Singerhouse, Vacant Buildings: and it is not yet closed*
- Ms. Moermond: I talked to Nate Bruhn about it; he said that the guy who pulled the stair permit called him & they discussed the matter; the guy told Mr. Bruhn, "Yes; I'm going to get this finalized;" so, they have until Nov 2, 2018 to get the permits finalized or they are in the VB Program*
- _____
- Grant until November 2, 2018 to get permit(s) finalized in order to be released from the Vacant Building Program.*
- Referred to the City Council due back on 10/17/2018**
- 34** [RLH TA 18-547](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1519 MARSHALL AVENUE. (File No. J1812E, Assessment No. 188324) (Legislative hearing on October 16)
- Sponsors:** Thao
- (No show)*
- There were 3 violations within the 12 months period and a PAEC was issued; therefore, Ms. Moermond recommends approval of the assessment.*
- Referred to the City Council due back on 10/17/2018**
- 35** [RLH VBR 18-79](#) Appeal of Lee Yang to a Vacant Building Registration Notice and Summary Abatement Order at 872 PAYNE AVENUE.
- Sponsors:** Bostrom
- Vacant building file closed and Fire inspector has given time for owner to come into compliance.*
- Withdrawn**

3:00 p.m. Hearings

- 36** [RLH RR 18-38](#) Ordering the rehabilitation or razing and removal of the structures at 610

SAINT ALBANS STREET NORTH within fifteen (15) days after the September 26, 2018 City Council public hearing. (Public hearing held September 26; laid over from October 10) (Amend to remove within 15 days)

Sponsors: Thao

Recommendation is forthcoming.

The appellants need to provide the following:

- 1) provide revised detailed work plan to include timelines for the rehab of both 610 St Albans Street North and 677 Thomas Ave and the demolition of the garage;*
- 2) provide revised electrical bids to include the cost to remove the garage service mast;*
- 3) Abdirazak Iddle to provide proof that one-third payment is made to McLemore Construction for the 610 St Albans no later than close of business on October 22nd;*
- 4) Abdirazak Iddle to escrow funds to complete the rehabilitation of 610 St Albans, two-thirds of project cost, by close of business on October 22nd;*
- 5) Ayan Askar to provide proof of \$25,000 payment is made to McLemore Construction for the 677 Thomas Ave no later than close of business on October 22nd; and,*
- 6) Ayan Askar to escrow funds to complete the rehabilitation of 677 Thomas Ave, estimated to be \$50,000 following the \$25,000 payment.*

Ayan Askar & her brother, Abdirazak Iddle, Hooyo Huno Housing LLC, owner, appeared.

Zachery Luckett, McLemore Construction Company, appeared.

Ms. Moermond: this parcel has 2 houses on it: a Category 2 & a Category 3 Vacant Building; and it has a garage that's dilapidated, as well; -I've heard different proposals from you, from the county, from BNC & from Mid Country – calling me up, giving me different versions of what your latest plans are, which gives me a very low level of faith that you have a plan; I need to have a sense that there is some coherence to this situation; I got a call yesterday from Ryan Thayer, Mid Country

Ms. Askar: there were a lot of different plans; originally, I was with BNC; things were going great until they found out that there's no way they'd get a deed for that house because there's a law prohibiting the sale of that house to anybody else because it's a Category 3 VB; although there are 2 houses on the parcel, as a mortgage, it's looked at as one; as a Cat 3, no bank will finance it without getting the items addressed first; therefore, Ryan, who had worked for BNC & that's how I met him, he left BNC because of the way they handled my situation; especially, when they dangled me along for 8 months; if I had known, I would have taken a different route; Ryan called me & said that we could do it, "Allow me to work with the City of Saint Paul & see what we can come up with;" I told him to go ahead; that's how Mid Country came in on it

Ms. Moermond: Ryan called me up & asked if we could bend the rules and allow for a transfer of a Category 3; I told him that we don't bend the rules on these things

