



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
Mai Vang, Hearing Coordinator
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651-266-8585

Thursday, October 21, 2021

9:00 AM

To be held remotely

Special Tax Assessments -LAYOVERS

9:00 a.m. Hearings

- 1 **RLH TA 21-421** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 667 LAUREL AVENUE. (File No. CG2103A1, Assessment No. 210110)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce assessment from \$109.06 to \$59.23. (Q1, 2021 and Q4, 2020 will be reduced as well).

No one appeared

Moermond: when we did the hearing a few weeks ago with Greg Crawford, I indicated we could treat this like other similarly situated people who don't want service but have to be part of the program by contract, which is get them to the lowest level of service. He did switch out his cart, so we will decrease his assessment from \$109.06 to \$59.23. Also, we will go backwards, so the two assessments prior to this one this year, Quarter 4, 2020 and Quarter 1, 2021 will also be decreased to \$57.60.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/17/2021

- 2 [RLH TA 21-446](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1774 REANEY AVENUE. (File No. CG2103A3, Assessment No. 210112)

Sponsors: Prince

Layover to LH October 26, 2021 at 11 am for staff update.

No one appeared

Moermond: staff indicate the property owner won't be attending. Staff have been interacting with the hauler about the appeal comments by the owner. We still haven't quite landed the plane, so staff is requesting it be laid over to October 26 at 11 am.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 10/26/2021

- 3 **RLH TA 21-425** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 843 SELBY AVENUE. (File No. CG2103A1, Assessment No. 210110)

Sponsors: Thao

Approve the assessment.

No one appeared

Voicemail at x2447 at 9:19 am: this is Marcia Moermond at St Paul City Council trying you again about your appealed assessment for 843 Selby. We tried calling you October 14 and weren't able to reach you. I'm going to recommend Council approve that assessment. If you have questions please call Mai Vang at 266-8563.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/17/2021

4 [RLH TA 21-428](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1706 SIMS AVENUE. (File No. CG2103A3, Assessment No. 210112)

Sponsors: Yang

Layover to Nov 2, 2021 at 10:30 am. PO to send in copy of receipt for Q2, 2021 payment. Staff to get payment history.

*Misa, Karen interpreter for Language Line, appeared via phone
Daughter of Tu Lay, appeared via phone*

Moermond: Tu Lay appealed garbage hauling services, believing he had already paid the bill.

Daughter: we did pay the bill. What are your records we didn't pay? Which month?

Moermond: it looks like April through June 2021 there were no payments, but there was a payment in August. You did pay, but not for the period we are talking about.

Daughter: my mother paid those bills in those months. She went to the office and paid in person. She asked the person in the office if it was ok to pay April and June on the same check. They said it was ok. The bill for April was \$116.28 and for June \$162.40, totaling \$278.68.

Moermond: do you have a paper or electronic record? The hauler is saying it didn't get paid. I believe she did pay it; I'm just wondering if you have record.

Daughter: yes, we have the receipt. We paid it in the office.

Moermond: can you send a copy to us if we send you a self-addressed stamped envelope?

Daughter: after I received notice I didn't pay the bill; I went to the office twice and they took a copy and they said they couldn't fix it and the person who could was Kane or something like that. I don't know what they did, but I have all the evidence if we have to go to court.

Moermond: perfect. We'll send you an envelope to get a copy of that receipt. We'll also check with the hauler. I think we can delete this, I need that documentation though.

Daughter: yes ma'am.

Moermond: if we sent a note that said "garbage receipt" would you know that in English?

Daughter: yes. We just send you the receipt?

Moermond: yes, perfect. Then I can delete this assessment. We will mail it out tomorrow. Please return it within a week or two.

Daughter: I will send as soon as we receive the envelope.

Moermond: any other questions for us?

Daughter: no, no questions.

Moermond: it sounds like she went into the office, got receipts, spoke with a Customer Service Representative who referred her to a manger to talk about it. I can't help but think the situation was complicated by the language difficulty, and there may have been miscommunication by the hauler because of that. I believe the owner acted in good faith. Because of that I'm not comfortable approving this assessment.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 11/2/2021

- 5** [RLH TA 21-445](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 120-122 STEVENS STREET WEST. (File No. CG2103A1, Assessment No. 210110)

Sponsors: Noecker

Layover to Nov 2, 2021 at 10:30 am for update on status of cart switch and UDRF completed indicating the second unit is unoccupied.

No one appeared

Voicemail at x5361 at 9:44 am: trying to reach Howard Williams. This is Marcia Moermond from St. Paul City Council trying to reach you about your appealed tax assessment. We will try back in 5 to 10 minutes.

Voicemail at x5261 at 10:07: it sounds like you've talked with staff, I'll have you reach back to them. I think we can get your bill decreased but it will be a conversation about what we need to do. I'd also want to look at a couple of previous quarters. It is in your financial interest to have this conversation. Please call Mai Vang 651-266-8563.

Moermond: if he switches the cart out from every week to every other week 35 gallon and has a Unoccupied Dwelling Registration Form filled out saying the other unit is empty and unused we can reduce it. We can look back at the other quarters for this year then too, since he indicates he is a zero waster. Let's lay this over to November 2.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 11/2/2021

10:00 a.m. Hearings

- 6** **RLH TA 21-432** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1769 MARSHALL AVENUE. (File No. CG2103A4, Assessment No. 210113)

Sponsors: Jalali

Reduce assessment from \$755.77 to \$284.61.

No one appeared

Voicemail at 10:21 am: this Marcia Moermond at St. Paul City Council. Calling you about your service. I think staff indicated to you we are looking at decreasing this. We'll try you back in about 10 minutes.

Voicemail at 10:29 am: good morning this is Marcia Moermond calling again. You have a current assessment of \$750.77 so correcting the accounting on it we would be decreasing to \$284.61. Please reach back to Clare Pillsbury with questions at 651-266-8862.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/17/2021

- 7 **RLH TA 21-444** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1789 MARYLAND AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2103A2, Assessment No. 210111)

Sponsors: Yang

Reduce assessment from \$79.36 to \$39.63.

Axel Aqel, owner, appeared via phone

[Moermond gives background of appeals process]

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: the property owner stated they verified with Waste Management there was no usage at the property since 2020 so they want to know why they have this assessment. Hauler records show this account as active. The property owner did call May 21, 2021 regarding a vacancy at the property. They were told to submit an Unoccupied Dwelling Registration Form (UDRF), but that wasn't done until September 17, 2021. We recommend approving this assessment but starting September 17 the property will be considered vacant.

Aqel: 2020? Or 2021?

Moermond: September 2021 is when they received the form. I'm looking at a bill for a 35 gallon cart every other week, plus some late fees. From your statement, you don't use the service and don't want to be responsible for paying for it. Tell me more.

Aqel: according to the lady I spoke with, there is no usage on the account since March or April.

Moermond: she said you called the hauler May 21 of 2021 and said you weren't using the service?

Aqel: right, but the sentence you missed was the hauler verified no usage since April. You can verify with the hauler representative. I think what is missing is that I did not call the City, I didn't submit a form to the City of the St. Paul saying that I need to stop or it is vacant. As far as I'm concerned I did my part in May when I called the hauler saying there is no service and to stop. You're asking me to do internal administrative work between the City and the trash company. That should have been coordinated

between you guys when you made the agreement. You are billing me for a service when I have no trash. This is an administrative mistake that I don't think I should have to pay for. If there is no service, I shouldn't have to be paying for it. Why is this being controlled by the City? You have control over my property and you want to assess me for a service not provided? You want to pick up the trash, but you should treat us like a private company and if I don't like the service I can switch. I did make a mistake not filing with the second company. There is a service that didn't happen.

Moermond: can you tell me why there is no trash pickup? Do you not generate any? You bring it somewhere else? You were out of town?

Aqel: there is a tenant in that property and he had problems with Covid and they were in the hospital. They left without any notice. I found out 2 months later after they stopped sending checks. I went inside in May and made a couple calls to find out what is going on. That's when I verified with the trash company there was no one picking up the trash. They used the term that the trash wasn't put out. Even though the truck rolls by, there is no trash out. That's why I started making some calls. It isn't a vacant property.

Moermond: it isn't that it was a Vacant Building, there wasn't a tenant. Is it occupied now?

Aqel: it is being remodeled.

Moermond: what I'm looking at a bill covering April 1 through June 30, 2021. I wish you would have submitted the form earlier to the City, that would have helped. I get you didn't. I'm going to recommend this is decreased for the second quarter of 2021 by half, so that would bring you down to \$39.63. That takes into account half the billing period you did have a tenant you were aware of, and the other half you didn't. I understand because of Covid you weren't as aware of what was going on as you may have been outside of this Covid world. There is a forthcoming assessment for the third quarter. We will delete that as a courtesy as well, and you should be fine for the fourth quarter.

Aqel: I understand, thank you.

Referred to the City Council due back on 11/17/2021