



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
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651-266-8585

Thursday, July 30, 2020

9:00 AM

Via Telephone

Special Tax Assessments

9:00 a.m. Hearings

- 1 **RLH TA 20-443** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1598 HAZEL STREET NORTH. (File No. CG2002B3, Assessment No. 200126)

Sponsors: Yang

Approve the assessment.

1598 Hazel Street North

Walter Montpetit is on the phone line.

Marcia Moermond: I'm following up with you about the assessment. Last time, you said you were going to check with your daughter and to see if she had additional information.

Montpetit: I checked with her. She can't find anything that she made that payment.

Moermond: We will send this through. It has a public hearing on August 26. If something changes, shoot us an e-mail. We will approve the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 2 **RLH TA 20-481** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 903 LAWSON AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2002D1, Assessment No. 200132)

Sponsors: Yang

Approve the assessment.

903 Lawson Avenue East

Marcia Moermond: We made 3 attempts to call today. We will put a staff report and recommendation into the record. We'll just e-mail that information to her.

Clare Pillsbury: We were able to look into the billing and do the breakdown and calculations. Our recommendation stands to approve the statement.

Moermond: She did say she would check with her bank. Your recommendation is to approve the assessment. There is a nice summary table that you e-mailed to her. I will recommend approval based on the chart.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

3 RLH TA 20-506 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1482 BLAIR AVENUE. (File No. CG2002E1, Assessment No. 200136)

Sponsors: Jalali

Reduce from \$123.87 to \$107.70.

Gill Gaitan answered and is on the phone line. (Andrea is his wife.)

Clare Pillsbury: Aspen Waste is the hauler. Property owner said they moved. Their payments were being applied to their old account and not their new property account. The property owner stated he believed this issue was resolved. They had since received a notice of pending assessment. A payment was made of \$102. The customer is paying the wrong account. The customer was refunded for the overpayment. Staff recommends approving.

Marcia Moermond: We've got them moving, accidentally paying old account, when error was identified they received a refund to pay the other account. The hauler didn't just transfer from one to another. In this case, they sent a refund check. They gave a refund for Quarter 1.

Gaitan: This situation is confusing.

Moermond: He's gotten a refund for paying the wrong account. That was paid to the Simpson address.

Pillsbury: The amount was made to the wrong address. It was reimbursed of \$225.51. Refunded February 7, 2020.

Moermond: Does that sound right?

Gaitan: Yes.

Moermond: It looks like they didn't apply the money. They sent it back to you.

Gaitan: I don't remember the conversation. There were multiple conversations. I do recall it getting paid by me. The payment made in January caused confusion because there was also a previous interest in them transferring another balance to the City. All together that compounded the confusion over the matter. When I called them, they said it was okay because I was so diligent in getting a hold of them. I understand I made an error in not paying them again. That's what happened in January.

Moermond: Do you have any information on the payment made to the City?

Pillsbury: No.

Moermond: We'll call the Real Estate Office.

Tanya Panzer is on the phone line.

Moermond: Mr. Gaitan at 1482 Blair Avenue remembers sending a check to the City in January. Can you tell us what that check was for?

Tanya Panzer: He went online on January 31 and he paid \$136.46 for October to December delinquent garbage. No other assessment.

Moermond: We got to the bottom of that. We're looking at you paying on the Simpson account instead of the Blair account. I don't know if the refund included Quarter 4. You may have a conversation about Quarter 4 if you happened to pay the Simpson account. They may want to refund you for that. Quarter 4 is looking like it was not paid for the hauler because they sent you that refund expecting you would take care of business. What I can do is knock off any late fees here. Clearly you were trying to get on top of this. What are the late fees for this?

Pillsbury: \$16.17. Decrease down to \$107.70.

Moermond: Right now, that would mean he does not have late fees. If you have additional information to let us know about after talking to them about Quarter 4, I'm happy to reconsider. I'll delete the late fees as you tried to address your bills in a timely manner.

Gaitan: I would like to go before the City Council to explain my situation and what I've been dragged through up until today--I can pay this; it's not a matter of the money--so they can see this level of service that Aspen is providing. We need to be holding Aspen accountable. All they do is send information in the mail. How much time did they give me before sending it to the City?

Moermond: When they sent it to the City is April 5. They allow the whole Quarter 1 to pass. City Council is not taking in-person testimony. You can submit information in two ways: submit a letter or call and leave a voice mail. A uniform billing system would be helpful where you are getting one consistent message. Those are my suggestions. Putting something out there is useful. These contracts with the haulers do not last forever. Can you give me your e-mail address?

Gaten: gil@plantseedscook.com

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

4 RLH TA 20-493 Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 695 CLEAR AVENUE. (File No. CG2002B3, Assessment No. 200126)

Sponsors: Yang

Delete the assessment.

695 Clear Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: January to March 2020, Quarter 1, Waste Management. Owner stated they submitted an unoccupied dwelling form. They did not request service to resume until March 2020. Recommend removing.

Marcia Moermond: So recommended.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

5 RLH TA 20-491 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 236 CHARLES AVENUE. (File No. CG2002E3, Assessment No. 200138)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce from \$127.31 to \$10.

236 Charles Avenue (there are two assessments: RLH TA 20-491, RLH TA 20-495)

Clare Pillsbury: The resident sent over proof of vacancy to Mai Vang. She attached something from data practices center that there was a police report that her house was broken into. She included a 2019 police report. She also has an Xcel Energy bill about energy use.

Marcia Moermond: She did not call us with a vacancy hold. It was empty.

Pillsbury: She also did not call the garbage hauler to let them know.

Moermond: Did you get ahold of the hauler?

Pillsbury: I think I sent that to Mai. They don't have anything about a vacancy or service hold. They have no paperwork asking for it.

Moermond: Have they been there?

Pillsbury: I don't have that information.

Moermond: \$127 is an unusual amount. Her service level?

Pillsbury: Large cart. My guess is a large cart with additional fees. The additional amount is Quarter 4. You're right: it might be an additional bag or some sort of additional cost.

Moermond: What would a large cart for Quarter 4 be with late charges?

Pillsbury: \$117.80.

Moermond: Let's decrease to \$10 and delete Quarter 1.

Michelle Wise is on the phone line.

Wise: I'm driving and do not have my paperwork in front of me.

Moermond: I've had a chance to review the paperwork. I've got Quarter 4 and Quarter 1 of this year. You provided good information that you were present there. The hauler nor the City had official notification. You did interact with police. I'm thinking Quarter 1 will be deleted entirely. Quarter 4 of last year a charge for a large cart with late fees is \$117.80, but the assessment from the hauler was \$127.31. Maybe there was extra bags. I'm going to decrease to \$10.

Wise - Thank you. That house has been such a challenge to me.

(discussion about payment)

Pillsbury: She said she is moving back to the prop in 2 weeks. We'll look at Quarter 2.

Moermond: Pending assessment on Quarter 2?

Pillsbury: No.

□

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

6 [RLH TA 20-495](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 236 CHARLES AVENUE. (File No. CG2001E4-1, Assessment No. 200158)

Sponsors: Thao

Delete the assessment

236 Charles Avenue (there are two assessments: RLH TA 20-491, RLH TA 20-495)

Clare Pillsbury: The resident sent over proof of vacancy to Mai Vang. She attached something from data practices center that there was a police report that her house was broken into. She included a 2019 police report. She also has an Xcel Energy bill about energy use.

Marcia Moermond: She did not call us with a vacancy hold. It was empty.

Pillsbury: She also did not call the garbage hauler to let them know.

Moermond: Did you get ahold of the hauler?

Pillsbury: I think I sent that to Mai. They don't have anything about a vacancy or service hold. They have no paperwork asking for it.

Moermond: Have they been there?

Pillsbury: I don't have that information.

Moermond: \$127 is an unusual amount. Her service level?

Pillsbury: Large cart. My guess is a large cart with additional fees. The additional amount is Quarter 4. You're right: it might be an additional bag or some sort of additional cost.

Moermond: What would a large cart for Quarter 4 be with late charges?

Pillsbury: \$117.80.

Moermond: Let's decrease to \$10 and delete Quarter 1.

Michelle Wise is on the phone line.

Wise: I'm driving and do not have my paperwork in front of me.

Moermond: I've had a chance to review the paperwork. I've got Quarter 4 and Quarter 1 of this year. You provided good information that you were present there. The hauler and the City did not have official notification. You did interact with police. I'm thinking Quarter 1 will be deleted entirely. Quarter 4 of last year a charge for a large cart with late fees is \$117.80, but the assessment from the hauler was \$127.31. Maybe there was extra bags. I'm going to decrease to \$10.

Wise - Thank you. That house has been such a challenge to me.

(discussion about payment)

Pillsbury: She said she is moving back to the property in 2 weeks. We'll look at Quarter 2.

Moermond: Pending assessment on Quarter 2?

Pillsbury: No.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 7 **RLH TA 20-494** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 472 DAYTON AVENUE. (File No. CG2002A1, Assessment No. 200123)

Sponsors: Thao

Delete the assessment.

472 Dayton Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: Total of \$69.95, small cart, every other week service, 3 late fees, Republic is the hauler. The assessment was incorrect, request removing.

Marcia Moermond: Republic made a mistake. They sent an assessment they shouldn't have. Recommend deletion.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 8 **RLH TA 20-490** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 152 MARIA AVENUE. (File No. CG2002E1, Assessment No. 200136)

Sponsors: Prince

Reduce from \$221.39 to \$192.49.

152 Maria Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: Medium and large, Highland Sanitation. New owner, weren't receiving bills, were told there would be 3 additional fees. Due to some confusion with the home-sale, staff recommends removing the late fees and reducing to \$192.49.

Marcia Moermond: Talked to owner?

Pillsbury: Yes.

Moermond: Reduce from \$221.39 to 192.49.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

- 9 RLH TA 20-510** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 589 MARSHALL AVENUE. (File No. CG2001E4-01, Assessment No. 200119)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce from \$458.03 to \$192.16.

589 Marshall Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: \$458.03, Quarter 4, October 1 to December 31, Republic is the hauler. Republic states that Quarter 4 was incorrect. They recommend removing back bill and late fees and reducing to two 65-gallon carts for a total of \$405.34.

Marcia Moermond: Not understanding. Republic is saying \$405. The math may not be right.

Pillsbury: The important thing is that we are recommending removing everything and reducing to the base cost. Republic's math looks incorrect.

Moermond: \$458.03 down to \$192.16.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 10 RLH TA 20-512** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 887 SELBY AVENUE. (File No. CG2001A1-1, Assessment No. 200148)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce from \$71.02 to \$60.83; however, layover to August 11 at 3 p.m. and Public Works staff to follow up with owner. Further reduction may be recommended.

887 Selby Avenue

There are 2 appeals on this property: RLH TA 20-512, RLH TA 20-515

Clare Pillsbury: She has a small cart size. We reduced the late fees. Chris is looking into who might be taking the money.

Jean Doyle is on the phone line.

Doyle: They have been doing her garbage good lately.

Clare Pillsbury: We have some background information. You've been paying someone in person. Quarter 4 is \$63.36. The resident stated she received the notice for the special hearing. They pay all their bills on time. We spoke to the hauler. They say they received no payment. They sent no other employees to the address. Drivers are not allowed to take payments. Staff recommends removing the late fee and reduce the assessment to \$60.83.

Doyle: We have been paying the worker who picked up the trash.

Moermond: Who picked it up when the City coordinated this?

Doyle: I can't think of the name.

Chris Swanson: Coolidge Trucking.

Doyle: Mr. Coolidge has been picking up the trash.

Moermond: How did Mr. Coolidge bill you in the past?

Doyle: My husband takes care of it. I'll ask him about it when he returns.

Moermond: My concern is that you are paying someone who should not be taking the money.

Doyle: I'll ask him about it.

Moermond: Tomorrow, Chris Swanson will call you back. We'll try to get to the bottom of this. We'll do that and see what we can figure out with these 2 bills. We'll lay this over to August 11 at 3:00. You can report back on your conversation. If you think we need to talk to her, give her that time and day.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 8/11/2020

11 RLH TA 20-515 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 887 SELBY AVENUE. (File No. CG2002A1, Assessment No. 200123)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce from \$63.36 to \$57.60; however, layover to August 11 at 3 p.m. and Public Works staff to follow up with owner. Further reduction may be recommended.

887 Selby Avenue

There are 2 appeals on this property: RLH TA 20-512, RLH TA 20-515

Clare Pillsbury: She has a small cart size. We reduced the late fees. Chris is looking into who might be taking the money.

Jean Doyle is on the phone line.

Doyle: They have been doing her garbage good lately.

Clare Pillsbury: We have some background information. You've been paying someone in person. Quarter 4 is \$63.36. The resident stated she received the notice for the special hearing. They pay all their bills on time. We spoke to the hauler. They say they received no payment. They sent no other employees to the address. Drivers are not allowed to take payments. Staff recommends removing the late fee and reduce the assessment to \$60.83.

Doyle: We have been paying the worker who picked up the trash.

Moermond: Who picked it up when the City coordinated this?

Doyle: *I can't think of the name.*

Chris Swanson: *Coolidge Trucking.*

Doyle: *Mr. Coolidge has been picking up the trash.*

Moermond: *How did Mr. Coolidge bill you in the past?*

Doyle: *My husband takes care of it. I'll ask him about it when he returns.*

Moermond: *My concern is that you are paying someone who should not be taking the money.*

Doyle: *I'll ask him about it.*

Moermond: *Tomorrow, Chris Swanson will call you back. We'll try to get to the bottom of this. We'll do that and see what we can figure out with these 2 bills. We'll lay this over to August 11 at 3:00. You can report back on your conversation. If you think we need to talk to her, give her that time and day.*

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 8/11/2020

12 [RLH TA 20-498](#)

Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 114 SNELLING AVENUE NORTH. (File No. CG2001A2-1, Assessment No. 200149)

Sponsors: Jalali

Delete the assessment.

114 Snelling Avenue North

John Hegeman is on the phone line.

Clare Pillsbury: \$227.74, October 1 to December 31, Waste Management is the hauler. This property has been vacant June 1, 2019, to June 1, 2020. Property owner stated that he has been trying to get City registered as vacant since June 6, 2019. Staff has confirmed that they have no records of any vacancies filed for Quarter 4 2019; therefore, staff recommends approving the assessment.

Hegeman: Tenants moved out June 1, 2019. We only have one building. We decided not to re-rent. We replaced the sinks, did some remodeling. On June 6, I called Waste Management, and they referred me to the City. I called the City. They said they would mail me out the unoccupied form. They were going to do it in the mail because my computer was down; my reception is bad. I never received it. I got a bill for \$198.52. I called again and tried to get this cancelled. I ended up sending the amount.

Marcia Moermond: When was that?

Hegeman: On Sept. 15, 2019. Then in October, I got another bill. I talked to a Tanya. I also sent notices that were on the front put there by the postman that stated no mail. Those were June 1. I sent in a sworn statement from the neighbor that this was vacant since June 1. They signed that under penalty of perjury. I sent her that. I sent her some other notes. When I looked at the form, it had all the information they

needed. That was the only thing this form was for. Prior to the City taking over it, all I had to do was call Waste Management. That would have been the end of it. On June 1, 2020, I rented out the downstairs, called the City, and told her that we wanted to resume service and was told we had to call Waste Management. They had the information and a verbal thing over the phone that it was unoccupied. I pushed the container up against the building. The issue is when was it vacant.

Moermond: Did you pay that to the garbage hauler or to the City?

Hegeman: I don't know. It was the City.

Pillsbury: I'm going to assume you had a 96 and 64, large and medium. The \$198.52 would have paid for the hauler as that is the cost for the 2 carts, especially if you paid it in September for the Quarter 3 bill.

Hegeman: I've talked to several people in the City.