Ms. Askar: *our original plan was to use our own money to bring it up to code (Cat 3 house); Ms. Kujala said fine*

Ms. Moermond: *I talked to Kris Kujala too & I also talked to Chris Samuel & you are well over 3 months passed the deadline that you were given by the county to do the rehab on this property; you're going to require an extension from them; they are watching us very carefully to make a decision about whether or not they're going to give an extension for this work*

Ms. Askar: *she said as long as we straighten out with the city, the city was our biggest problem right now*

Ms. Moermond: *right now, the extension from the county is an equally big problem as the Cat 3 status from the City of Saint Paul*

Ms. Askar: *Mr. Luckett will work closely with the city; he knows everyone; he'll pull all the permits; we'll give him half the money & he'll get to work right away; & we'll give him the other half later*

Ms. Moermond: *Kris Kujala noted that Mr. Luckett actually has another tax forfeited property that he's been working on that was a Cat 3*

Ms. Askar: *that's my other brother's house*

Mr. Luckett: *we are in completion on that house at 645 Lafond; we're getting ready to do the walk thru with Jim Seeger; I don't work with homeowners; I work with the city to get to code compliance; this house will be completed by the end of this week & then I'll get going on 677 Thomas & 610 St. Albans; I'm here to find out what necessary steps we need to take to make sure we do what's needed for the city, so that they know what they need to do as the owners of the property*

Ms. Moermond: *both I & Mr. Magner have reviewed the Work Plans & the financing; the main concern now is that we have a coherent set of plans that pertain exclusively to 610 St. Albans & that we had plans that covered both properties, in some cases, like your electrical bid that covered the entire scope; that doesn't help if we're just trying to evaluate the one property*

Steve Magner, Code Enforcement Manager: *from the last hearing (Appellant was not present), we had a Work Plan but I don't believe that I had all of the subcontractor bids; if the contractor could amend the Work Plan and specifically for 610, show us the subcontractor bids for electrical, plumbing & heating/mechanical*

Ms. Askar: *I emailed ____ & electrical ones to Ms. Moermond for both houses*

Mr. Luckett: *my electrician has not yet made it back over there to separate the bid but I can get it; there's been a lot of confusion, back & forth situation, especially, with the loan part – the financing*

Ms. Askar: *I acquired this property in Sep of last year, actually, in Jul but the people who were living there could not leave so I asked the county if they could help me – no one was able to help me; they finally got out in Oct 2017; I got the Code Compliance Application in right away; then, it was winter & there was no electrical, no heat & no water, so no one would go in & give me any bids because it was too dark; so I waited until spring & I got my bid in Apr; then, I applied for the loan with BNC & from Apr until*

2 weeks ago, I've been dealing with BNC; then, they told me that unfortunately, they could not go forward with the loan because it's a Category 3 VB; I wish they would have told me that in Apr; the neighbor outside asked what was going on – dealing with this project for so long; I told him the situation & he said, "You need to deal with Mr. Luckett; he knows what he's doing; go call him;" after I called him, he got the bids to me right away & then I went to the bank to deal with that; I also referred him to my other brother, who was rehabbing a Cat 3 on Lafond & now that house will be completed next week; the contractors we had been using weren't licensed contractors

Mr. Luckett: I work with the city; I don't work with homeowners; I make sure we have permits & I get everything approved; I don't believe in doing things against the law; Jim Seeger walks thru for the final; we get everything taken care of properly

Mr. Magner: I reviewed the plan; I just need to see the 3 subcontractors' bids

Ms. Moermond: I've got a mechanical bid & electrical bid that were sent in

Mr. Luckett: my plumbing & HVAC are the same company

Mr. Magner: I can look at those bids tomorrow; there has to be a funding source thru a bank that shows the money

Ms. Askar: I did that already

Ms. Moermond: because the funding has changed so frequently, I have a lowered level of confidence in the money being used for this purpose & the quality of the affidavit

