

Special City Council Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Chase called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, City Clerk Jessica Hylton called the roll.

Attendees

Council members Clarissa Pace, Cedric Leonard, Michael James, Al Peer, Craig McRae, Mark Tiner, Mike Wigley, and Claudia Hartness were present.

New Business

A. Discussion Regarding 509 E. Gaines Street

Mayor Chase asked the council if they would like to rescind the resolution to demolish 509 E. Gaines Street or to amend it. Cedric Leonard asked if Mr. Evans had gotten the work brought up to code—according to the city inspector, he had not. Cedric Leonard spoke in favor of not condemning the house. Mayor Chase pointed out that the issue is that the house is not livable not that it looks bad. Al Peer stated that if a house looks good on the outside, what's happening inside is not our business. Mayor Chase brought up the fact that there is no water or electricity in the home. Mr. Evans stated there is water. He was asked to sit down. Michael James pointed out that there is a meter attached to the home. Mayor Chase said there is a meter, but the water is not on because there was never a permit from a licensed plumber to connect the line. It has been attached without being connected by a plumber. Mr. Evans spoke and said that he had been trying to get a plumber. Al Peer asked Mr. Evans about coming to his house at 7:15 this morning. Al Peer recapped the letter from a plumber that could not get to his home for three weeks. Mr. Evans seemed insistent that he did not need an inspection. Mayor Chase pointed out that an inspection and a permit are two different things. The permit is to make sure the connection between his line and the city water is not going to put any other citizens at risk. Mayor Chase asked if they were living in the home. Mark Tiner repeated the question. He said he is living in the house. Mark Tiner asked if he was sleeping in his vehicle. He said no. Mr. Evans stated that Chief Akers had talked to him that morning in the yard after he had gone to Walmart to use the bathroom. Mr. Tiner asked him to repeat himself and asked how he got to Walmart. Mayor Chase said that the wellness check this morning discovered that he and his wife were sleeping in the car. He maintained that they had just gotten back from Walmart. Cedric Leonard asked about what was the city's involvement with the water. Mayor Chase stated it was connected illegally. The city turned it off so that it could not potentially contaminate the city's water supply. Al Peer asked who turned the water on? Mr. Evans said it was the city. Mayor Chase confirmed this. A church paid his bill, and the water office turned his water on, on Thanksgiving Day. The water clerk was not supposed to do so. After the holiday, it was turned back off. Clarissa Pace asked about the hole in the floor. Mayor Chase stated there are undocumented holes inside, there are documented holes in the tin on the outside, and issues with roof. Cedric Leonard asked what the problem with the water is. Mayor Chase said that the line had been connected illegally. Cedric Leonard asked where is it that a house has to have water. Mayor Chase believes it is a state code that says you have to have utilities. Mr. Evans was asked to be quiet. Brian Rodgers was asked about a state code. He said he did not know which one it is. He said you have to have utilities to have a home, but no documentation was provided. Clarissa Pace asked what prompted how this house was chosen to be inspected in the first place. Brian Rogers said other

residents complained, they went to look, found holes in the floors that he does have photographs of, and that's when it was coded as being in violation of ordinance 630. It was scheduled for February 2021. Clarissa Pace asked if he did comply with the original complaint. He has. The trash is cleaned up, there is new underpinning, and he painted. Clarissa Pace stated he is never going to be able to reach the standards of the council. She asked about doors being used as underpinning. Those have been replaced by tin. Mayor Chase stated if we are going to rescind or amend the resolution we need a motion. Cedric Leonard moved to rescind the motion, and Al Peer seconded, Jessica Hylton called roll. The council was a split vote with Clarissa Pace, Cedric Leonard, Al Peer, and Michael James in favor and Craig McRae, Mark Tiner, Mike Wigley, and Claudia Hartness voted against. It came down to a split vote, the Mayor abstained, and the previous resolution was upheld.

B. Statement of Financial Interest Forms

Jessica Hylton reminded the council that the SFI forms were due soon, offered to copy over information from last year's forms if the council so desired, and gave the council copies.

Mayor

Date of Approval