



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

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651-266-8585

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House

Special Tax Assessments

9:00 a.m. Hearings

- 1 **RLH TA 19-293** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 697
COOK AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1915A, Assessment No. 198529)

Sponsors: Busuri

Approve the assessment

Dan Mattila appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$400

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$562

Gold Card Returned by: Dan Mattila

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Garbage/Rubbish

Date of Orders: 12/24/18

Compliance Date: 12/31/18

Re-Check Date: 12/31/18

Date Work Done: 1/2/19

Work Order #: 18-134789

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: many

*Since then we've had Feb 1 orders on garbage, Mar 5, Mar 18, and again Apr 4, 2019.
All to deal with garbage.*

Lisa Martin, Staff:

We've had three clean-ups within the last 12 months.

Moermond:

When you say clean-ups, you mean work orders?

Martin:
Yes.

Moermond:
Let's see the video.

[video]
[this is the work order for 697 Cook Ave E, calls for emptying the overflowing trash containers, excessive debris around the trash containers, styrofoam, cardboard and trashbags.]

[this is the completion video for 697 Cook Ave E. As you can see, the trash containers have been emptied. All the debris around has been picked up and disposed of properly.]

Moermond:
Was this a summary abatement order which included a photo of the area?

Seeley:
Yes.

Moermond:
Do you want to bring that up? The actual description ...

Seeley:
Overflowing trash containers and debris nearby.

Moermond:
The photograph shows all of the material on the right hand side of the container and the fence was still there and it looks like the garbage containers had been emptied and perhaps refilled. Because they are even more material in the photograph. Mr. Mattila, you are appealing this assessment, can you tell me why and what you are looking for today?

Dan Mattila
I am a maintenance tech that actually works with the property. I started it around March so I can't answer before me. I know we've had trouble with the...whenever the trash switched over from private to City, the can size was reduced. Since then, it's been problems. The trash fills up really quickly. I'm just giving you some of the reasons behind it. I think some of it is the residents don't understand and this isn't your fault, Doug. They don't understand what goes in recycling and what goes in the trash. I've also heard from the previous maintenance tech that the resident that lives nearby there has some sort of a feud with the people that live there and calls on every little thing that she sees even if it's one thing outside of a can. That's all I needed to say about that.

Moermond:
Do you work with Premier Management or BB Housing?

Matilla:
I work for Premier Management.

Moermond:

You guys can select the size of can. That was the choice of the owner at the very beginning, to go with that size can.

Matilla:

I don't know anything about it. I know I am calling the trash company and trying to upgrade the sizes as I see that they are too small. I'm just responding to what I see for March. I've been going by there since Jessica asked me to go by two times a week. She's Premier. She's my boss. We are trying to get on top of it and if the residents are not responsible, we are going to hold them responsible for what they are doing, just throwing trash out there. But I personally have hauled away two or three loads in the last couple weeks. We are trying to get on top of this problem.

Moermond:

How many units?

Matilla:

Just two units. A house with two units.

Paula Seeley:

That's right near my area so I always go down Prior, it's a less restrictive street. But it is ongoing and it is your tenants. There's Rubbermaid tubs of trash and I keep going back and thinking they'll remove it. The other day I stopped and this woman was breaking up a bunch of Styrofoam and putting it in recycling and I said that's why they are not taking that; you can't put that in there. That was two weeks ago.

Matilla:

I personally pulled out all sorts of Styrofoam out of recycling last time I was there. I had two big bags I had to throw in the back of my truck. Between Jessica and myself, we are trying to get on top of it. I realize it's been a problem.

Moermond:

Is Premier Management new to this property?

Matilla:

No. We changed, before there's been different managers. That's been part of the problem. There's been turnover lately and I don't think the manager stayed on top of it. I won't know what to do unless I'm told hey we got an abatement order, you got to go out there and pick this up, if I'm not told, I don't even know about it. From this point on, though, I'm going there twice a week.

Seeley:

The [inaudible] will be forthcoming, I think.

Moermond:

I'm going to recommend approval of the assessment as it's written. I might be more flexible in other circumstances, but, as I look at the history, I see four issues during the course of 2017 and seven different issues during the course of 2018, and now we're up to four issues in 2019. That tells me what the City is doing is not having an effect on behavior. Maybe paying some of these bills will. I'm going to recommend approval.

Matilla:

I'm just trying to say, that from this point on...we're trying to get on top of it and we are on top of it now.

Moermond:

Good. I have to say April 4, 2019, being the last time you had orders written is not a good thing as you sit here and we are in the month of April.

Matilla:

There's one on April 4. Wow.

Moermond:

One in February, two in March, one in April, problems right up to the present. If someone is calling is every little thing, this wasn't little, this was a lot of stuff. It is a chronic problem.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 2 RLH TA 19-238** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1189 COOK AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1915A, Assessment No. 198529)

Sponsors: Busuri

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 3 RLH TA 19-223** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1193 COOK AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1915A, Assessment No. 198529)

Sponsors: Busuri

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 4 RLH TA 19-186** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1354 DALE STREET NORTH. (File No. J1915A , Assessment No. 198529)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Adam Valine appeared.

Inspector Lisa Martin, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$160

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$322

Gold Card Returned by: ADAM VALINE

Type of Order/Fee: SNOW ORDER

Nuisance: FAILURE TO REMOVE SNOW/ICE FROM SIDEWALK

Date of Orders: 1-3-19

Compliance Date: 1-6-19

Re-Check Date: 1-9-19

Date Work Done: 1-10-19

Work Order #: 19-002438

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: NO

Moermond:

You are appealing this. Can you tell me why and what are you looking for today?

Adam Valine:

[inaudible] timeline of it and what was transpiring. With all the snow and I am a pretty diligent shoveler. I work later hours, my shoveling is usually in the evenings, but from everything I could see, there was no shoveling. Sometimes me and my neighbor switch off. So, I actually didn't see anyone do any snow removal and I am surprised. I am a pretty diligent shoveler, so...

Moermond:

We can look at the video and I want to do that. I have a photograph taken by staff January 9 with a lot of ice buildup on your sidewalk. When I look at the snowfall in the Twin Cities, the last significant snowfall was Dec 26-27. What we are looking at is ice remaining after that event. Let's look at the video.

[video]

[This is a work order for 1354 Dale St N. Snow removal and ice on the sidewalk.]

Moermond:

That looked like an inch of ice.

[video]

[this is the completion video for 1354 Dale St.N Called for the removal of ice from sidewalk. We got as much ice off as possible and salted and sanded as needed.]

Moermond:

I don't know if that would have come up because of melting snow going down the incline there or what happens there.

Valine:

There's a slight incline there. All the neighbors [inaudible] I guess I don't understand [inaudible] ice.

Moermond:

Is there a history of orders on this property?

Martin:

Clean record.

Moermond:

You know what the score is now. How long have you lived here?

Valine:

Almost three years.

Moermond:

Moving forward, you know about the ice. If you have no same or similar, I'm going to recommend that this gets reduced because you have a good record of taking care of things. We will get you down to \$100, if you have no same or similar violations through October 9. This will go in front of the Council June 5 and then I will ask they continue it to October 9. On October 9, I will reduce it if there's no same or similar.

Recommendation: Public hearing continued to October 9 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$322 to \$100.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 5 **RLH TA 19-301** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 722 MAGNOLIA AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1915A, Assessment No. 198529)

Sponsors: Busuri

Delete assessment. Orders went to wrong property.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 6 **RLH TA 19-285** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 602 MINNEHAHA AVENUE WEST (File No. J1915A, Assessment No. 198529)

Sponsors: Thao

Delete; inspector error.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 7 [RLH TA 19-176](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1467 SEVENTH STREET EAST. (File No. J1906B, Assessment No. 198105) (Legislative Hearing on April 16)

Sponsors: Busuri

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/17/2019

- 8 [RLH TA 19-292](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 693 SIMON AVENUE. (File No. J1915A, Assessment No. 198529)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Rescheduled to May 21, 2019 @ 10 a.m. (Owner missed hearing and came to office to reschedule)

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 5/21/2019

10:00 a.m. Hearings

- 9 **RLH TA 19-249** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 986 BURR STREET. (File No. J1916A, Assessment No. 198534)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 10 RLH TA 19-189 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 966 CENTRAL AVENUE WEST. (File No. J1916A, Assessment No. 198534)

Sponsors: Thao

Public hearing continued to October 9 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$242 to \$80.

Ermian Mekonnen appeared.

Lisa Martin, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$80

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$242

Gold Card Returned by: ERMIAS MEKONNEN

Type of Order/Fee: SNOW ORDER

Nuisance: FAILURE TO REMOVE SNOW FROM SIDEWALK

Date of Orders: 1-3-19

Compliance Date: 1-6-19

Re-Check Date: 1-11-19

Date Work Done: 1-14-19

Work Order #: 19-002983

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 5-11-18 SNOW ORDER, 2-5-19 SA AND WORK ORDER

Moermond:

Let's take a look at the video.

[video]

Work order for 966 Central Ave W calls for the removal of ice from sidewalk.

This is the completion video for 966 Central Ave W. Removed ice and snow, salted and sanded it.

Moermond:

Can you tell me what you are looking for today?

Ermian Mekonnen:

The house is under construction. There is no grass or something because we want go to the spring now. So, anytime it is melted, it goes down. Anytime it freezes during that period, it turn to ice. So we remove the snows and I don't know, last two years, mattresses and everything I move. Come here is not going to solve any problems. We moved it, but it melts right away because it is close to the sidewalk and there is no grass yet.

Moermond:

It looks like if you would have taken steps when you got the order that was mailed on the 3rd, the crew didn't show up until the 14th. There were some warm days in there. If you had put salt down, it would have addressed the problem.

Mekonnen:

So, what happens when it melts and whatever is in the yard...

Moermond:

Yes, I understand gravity.

Mekonnen:

Yes. You have to keep up with it. I took a bunch of pictures when we removed it. We were working on it.

Moermond:

You have pictures you want to show me?

Mekonnen:

We removed it and we took the pictures. Next door is a vacant building, too. It's melting onto that side all the time. [shows pictures to Ms. Moermond]

Moermond:

Do you have a date when that was taken?

Mekonnen:

Says March.

Moermond:

There was plenty of snow in March.

Mekonnen:

We keep trying to move it but the thing in the middle is building a dam and there was no grass to hold the water from going to the sidewalk.

Moermond:

Well, it looked the entire front yard, the sidewalk, and the right of way is all ice. It also looks like everybody else on the street had taken care of their ice. Properties on either side of you didn't have that problem.

Mekonnen:

Because my side, there was no grass.

Moermond:

You are responsible for that ice.

Mekonnen:

I am OK with this one. Actually I came for the mattress. I think I have almost \$2000 in [inaudible]

Moermond:

Mattress?

Mekonnen:

Mattress was removed by the City.

Moermond:
That happened in February.

Martin:
That's another Summary Abatement.

Mekonnen:
It was stuck and I was unable to remove it. Before that I removed every one of them. Every month, they would dump stuff on the yard. With this organized garbage collection, this was supposed to be taken care of.

Moermond:
Well, you have to call and let them know you want them to pick up a bulky item.

Mekonnen:
So I am supposed to call them when that happens? I didn't know how it was supposed to work.

Moermond:
If you have a couch, a mattress, whatever it might be, you would be responsible for calling the garbage hauler and saying I would like you to pick up a bulky item and they would pick up a couple...I don't know if this is a single family home or a duplex.

Mekonnen:
Single family.

Moermond:
Depending on the size of your garbage cart, they will pick up different numbers of bulky items. That is something that would be available to you. I don't know if you have current garbage service or if you are a vacant building.

Mekonnen:
I'm paying for that. The thing of that is every month I get 10, 15 mattresses. I remove them because I have no choice.

Moermond:
Yes. They are not going to pick up that many.

Mekonnen:
I took a picture once when the guy dumped. I took it to police and police say I have to catch them during the action. So, that's the thing. So that means I have to sit there and wait for these people? I don't know.

Moermond:
Do you have a trailer? I am looking at a trailer in the back that is full of stuff.

Mekonnen:
The house is under construction. He was working on the house.

Moermond:
If you stay on top of this, I will do the same thing I did with the previous case and say if you don't have any same or similar violations through Oct 9, I will cut it down to \$80.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

11 RLH TA 19-187 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 767 ROBERT STREET SOUTH. (File No. J1916A, Assessment No. 198534)

Sponsors: Noecker

Bhargav Gangadhara appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$414

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$576

Gold Card Returned by: BHARAGAV GANGADHARA

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY

Date of Orders: 1-8-19

Compliance Date: 1-15-19

Re-Check Date: 1-15-19

Date Work Done: 1-17-19

Work Order #: 19-003782

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 12-19-18 SA, 1-4-19 SNOW ORDER BUT DONE BY OWNER, 1-10-19 VEHICLE, 1-23-19 SA

Moermond:

Let's take a look at the video.

[video]

Work order for 767 Robert Street South for picking up TV, [inaudible] from the fire pit, and improperly stored garbage in the back, improperly stored material [inaudible] a couple of mattresses, TV stands, fire pit with chairs in it. Appears to be a TV hanging up against the back wall of the adjoining property.

This is the completion video for 767 Robert Street South. We have removed the garbage bags and trash from the front by the staircase. The order called for removal of improperly stored furniture from the backyard and fire pit and TV in the fire pit. All has been removed and disposed of properly.

Moermond:

Mr. Gangadhara, you are appealing this proposed assessment for your taxes. Can you tell me why and what you are looking for today?

Bhargav Gangadhara:

I thought I removed them but I see the video and [inaudible] so I go ahead and pay for it. I thought I got them removed but I got three of them and I paid them and I got most of the stuff removed. It seems like they've done some kind of work. I don't know. I was there. I didn't know this was done by them.

Moermond:

What are the individual charges within this?

Seeley:

It is \$414 for the Summary Abatement. The administrative fee is \$162. Breakdown, mattress fee \$20, TV \$50, general refuse \$84, Code Enforcement Fee \$162,

Abatement Fee \$260.

Moermond:

I don't see the mattresses in the original order.

Lisa Martin, Staff:

If you look at the blanket order, it covers that.

Moermond:

If you would have been out there to take care of the one thing, the others would have been addressed at the same time. I was trying to find a way that maybe it could be decreased a little bit, but I don't think I can.

Gangadhara:

I go ask the guys who said they did the work for me.

Moermond:

We can email you the video.

Gangadhara:

That would be helpful, yes.

Approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 12 RLH TA 19-284** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 834 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. J1916A, Assessment No. 198534)

Sponsors: Thao

Michael Carvale appeared.

Lisa Martin, Staff.

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$80

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$242

Gold Card Returned by: Michael Carvale

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement

Nuisance: Failure to remove snow and ice

Date of Orders: 1-4-19

Compliance Date: 1-9-19

Re-Check Date: 1-11-19

Date Work Done: 1-14-19

Work Order #: 19-002976

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 3/19 Glass in alley, 6/18 Dumping, 3/16 Garbage, 2/15 Garbage/Work Order

Moermond:

There was no snow or ice that arrived prior to Jan 14, the only accumulation didn't happen until Jan 22. The snow would have arrived Dec 26-7.

[video]

Work order for 834 Thomas Ave. Calls for removal of ice front sidewalk.

This is the completed work order for 834 Thomas Ave. Ice has been removed from front to the best of our ability. Salted and sanded.

Michael Carvale:

I never got a notice to clean that up. And since I park in the back, I never go out there. Had I gotten a notice, I would have done it. The idea of getting charged \$260 for some sand is kinda ridiculous, I think. I thought it was an order for back dumping, that was why I was so confused. Which happens a lot in that area. I never got a notice to clean the ice. I have roommates. I just assumed that one of us did it. Because I never go out there.

Moermond:

Do you have returned mail?

Martin:

No.

Carvale:

I really got zero notice.

Moermond:

I hear you. I know the City's obligation is to send it to you via First Class mail. I'm seeing a history of problems at your property with needing to have orders written in order to have things taken care of, which doesn't speak well on your behalf. And not going out the front of your house, well, if I am your neighbor and walking to the bus and breaking my ankle, I...

Carvale:

That's true.

Moermond:

That doesn't take away the responsibility that you have. Now, where am I at with your statement? I'm not sure. What do you want to say?

Carvale:

I've lived there for 14 years. This is the second time I'm here. The first time I was here was four years ago. Someone dumped TVs in the alleyway, in between my neighbor's house and my house. Given my past, I am a good neighbor. I take care of my house and my property. This is my first not putting sand on the sidewalk.

Moermons:

Can you tell me if we've had any...

Carvale:

I've been given a phone number when I was here four years ago, because there was a lot of dumping. I believe I talked to you and you cut me a big break because you understood about the frozen TVs and the alley dumping. I've called that number

several times for dumping in the alley in front of my garage and my neighbors' garages. I would have easily cleaned that up if I had known. It is my fault, though, it is my property and I do have neighbors who walk there but, given the price...

Moermond:

What's the dumping situation now that we have organized hauling.

Carvale:

Nothing in front of my house. There was some last summer that I called the City about and they came and took it away. The alley is pretty bad for dumping. A lot of mattresses. A lot of old electronics. The last year and a half has been getting a little worse. My roommate had his car stolen twice in two months. Hopefully, the neighborhood is getting better.

Seeley:

I see you've cleaned it up twice. Once, in the alley, and the other was for dumping. The other one was an order way back in '16 where Inspector Gavin...it was a [inaudible]

Carvale:

It was like two frozen TVs stuck in ice. I assumed it was my neighbor's because we share the space where our garbage cans go.

Moermond:

It really wasn't done. I hear you have a house full of people. I hear you don't go to the front yard to just check on things or observe what's going on there. I get that you have dumping. What I normally like to do in circumstances like this is to say, if you don't have any same or similar violations within a particular time period, I would be able to reduce it. That's what I am inclined to do. I'm trying to figure how to deal best with the dumping circumstance. If it's dumped on your property, it's like being caught in a wicked game of musical chairs. You are the last one holding it.

Carvale:

The back dumping is not a problem now, because I have that phone number. The City's been great. And it's not like just in my area, one time we were driving back in there and there was a mattress where no cars could get through. So, I called and they came and took it away. Now that I have the phone number, it's great.

Moermond:

I'm going to recommend that we cut this down to the original cost of \$80 if you don't have any same or similar violations through Oct 9, 2019.

Public hearing continued to October 9 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$242 to \$80.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

13 RLH TA 19-283 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1077 YORK AVENUE (File No. J1916A, Assessment No. 198534)

Sponsors: Busuri

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

Assessment Rolls

- 14 **RLH AR 19-31** Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up during January 2 to 11, 2019. (File No. J1915A, Assessment No. 198529)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 15 **RLH AR 19-32** Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up during January 14 to 29, 2019. (File No. J1916A, Assessment No. 198534)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

11:00 a.m. Hearings

Summary Abatement Orders

- 16 [RLH SAO 19-27](#) Appeal of Dolores Jacobson to a Summary Abatement Order at 1621 ARCADE STREET.

Sponsors: Busuri

Recommends the following: 1) grant an extension of 90 days for the removal or repair of the garage, if within the next 7 days the garage is stabilized under permit to prevent it from collapsing, or in the alternative 2) grant to April 26, 2019 for the removal of the garage

Dolores Jacobsen appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

I sent the orders on March 25 and gave you until April 4 to obtain a building permit to remove the garage and the contents or rebuild the garage.

Dolores Jacobsen:

Oh. My son was just going to tear the whole thing down and

Seeley:

He can do that.

Jacobsen:

Leave it blank until we can get enough money to put it back up again.

Seeley:

What is your son's name?

Jacobsen:

Michale Dean Jacobsen. It's so old and my son said it's better to tear it down because of the shape that it is in.

Seeley:

How much debris is in the garage?

Jacobsen:

He has some antique bicycles, an aluminum boat, and a grass cutter tractor. And on the right, there will be some tools, shovels, and picks, and stuff.

Moermond:

Your son, Michael, is helping out and he's got things stored in there. He wants to get them out. Does he have someplace to bring them to?

Jacobsen:

He has called one friend. We have a 28 foot ladder that has to come out of there that he has to send down to his friend's house. He was in the contracting business at one time but he's not in it anymore. He was just going to demolish the whole thing and clean it up so it's all nice and clean. Until he could get enough money to put another little, what do you call those little, he had a name for a little shed or something that you put in there according to what the City allows you...

Moermond:

I'm concerned about the structure that is left being weak, because the way buildings are built is that the roof and the trusses support the walls and hold them in place. It becomes unstable when that roof is collapsed. I'm not crazy about the idea of him working around walls that may collapse, unless he is a professional.

Jacobsen:

Like I say, he has redone homes. There's a home in Stillwater on the historical list that he did, so he knows exactly what to do. He has the knowledge of support and keeping walls straight, putting steel beams in houses. He knows about all of that stuff. And he does have people. And he has had back surgery now. That's why we are asking for the time.

Moermond:

I'm really nervous about giving the time. We are inside the City here and there's kids and other people who might want to steal some of bikes and go in there and move boards around and ...

Jacobsen:

This is all wood, all the way around. And one door is on this side and everything is locked up tight and he talked to an...

Moermond:

Insofar as the walls continue to stand.

Jacobsen:

Yes. They should be.

Moermond:

We don't know that. Without a roof on the building, we can't rely on it continuing to stand.

Jacobsen:
The roof is pretty well down inside there.

Moermond:
Exactly. The picture they took for me...

Jacobsen:
One of the inspectors spoke to me about putting a brace or something there so it won't cave in. He knows about that.

Moermond:
I don't like the idea of waiting very long on this.

Jacobsen:
Waiting at the back to get a loan... at Alliance Bank

Moermond:
How much do you think it will cost? Did you talk to a contractor to find out how much it would cost to demolish the garage? Or are you talking about how much to rebuild a new one?

Jacobsen:
No. We won't...he'll be the one that does it because he knows who to hire and who to do the job. He's worked with the inspectors here in the City. So, he does know what he is doing.

Moermond:
Just looking at this, it's probably between \$1500 and \$2500 to remove the garage.

Seeley:
That's about right, just the garage itself.

Moermond:
Let's say it's \$2500, the City has the ability to make that payable over five years at less than 4% interest. That option might be better than the bank could do. That's \$500 a year on your property tax bill, \$250 per half year.

Jacobsen:
There's a place where you can call and get the things to put the lumber and that stuff in. To haul away. He was starting to check on that but he's been having some problems with his back and he hasn't gotten all that done yet.

Moermond:
It's going to be hard for him to do it himself.

Jacobsen:
Yes. He's got people he knows that he can hire that are trustworthy.

Moermond:
But he hasn't done that yet.

Jacobsen:
No. Because the weather is one thing that's given us trouble, too.

Moermond:

I was concerned about this building because of the high winds we just had. Without support, those four walls are subject to failing in higher winds. This is a lot to deal with, but I think it's a manageable amount. He doesn't have a contractor yet and the order was issued at the end of March.

Jacobsen:

I didn't get a letter about that or anything. I only got this letter.

Moermond:

How did you find out about the order, then?

Jacobsen:

This is all I had.

Moermond:

You got this in the mail. That's your appeal form.

Jacobsen:

I already paid for that. He wanted 90 days because by that time things should be... he's going to get it as fast as he can get it down.

Moermond:

The only way I will give 90 days, is if he puts in diagonal supports within a week.

Jacobsen:

What are diagonal supports?

Moermond:

Bracing the corners, so it's not subject to failure.

Jacobsen:

You don't have a phone that I could call...I'll have to go home and tell

Moermond:

I'm concerned about getting this stabilized. I can give you more time if it's stable. It's not a safe circumstance right now. I know he wants his property out of it. I'm willing to go longer; I just need to know the structure will be safe.

Jacobsen:

It would be one week to stabilize the four corners of the garage?

Moermond:

Yes. And have it looked at by a building inspector.

Seeley:

[inaudible] pushed and pushed on the walls. My concern is [inaudible] getting that stuff out of there. That [inaudible] walls still there.

Jacobsen:

What should I do?

Moermond:

I can't tell you what to do. I can tell you your son can take some steps to deal with this. If the City does it, what I'd like to do is set a deadline and say, if you don't have it braced and stable within a week, the City will initiate proceedings to demolish the building. We can ask our demolition contractor to leave behind the contents.

If he can stabilize the walls and a building inspector approves, then 90 days seems like a reasonable period of time.

Jacobsen:

Can you write that on a piece of paper that when he has to call you and I'll go home and tell him what you said then? Do I have to come back here again?

Moermond:

The worst that will happen is the City takes it down and the bill will be \$1500 to \$2500 and the City can finance it over a period of time for you. That is not a terrible outcome.

Jacobsen:

If I got the loan through the bank, I could hire my own contractors?

Moermond:

Which may or may not be cheaper than the City. The City would use a demolition contractor. I can't guarantee the cost, that is a ballpark. Both of these ladies have 20 years experience and they are agreeing. I actually think it's a bigger deal to deal with the contents of the garage. They are already in the elements. If you don't get it stabilized, it will be down by about April 29. They will haul away the debris and leave the things that are of value.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/24/2019

- 17 [RLH SAO 19-14](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 1030 CASE AVENUE in Council File RLH SAO 19-10.

Sponsors: Busuri

Nuisance condition is not abated. DSI to proceed with the nuisance abatement.

Referred to the City Council due back on 4/24/2019

- 18 [RLH SAO 19-25](#) Appeal of Dolly J. Coleman to a Summary Abatement Order at 918 EDMUND AVENUE.

Sponsors: Thao

Appeal withdrawn. Public Works has picked up the illegal dumping at the back of the property.

Appellant called our office and stated issue is resolved.

Withdrawn

- 19 [RLH SAO 19-28](#) Appeal of Muhammad Y. Ahmadi to a Summary Abatement Order at 791 YORK AVENUE.

Sponsors: Busuri

Recommendation is forthcoming.

Muhammad Y. Ahmadi and Soraya Ahmadi appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

..Date/Time of 1st LH: Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 11:00 a.m.

..Purpose of Appeal: I am appealing the order to remove improper garbage, rubbish, and household materials which are not mine. (paraphrased)

..Date of Order(s) Under Appeal: April 3, 2019

..Inspector/Key Staff: Sareen Earm

..Legislative Hearing Staff Comments: Included in appeal are copies of mail from another address that appellant found in his trash.

791 York is a large vacant lot. the alley behind is unapproved and unassessed. [Ms. Seeley shows Ms. Moermond an aerial view of the property.] People have in the past, just come down here and dump. [inaudible] all the trash containers, chairs, mattresses [inaudible] but he's responsible.

Moermond:

Ms. Vang, could you enlarge the alley area. That's the area behind your property. Is your house 783?

Mr. Admadi:

It's actually a double lot. There was nothing in there. We purchased that.

Moermond:

Oh, you just own it. You don't live next door to it.

Mr. Ahmadi:

No. We were looking at our financial ways to [inaudible] build a house there. I'm on the process then. At the same time I purchase that, there was a [inaudible] out there. When we look at it before we purchased it. The previous owner said he was going to clean that up when we purchased it. After that, he came and took all that stuff out there. I came and check on the property regularly and I put a lock on the front gate and in the back and secured that. There was some brushes out there. I trimmed all that out. I start cleaning. I see people throwing garbage out there. There was a [inaudible] on my side of the property if you look at it from the alley. Across from me is a neighbor and I investigate that one, 798 Sims Ave, which is owned by somebody lives in 75 Windwood. Several times I made a phone call but didn't get an answer. I didn't go there. The garbage was not supposed to be on my side of the property. The alley is really dead-end. There is no way to cross. It stops there.

The people right across from my property, I'm not saying what type of individual they are, but I see it's very nasty stuff that's supposed to be on their side of the property. I took a picture of the garbage and it shows these debris laying against my fence. Their household garbage is leaning against my...

Moermond:

Is the fence on the property line, excluding the right of way? Ms. Seeley?

Seeley:

Yes.

Mr. Ahmadi:

Several times I see the garbage. I never met these people. My sign was disappear. I put there "No Dumping" and "No Trespassing." I had three signs there and in a week or so, they was gone. There's one left. Somebody literally grabs it and tear it up. I don't know, there was Somali peoples on that right side. We asked them about it. They said as far as we understand there's nobody bringing their garbage and dumping it here. We can probably see them. Their side is really clean. But whatever is pushing that across the alley and putting it against my fence. I called the City, it's hard to get an answer on the phone. I didn't put that on the record. They give me a number to call that they going to come up there. That's the City's problem, they going to come and solve that.

Moermond:

One of the things you attached to your appeal was information about what was in the garbage bags.

Mr. Ahmadi:

These are the addresses I found which is not supposed to be in my side of the property.

Seeley:

I asked the Inspector about 798, was there trash and litter there. She said no. There was some trash at 899 Sims, directly across the [inaudible] further down.

Moermond:

They found actual envelopes with addresses in the garbage bags against their fence. So, the garbage originated at 798 Sims and we have the envelopes to show it. Should the police be involved in writing a citation for dumping?

Seeley:

Police will not do anything for dumping. Unless it's huge bag of garbage.

Moermond:

This is a lot of stuff. Does a Code Enforcement officer do...

Seeley:

No. We get calls weekly, saying the neighbors put garbage, I have a piece of mail. We can't do anything about it. We didn't see it. We can't go knock and accuse somebody, hey this guy said got a piece of paper and showed me. They could say, well I had my nephew, or my son, take out the garbage. They could have set the garbage on the side of the container, which they can now, and a piece of mail blew out of the container. [inaudible] the police don't want to get involved. We can't. As much as I'd love to [inaudible].

Moermond:

It seems like, if they have garbage bags with the addresses within the garbage bag, that's always what we asked for. And if the police aren't doing anything with it, we have a public responsibility. I think the police should be called out there to look at it and ... this is not rocket science.

Seeley:

You may want to talk to Mr. Magner because we put in several complaints with the police. Maybe one time in my 23 years have they actually knocked on doors...they say they don't have time.

Lisa Martin, Staff:

On the west side, we have officers that are assigned to us when we get these types of calls and they will go over and knock on the door, have a chat with them. A couple of times, people have actually crossed the alley and brought their bags back.

Seeley:

I don't have any officers over there [inaudible]

Moermond:

Who do you have on the east side?

Seeley:

Chris Hansen and [inaudible] We have several complaints that come in. Dumping. Call police. Have surveillance camera. We say, but we didn't see it. Right now I have a conversation with somebody this morning.

Moermond:

I'm not happy with that. I don't think we are doing a service.

Seeley:

I think the service would be to see if Public Works. The majority of this is in front of that guard rail. You can see the metal guard rail in the pictures where the mattress and stuff is.

Mr. Ahmadi:

A couch, a mattress, and toys.

Seeley:

Somehow these cans get emptied. I can call Chris Swanson and tell him to go over there and get them out of there. Otherwise we have to send orders to the owner of the property and tell him to empty them and then I can call.

Mr. Ahmadi:

As a matter of fact, I cleaned that twice. A couple neighbors saw me when I was there, picking it up and putting it in the trunk of my car because I don't have a truck. I did my responsibility to that. I'm not putting pressure on the City because I don't know what the City is going to do. If I lived there, I would be in control of that, but the fence, these addresses coming out of this bag which is not supposed to be on the side of the fence. I took that because of the evidence on this point. Whoever lives in this house, manage it by 75 Windwood, West St Paul. I didn't go there. I called there; no one answered the phone. I saw the City was sending me a letter to start cleaning that up.

Moermond:

When did you buy it?

Mr. Ahmadi:

I think last October. It was governor's property back in 1870. I like that area, but I don't know. In my opinion, I done my responsibility. I clean it twice. And a week later, I was truck driver, over the road, and my wife called me and said there's people putting couch in there, toys. I say I see what I can do when I get home. I didn't have exact phone number. I don't know if City is going to come out and clean it or if we have to find some solution for the future to stop it. I see there's people in that address their garbage is supposed to be on your side of the property, not on my side and

dumped there.

Ms. Ahmadi:

I'm supposed to work today but I take the day off to come here and find out why this is happening.

Moermond:

Have you had problems consistently through the winter? Or is this a new thing now in the spring?

Ms. Ahmadi:

Yes. It was still through the winter. It was frozen and I had to scrape things out. Through the winter and through today.

Mr. Ahmadi:

They'll probably going to charge \$45 to take the appliances. If I can come across a truck, I put my labor in there and clean that up. Being dirty is not a good thing to be. But if I do that, it's going to happen again. Those that are doing it probably making a complaint. Get them before they get you, I guess.

Moermond:

I'm going to talk to Public Works and send an email to the police.

Seeley:

I talked to somebody yesterday who had a surveillance camera, called the police because somebody dumped a mattress on the side of the garage and he said oh we didn't see it, so we can't...

Moermond:

I think that's just terrible.

Seeley:

They said call Code Enforcement. What can we do? Police have more authority than we do. I have to make an appointment to request their services and I can barely get that. I could put the request in, open a whole other file and see if they will do it, but...

Martin:

On the west side, it's a quick phone call and they are right there for us.

Moermond:

I'll call Public Works and if [inaudible] ends up cleaning this up, I'll delete this assessment. I'm disappointed that the police part of this isn't working. They should have a conversation with the person who is responsible for some of it. In terms of the clean up, you are responsible for your half of the right of way. But this is obviously dumping and I think there should be a better public service provided to you. I can talk to them and ask Public Works to pick it up. Because this isn't an alley, they may not and Parks may have to pick it up and they charge. You will see a bill arrive and then we would have to delete that bill. I will lay this over for a week to make some phone calls. I would like to not make you responsible for cleaning this up, this time. Ultimately, you will be. But dumping is illegal.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 4/23/2019

Correction Orders

20 RLH CO 19-8 Appeal of Nancy Watkins to a Correction Notice at 1163 MINNEHAHA AVENUE WEST.

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Appeal denied; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 5/1/2019