Mr. Luckett: I have a question about the garage; it's too dangerous to even be sitting there; it really needs to be torn down, which would cost around \$2,000; the electrical mast is hooked on to the garage so my electrician will need to take a look at that; it needs to be moved – connected to the house

Mr. Magner: amend the electrical bid to include moving the mast & change the line item from repairing to razing the garage; there's no requirement to have that accessory structure

Ms. Moermond: liberally, add another \$3,000 to the total cost (from \$58,100 to \$61,100); Ms. Askar, the money you showed me was about \$67,000; I trust that the money is in this account right now but because of my past experience, I want the money escrowed – set up a specific fund to draw from for this project

Ms. Askar: with all due respect, I've already put \$75,000 into that house; (I already have \$100,000 in that house); I will not walk away
-we are doing St. Albans & Thomas simultaneously (the money for Thomas is coming from me)

-Kris Kujala said that if she sees permits pulled, contractors there, work getting done; that shows good faith

-right now, my concern is not banking anymore; I'm tired of banks; I should never have trusted them; they change their mind in mid-stream; from this experience, I will never repeat this ever again; my whole head is covered in gray; & not knowing the rules & regulations of the city – that's my fault; I learned a lot from this

Ms. Moermond: so you have in personal funds more than \$70,000 to finance just on your own, the work that needs to happen for the Thomas property?

Ms. Askar: yes; I get paid about \$25,000 a month; I get paid this Fri & I'm giving it to him; the first week of Nov, I'll give him another \$25,000

Ms. Moermond: the last piece of this puzzle is the land ownership; normally, people own the land or they're a bank & they'll be coming into possession of it thru foreclosure

Ms. Askar: I own it outright

Ms. Moermond: you have a Contract for Deed that is subject to cancellation tomorrow & you'd begin a 90-day clock because you haven't met the terms of the contract which were to have it rehabbed within 12 months of the county giving it back to the Jansens/Wenzels; you're already in the "red;" you don't have that contract to lean on now; we need to have the county extend the contract in order for you to have the ability to do this work; that will require setting clear expectations & that extension would happen on the same track as the city's; the city & the county want to move together on this, reinforcing each other

-Mr. Magner, looking at a 180-day grant of time, if the Council were to vote in 2 weeks from now to grant time, what kind of benchmarks would you think are reasonable?

Mr. Magner: it's probably more of a question to ask the Appellant because it seems like their plan was to rehabilitate the structures simultaneously;

-the Work Plan for 610 could be broken up into those benchmarks to establish that:

1) if that money is being escrowed; and 2) the benchmarks need to be made to continue to allow the time frame to stay in place based on the Extension of Contract for Ramsey County

-the contractor can go thru his bids & break down the work in 3 parts (let's say we're doing this in 90 days); the first 30 days: garage comes down; a new meter is hung; electric service is put into place; etc; then the next 30 days: X & X get done; the last 30 days: another set of work is done; final inspection; I think Mr. Luckett has more than enough experience knowing how this goes; there's kind of an industry standard -under Ordinance, the city has the ability to extend this out 180 days from the time the Performance Deposit is posted; it's a Council decision

Ms. Moermond: right now, I have 6 bullet points from Mr. Luckett outlining what his approach would be; he added a page onto the Construction Statement

-if both projects are going to done at the same time, what would your timeline look like? I need to see that plan; we're adding the demo of the garage & how you do 2 bldgs at once; it's greater volume & slower timelines, right?

Mr. Luckett: it's greater volume but & necessarily slower time; I have a pool of subs that have been working for me for quite some time; we move around; me & my subs work together to meet the city code

Mr. Magner: Supervisor Matt Dornfeld went out there today & he indicated to me that both buildings were open

Mr. Luckett: it's almost impossible to keep people out of there until the building has workers working in it; it's a place to lay their head; I know that once we get in there, that will help

Ms. Askar: Joe Yannarely goes out there, he calls me sometime and says, "I just want to let you know we're going to charge you again if you don't take care of it;" I said, "we just took care of it;" they'll take the boards down, break the window, bring in

a space heater, clothes, etc; one day we had to call 911 because there was a half dead girl & she had the space heater so close that her hair were almost catching fire; I called the police one time when I was mowing the lawn there; 2 people just walked right out of the bldg.; I said, "Excuse me! What are you doing here?" They said, "We're just trying to find a place to sleep;" I called the police many times & no matter what I do to board it, they open it

Mr. Lockett: this place seems to be the meeting grounds for squatters
-cameras will go in once we have electricity

Mr. Magner: specifically, in these situations, you need to establish a change of atmosphere; bring in dumpsters; put up signage: Keep Out; No Trespassing; Under Surveillance; install some kind of security;
squattling usually stops once there's some rehab going on

Mr. Lockett: they'll take off the signs

Ms. Moermond: maybe we should look at a benchmark & put in the Work Plan installing some security cameras once the electrical is re-established so that you can be notified quickly of a breach

-St. Albans – Ayan's money (showing me \$67,000; we're estimating \$61,000)

-Thomas – Abdirazak Iddle's money (Wells Fargo & US Bank)

-I would like to see Mr. Iddle pay the third beforehand; that could come out of US Bank account & you could ask Wells Fargo to escrow \$40,000

Ms. Askar, you're going to pay Mr. Lockett \$25,000 (the first 3rd of the work for St. Albans) & within 12 weeks, you will prove that you have the money in escrow or have him paid

-we need a new Work Plan with timelines from Mr. Lockett for the entire project (adding demo)

-we have a Sworn Construction Statement for the whole project; we don't have a schedule for the whole thing

-we have the electrical subcontractor bid which covers both; put a timeline to the existing plan

Mr. Magner: if the electrician is going to amend it to include moving the meter socket; I think you should just split the two & call it good (Mr. Lockett agreed)

Ms. Moermond: asked how long will St. Albans take?

Mr. Lockett: 90 days

Ms. Moermond: this will be at Council Oct 24, 2018 so, there will be 5 months left on that performance deposit; so, get the Code Compliance Certificate before that 5th month is over; draw up a schedule that accomplishes that

-I need documentation that you made a payment to McLemore Construction

-we will deliver these details to the county so that they can attach it to an extension on your Contract; you'd be held accountable there & you're being held accountable here

-show me that you made the \$25,000 payment Fri or Mon (no later than Mon Oct 22)

-Mr. Lockett, you can get me a revised detailed schedule over the next few days & a new electrical bid

-Mr. Abdirazak, I think that it would be reasonable that you'd give payment a couple of days before the Council vote & have the rest escrowed with Wells Fargo; show me documentation no later than Mon Oct 22

- the same for the Thomas property (show me no later than Mon Oct 22)
 - we will share all that with the county
 - Ms. Askar, within 12 weeks, you will demonstrate that you have the rest of the money (paid or escrowed)
 - you'll all have the same deadline: Oct 22, 2018
-

The appellants need to provide the following:

- 1) provide revised detailed work plan to include timelines for the rehab of both 610 St Albans Street North and 677 Thomas Ave and the demolition of the garage;
- 2) provide revised electrical bids to include the cost to remove the garage service mast;
- 3) Abdirazak Iddle to provide proof that one-third payment is made to McLemore Construction for the 610 St. Albans no later than close of business on October 22nd;
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- 5) Ayan Askar to provide proof of \$25,000 payment made to McLemore Construction for the 677 Thomas Ave no later than close of business on October 22nd; and,
- 6) Ayan Askar to escrow funds to complete the rehabilitation of 677 Thomas Ave, estimated to be \$50,000 following the \$25,000 payment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 10/24/2018