



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

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Thursday, October 8, 2020

9:00 AM

Via Telephone

Special Tax Assessments

9:00 a.m. Hearings

- 1 **RLH TA 20-578** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 2116 DAYTON AVENUE. (File No. CG2003A1, Assessment No. 200139)

Sponsors: Jalali

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared

Moermond: asking for it to be deleted because it was unoccupied during this time period. We'll recommend deletion.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020

- 2 **RLH TA 20-599** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1562 GOODRICH AVENUE. (File No. CG2003A1, Assessment No. 200139)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Approve the assessment.

Kathleen Deming, owner, appeared via phone

Deming: since the City took over the garbage collection this has been such a complete waste of my time.

Staff report by Claire Pillsbury: this is for \$28.76 for Quarter 2, 2020. Appealing because the property owner is living on social security and before trash collection began they returned an unwanted bin to the City, don't generate a lot of trash, they don't have the money. They were not given property credit for the 6 months they were away last year; they pre-notified the trash company. Under Citywide garbage services up to 4 units are required to have service with no option to opt out. The property owner is currently at the lowest level of service, at the current rate. We were able to confirm with the hauler the property owner was credited for their time on vacation from November 19, 2019 to May 19, 2020. The property owner stated she notified the hauler, but there was no record of contact during that time. Neither the city or hauler received

an unoccupied dwelling form or service hold, in spite of this the hauler did give her a credit for a hold from January 1, 2020 to May 19, 2020. Staff confirmed account had a credit of \$100.71, therefore we recommend approving the assessment in full. In the future the occupant needs to submit the proper forms, it cannot be written on an invoice, which staff can provide.

Moermond: Ms. Deming was indicating she was not using the service from November 19, 2019 to May 19, 2020, but hauler said they didn't receive notice of that until June 18. The other piece relevant is that for the period she was gone November 19 to end of 2019, that bill went through as an assessment on an appeal, with no appeal from the property owner indicating she thought it was correct. The next time period, the first quarter, the hauler did the courtesy of asking the assessment to be removed, and it was. April 1- May 19 is what we were talking about, she says she was gone, they say they didn't have notice of it. It has already been discounted by half, so that's what we're walking in with, for \$28.76. Ms. Deming, I'm looking at this proposed assessment for service, covering second quarter of 2020. You are appealing, you've shared lots of info in your written appeal.

Deming: I'd like a rebate for the full six months I was away. I was not notified ahead of time I had to fill out a special form, I wrote to the company and told them when I'd be away. I had no notice of a special form requirement; I didn't get that information until I was back. So, it felt like someone kept moving the goal post, the rules keep getting changed. The form for this year when I will be away is going out in today's mail.

Moermond: to be clear, when the program started the fact a form was required if you were gone, that is an unchanged requirement from day one of the program. You may not have read the materials completely, but I was sent many times to you. If the garbage truck doesn't know you aren't there, they are still driving by every week, they are there.

Deming: they aren't there for me.

Moermond: you may not be putting things out, but they're still going by.

Deming: you are going to have to make exceptions for people who make as little garbage as I do, and make as little as I do, you're talking grocery money lady.

Moermond: everyone in the City with a single-family home has to pay for this service

*Deming: whether they need it or not, I've spent countless hours on this sh*t since the program started, I never had this problem before.*

Moermond: I understand, your ask to have this decreased I look at this and think, you didn't do what you were supposed to and in spite of that you got half your bill forgiven, and you didn't even ask for the 4th quarter to be decreased and I know you know how to do that because we've heard multiple appeals from you before.

Deming: I notified waste management six weeks in advance about being away the 19th of November. I wrote to them.

Moermond: they have no record of that

Deming: it went to them in Arizona.

Pillsbury: when you send it to Arizona, they have to receive it, process, and send it back.

Deming: it was sent six weeks ahead of time.

Pillsbury: and that's why we have specific procedures, to ensure it gets in the right hands.

Deming: I want a rebate.

Moermond: and right now I'm looking at a situation where service was provided and this is the charge for that service, and your response is you're on social security and low income, and I respect that, but you have the lowest level of service, we hear your comments moving forward, but everyone has a responsibility for participating in this regardless of income. We all pay our own way; the cost is carefully figured out.

Deming: there is no way the City can provide me with a 5-gallon bucket because of hydraulic trucks can't pick it up, this was a money grab by the city. I don't generate that much garbage in a six-month period of time.

Moermond: I am left with the same situation here with your case.

Deming: fine please give me whatever credit you can and let's get this over with.

Moermond: I'm going to recommend the council approve this assessment and stands. You can certainly put something in front of council and see if they see it differently.

Deming: I find that doing that is like throwing a bucket of water on a forest fire.

Moermond: well, I understand, but that's my recommendation.

Deming: I am 76.5 years old. When you get to be this age you are very aware every day of the concept of time remaining in your life. That is the hours you have left to live. I don't choose to spend them constantly battling, I have other things to do, and quite frankly the city has gotten so ridiculous I am looking to moving to Ecuador because I speak Spanish and can afford to live there and have a maid.

Moermond: I wish you well and hope you stay healthy and well, no matter your choice.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020

3 RLH TA 20-558 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 564 OHIO STREET. (File No. CG2003A1, Assessment No. 200139)

Sponsors: Noecker

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: the amount in question is \$57.60 for Quarter 2, 2020, the property owner essentially stated they submitted a service hold January 10, 2020 therefore they shouldn't have a quarter 2 2020 assessment. We spoke with a haler, they confirmed the hold should have happened April 7, 2020 and requested we remove the assessment.

Moermond: perfect.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020

10:00 a.m. Hearings

- 4 **RLH TA 20-604** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 751 TUSCARORA AVENUE. (File No. CG2003A2, Assessment No. 200140)

Sponsors: Noecker

Reduce assessment from \$110.48 to \$93.07.

No one appeared

Moermond: this person doesn't want to attend?

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: this is for \$110.48 for service quarter 2, 2020. Hauler is Advanced. Appealing because property owner purchased the property February 2020 and called to update the name on the account, and they didn't receive it, it was sent to address of previous owner. This was confirmed with the hauler; therefore we recommend removing the late fees and reducing assessment from \$110.48 to \$93.07. We are currently investigating why Advanced charged the 2019 rates, not the 2020 rates.

Moermond: \$93.07, great.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020

11:00 a.m. Hearings

- 5 **RLH TA 20-565** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1083 COLETTE PLACE. (File No. CG2003A3, Assessment No. 200141)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: \$107.02 for Quarter 2, 2020 medium cart and late fees. The hauler is Waste Management, appealing because the property owner was quarantined outside the US from March 24 to July 20 and couldn't submit a service hold, they did one when they returned on July 31. They received a call from waste Management confirming they were going to contact the city to remove the Quarter 2 assessment. We did speak to the hauler and they confirmed they should have reached out to remove the assessment.

Moermond: Covid 19 reduction. Recommend deletion.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020

- 6 **RLH TA 20-613** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 836 DEER PARK. (File No. CG2003A3, Assessment No. 200141)
- Sponsors: Tolbert
- Delete the assessment.*
- No one appeared*
- Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: appealing \$34.94 for Quarter 2, 2020, hauler is Advanced, appealing because they submitted a service hold November 2019 through May 15, 2020, due to Covid they requested the hold be extended and wanted to know why they were charged. Hauler confirmed that when the property owner called the invoice had already been generated for May 15, 2020 to June 30, 2020, so the invoice was sent as an assessment. Hauler requested assessment be removed.*
- Moermond: so recommended.*
- Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020**
- 7 **RLH TA 20-598** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1006 HAWTHORNE AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2003A3, Assessment No. 200141)
- Sponsors: Yang
- Delete the assessment.*
- No one appeared*
- Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: this is for 1006 Hawthorne E, \$4.13 for Quarter 2, 2020. Hauler is Advanced, appealing because property owner received a notice from the City for this amount, which Advanced Disposal informed them was an extra bag charge. She hasn't ever had an extra bag and it should be removed since she's a long-standing customer even before the program, they did give her a credit but due to their poor communication and as a courtesy we recommend deleting.*
- Moermond: so recommended.*
- Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020**
- 8 **RLH TA 20-610** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1357 SEARLE STREET. (File No. CG2003A3, Assessment No. 200141)
- Sponsors: Yang
- Approve the assessment.*
- No one appeared*
- Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: hauler is Waste Management. He said he already made a payment through his personal account. We confirmed with hauler that the only payment made in 2020 was for Quarter 3 invoice. The assessment does include a charge for a 64 gallon cart March 1, 2020 through June 30 plus late fee due to service being reinstated during January, so it is slightly higher than it would be otherwise, they are being charged for an extra month. We recommend approving.*

Moermond: so recommended.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020

Special Tax Assessments-ROLLS

- 9 RLH AR 20-139** Approving the City’s cost of providing Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for service during April to June 2020, and setting date of legislative hearing for October 8, 2020 and City Council public hearing for November 18, 2020 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. CG2003A1, Assessment No. 200139)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020

- 10 RLH AR 20-140** Approving the City’s cost of providing Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for service during April to June 2020, and setting date of legislative hearing for October 8, 2020 and City Council public hearing for November 18, 2020 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. CG2003A2, Assessment No. 200140)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020

- 11 RLH AR 20-141** Approving the City’s cost of providing Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for service during April to June 2020, and setting date of legislative hearing for October 8, 2020 and City Council public hearing for November 18, 2020 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. CG2003A3, Assessment No. 200141)

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/18/2020