

Minutes

Housing Committee
October 7, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Police Training Room
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Reynolds, Councilman Sheldon,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilwoman Brackman

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Jennifer R. John, Crystal Surdyk, Councilman Bonfiglio,
Council President Tony Dolce

Councilman Reynolds called the meeting to order.

Opportunities for Public Comment

Melissa Paterniti, 346 Falconer Street, Jamestown, thanked the Department of Development for fixing a complaint within a timely manner regarding unsafe stairs. She also noted how great it is to see new structures being built and projects that were much needed in the community completed. Ms. Paterniti praised the Department of Development for their new application, stating that it is a good addition.

Dave Gilbert, 114 Crown Street, Jamestown, inquired about the availability in vacant lots here in the city. He specifically has spent quite some time trying to acquire the lot located around the corner from his property. He also explained the difficulty in trying to acquire the property with changes in owners. Mrs. Surdyk explained that all departments must weigh in on potential parcels to be sold. She mentioned the new process that the City is considering.

Informational Report

Crystal Surdyk mentioned being able to collect the number of available lots and also stated the city will hold those targeted for development. Ms. Surdyk reminded the committee that the upcoming demo projects, time can average about four months. She then stated the department put in an application for the Vacant Rental Improvement Program. She explained the Department of Development will partner with CODE Inc. The \$2.9 million grant opportunity will cover administrative fees and would allow twenty to thirty units at a time depending on costs be completed. She noted empty building lots, small, and local landlords will be targeted.

Councilman Bonfiglio asked about the demos taking place and if they are still happening. Ms. Surdyk replied yes, the demos will proceed as we move in to demo season as companies that do paving also do demolitions. Councilman Reynolds asked about potentially giving the work to an auction company. Ms. Surdyk responded with they will not likely work with an auction company.

Councilman Sheldon asked a follow up question on the grant through NYS Homes and Community Renewal and clarified that the cost per unit which looks to be \$100,000 a unit. Ms. Surdyk stated the problem was most units cost more to bring them up to code than their property is worth. She also stated they are waiting on approval for the grant and then the process will soon be developed after. Ms. Surdyk also mentioned the hopes for vacant lots and their future also the potential to combine parcels.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer R. Williams City Clerk/Treasurer