Moermond: As public employees, they are looking for a piece of paper with information on it. They are acting with good faith. I'm going to recommended this be deleted as you made a good faith effort.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

13 RLH TA 20-350 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1088 PACIFIC STREET. (File No. CG2002E1, Assessment No. 200136)

Sponsors: Prince

Approve the assessment.

1088 Pacific Street – 2nd try

(Phone line was tried twice. There was no ability to leave a message.

Marcia Moermond: He is saying he already paid Assessments. We can create a record on this. E-mail for him?

Clare Pillsbury: Besides a phone number, we don't have any contact on him. He submitted a letter. \$114.34, large cart, 3 late fees, Waste Management. Already paid the assessment fee by sending check. Recommend approval.

Moermond: The City would not have accepted payment for Quarter 2 during Quarter 2. Recommend approval.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

14 RLH TA 20-511 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 548 VAN BUREN AVENUE. (File No. CG2001E4-01, Assessment No. 200119)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce from \$643.95 to \$467.66.

548 Van Buren

Kedir Kurfessa is on the phone line.

Clare Pillsbury: \$648.95, Quarter 4, October 1 to December 31, 2019, Republic is the hauler. Republic stated that the Quarter 4 invoice was incorrect due to charging their open market price on a bulky item pick up for two mattress (\$51.75 per item) and two box springs instead of the agreed upon price for the coordinated collection program (\$35.00 per item). They recommend reducing the assessment by \$41.65 to \$602.30. This would include a reduced invoice of \$467.66 for two 64-gal carts and bulky items, as well as a back bill of \$134.64.

Staff Comments: Staff recommends removing both the back bill (\$134.64) and the late fees (\$70.14) and reducing the assessment to \$467.66. This would include \$82.85 for the pick up of three bulky items at \$20 each (plus tax), \$192.85 for two mattresses, two bulky items at \$35 each (plus tax), and \$192.16 for two 64-gal carts.

Marcia Moermond: Republic said they charged the outside price. They want to decrease the bill to the Saint Paul rate.

Pillsbury: There was a back bill added. Recommend removing the back bill and the late fees of \$70.14. Reduce to \$467.66.

Moermond: You're getting them down to \$467?

Pillsbury: Correct.

Kurfessa: I already sent the check out.

Moermond: If we need to send a refund check, that will take a week to process. We'll send you an e-mail and let you know.

Swanson: You want to move the balance to the upcoming invoice?

Kurfessa: Yes.

Moermond: There is not an upcoming assessment?

Pillsbury: There is not.

Moermond: I'm afraid you will get a check.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

10:00 a.m. Hearings

- 15 **RLH TA 20-464** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1122 JACKSON STREET. (File No. CG2002D3, Assessment No. 200128)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Reduce from \$107.02 to \$66.17. (staff will make similar reductions to Q3 and Q4 2019)

1122 Jackson Street

Roger Stadler is on the phone line.

Clare Pillsbury: \$107.02 for a medium cart, weekly service, 3 late fees, Waste Management. Appellant has never used the service.

Marcia Moermond: You don't use the garbage service. Medium size cart. People who don't use it, we can get them to the smallest possible bin. This is not the smallest. It looks like for Quarter 2, April to June, you got them down to the smallest size. Do you have a small container with purple lid?

Stadler: Yes.

Moermond: I'll decrease the bills from Quarter 1 to \$66.17. I'm going backwards and see if we can decrease January to December last year. I know you want to comment on how you have your own way of doing things.

Stadler: Since I never use it, I say cancel that. I've had a business for so many years, and I've always had a dumpster.

Moermond: You got the small every other week. I'm going to go back and pretend you had it since July 1 of last year. We'll get those cut down to size a little bit. That will amount to about \$120 in savings for you, down to \$66.17 for Quarter 1. Mai will go back and do resolutions reducing them to small and medium service.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

- 16 RLH TA 20-516** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 995 CROMWELL AVENUE. (File No. CG2002D3, Assessment No. 200128)

Sponsors: Jalali

Reduce from \$258.22 to \$192.50.

995 Cromwell Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: Republic requests reduction to base cost of 2 carts; staff recommends reduction to \$192.50.

Marcia Moermond: I think you're right. Reduction to \$192.50.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

- 17 RLH TA 20-514** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 456 BLAIR AVENUE. (File No. CG2002E3, Assessment No. 200138)

Sponsors: Thao

Delete the assessment.

456 Blair Avenue

Kedir Kurfessa is on the phone line

Marcia Moermond: Are you representing United Group?

Kurfessa: Yes.

Clare Pillsbury: \$66.24 small cart, every other week, 3 late fees, Republic Services.

Property owner says they purchased the property on April 1, 2019, and it has been vacant. They called Republic & requested vacancy. They would send unoccupied form. They would like assessment removed as property was vacant.

Moermond: Sounds like you picked up the property and been working on it since then.

Kurfessa: It has been rented.

Moermond: I see plumbing & electrical permits. Is this a duplex?

Kurfessa: Yes.

Moermond: You have garbage service now?

Kurfessa: Yes. The house was rented to public housing. I called Republic and ordered new bins. That was there before.

Moermond: You need one for each unit.

Kurfessa: Yes.

Moermond: Permits have been pulled, you finished those permits. I'm going to say you made a good faith effort that this is a vacant property, it is occupied again, and the Council should delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

- 18 RLH TA 20-513** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 706 BLAIR AVENUE. (File No. CG2002E3, Assessment No. 200138)

Sponsors: Thao

Layover to August 11 at 3:00 p.m. Staff needs to gather more information.

706 Blair Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: Lay over to August 11.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 8/11/2020

- 19 RLH TA 20-492** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 687 FIFTH STREET EAST. (File No. CG2002D3, Assessment No. 200128)

Sponsors: Prince

Delete the assessment.

687 Fifth Street East – 2 assessments

There are 2 assessments: RLH TA 20-499, Quarter 4, \$162.79; RLH TA 20-492, Quarter 1, \$154.72

Clare Pillsbury: Waste Management recommends removal.

Marcia Moermond: Same for the other.

Pillsbury: Deleting both of them

Moermond: Okay.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

- 20** [RLH TA 20-499](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 687 FIFTH STREET EAST. (File No. CG2001D3-1, Assessment No. 200155)

Sponsors: Prince

Delete the assessment.

687 Fifth Street East – 2 assessments

There are 2 assessments: RLH TA 20-499, Quarter 4, \$162.79; RLH TA 20-492, Quarter 1, \$154.72

Clare Pillsbury: Waste Management recommends removal.

Marcia Moermond: Same for the other.

Pillsbury: Deleting both of them

Moermond: Okay.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

- 21** [SR 20-70](#) Review Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 646 FULLER AVENUE. (File No. CG1904E4, Assessment No. 190163) adopted by Council File No. AR 20-43 on July 15, 2020.

Sponsors: Thao

Approve the assessment. This was levied on July 15. If owner wants to contest at a future public hearing, a file will be created to go to Council public hearing. If he is not appealing further, no file is necessary.

646 Fuller Avenue – 1st call

Richard Bowen is on the phone line

Marcia Moermond: Do you want to wait a few minutes? We got your payment history. It was e-mailed to you. You can take a few minutes to look at that and we'll call you back.

About 15 minutes later:

Clare Pillsbury: \$69.95, small every other week, late fees, Highland Sanitation, recommend approval.

Moermond: When I look at the statement, the charge dates would be July 5, and August 1. Would that also include September 1?

Pillsbury & Chris Swanson: That is correct.

Moermond: That is showing charges and not payments.

Bowen: I just lost the thing you sent. All I know is that when I got bills there is nothing saying I have a past due balance. I don't know if this is accurate. There is nothing in those boxes that indicate I have a past due balance.

Moermond: There is a simple explanation. The hauler is going to give you 3 times to pay the bill, they zero out your account, and then send it to the City to put on your taxes. You start out fresh with a Quarter 4 bill.

Swanson: What you can see is that on October 4, 2019, there are 2 credits applied to the accounts. That is Highland zeroing out that account and turning it over to the City.

Pillsbury: When you made a payment, it looks like it was a check.

Swanson: Check in April and in December.

Moermond: Check numbers are in the column labeled "reference" and it looks like Quarter 4 got paid by check. This is looking like I would recommend approval. If you have additional information that you paid this, I'm happy to look at that.

Bowen: I've been paying it. I don't know if this is accurate. I pay it, but I don't always pay on time.

Moermond: If you have additional information that you paid it in that time period, I'm happy to look at that.

Swanson: (explained the process for payments)

Moermond: Could Bowen get copies of those letters?

Swanson: Sure.

Pillsbury: It looks like they did send them.

Moermond: Clare will send them on to you. Recommend approval.

Received and Filed

22 RLH TA 20-349 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 870 LAFOND AVENUE. (File No. CG2002E3, Assessment No. 200138)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce from \$77.36 to \$38.68.

870 Lafond Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: Republic, contacted 3 times, it was empty.

Marcia Moermond: Owner reached out to hauler on March 3 and connected with hauler to say the house is empty. Quarter 2, their bill would be less. Is there a pending April

assessment? Makes sense to decrease for Quarter 1 and give them credit for straightening this up. Recommend Council decrease from \$77.36 to \$38.68.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

11:00 a.m. Hearings

- 23 RLH TA 20-467** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 706 BELLOWS STREET. (File No. CG2002A3, Assessment No. 200122)

Sponsors: Noecker

Reduce from \$114.34 to \$57.57.

706 Bellows Avenue

Two assessments at this address: RLH TA 20-467, Quarter 1, \$114.34; RLH TA 20-496, Quarter 4, \$117.80

Michael Burton is on the line.

Clare Pillsbury: Large cart, 3 late fees, Quarter 4, October 1 to December 31, \$117.80. Owners say they do not use their car.

Burton: Did they say they pick up at my house?

Marcia Moermond: You get a bill for the program because everyone has to get a bill for the program for garbage hauling. Did you have a conversation about decreasing the size?

Burton: I don't need the service. The last couple of years, I always have dumpsters in front of me. I don't need to worry about it. I get it dumped for free. I don't use the service. We have a family of 3.

Moermond: If in this time period if we had known you don't use it, we would have gotten you down to the smallest amount. Do you have a new cart, little one with purple lid?

Burton: No.

Moermond: You will get a new cart. You're going to have to put your old cart out.

Chris Swanson: Your day of pickup is Tuesday.

Moermond: Put the large cart out Monday night. It's going to be on the alley. They will pick up the big one and give you a little one. I will decrease your bill for Quarter 4 and Quarter 1 and reduce them to the smallest cart. Quarter 4 every other week small cart down to \$60.83. Quarter 1 of 2020?

Pillsbury: \$57.57.

Moermond: 57.57 for Quarter 1. Pending Quarter 2 assessment?

Pillsbury: \$99.42

Moermond: \$57.57 for that one. You need to pay that bill on time or there will be late fees. You will have late fees moving forward. That switch will not happen for a while. They will want you to pay as if you had a large and they will credit the next bill.

Burton: Have I already seen the bill?

Swanson: You should have seen that bill.

Moermond: You have a \$99 bill out there with a late fee on it. Look for a credit on your bill.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

24 RLH TA 20-496 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 706 BELLOWS STREET. (File No. CG2001A3-1, Assessment No. 200150)

Sponsors: Noecker

Reduce from \$117.80 to \$60.83.

706 Bellows Avenue

Two assessments at this address: RLH TA 20-467, Quarter 1, \$114.34; RLH TA 20-496, Quarter 4, \$117.80

Michael Burton is on the line.

Clare Pillsbury: Large cart, 3 late fees, Quarter 4, October 1 to December 31, \$117.80. Owners say they do not use their can.

Burton: Did they say they pick up at my house?

Marcia Moermond: You get a bill for the program because everyone has to get a bill for the program for garbage hauling. Did you have a conversation about decreasing the cart size?

Burton: I don't need the service. The last couple of years, I always have dumpsters in front of me. I don't need to worry about it. I get it dumped for free. I don't use the service. We have a family of 3.

Moermond: If in this time period we had known you don't use it, we would have gotten you down to the smallest amount. Do you have a new cart, little one with purple lid?

Burton: No.

Moermond: You will get a new cart. You're going to have to put your old cart out.

Chris Swanson: Your day of pickup is Tuesday.

Moermond: Put the large cart out Monday night. It's going to be on the alley. They will pick up the big one and give you a little one. I will decrease your bill for Quarter 4 and Quarter 1 and reduce them to the smallest cart. Quarter 4 every other week small cart down to \$60.83. Quarter 1 of 2020?

Pillsbury: \$57.57.

Moermond: 57.57 for Quarter 1. Pending Quarter 2 assessment?

Pillsbury: \$99.42

Moermond: \$57.57 for that one. You need to pay that bill on time or there will be late fees. You will have late fees moving forward. That switch will not happen for a while. They will want you to pay as if you had a large and they will credit the next bill.

Burton: Have I already seen the bill?

Swanson: You should have seen that bill.

Moermond: You have a \$99 bill out there with a late fee on it. Look for a credit on your bill.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

25 [RLH TA 20-508](#)

Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 115 GERANIUM AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2001D3-1, Assessment No. 200114)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Delete the assessment.

115 Geranium Avenue East

There are two assessments: RLH TA 20-508, Quarter 4, \$110.48; RLH TA 20-518, Quarter 1, \$107.02

Gordon Patraw is on the phone line.

Clare Pillsbury: Medium cart, 3 late fees (for each quarter), did not report they didn't have a cart. A cart has been delivered.

Marcia Moermond: A cart was delivered August 2018.

Chris Swanson: That is correct.

Moermond: Patraw does not have that anymore.

Patraw: My wife tells me that I do have a cart. My brother was in charge of the garbage hauling. He had this service. He got cancer and died. During the process, he wasn't paying, it got behind, they didn't pick it up. Later, I thought I would deal with this garbage situation. They said you could pay it, but we're not restarting the service. Along comes the City, and now I remember I did put some trash in the dumpster. I put it out there and they didn't pick it up. The following week, I catch the garbage men. He said they don't pick it up there. I took the whole trash can to my work. I thought I didn't have one because I forgot I took it to work. Then I got the bill. I don't think they ever picked up. I want to be in the program.

Moermond: You get a bill regardless whether you put out garbage or not. Everybody pays the same. I'd like to explore a few things. I'm going to ask if Swanson has any

comments.

Swanson: One more thing to note: one side of the street is picked up by Waste Management, and one is picked up by Advance. It is a site-specific issue.

Moermond: Two things going on: 1) there are 2 haulers, 2) death in the family. If you have garbage service, what is the right size can?

Patraw: At least a medium. The one I have I would bring back to the property.

Moermond: You made a good faith effort. I'm going to ask the council to delete both assessments. I will ask staff to call Advance to confirm that you are on their route and stopping there.

Swanson: Your pickup day is Friday.

Patraw: I will put it out tomorrow morning.

Moermond: Is there a 2nd quarter pending assessment on this one? Let's kill that one, and he can deal with Quarter 3.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

26 RLH TA 20-518

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 115 GERANIUM AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2002D3, Assessment No. 200128)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Delete the assessment.

115 Geranium Avenue East

There are two assessments: RLH TA 20-508, Quarter 4, \$110.48; RLH TA 20-518, Quarter 1, \$107.02

Gordon Patraw is on the phone line.

Clare Pillsbury: Medium cart, 3 late fees (for each quarter), did not report they didn't have a cart. A cart has been delivered.

Marcia Moermond: A cart was delivered August 2018.

Chris Swanson: That is correct.

Moermond: Patraw does not have that anymore.

Patraw: My wife tells me that I do have a cart. My brother was in charge of the garbage hauling. He had this service. He got cancer and died. During the process, he wasn't paying, it got behind, they didn't pick it up. Later, I thought I would deal with this garbage situation. They said you could pay it, but we're not restarting the service. Along comes the City, and now I remember I did put some trash in the dumpster. I put it out there and they didn't pick it up. The following week, I catch the garbage men. He said they don't pick it up there. I took the whole trash can to my work. I thought I didn't have one because I forgot I took it to work. Then I got the bill. I don't think they

ever picked up. I want to be in the program.

Moermond: You get a bill regardless whether you put out garbage or not. Everybody pays the same. I'd like to explore a few things. I'm going to ask if Swanson has any comments.

Swanson: One more thing to note: one side of the street is picked up by Waste Management, and one is picked up by Advance. It is a site-specific issue.

Moermond: Two things going on: 1) there are 2 haulers, 2) death in the family. If you have garbage service, what is the right size can?

Patraw: At least a medium. The one I have I would bring back to the property.

Moermond: You made a good faith effort. I'm going to ask the councilmembers to delete both assessments. I will ask them to call Advance to confirm that you are on their route and stopping there.

Swanson: Your pickup day is Friday.

Patraw: I will put it out tomorrow morning.

Moermond: Is there a 2nd quarter pending assessment on this one? Let's kill that one, and he can deal with Quarter 3.

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020

- 27 RLH TA 20-497** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 611 HUMBOLDT AVENUE. (File No. CG2001A4-1, Assessment No. 200151)

Sponsors: Noecker

Reduce from \$312.39 to \$140.72.

611 Humboldt Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: Staff recommends removing the back bill and reducing the assessment to \$140.72.

Marcia Moermond: \$140.72. Alright. Done.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 28 RLH TA 20-503** Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 891 JOHNSON PARKWAY. (File No. CG2001C4-1, Assessment No. 200154)

Sponsors: Yang

Delete the assessment.

891 Johnson Parkway

Clare Pillsbury: Hauler requests it be removed.

Marcia Moermond: So recommended.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 29** **[RLH TA 20-509](#)** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 584 LEXINGTON PARKWAY NORTH. (File No. CG2001E3-01, Assessment No. 200118)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce from \$247.67 to \$198.52

584 Lexington Parkway North

Clare Pillsbury: Staff recommends reducing to \$198.52.

Marcia Moermond: Reduce down to \$198.52.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 30** **[RLH TA 20-504](#)** Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1054 LOEB STREET. (File No. CG2001C2-1, Assessment No. 200153)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Delete the assessment.

1054 Loeb Street

Clare Pillsbury: Advanced Disposal courtesy delete. Previous owner passed away.

Marcia Moermond: We have a history of deleting these assessments when people die, and someone is trying to get their accounts in order.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 31** **[RLH TA 20-507](#)** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1935 MARGARET STREET. (File No. CG2001E2-1, Assessment No. 200117)

Sponsors: Prince

Approve the assessment.

1935 Margaret Street

Clare Pillsbury: Staff recommends approval.

Marcia Moermond: They did not pay the bill. It did not appear on the invoice because it was forwarded to the City. \$110.48.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 32** **[RLH TA 20-500](#)** Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1259 MAYWOOD STREET. (File No. CG2001C1-1, Assessment No. 200152)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Delete the assessment.

1259 Maywood Street

Clare Pillsbury: Recommends removing the bill as a courtesy, as there may have been mixed messages coming from the City on billing in the relevant time period.

Marcia Moermond: So recommended.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 33 RLH TA 20-517** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 741 PIERCE BUTLER ROUTE. (File No. CG2002C3, Assessment No. 200130)

Sponsors: Jalali

Reduce from \$274.38 to \$198.86.

741 Pierce Butler Route

Clare Pillsbury: Recommend reducing it further. Late fees should not be charged.

Marcia Moermond: Down to \$198.86.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 34 RLH TA 20-502** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 506 PORTLAND AVENUE. (File No. CG2001A1, Assessment No. 200100)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce from \$447.02 to \$288.24.

506 Portland Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: Quarter 4 assessment consisted of a base level cost. Recommend reducing the assessment.

Marcia Moermond: Reduce to \$288.24.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

- 35 RLH TA 20-505** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1871 STANFORD AVENUE. (File No. CG2001A4, Assessment No. 200103)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Delete the assessment.

1871 Stanford Avenue

Clare Pillsbury: Republic stated that the assessment was for a different address. They requested that staff remove the assessment.

Marcia Moermond: Lines are not consistent. Should be changed to Quarter 1. (The notes for this appeal incorrectly have Quarter 4.)

Pillsbury: Assessment was for a different address. Removing assessment.

Moermond: So recommended.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

36 [RLH TA 20-501](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1374 VAN BUREN AVENUE. (File No. CG2001E2-1, Assessment No. 200157)

Sponsors: Jalali

Approve the assessment.

1374 Van Buren Avenue

Gigi Yau is on the phone line.

Yau: Have you got a chance to see the e-mail regarding supporting documents?

Marcia Moermond: Yes, I have that in front of me.

Clare Pillsbury: Total of \$44.12 for Quarter 4, Aspen Waste. Property owner is appealing because trash assessment of \$37.68 and \$4.92 should not have been there because of a credit balance. And a year ago, similar things happened. She came in and Marcia allowed her to remove the late fee. Staff confirmed with hauler that the original invoice was for \$60.83. There was an existing credit on the account of \$28.07 that reduced the amount due to \$32.76. Since the amount of \$32.76 was not paid during the service period, it generated late fees of \$4.92. These late fees should not be removed as they were generated due to a lack of payment by the property owner during Quarter 4 2019; therefore, staff recommends approving the assessment.

Moermond: Yao had a credit on her account which decreased the bill in Quarter 4. The credit didn't cover the entire amount of the bill. It covered about 1/3 of it. For the 2/3 she didn't have a credit on, they charged a late fee, and the late fee is 5% a month for 2 months.

Yau: Could Clare repeat the dollar amounts?

Pillsbury: Total amount that Quarter 4 reduced to was \$32.76.

Yau: That is the amount we need to pay now?

Pillsbury: That was the invoice total. That was originally what you had to pay.

Yau: Let's go back to the principal. When I was talking to Aspen was that Quarter 1 only had one pickup at the end of March because I would be in China. She said the person who answered our phone, the contract the way it is written, each quarter I had to pay in full. The whole quarter only had one pickup. I do not want to draw cash to pay them and then pay interest. I want to call Chris. Last year, when Marcia gave me the credit, Chris was in the room in person. They had multiple people work at Aspen.

When I called Chris, because it was around Christmas, no one called me back. I want to pay just the amount I should pay for Quarter 4 without late fees.

Moermond: We got a few things going on. I don't have an appeal document for Quarter 1. We can talk about that. Staff is looking at things right now. I'm not going to consider a reduction on Quarter 4. You didn't pay it during the Quarter 4--October, November, December--which is why the late fees accrued. You were given consideration in the past. I'm not going to do it again. You know how the system works. Now, I'm going to ask staff to talk about what was going on in Quarter 1. You said you were in China. Normally, you would put a service hold in place.

Swanson: Looking at what we have for Quarter 1 2020 and up to this point, I don't see additional assessments on this property. Either the bill was paid for the City or the service hold was in place.

Moermond: There is no assessment for Quarter 1. Whatever happened, it didn't get forwarded to the City for us to deal with. We can't take any action. We don't have anything. If you have a concern about Quarter 1 or Quarter 2, you need to talk with the hauler. It sounds like they didn't forward anything. If they did, it got paid. All I can deal with is Quarter 4. I'm going to recommend approval.

Yau: I was hoping to work with them. All these terms were discussed between the City and the hauler without our objection. You guys had the terms that we cannot live with. My income last year was so low, I applied for unemployment insurance, COVID 19. They did not pay me the \$600 a week. It's really bad. I was working. I was doing court interpreting. I work at the hospital interpreting. It does add up.

Moermond: This assessment will go forward to the City Council for approval on August 26. If you want to add information for them to consider, there is still time to do that. The assessment will be payable with your 2021 taxes, so there is time to pull that together. That will be payable in the first or second half of the year. You can choose to pay it right away or you can let it go to your property taxes for next year. This is a bill for service that was rendered. It is accurate. You did receive consideration in the past. You will not receive indefinite consideration. This is a legitimate bill. I am going to recommend approval.

Yau: My age is over 50, so I don't know how my income becomes more stabilized and improve.

Moermond: I hope that things get better for you. That is why I was saying this will go on next year's taxes. No matter what your age, you are part of the garbage hauling program because of your property type, so that is what it is going to cost.

Yau: I really hope the City considers each individual as important as businesses. (Talked about looting, businesses, individuals.) Chris, why didn't you call me back at Christmastime?

Swanson: I can't speak to why or why not a phone call happened months ago. You got a significant amount of credit on your account. Basically, that is why you have a reduced amount for Quarter 4 of \$32.76 and not the total of \$63.

Yau: That's because I didn't get the service.

Swanson: The credit rolled over, you ran over the credits, which is why we have the

outstanding balance and the 3 late fees. \$60.83 was the original invoice for Quarter 4. Aspen removed \$28.07 on that. That left \$32.76 unpaid for Quarter 4. At the end of that month, there is a late fee.

Pillsbury: It included the taxes.

Swanson: \$37.68 is the amount.

Yau: Why are you charging?

Moermond: The City didn't add a penny to your bill. We are looking at Quarter 4. It took into account the credit. You didn't pay that bill. Because you did not pay that bill, Aspen sent it to the City for the City to collect it on the assessment. That is what we are looking at today. You are not telling me you didn't pay the bill. You are telling me you had income problems, you had problems that happened in Quarter 1. That is not in front of me. It looks like it didn't go to assessment at all. There is nothing I can do about Quarter 1.

Yau: I was talking to Aspen saying Quarter 1 would only have one pickup. That's what I was talking about. I'm not asking you to deal with Quarter 4.

Moermond: When you did not pay that time in October, it got a 5% late fee.

(Discussion about amounts.)

Moermond: I'm asking staff to go through the numbers one last time.

Swanson: There may be a discrepancy between what is on the form and what is on the website. What we recommend is \$37.68, which includes the late fees. That is what is owed.

Moermond: So, the written staff report is incorrect.

Swanson: Yes.

Yau: We are on the same page. I consider our conversation done and good.

Moermond: \$37.68 is the correct amount being recommended

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/26/2020

Special Tax Assessments-rolls

- 37 RLH AR** Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing Collection of
20-114 Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during January to March 2020.
 (File No. CG2002E1, Assessment No. 200136)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the Charter Commission due back on 9/2/2020

- 38 RLH AR** Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing Collection of
20-115 Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during January to March 2020.

(File No. CG2002E3, Assessment No. 200138)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 9/2/2020