

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Committee Members Present: Kathleen E. McIntyre, President
Scott Bahr, Council Vice President
Rob Donovic
Jim Jolly
Brandon McCullough
Cathy K. White
Laura M. Toy

Committee Members Absent: None

City Officials and Others Present: Lynda Scheel, City Treasurer
Paul Bernier, City Attorney
Mark Taormina, Planning and Economic Dev. Director
LaShawn Thomas, Director of Governmental Affairs
Bob Stroble, Senior Building Inspector

Additional Attendees: See list of attendees attached

The meeting convened at 7:03 p.m.

1. CR 154-21 Subject matter of residential blight.

The meeting was led by Council President, Kathleen McIntyre. Elected officials and members of the administration introduced themselves for the information of the residents in attendance.

A discussion took place regarding the enforcement of ordinances and changes that removed the ability of the Inspection Department to write tickets for ordinance violations.

The current enforcement process was explained:

1. Warning/correction
2. Violation
3. Show cause
4. Court action

Given that there is typically 30 days between each subsequent enforcement action, there can be 120 – 180 days between the time the Inspection Department issues an initial notification of a violation until and the responsible individual receives a citation.

There was discussion about the State law that prohibits municipalities from entering private property to trim shrubs (they can only enter to cut grass, remove noxious weeds, and trim trees that pose a danger to right of way or structures).

Inspectors need to have access to CLEMIS to regain the ability to write tickets.

A resolution was offered to revise the ordinance to allow inspectors to issue civil infractions for violations, which is contingent upon inspectors gaining CLEMIS access.

Discussion took place about assigning a police officer to work with the Inspection Department, however, this is presently not feasible due to LPD staffing shortages. There was additional discussion about the feasibility of using reserve officers to support inspection work, this raised question as to whether Livonia Reserve Officers have access to CLEMIS.

City Council requested that the Inspection Department include additional funds in its 2022 budget to add additional inspectors; possibly using COVID relief funds for blight elimination and prevention.

Discussion of how the very low, administrative fee of \$42 for/month for vacant commercial properties, disincentivizes property owners from taking care of their properties.

A resolution was offered for administrative and Council review of current administrative fees for vacant and blighted residential and commercial properties.

Wayne County Commissioner Knezek provided updates on American Rescue Plan funding. The County will receive \$340 million and Commissioners Knezek and Marecki are working with Mayor Brosnan on opportunities for Livonia to utilize a portion of those

funds. The County, at the direction of the federal government, is encouraging communities to focus on one-time, transformative projects.

A suggestion was made from a resident for an educational program on blight prevention and remediation and that the city recognize residents who improve their properties.

It was noted that the contact information for ordinance violations on the city website is not easy to find. Council asked the administration to make blight and ordinance violation reporting easier to find on the website, to follow up on a prior Council recommendation to add a mobile reporting app and explore the possibility of allowing residents to find the status and actions taken on reported violations.

The Committee recommends:

The Council offer the two resolutions discussed during the meeting:

- To revise the ordinance to allow inspectors to issue civil infractions for violations.
- For administrative and Council review of current administrative fees for vacant and blighted residential and commercial properties

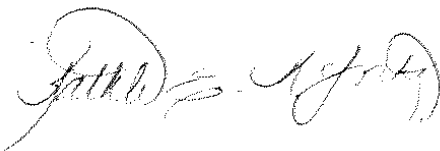
The Administration follows up on the three items discussed in the meeting.

Note: This item will be out of committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of July 12, 2021**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John W. Agosta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

cc: City Clerk, City Attorney

PLEASE RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING

MEETING: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

TIME: 7:00 PM

NAME

ADDRESS

Lynda Scheel

City Treasurer

GOB STUBBS

Bureau Inspection

Lynn Hackley

Tony PARTIN

Emily Bauman

Rachel Witherspoon

LaShawn Thomas

Dir. Court affairs