



Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
Mai Vang, Hearing Coordinator
Joanna Zimny, Executive Assistant
legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-266-8585

Thursday, July 15, 2021

9:00 AM

Remote Hearing

Special Tax Assessments

9:00 a.m. Hearings

- 1 **RLH TA 21-311** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 545 ASHLAND AVENUE, UNIT 4. (File No. CG2102A1, Assessment No. 210106)

Sponsors: Thao

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared

Moermond: this is a deletion, what is the reasoning?

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: the hauler records show the property owner was on vacation Quarter 1, 2021 and they asked us to remove the assessment.

Moermond: somehow the paperwork got turned around, no problem deleting that.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021

- 2 **RLH TA 21-337** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 143 BAKER STREET WEST. (File No. CG2102A1, Assessment No. 210106)

Sponsors: Noecker

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: the property owner put a hold on the pickup for January. We looked into it and the hauler confirmed the hold from January 5 to April 7. Since it had been generated and they provided a credit to March 31. They would like us to remove the assessment and the hauler will remove the credit. So we recommend deleting the assessment.

Moermond: in the normal course of events if someone is gone and has a hold for the

first quarter, they would be credited that amount the following quarter and not have a bill. In this case they said don't credit me, I want my bill deleted. Hauler says that is weird, but ok we will do it. A lot of rigamarole because they didn't want to follow standard procedure?

Pillsbury: exactly.

Moermond: ok, so because they are high maintenance we will delete it.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021

3 RLH TA 21-314 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 696 CONCORD STREET. (File No. CG2102A1, Assessment No. 210106)

Sponsors: Noecker

Layover to LH July 22 at 10 am (unable to reach PO)

Tried calling 9:28 am – did not connect; unable to leave message

Tried calling 9:29 am – did not connect; unable to leave message

Moermond: we tried calling twice, we will call back again after reading a few more into the record.

Tried calling 9:57 am – did not connect; unable to leave message

Moermond: we tried a third time to reach the appellant. The call was again disconnected prior to going to any voicemail or being picked up. We'll lay this over to next week at 9 am and try again.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 7/22/2021

4 RLH TA 21-313 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1303 ELEANOR AVENUE. (File No. CG2102A1, Assessment No. 210106)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: the property owner said they had a hold from January 5 to May 30, 2021 and made a payment for the first week in January. They wondered why they had an assessment. We spoke with the hauler and confirmed they made a payment of \$21.05 on February 17, 2021 towards the original invoice of \$98.84. Since the invoice was already generated for Quarter 1 the property owner should have paid the invoice in full, with the understanding the hauler would credit them for the time period the hold was in place. Hauler records confirm there was a credit of \$57.01 added to the account on April 5, 2021 to cover the time period of January 5 through March 31, 2021. However, they also requested the assessment be removed in full.

Moermond: so the hauler would prefer to work out this situation by removing the assessment, we can do that. Delete the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021

- 5 **RLH TA 21-312** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1456 HARTFORD AVENUE. (File No. CG2102A1, Assessment No. 210106)

Sponsors: Tolbert

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: the property owner stated they made a payment on time and should have not been charged a late fee. We spoke with the hauler who confirmed the original invoiced amount was applied February 2, 2021 after the original due date of January 25, so it would have incurred a late fee. We recommend approving.

Moermond: when doing some homework we had seen this property once before under appeal. It wasn't for a late fee; it was a big complicated problem with bank account numbers being wrongly charged within the hauler. There was disentangling of a lot of things. One previous appeal and it wasn't a matter of grace for a small mistake. It was a big thing. In this case we have a one-week late bill and a tiny late fee, I think it is reasonable to give grace. I'll recommend deletion on it.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021

10:00 a.m. Hearings

- 6 **RLH TA 21-326** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1505 ALBANY AVENUE. (File No. CG2102A2, Assessment No. 210107)

Sponsors: Jalali

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: we found out the property owner was hospitalized with Covid January to March 2021 and couldn't put a hold on his property due to his illness. His son paid Aspen \$116.38 in May 2021. Obviously based on the hardship suffered by the property owner and the fact it was actually vacant we're recommend removing the assessment as a courtesy. The May payment was applied to the quarter 2, 2021 invoice.

Moermond: that poor man. I am definitely going to go with the recommendation that grace be granted for the first quarter bill and recommend it is deleted

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021

- 7 **RLH TA 21-324** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 764 COTTAGE AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2102A2, Assessment No. 210107)

Sponsors: Yang

Approve the assessment.

No one appeared

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: in this case it was a title specialist that contacted us. She said they made two payments to the hauler, one for \$255.44 on April 5 and an additional \$196.04 payment on May 3. They believed those payments should have covered any pending bills. They also paid the assessment office \$211.74 on April 22. We contacted the hauler and confirmed those payments were received May 3 and were applied to the quarter 2 and the excess as a credit on the account. The title company will be reimbursed that \$255.44. The payment to the assessment office was applied to the quarter 4, 2020 assessment.

Moermond: the \$255.44 paid, you said it was a credit and reimbursed to the title company?

Pillsbury: yes because they made the original payment.

Moermond: so they made the payment to the hauler. If it was the new property owner paying it would have been a credit, but because it was a title company it was decided to give them back their money and start fresh with the new property owner.

Pillsbury: correct

Moermond: the \$196 covered quarter 2 and not quarter 1. And then the assessment office got money?

Pillsbury: there was another pending assessment at that time for quarter 4, 2020 so that payment went towards that.

Moermond: so they kind of hopped around it. They paid quarter 4, 2020 and quarter 2, 2021 and then paid extra but no one paid quarter 1 and that's why it went to assessment?

Pillsbury: yes.

Moermond: so it was properly assessed and it should have been paid and any dispute about who should pay it is a private matter. You spoke to them about that?

Pillsbury: I spoke to the title specialist; they know about the reimbursement and are good with our recommendation.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021

8 RLH TA 21-338 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1357 JESSIE STREET. (File No. CG2102A2, Assessment No. 210107)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Approve the assessment.

No one appeared

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: the property owner stated they had paid the by April 1 by check to OFS and according to the bank it was cashed April 16, 2021. I checked records and they show that payment April 14 for 2020 however it was applied to quarter

4, 2020 delinquent assessment. Therefore we recommend approving. I also want to add I contacted the property owner and sent them a copy of the receipt for the assessment they paid.

Moermond: so they have a visual confirmation it was the quarter 4 bill they paid. They thought it was first because of timing. Recommend approval

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021

- 9 **RLH TA 21-339** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 47 ORANGE AVENUE WEST. (File No. CG2102A2, Assessment No. 210107)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Layover to LH July 22, 2021 at 10 am (unable to reach PO).

Voicemail at 10:13 am – This is Marcia Moermond trying to reach you about your appealed tax assessment for 47 Orange. We'll try back .

Voicemail at 10:49 am – good morning again, this is Marcia Moermond with St. Paul City Council calling again. We will try calling you again between 10 and 11 a.m. next Thursday morning.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 7/22/2021

- 10 **RLH TA 21-340** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1014 ORANGE AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2102A2, Assessment No. 210107)

Sponsors: Yang

Delete the assessment.

No one appeared

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: the property owner stated they had to wait to pay the quarter 1 invoice because the initial invoice was incorrect because they were billed incorrectly for a bulky item. They eventually paid \$66.05 on February 17, 2021. We checked with the hauler and they confirmed it did include a bulky item charge and requested the late fee be removed so we recommend removing the assessment.

Moermond: so recommended.

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021

Special Tax Assessments-ROLLS

- 11 **RLH AR 21-68** Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during January to March 2021. (File No. CG2102A1, Assessment No. 210106)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021

- 12 RLH AR 21-69** Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during January to March 2021. (File No. CG2102A2, Assessment No. 210107)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 8/25/2021