

# Minutes

Housing Committee  
Monday, June 5, 2017  
7:15 p.m.  
Police Training Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Marie Carrubba, Councilwoman Vickye James

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Brent Sheldon

OTHERS PRESENT: Maria Jones, Vince DeJoy, Claire Soliman

Chairwoman Carrubba called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the May 15, 2017 meeting were approved.

## Remarks from Community Members/Committee Members

No one appeared.

## Palmer Street Property

Ms. Carrubba: I've had a complaint about 114 Palmer which comes up every year. The homeowner in the neighborhood, who does not own that house, said there are a lot of issues. They didn't have heat in the winter, they were climbing in through the window and I'm not sure if he's got a not to be occupied sign. There is an upstairs door that opens to nothing. There's no railings. I'll go through Mygov, but I just wondered if you knew if anything had happened with that house.

Mr. DeJoy: I can't answer that.

Mr. Olson: I've reported that before as well.

Mr. DeJoy: I honestly don't deal with that stuff on a day-to-day basis.

Ms. Carrubba: Jim's reported it, I've reported it. And this has been, I think, since I've been on council, this is the third, fourth year in a row when the weather breaks and then you notice the trash. I believe the garage is falling down, so that may be a more serious issue; that the garage does not look stable and may collapse. So, I don't know what else to do, but I'll go through it again.

Mr. DeJoy: What address?

Ms. Carrubba: 114 Palmer Street. I've been by this house and it's been a repeat offender in terms of - Jim recognizes the number as well and I think other people in the neighborhood...

Mr. DeJoy: I can put another orange sign up.

Ms. Carrubba: He's not the only one that's complained about it, someone up the block has also complained. It used to be a lot of garbage and trash that was not taken care of. It would be put out; I think their garbage night might be...

Mr. Olson: There was a dog there as well I think.

Ms. Carrubba: I don't know about the dog, but there was lots of garbage out front; put way out before the garbage night and left there. Very unattractive and not in garbage cans. So, that's one issue.

Mr. DeJoy: Marie, I do have some information on the Palmer Street house. On May 24<sup>th</sup> Todd Peterson was there. His notes say minimum progress made on house. Spoke to owner's ex-husband. Ms. Yarber has filed bankruptcy action, has a hearing for 05/31/2017; I don't know what happened there. She will reaffirm the debt of the house and request a final extension to get work completed. The case was adjourned by Judge Larson to 06/16/2017. My guess is nothing is going to happen. There will be fines...

Ms. Carrubba: Okay. Who is the owner because nobody seemed to know who the owner was?

Mr. Olson: I can look it up if you want.

Mr. DeJoy: It's Tammy Yarber; it's a land contract.

Ms. Carrubba: I appreciate that. It's frustrating for the people, when they take care of their properties, and to have individuals that just take advantage and just drag their feet on bringing things into compliance.

### **Jackson Spring Property**

Ms. Carrubba: The second is, I'm sure a lot of people have heard that the Jackson Spring project was not funded and I know the neighbors on Spring Street are very disappointed because of the continuing problems with the houses that were hopefully going to be demolished with that project. It's really unfortunate. I've run into a couple of the people that live on that street and again, they were very concerned about the condition of those homes. Obviously, they're not slated to be demolished. The city doesn't have the funds to take care of all those properties, but I was wondering if anybody else has heard anything in terms of - I believe they indicated they're going to try to reapply for funding, but I'm not sure if NRP is

going to stick with this; it's been several years. I haven't heard one way or the other, but the neighbors seemed to think that they were going to resubmit the application.

Ms. James: I know they're disappointed. I've seen a few of them; they're not happy. I just don't know where these 2,000 apartments that are available, that they've been told by an entity that there's 2,000 apartments available in Jamestown, so until those 2,000 get filled, then they can get behind the project.

Ms. Carrubba: They're saying 2,000 apartments?

Ms. James: There are 2,000 empty apartments in Jamestown.

Ms. Carrubba: Empty. Are they habitable? That's the issue.

Ms. James: That was my question.

Ms. Carrubba: I've seen a lot of apartments that...

Ms. Jones: Yes, would you put your family in one?

Ms. Carrubba: I didn't know that was the number that was being presented somewhere.

Ms. James: Yes. 2,000 I was told.

Ms. Carrubba: Are you aware of that number? That there are 2,000 vacant apartments in the city that are available for rent?

Mr. DeJoy: No.

Ms. Carrubba: I just wondered because that's the first time I've heard that number. Do you know where the number came from? Was it that BUKI report?

Ms. James: It came from Greg Edwards. He told the father and daughter who live in - John and his daughter; they live in Euclid Gardens.

Ms. Carrubba: Okay. I believe I know who you're talking about. I know who you're talking about, he's spoken at a couple of public hearings that he came back, he was a resident here, moved away, came back because of a domestic violence I believe, situation.

### **27 & 29 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street**

Ms. James: Vince, I don't know if you have a way to check on 27 and 29 West Eleventh? We've opened up a can of worms.

Ms. Carrubba: This is what this is for. It's important and sometimes we lose sight of the frustration of the people living next to these individuals. It's unbearable. If you're doing everything you can to maintain your home and then have to deal with all kinds of issues with sanitation and things not taken care of. It's unpleasant and in the summer, it gets worse and that's part of the problem. In the winter when the windows are shut and...

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson  
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk