

Minutes

Housing Committee
Monday, November 3, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Police Training Room, 4th Floor
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Marie Carrubba, Councilman Paul Whitford, Councilman Brent Sheldon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Council President Greg Rabb

Chairwoman Carrubba called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the October 20, 2014 meeting were approved.

Remarks from Community Members/Committee Members

Mr. Whitford: I would just like to say that I would like to have an update as to the status of the twenty plus houses that were going to be demolished. I got the list of them and some of them were in my ward and very close to my residence and I have constituents asking me questions and I told them that it was slated to be on the demo list for this year, the priority, and now here it is the first part of November and they're really - I told them I'd try to get them an update. I know they were waiting for the asbestos abatement type of thing and they actually negotiated a whole group of them and I said I really don't know the status of all of them, but I certainly would like Vince DeJoy to email me an update on all of them, the entire Council, not just myself. Because there are some people, you know, they got excited over the news release and the Landbank partnering with the City and taking care of that.

Mr. Rabb: Did you call Vince's office and ask them for an update or ask them to bring an update tonight?

Mr. Whitford: I asked him - I can't remember where I saw him, but at one of the functions we were at and I told him I had some people were getting a little nervous. You tell us you're going to do it and nothing's happening.

Mr. Rabb: I would call his office and remind him. Either email or call him.

Mr. Sheldon: I did talk to Steve Abdella who's the county attorney and he said that the state had been changing some of the rules and regulations for this whole Landbank thing and I think that's kind of delayed some of the demolition work. But we are going to be getting more

money. The state is giving the county more money. So they'll be able to do more, but I don't know if there was a timeline.

Mr. Whitford: I know of the \$1,500,000.00, \$500,000.00 was earmarked for the City of Jamestown, not just demos, but rehabs.

Mr. Rabb: I know Steve was saying that there's hoops they're putting us – that we have to jump through. But, if we could even get an update on that that would be helpful with people asking us questions.

Mr. Whitford: Yes that'd be helpful, at least I can let them know what's going on.

Ms. Carrubba: And that I hadn't heard about, what you're talking about Brent. If there were any changes, we hadn't heard. I agree with you, we did get a list because we had been pushing on what properties were going to be demolished and I had brought it up again when that was in the newspaper, but it was about these being the homes that were being surveyed for environmental issues before they actually cited them for demolition. And that was at \$40,000.00, something like that, for the pre-demolition work to survey those properties, but you're right, since that point, I haven't gotten any feedback whether any or all of them have been completed at this point and I don't know whether there was a timeframe on that, how quickly they had to be done, but I don't know – would they be precluded from doing demolition once they got the environmental back? I don't think the weather would really stop them.

Mr. Sheldon: No, and Vince had said that they can do the demolitions in the wintertime too. That helps keep the dust down with the snow and rain. Weren't we going to have Gina Perratis from the Landbank come and talk to us at some point? I know she was brand new about three or four months ago.

Ms. Carrubba: Right and I think they were waiting until she got a little bit of...

Mr. Whitford: They have monthly meetings don't they?

Ms. Carrubba: The Landbank? I don't know.

Mr. Sheldon: The IDA Building? Yes.

Mr. Whitford: CCIDA.

Mr. Rabb: I would assume they meet once a month. At JRC we meet once a month.

Mr. Whitford: And that's open to the public I know that.

Mr. Sheldon: I can note that they've torn down the first house in my ward. 68 Thayer Street is down. It must've come down last week sometime.

Mr. Whitford: Prendergast really looks nice. They took that other house out and they surfaced it and it looks pretty good.

Ms. Carrubba: But you heard what took so long on that one. It was a problem with the BPU not doing what they needed to do. Because the issue was, we thought, Kingsview was dragging their feet, but it turned out it was actually the BPU's issue.

Ms. Carrubba: I haven't heard anything back from the issue on the issue on Lafayette Street. Has anybody else heard any more?

Mr. Rabb: What was the issue on Lafayette?

Mr. Whitford: The cockroaches.

Mr. Sheldon: They were coming from a posted property to a single family home.

Ms. Carrubba: It was 705 I think, 705 was the problem property and 711...

Mr. Whitford: That's one that Harold Whitford was the property manager and was owned by someone out in California.

Ms. Carrubba: Yes, I believe it was an attorney out in California.

Mr. Whitford: I haven't heard anything from her since...

Ms. Carrubba: Since she came to that meeting?

Mr. Whitford: Right. She comes to the neighborhood watch meetings. Maybe I'll hear something this Wednesday because I go to those meetings.

Ms. Carrubba: I just wondered - I haven't heard anything back from that initial meeting. I had spoken with Larry Scalise. He was asking me about the number of the property and they said they were going to go out and inspect it, but I didn't hear anything back from anybody that they had or what they found so I'll follow up on that to find out about the property at 705 Lafayette.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk