

# Minutes

Housing Committee  
July 8, 2024  
6:30 p.m.

Police Training Room  
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Reynolds, Councilman Sheldon, Councilwoman Brackman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Williams, Director of Development Crystal Surdyk, Councilman Paterniti, Councilman Daversa, Councilman Bonfiglio

Councilman Reynolds called the meeting to order.

## **Opportunities for Public Comment**

Melissa Paterniti of 346 Falconer Street, Jamestown, appeared before the Housing Committee to discuss the status of a property across the street from Ring Elementary School, the Atlas Building on the corner of Winsor and Willard Streets and the house destroyed by a fire on the corner of Willard and Allen Streets. She also noted that the Department of Development has seen some very positive changes, especially the work of Bronson Abbott. Her work ethic is wonderful and she does an amazing job.

Crystal Surdyk reported that all of the properties in question are moving along and work is being done. The two residential properties are moving toward demolition and the Atlas Building is being worked on. The new owners are investing a great deal of money into the building and scaffolding will be erected soon on the exterior of the building to begin more repairs.

Doug Champ of 225 Bowen Street, Jamestown, appeared before the Housing Committee to express his thoughts regarding a property that has been a concern to him for quite some time. He noted that he has taken matters into his own hands and called the Jamestown Police Department to issue a ticket on unregistered vehicles.

Ms. Surdyk and Mr. Champ have discussed this property at length over the course of two years, in the presence of the Jamestown Police Department. Everything that is legally within the purview of the Department of Development has been done previously. The concerns raised by Mr. Champ are not able to be addressed by the DOD.

## **Informational Report**

Crystal Surdyk informed the committee that the Rental Ordinance is still a work in progress. They are still waiting on additional feedback and New York State's final ruling on their version of the ordinance. The city believes that our adopted ordinance will be more restrictive and have more teeth than that of New York State.

Ms. Surdyk noted that her department is currently trying to work on an amended fee structure for those landlords who haven't ever, or rarely had a code violation. A \$50 inspection fee feels excessive in that case.

Initial inspections will take a good amount of time to complete and the hope is that New York State will be able to provide funding to help offset the costs associated with the increased workloads. The city will work with Chautauqua County regarding funding as well. After the first round or two of inspections, Ms. Surdyk is hopeful that some property owners will be able to conduct their own inspections and submit the findings with photographic proof to the Department of Development. The DOD has been working with the City of Buffalo to learn about their processes and how to form our program. Ms. Surdyk is hoping to have one or two lead inspectors work solely in the city as the process gets underway.

Councilman Sheldon asked if the REIA members are in support of the proposed program. Ms. Surdyk confirmed that they have had a lot of input in the formation of the program and very excited and in support of it.

One point of concern, however, is the sale of Harold Whitford's properties. The department is unsure who is purchasing them and how they will be maintained.

Councilman Paterniti brought up a concern regarding vehicles for sale in the side lot of the Rainbow Cab building. Ms. Surdyk agreed to follow up on the concern as the sale of vehicles on a property needs a zoning variance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer R. Williams City Clerk/Treasurer