



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Meeting Minutes - Action Only

Legislative Hearings

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Thursday, August 1, 2019

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House

Special Tax Assessments

9:00 a.m. Hearings

- 1 [RLH TA 19-614](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1932 BAYARD AVENUE. (File No. CG1902D1, Assessment No. 190113)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Layover to August 8, 2019. Staff to follow up with resident about reducing cart size, if done will reduce assessment from \$80.90 to \$60.83.

No one appeared.

Ms. Moermond: Mr. Morehead wrote a letter about being a zero waster.

Staff report by Chris Swanson: small every week cart at property, resident chose not to put out can. I did say we could try to follow up about getting a smaller can and switching to every other week.

Ms. Moermond: that's pretty much our only option. He just gave us his mailing address; do we have an email address for him?

Mr. Swanson: we do have an email on record. We will email him.

Ms. Moermond: we will layover 2 weeks, reduce this and future assessment to \$60.83 if he chooses to make that change.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 8/8/2019

- 2 [RLH TA 19-619](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 820 BROWN AVENUE. (File No. CG1902D1, Assessment No. 190113)

Sponsors: Noecker

Laid over to August 8, 2019. Staff to follow up with hauler for pictures and invoice.

Angie Lopez appeared

Chris Swanson, staff report: this is for \$204.98 for a large cart for Quarter 1, 2019.

Appealing because she is double billed. Resident sent an email with some additional items. They state they haven't received a bill from Quarter 4 and Quarter 1, there are additional bag charges, which is why I suspect such a high amount. I'd guess the resident didn't know there was a charge for extra bags. We'd like to follow up with the hauler, see what was going on, and where the other two bills went to.

Ms. Lopez: my husband said he paid before the service started. That got us through the first quarter. When he called to get the bill, it's in the email. Whoever he spoke to wasn't of any help, he had asked for a new invoice, never got it, talked about sending the pictures, we got 4, of why it's so high. The numbers just aren't there.

Ms. Moermond: we need pictures from fourth quarter of the extra bags.

Ms. Lopez: my husband said it was from the holiday, and we shouldn't be penalized for an extra day of garbage.

Ms. Moermond: we will find out what is going on and ask for pictures. Can we get feedback for next week? We will layover one week, you can come back if you can, and then we can look at pictures at the same time. Maybe we can get a copy of the first quarter bill too.

Mr. Swanson: please have your husband send any additional documents.

Ms. Moermond: I can tell you that if the Council approves this, it would be an assessment you could pay or it goes onto 2020 taxes, it has no effect on credit. It is more manageable that way.

Ms. Lopez: it puts us at a disadvantage because they know we're not going anywhere, it totally takes away from them having any incentive to work with us.

Ms. Moermond: the City pays them, it's a big deal and if people aren't paying bills because they're having experiences like you, then the City needs to have a conversation with the hauler.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 8/8/2019

- 3 RLH TA 19-613** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 864 DAYTON AVENUE. (File No. CG1902C3, Assessment No. 190113)

Sponsors: Thao

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared.

Staff report from Chris Swanson: according to information from Republic, the assessment should be deleted, the resident did pay the hauler, just at the end of the quarter.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/11/2019

- 4 RLH TA 19-612** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 599 PORTLAND AVE. (File No. CG1902C3, Assessment No. 190113)

Sponsors: Thao

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared.

Staff report from Chris Swanson: we followed up with Republic, it does appear payment was made second month for this quarter, credits were not applied property.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/11/2019

- 5 [RLH TA 19-616](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1242 RANDOLPH AVENUE. (File No. CG1902D1, Assessment No. 190113)

Sponsors: Tolbert

To be referred back to Legislative Hearing October 3, 2019.

No one appeared.

Staff report from Chris Swanson: the resident submitted an appeal for the assessment for \$6.36 for Quarter 1, 2019, resident believes they paid the bill before they left on vacation. We emailed Advanced and they said they received payment Feb 7, 2019, so it was late. The total bill is \$127.16, the hauler said the assessment for \$6.36 is due as a one-month late fee.

Ms. Moermond: layover.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

- 6 [RLH TA 19-611](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 2141 STANFORD AVENUE. (File No. CG1902D1, Assessment No. 190113)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared.

Chris Swanson staff report: we followed up on this, hauler said they just received payment from the Title company and we should remove.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

- 7 [RLH TA 19-622](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 574 STATE STREET. (File No. CG1902D1, Assessment No. 190113)

Sponsors: Noecker

Delete the assessment.

Diana Chao staff report: Late fee for Quarter 1, 2019, he was confused about where the payment was supposed to go to. We recommend deletion as a growing pain.

Ms. Moermond: delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

- 8 [RLH TA 19-617](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 45 WINONA

STREET EAST. (File No. CG1902D1, Assessment No. 190113)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared.

Staff report from Chris Swanson: the resident and I spoke yesterday, he sent me some forms he tried to submit to the hauler and the City to set up a service hold for Quarter 1, 2019, it looks like it went to wrong places. The resident tried in good faith to set up the hold, and staff recommends deletion. This is the previous owner, and he sold the property right before Quarter 2, they have no outstanding bill, there's just confusion from the sale process.

Ms. Moermond: recommend deletion.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

9:45 a.m. Hearings

- 9 RLH TA 19-574** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 680 MINNEHAHA AVENUE WEST. (File No. CG1902C2, Assessment No. 190110)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce assessment from \$105.68 to \$60.83.

No one appeared.

Ms. Moermond: we were going to follow up on the actual cart size, and willingness to change.

Chris Swanson: Republic said they spoke with the resident, and they will be delivering 1 small weekly and 1 small every other week cart to the property. They didn't respond about whether there were 2 carts at the property.

Ms. Moermond: he paid for one medium and chose not to pay the other saying he didn't have it. Reduce to \$60.83.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/11/2019

- 10 RLH TA 19-566** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 693 BUTTERNUT AVENUE. (File No. CG1902D2, Assessment No. 190114)

Sponsors: Noecker

Reduce from \$110.48 to \$60.83. Staff to adjust Q2, 2019 to \$60.83.

No one appeared.

Staff report by Chris Swanson: resident sent in appeal for this \$110.48, medium cart and 3 late fees. Resident said he doesn't have a cart and dropped it at the District Council in his area when the program started. I spoke with him in April about him not having a cart, because he called and said he didn't have one, we found out he dropped

it off somewhere. I informed him he had to have a cart at his property. He refused delivery of the cart, and I informed him he would still be charged for services. He said that's fine and he's willing to pay taxes but not garbage service.

Ms. Moermond: did you discuss about decreasing the cart size?

Mr. Swanson: he refused any changes. We'd like to decrease this to \$60.83. We did discuss this with the attorney. If they said if someone refuses, we shouldn't deliver them one a cart, and can still charge the amount.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

11 RLH TA 19-620

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1280 SEVENTH STREET WEST. (File No. CG1902D2, Assessment No. 190114)

Sponsors: Noecker

Reduce assessment from \$494.21 to \$400.

Aaron Schumm, building manager, appeared on behalf of owner.

Chris Swanson, staff report: \$494.21 for Quarter 1, 2019, appeal states resident tried to change cart size but hauler said they wouldn't do it and bill was sent to absentee owner. We have property owner listed in Ramsey County as Anton Soukhanov and Robert A Rubin as property owner.

Mr. Schumm: he's involved, but has moved to CA and it took us 3 months to track him down.

Mr. Swanson: right now staff will review, we do have those as the primary tax people.

Mr. Schumm: I'd reverse those two, they were joint tenants.

Ms. Moermond: Ms. Vang, can you pull up the 2020 property tax statement, so he can see what the City is relying on and those would be the people to talk to about changes to name and address. Clearly if you're changing the title, that's the recorder's office. This seems like a large bill for one large and 3 medium carts

Mr. Swanson: it includes late fees.

Ms. Moermond: you told staff bill was sent wrong and you tried to change the cart size. Do you live there?

Mr. Schumm: I am the property manager. Anton let the property fall into disrepair and left. Leanna Shaff knows this property. We manage a lot of properties and normally contract with Waste Management or Aspen to negotiate. While the address was right, they must have mail merged the name, I believe it went there and they didn't know who "Anton" was, and it was and returned it to sender. I realized there wasn't a quarter 1 payment, they sent the bill and we paid it July 1 for the \$429. Then I asked if we could just have two big cans and they said there was no way to change.

Ms. Moermond: when was that?

Mr. Schumm: beginning of June. I said I want to change it to small, they said I couldn't. I called the city garbage line and they told me to talk to Advanced. I told them

I'm not going to pay the late fees, and then I got this ratification of the assessment.

Ms. Moermond: what happened with the fourth quarter bill? Did that get assessed.

Diana Chao: it was paid, it wasn't sent to the City.

Mr. Schumm: how this Anton bill came I'm not entirely clear. I'm guessing our front desk person paid it then. I think this one got lost or returned by the front desk.

Ms. Chao: I want to double check, Ramsey county lists Reimagine Real Estate as the alternate owner. It lists those other 2 as owner, which is what we sent the hauler.

Mr. Swanson: we do have 3 notices of non-payment that went to Anton at 540 Lake street.

Ms. Moermond: can he do the cart size change since he's here today?

Mr. Schumm: I'd like small every week.

Ms. Moermond: calculating out the cost of 3 medium and 1 large size is what?

Mr. Swanson: \$390.68

Ms. Moermond: I do think there's responsibility on your part to make sure things are up to date with the County, but I can see you were trying. I'm inclined to cut the late fees in half, to \$51.77. Reduce assessment to \$442.45. If there's an effort made in June to change cart size, I'm trying to decide if I should give you a smaller cart size credit for a certain time period. It more applies to July moving forward. Have you paid the second quarter bill?

Ms. Chao: quarter two we have a pending assessment of \$19.53 for one late fee.

Ms. Moermond: I'll decrease this assessment to \$400 to credit for the bill you've already paid.

Mr. Swanson: I wanted to let you know that I sent an email to Advanced to let them know the bill should go to the lake street address.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

12 RLH TA 19-621

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 649 SIMON AVENUE. (File No. CG1902B2, Assessment No. 190106)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Decrease assessment from \$110.48 to \$60.83. Staff to follow up with hauler about cart size switch.

Girma Tesfaye appeared.

Staff report by Chris Swanson: \$110.48 for Quarter 1, 2019 with 3 late fees. He is appealing because he has spoken with hauler about switching to a small every other week cart. We would like it reduced to the small every other week cost, we spoke with hauler and it should have been switched, reduce to \$60.83

Ms. Moermond: you've got the original bill, and that was for the medium cart, staff will make sure you get the correct size cart, and we will decrease the assessment to \$60.83 which is what it should have been.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/11/2019

10:30 a.m. Hearings

- 13 RLH TA 19-609** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1456 COHANSEY STREET. (File No. CG1902D3, Assessment No. 190115)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Approve the assessment.

Mr. Richard A Bednar appeared

Staff report by Diana Chao: pending assessment is for \$60.83, for the small every other week cart, Quarter 1, 2019. Appealing because the refuse hauler failed to pick up at the address during the quarter. We spoke with hauler, and they have no record of him calling between January and March 2019 to report a lack of collection, they also said he didn't call Quarter 4, 2018. He did call June 16 to say that he had missed service April 2019, which is part of quarter two, and Waste management did provide a credit of \$28.10 for that missed service. Waste Management says he did get service in Quarter 1, 2019 and didn't call them about any missed pickup.

Ms. Moermond: tell me when the hauler missed service and why it wasn't communicated to hauler.

Mr. Bednar: I tried calling the City and it said they were closed for the day, and I didn't call again. I had a small amount in the container and I didn't know who to call.

Ms. Moermond: when was this?

Mr. Bednar: must have been the second quarter.

Ms. Moermond: it sounds like you did have a conversation with hauler in April.

Mr. Bednar: I didn't know who to call before that, and the cart was on the driveway so I never called anyone. I called the City once, I never called Waste Management. I just didn't move on it. I thought that that I didn't have any service, and I'll use this as an example. Recently I almost pulled my cart back in the yard, it was 3:30 or 4 and I thought they weren't coming. It was late afternoon. I only fill half a grocery bag every two weeks, I push my cart right into the alley so it's not missed. I don't think I was given service for that.

Diana Chao: there is a levied assessment for fourth quarter, that's why Waste Management addressed they hadn't heard from him. Haulers can come up until 8 pm and always put your bag in the cart, otherwise they can charge for an extra bag.

Ms. Moermond: I have to say I don't have a ton of sympathy about them not picking up. I'm the only driveway on the street, everyone else has an alley. When someone is learning the route my house sometimes gets missed, so I have to pick up the phone and let them know if it gets missed. You have some responsibility as a resident to make sure those things are happening, there are phone numbers on the carts. There's

also information on the bill. I don't see a reason to decrease your bill when you didn't take any proactive steps.

Mr. Bednar: I tried to call the City one time. I looked and looked on my bill recently to call and had a hard time finding a number. I did finally locate it. In defense of not knowing that, my point being if you have to play the game you have to know the rules. If I knew the rules this wouldn't have been an issue. If I would have known if they missed it, I should call, I just thought they'd pick it up next time. Because I had such a small amount.

Ms. Moermond: and now you're looking for a discount after the fact. Staff, how do residents know who to contact?

Chris Swanson: you should have received this informational brochure at the start of the program.

Mr. Bednar: I did get that. I'd like leniency for another reason, I shovel the sidewalk and the approach and the alley because my sidewalk is right next to it, but I see dog walkers using my sidewalk and the alley and I never told the City about that. I'm trying to be a good citizen here.

Ms. Chao: the \$60.83 is the base service, they didn't charge any late fees, so just to speak to that leniency.

Ms. Moermond: I appreciate you're a good citizen, as it is the alley is the responsibility of the property owner, it's an easement. I do the fire hydrant down the street, but I don't get a discount on my bill.

Mr. Bednar: I've learned two things, leave my cart out until 8 pm. And I didn't know I owned half the alley. I thought that was city's property.

Ms. Moermond: you should take away that if you have a garbage not picked up, you need to call the hauler. You can even leave them a message at 7 pm, and they will call me back and let me know they're sending a truck. In this case I'm recommending approval of the assessment, this bill has no late fees. It looks like the fourth quarter last year got assessed.

Mr. Bednar: I called waste management, told them you didn't get picked up, we've credit that. I asked them and they said I was all paid up. They said the city picked that up.

Ms. Moermond: you would have received many mailings on that. I don't have a reason coming from you to decrease the bill.

Mr. Bednar: I'll accept that, but if I wasn't getting service then I shouldn't have to pay.

Ms. Moermond: you have some responsibility in letting people know. We can't hold them accountable for something they didn't get a chance to fix.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

14 RLH TA 19-606

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1129 CUMBERLAND STREET. (File No. CG1902D4, Assessment No. 190116)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared.

Staff report by Diana Chao: Advanced Disposal had sent the bill to the wrong address, and the property owner was talking to them about it and they waived the fee, we asked Advanced about this and they confirmed that and said the assessment should be removed.

Ms. Moermond: delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

- 15 RLH TA 19-599** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 891 MCKNIGHT ROAD NORTH. (File No. CG1902D4, Assessment No. 190116)

Sponsors: Prince

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared.

Staff report by Chris Swanson: there's an outstanding amount for Quarter 1, 2019 for \$123.95, we got information that shows there was a credit card payment March 28, 2019 that wasn't reflected in assessment list sent by haulers so remove it.

Ms. Moermond: delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

- 16 RLH TA 19-623** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1064 STINSON STREET (File No. CG1902D4, Assessment No. 190116)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce the assessment from \$110.48 to \$60.83. (Staff to adjust Q4 2018 assessment to \$40.55 and Q2 2019 to \$60.83)

Steven Truen appeared

Staff report by Chris Swanson: \$110.48 for a medium cart and three late fees. Appealing because he never had garbage service, produces little waste, and requested a service hold and also was unable to reduce cart size. The garbage service is an unwanted service. City hasn't had any contact with the resident, we'd like to follow up to Hauler to see about credits for a service hold.

Mr. Truen: I have lived there a long time, and previously disposed of trash at work, I have a trash compacter in my house. It doesn't fill it in 3 months, I utilize the recycling program and buy things I can recycle. I have mobility issues and am on limited income. I've always been a good citizen and worked with the City. I support the trash collection, I used to have 5 trucks up and down my unincorporated alley. I was victim of unauthorized dumping. They aren't providing me with a solution I can afford or take advantage of. Watching the news about the process, I thought things would happen that would make it affordable for me. I've never put my can out for a service I haven't used it, it's too much. My taxes keep going up. I feel like it's an unsupported force of government that is adding \$500 a year to my cost of living. If I could get a reasonable

fee, I'd be in, but its another form of property tax forced upon me. I don't know where I'm going to find \$110 a quarter.

Ms. Moermond: it looks like when this started, it was a medium cart, and you were saying you thought you'd signed up for the smallest size?

Mr. Truen: yes, I returned to card indicating the smallest one. When that was not acknowledged, I had to go to Michigan to care for my mother for a month and a half, and that stop service was never acknowledged.

Ms. Moermond: when was that?

Mr. Truen: it was mid-January that I requested the stop. When did this program start?

Ms. Moermond: this service started in October of 2018.

Mr. Truen: sorry, yes it was October.

Ms. Vang: he has a levied assessment for \$105.68 from June 12, 2019.

Mr. Truen: I'd like to reiterate I've never used the service.

Ms. Chao: I'd like to reiterate that that the SPPD coming by isn't part of this service. The temporary service hold now applies to 4 to 26 weeks, you contact Highland, and we can give you the form, and you mail it in two weeks before you leave. With that, you do have to pay your bill ahead of time, they will credit you on your next bill.

Mr. Truen: when I attempted to do this over the phone Highland interrogated me, and told me if police noticed people were living there, it wouldn't be good for me. It made me feel bullied. I'm requesting complete withdrawal from the program. I don't want to pay for something I'm not using.

Ms. Moermond: there are people in our community who pride themselves on being zero waster. I get the effort to decrease. The way this program is set up is that all households of this type are a part of it, there is no opt out ability. You can see how people would say that they have zero waste and then dump it on others property. You're also saying it's a large charge. I didn't see you for the fourth quarter, that already went to your taxes. Had I seen you, when you were looking for the service hold there was some growing pains and I want to give you credit for having made an attempt for trying to do it. I would like to cut the Quarter 4 bill down one third. Let's get you down from the medium cart, to the small every other week, that would bring you down to \$60.83 a quarter. Because you say you returned the card and specified the small size, thousands were returned and most of it went fine, what happened in your cart I don't know, but we can rectify that. Decrease the Q4 bill to reflect the smallest cart size. \$60.83 reduced by one third (1 month off). Quarter one bill I will reduce to \$60.83. Same with Quarter two bill. July will be at medium cart size, but August and Sept should be small cart size.

Ms. Chao: because you haven't paid the third quarter bill, they will credit you on your fourth quarter bill with the fact you have the small every other week from now on.

Mr. Truen: I believe I understand that. When is my pickup day?

Ms. Chao: Friday is your pickup day. Quarter 4, 2018 and Quarter 1, 2019 you're paying

the City, not Highland.

Mr. Truen: including everything I owe the city, plus what I owe Highland, what is the total amount?

Ms. Chao: You owe Highland for Quarter 3, 2019 \$100.88. Quarter 4, 2018 is reduced to \$40.55. Quarter 1 and 2, 2019 is \$60.83, the total to the city for those three quarters is \$162.21.

Mr. Truen: so now this is already on my taxes, or I can pay it?

Ms. Moermond: quarter 4 has already been assessed. Quarter 1 and 2 can be paid, you could pay with the Office of Financial Services, so it wouldn't show up on your taxes.

Mr. Truen: at this point to become current I can let \$162.21 to go to my taxes and check to highland for \$100.88.

Ms. Moermond: and you'll have a credit on your fourth quarter 2019 bill. If you want to pay the amount to the City in smaller amounts, it doesn't go to Ramsey county until mid- November.

Mr. Truen: I'm not complaining, I'm stating a fact. I'm being billed for a service I haven't used. It's not fair.

Ms Moermond: you're on the record saying that, and I hear you, but I don't know what else to tell you.

Mr. Truen: and you've done everything legally you can.

Ms. Moermond: that and probably a little bit more.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

Special Tax Assessments - ROLLS

- 17 RLH AR 19-94** Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during January to March 2019. (File No. CG1902D1, Assessment No. 190113)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

- 18 RLH AR 19-95** Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during January to March 2019. (File No. CG1902D2, Assessment No. 190114)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

- 19 RLH AR 19-97** Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during January to March 2019. (File No.

CG1902D3, Assessment No. 190115)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019

20 RLH AR 19-96

Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during January to March 2019. (File No. CG1902D4, Assessment No. 190116)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/25/2019