

Mai Vang

From: Greg Sofie <gregs@atlasstaffinginc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2024 9:51 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Cc: Joanna Zimny; Tim Olson
Subject: RE: File VB2408 - 187 - 7th Place E
Attachments: CCF_001021.pdf

Good morning Mai,

Thank you for the information. I am going with option 1 but I also wanted to send in a written statement and to provide additional information. As I see it chronologically:

- The City of St. Paul offers to waive the vacant building fee if the work is completed by year-end.
- Work is completed by early December and we attempt to schedule an inspection. We know this is a busy time of the year but many calls were made and left on voice mail. No return calls
- I contacted the department because the City was not getting back to us and I was given an e-mail address. I begin an e-mail exchange (attached)
- My e-mails will show that we were timely (December stamps). Most respectfully, part of the delay was because there was some confusion on the City's part about permits being open. Plumbing and electrical
- To clear up the confusion, we provided the documentation showing the plumbing permit was closed on 12/6 (attached). The City must not have had time to update the data. This caused another delay.
- We pointed out the electrical permit had nothing to do with the vacant building and was for an electronic sign on another building
- We explained in December that we were trying to avoid the vacant building fee. It is referenced twice in the e-mails (attached)

The summary. The City was good enough to give us a path to avoid the fee. We met that deadline – mid-December. We know the City can't just drop everything but we feel ample time was allowed for scheduling. Bottom line. We were compliant and should not have to pay the fee.

Please forward my e-mail to Ms. Moermond.

Thank you and have a good day.

Greg Sofie

President

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From: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 3:46 PM
To: Greg Sofie <gregs@atlasstaffinginc.com>
Cc: Joanna Zimny <joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: RE: File VB2408 - 187 - 7th Place E

Hello Mr. Sofie,

Ms. Moermond's recommendation to City Council is that they reduced your vacant Building fee from \$5,075 to \$3,400. If you wish to contest to the City Council on June 26, 2024 at 3:30 p.m., below are the 3 options:

- 1) Register to testify by phone via this link <https://www.stpaul.gov/department/city-council/city-council-public-hearing-live-testimony> by noon on June 25;
- 2) Send in written statement to contact-council@ci.stpaul.mn.us or councilhearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us
- 3) Appear in person and report to staff outside of Room 300 Council Chambers.

Mai Vang

(She, her)

Legislative Hearing Coordinator | St Paul City Council

M: (651) 266-8585 ; D: (651) 266-8563

310 City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55102



From: Greg Sofie <gregs@atlasstaffinginc.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 2:39 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: RE: File VB2408 - 187 - 7th Place E

Got it. Thank you Mai.

Greg Sofie

President

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From: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 2:33 PM

To: Greg Sofie <gregs@atlasstaffinginc.com>

Subject: RE: File VB2408 - 187 - 7th Place E

Hello Mr. Sofie,

This email is to confirm that your Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 187 7th Place East. (File No. VB2408, Assessment No. 248807) has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2024 between 9 and 11 am.

We will call you into the hearing (*you will not receive a separate link to join nor be able to join yourself, we will simply be calling you*).

Please note that the incoming number from the City shows up as **612-315-7905 so please make sure to answer.**

Thanks,

Mai Vang

(She, her)

Legislative Hearing Coordinator | St Paul City Council

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310 City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55102



From: Greg Sofie <gregs@atlasstaffinginc.com>

Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:40 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings <LegislativeHearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: File VB2408

Good evening,

I will attend a hearing on May 7th to ask that our vacant building fee be waived. I wanted to write as well. Before I begin, we just paid the fee for 2022.

The City of St. Paul was aware of the work we were doing and they were helpful. We were given until the end of the year to finish our project. We did finish on time but it was in mid-December. I did make numerous attempts to get the inspectors over for the final inspection so we could get our certificate of occupancy. Evidently, I was calling when people were busy and were out on PTO. We did meet the deadline but understandably, the City couldn't just drop everything and come over and do the inspection. I can elaborate when we teleconference.

I want to say how we greatly improved the look of downtown St. Paul. Please see my pictures (Before and after). I hope the City will recognize the improvement and will have some leniency on this matter.

Thank you and have a good weekend.

Greg Sofie

President

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