

# Minutes

Housing Committee  
April 20, 2026  
6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers  
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilwoman Jaroszynski, Councilman Gonzalez, Councilman Sheldon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Acting City Clerk Leigh Anne Jordan, Deputy Director of Housing Kasie Foulk, Councilman Dolce, Councilman Engquist, Councilwoman Brackman, Councilman Bonfiglio, Councilman Scotchmer, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Joseph Calimeri

Councilwoman Jaroszynski called the meeting to order.

## **Opportunities for Public Comment**

Rachel Cala of 116 Barrows Street, Jamestown, appeared before the Housing Committee to inquire about the Chautauqua County auction process. She was informed that properties are eligible to be auctioned after three years of not paying their property taxes. Deputy Director of Housing Kasie Foulk noted that it is up to the county if properties go to the auction following three years of nonpayment. She is concerned with the properties that are owned by out-of-town landlords, and just keep them in a poor state, or condemned. Ms. Foulk noted that the Department of Development works with the NYS Office of Community Renewal and partners with non-profits to help with rehabilitation as well to apply for funding and get new units online.

David Cass, a landlord in Jamestown, appeared before the Housing Committee to speak on condemned houses. He noted that there are many in different stages of disrepair and that many are able to be rehabbed. There is a quality housing shortage in the City of Jamestown.

## **Informational Report**

Ms. Foulk referenced a Facebook thread regarding chickens in the City of Jamestown. She reminded residents that chickens, or any agricultural animals are not allowed within the city limits.

Councilman Gonzalez asked if there was limit on the number of cats that could be in a residence. Ms. Foulk stated that there currently isn't a cap on the number of cats that can be in a dwelling, with part of the problem being there is no one to enforce that. Councilman Sheldon noted that in years past, the current dog control officer, was an animal control officer and was able to assist with cats. Ms. Foulk referenced the ARPA money that was allotted to the Community Cats spay/neuter program in 2022 in partnership with the Humane Society. The

program was successful but the money was spent very quickly. She reiterated the importance of having your pets spayed or neutered. Rabid cats have been a problem in the past as well

Councilman Gonzalez expressed his desire to get something written up to come before council, limiting the number of cats per dwelling as they have become a major issue. He feels that this would be beneficial on many fronts, as well as help with the number of stray cats in the area. This issue is akin to the current deer situation. The challenges and costs to resolving the problems are similar.

It is hard to enforce a cat code as cats are primarily housed indoors, enforcement officers wouldn't necessarily know how many are there if they are not allowed inside.

Kasie reported that Director of Development Crystal Surdyk is currently out of town at a Brownfield Conference, and Principal Planner Jason Kulaszewski is at a Planner's Conference.

There was a discussion regarding a property at 100 Front Street. This property has been on the Department of Development's radar for many years. Currently, the property owner is working to clean up the property. The city has been granted court approval to clean up the property, with quotes coming in upwards of \$13,000. Large equipment is housed on the property, and could potentially be auctioned off to help offset the cost of the cleanup. The pressure is on to get this cleaned up, and the property owner checks in with his Code Enforcement Officer daily to check in. There was a brief discussion on the new wording in the city code as it pertains to temporary structures. A temporary structure is not allowed to be the only structure on the lot.

Chautauqua County sent out letters to owners of apartments for lead testing in rental units built before 1980, and rental registration. Many units have been changed to a single-family home, in those instances, building code inspector Kenny Garcia will inspect the property, and if it is indeed a single-family home, it will be removed from the list and filed with the Assessor's Office and New York State. Rental registration letters have also been sent out. Inspections will be done on those properties to check for code violations. It was noted that the levels for lead allowed in dwellings has been lowered, so if previous inspections have been done before, it may still need to be repeated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.  
Leigh Anne Jordan, Acting City Clerk/Treasurer