

# Minutes

Housing Committee  
November 18, 2024  
6:30 p.m.  
Police Training Room  
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Reynolds, Councilman Sheldon, Councilwoman Brackman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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, addressed the council regarding a situation that occurred with a former resident of Hazard Street and the condemned house. Ms. Paterniti explained the former resident was relocated to Dunkirk and will now have to travel to Jamestown for work. She asked if there is a plan or another alternative that would be able to help the former resident through the process.

Johnathan Leeper addressed the council to express his concerns with his mother's property on 50 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street. He wondered if the grass could be cut in the front yard of the property and is there anyone or a department that could help with more properties that look in that condition. Crystal Surdyk replied to Mr. Leeper, the previous owner had passed which means the bank took over the property. She noted there is a legal process and the bank will not take responsibility therefore, the Department of Developments hands are tied.

Doug Champ, 225 Bowen Street, addressed the council regarding his concerns for population loss and an increase in taxes. He stated the tax increase will require homeowners to pay more a year and that possibly we could see a decrease in population in the city.

Chris Fredrickson, 819 Newland Avenue, spoke to Councilmembers regarding the Good Cause Eviction Bill. Any and all municipalities can opt-in and participate. Mr. Frederickson sent out an email to Councilman Reynolds with more information on how to proceed going further. The law is in place to protect the tenant from eviction without a good cause. Crystal Surdyk stated the Department of Development will take a more in depth look into the bill shown by Mr. Frederickson.

## **Informational Report**

Crystal Surdyk responded to Ms. Paterniti, stating that the Department of Development cannot control DSS as it is a county agency. They are accountable for putting displaced people where there is room and suitable shelter. Code enforcement exists to ensure that people's health, well-being, and safety are protected. She specified the house was not a safe living space therefore, it was condemned. Ms. Surdyk suggested having the former resident advocate for herself and her situation but at this time they are unable to help. Councilman Reynolds agreed with Ms. Surdyk on her suggestion to the former resident to advocate and represent for herself.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer R. Williams City Clerk/Treasurer