



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

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Thursday, January 5, 2023

9:00 AM

Remote

- 3** **RLH TA 23-16** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 884 MOUND STREET. (File No. CG2204A1, Assessment No. 220113)

Sponsors: Prince

Approve the assessment.

Larry Hall, owner, appeared via phone

Moermond: this is Marcia Moermond the City Council's hearing officer. I also have Clare Pillsbury and Sarah Haas on the line--

Hall: I've been trying to get ahold of her but I couldn't get through her number. I wanted to talk to her personally--

Moermond: she'll be on the line in a moment. I know we've talked in the past [Moermond gives background of appeals process]

Hall: it shouldn't be just me and my wife, there are a lot of elderly mistreated on this.

Moermond: and it is great to get those comments on the record.

Hall: they did the same thing on our house, they threatened to take away our house too. You caught me in the middle of doing something that will take 5 minutes. Can you give me 5 or 6 minutes to finish what is important, and then call me?

Moermond: we can indulge you in that request. It is 9:28. We'll call you back at 9:40.

[Hall is called back at 9:41]

Moermond: good morning again, this is Marcia Moermond. We left things off turning things over to Clare Pillsbury to give some background on this assessment.

Staff report by Clare Pillsbury: the property owner stated they don't use garbage service. Hauler records confirm that the property owner received service for a 35-gallon cart with every other week pick during the time period in question. Therefore, staff recommends approving the assessment.

Moermond: and to confirm this is for Quarter 3, 2022, originally billed in July. Mr. Hall, why are you appealing and what are you looking for?

Hall: it has to do with people who are elders. Basically, they go through a time in life where they are sick, they don't have what they had when they are younger and had jobs. Frankly, what they are doing is against rule of law. It isn't a legitimate law. For example, they have people in our ward that were told to create an ordinance that had to do with garbage and write it down. I know the people involved in it. That is against the law for citizens. Simple as you can say it. It is against the law for them to order a person to pay for garbage when there is no garbage for one thing. When you have no garbage you can't be charged for it, that is fraud. It is the wrong thing to be doing. People who are older are the ones who are your parents and paid for everything you got as a child. The lawyers are the ones doing this. You don't treat people like servants. They did this for 2 years with my wife. It killed her. Put her in the hospital 5 times.

Moermond: did she die in 2018?

Hall: September of last year.

Moermond: so it hasn't been that long, that's kind of recent.

Hall: for 2 years now.

Moermond: so September of 2020.

Hall: it was on the 17th and I found out on the 18th, actually. We have had problems here over the years. This house has a huge concrete type of wall and that has been going down for a number of years. Something has to be done about it. People who are on social security can't afford to pay \$50,000. We have got City complaints. They wanted us to take our garage down. What happened right after this I got a letter threatening they were going to take our house away from us. We've lived here not quite 50 years.

Moermond: when did you receive that letter?

Hall: a few months ago.

Moermond: a couple of comments. I did look up your property tax situation and it does appear your 2022 taxes went unpaid. I'd suggest you reach out to the County and there's way you can enter into a payment plan so you get out from under any threat of the property being taken since you're working with them. I suggest that strongly.

Hall: she is dead and it was caused by them and their threats for 2 years.

Moermond: you have to pay your property taxes, sir.

Hall: I'm talking about garbage.

Moermond: the property tax balance is due and owing for over \$3,000. That continues to accrue interest and penalties. You need to talk to the County about it.

Hall: I live on \$800. That takes away \$300 a month. You don't do that to people.

Moermond: you need to reach out to Ramsey County. I can't help with that, that isn't under my authority. You need to look for a person called a navigator. We can get you that information. Work with them before it is too late. With respect to the bill in front of me today. I am not under any law to discriminate between young and old and who owes

bills. It is connected to the property. I'm sorry you are in a position where you aren't using the service. Under City law there is a requirement service be provided for all residential property with 1 to 4 units.

Hall: the point is, they are forcing people to do it that don't have it.

Moermond: that is right, everyone pays the same whether they use it or not. They have heard from people situated like you. We have a 5-year contract.

Hall: they can arrest me now then.

Moermond: I know you want to be dramatic, but the concern for today is the larger \$3,600 bill that may cause you to lose your property. I don't want to see anyone, especially someone on a limited income, losing their home. I'm sorry I wasn't able to help with the tax assessment on this. Your Public Hearing is on March 8, you are welcome to talk to the Council on this. There is information on that in the letter that told you about today's hearing.

Hall: it killed my wife. She was in the hospital 5 times. Including the threat for the house. It was done to her.

Moermond: I'm sorry, I don't know how to manage your comment that this stress had that impact. We all face this kind of stress daily and I'm sorry you feel it had that impact and I'm sorry for the loss of your wife. I wish you well and I hope you talk to Ramsey County about getting on a payment plan for your taxes.

Hall: I'll be talking to lawyers.

Moermond: do that, because the process has started. You need to be in contact with them, either directly or through lawyers.

Referred to the City Council due back on 3/8/2023