

# Minutes

## Housing Committee

Thursday, March 9, 2006

5:00 p.m.

Mayor's Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Stephen Szwejbka and Council Members Lillian V. Ney, Michael Taylor, Anthony Dolce

OTHERS PRESENT: Director of Financial Services/City Clerk Jim Olson, Fire Inspector David Crossley, Corporation Counsel Marilyn Fiore-Nieves, Director of Development Steven Centi,

Councilman Szwejbka called the meeting to order.

Councilman Taylor moved seconded by councilman dolce to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2006 meeting. Carried 4-0.

### Old Business

#### Efforts to reduce time required to auction a tax foreclosed property - County/City initiative

Councilman Szwejbka stated that New York State Law allows the county to reduce the time frame from three to two years. However, they stand to lose a great deal of money if this were to take place.

Mr. Olson explained how the city formally did the In-Rem process and that in 1995 Chautauqua County took it over. He stated that he would send the agreement to the members.

Councilman Szwejbka asked about having other charges placed on the tax bills.

Corporation Fiore-Nieves explained the process that the county uses and how they do not normally take title to the properties. This causes concern to the Department of Development who has to maintain inspection files on the properties. The owners are no longer there and they have no one to go to so repairs can be made.

Director of Development Centi explained hoe the city formally sited the county for violations and that they indicated that should never be done again. He explained that the process takes a considerable amount of time.

Director of Development Centi and Fire Inspector Crossley explained how the Asbestos regulations have increased not only the bueracracy but the cost of the demolitions.

## **New Business**

Councilman Dolce asked what the procedure was for Emergency Funding.

Director of Development Centi stated that goes through DOD and explained the process. Housing Inspector Moran handles the cases.

Councilman Szwejbka asked about hiring additional legal counsel to assist in the Housing court are. Todd Thomas has been recommended as a possible candidate. He has an interest in housing concerns.

Councilperson Ney moved, seconded by Councilman Taylor to allow the Corporation counsel to hire him. Carried 4-0.

Councilman Szwejbka stated that in future meetings we will be reviewing graffiti and abandoned vehicles.

Councilperson Ney provided handouts developed by Len Faulk regarding housing information that were distributed to the Strategic Planning and Partnership commission.

The next meeting will be held at 5:00 P.M. on April 6, 2006.