

Minutes

Housing Committee
Monday, September 8, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Police Training Room, 4th Floor
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Marie Carrubba, Paul Whitford, Brent Sheldon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Vince DeJoy, Maria Jones, Greg Rabb, George Spitale,

Chairwoman Carrubba called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the August 18, 2014 meeting were approved.

Remarks from Community Members/Committee Members

No one appeared to speak.

General Discussion

Councilwoman Carrubba presented invitations to the members regarding the Health Care Action Team Seminar Thursday at JCC.

Councilwoman Carrubba thanked Director of Development DeJoy for the presentation at the last meeting and the article that explained the demolition process that is beginning.

Director of Development DeJoy stated that Stohl Environmental of Buffalo will be doing the surveys on the 25 properties. Contracts have been signed so work can begin. It is the asbestos and pre-demolition surveys.

Director of Development DeJoy presented a listing of the properties for their review.

Councilwoman Carrubba stated the property on Prendergast Ave. is still a pile of rubble.

Director of Development DeJoy stated Kingsview is the contractor who is not completing the work. The contractor blamed the BPU for not removing meters. They have been notified to complete the work that if they are not there by the end of the week, they will be pulled of the approved contractors list. It is fenced off but they should be cleaning it up. Permits are in order and monies have received the insurance settlement. They felt it was more important to do a job in Buffalo.

Councilwoman Carrubba stated it has to be 6 weeks since the work stopped.

Councilman Sheldon asked if there was an update on the houses on Falconer Street that had fires last winter.

Director of Development DeJoy stated that one was waiting for an insurance settlement and the other has no money to pay to do the demolition. We will have to do it. The settlement is not coming in a timely manner.

Councilman Sheldon stated that the one on McDaniel Ave. came down quick.

Director of Development DeJoy stated that was a private demolition. We try to complete only the ones we have to.

Councilwoman Carrubba stated she appreciated all of the efforts that are being done to clean up the neighborhoods.

Councilman Whitford stated the one on Liberty Street has changed.

Director of Development DeJoy stated that will cost \$50,000 to \$60,000 to demolish. Once we have the surveys are back we are hoping that the ones with no asbestos can be demolished. The others will get abatement and then abolished.

Councilman Whitford asked if they were all in partnership with the County.

Director of Development DeJoy stated no. Some are ones we take over. Basically Zombie properties. Many are Land Bank or County properties.

Councilman Sheldon asked the status of 93 Thayer Street. It has been condemned since 2009. The wall is crumbling onto the sidewalk. It needs to be on the list for next year.

Director of Development DeJoy stated that he will review. It may be a court ordered demolition.

Councilman Sheldon asked if the wall could be removed.

Director of Development DeJoy stated we probably would not do that until it was demolished.

Councilman Rabb stated that 84 Hotchkiss Street has the DEC involved now. A 55 gallon drum was found there that stated Hazardous Waste on it. A JCC employee lives down the street and expressed concerns. The police were called and the DOD posted it.

Councilman Sheldon stated they come back on weekends. The power had also been turned off.

Councilman Sheldon stated the rumor is that it was a meth lab.

Councilwoman Carrubba stated it is better than dumping it on the ground.

Councilman Spitale asked about 3 houses on Newton Ave. The grass is high. Coming off of Lakeview Ave.

Councilwoman Carrubba asked if the mowing was still being done.

Mr. Olson stated yes on a limited basis.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk