



MINUTES
Committee on General Services
Tuesday, February 19, 2013 – 3:30 p.m.
Tenth Floor Conference Room – Lansing City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 3:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Tina Houghton, Chair
Councilmember Jessica Yorko, Vice Chair
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar, Member - absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Lindsay Green, Council Staff
Clarence Hooker
Jason Meyer, Fenner Conservancy
Billie O'Berry, Law

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Claim Filed by Clarence Hooker in the Amount of \$1,015 for a Board Up Fee for Property Located at 1232 N. Washington

There is also a claim in the amount of \$600 for Tag Monitoring Fees.

Ms. O'Berry stated that Mr. Hooker's claim form for the amount of \$600 indicates that it is for Tag Monitoring Fees.

Ms. O'Berry stated that during the last General Services Committee meeting it was discussed that the fees were assessed and Mr. Sanford discussed each claim in detail .

Ms. O' Berry stated that Mr. Sanford pointed out that when a property is deemed to be substandard the Code Compliance Office will then tag that property and continues to make inspections on the property once per month.

The Code Compliance Office assesses tagged property once a month to evaluate whether or not the tenant(s) are improving the property.

Ms. O' Berry stated that the City can assess a \$150 fee each month that the property remained tagged without and improvement being made. She indicated that the property located at 1232 N. Washington was tagged prior to Mr. Hooker purchasing it. She is unaware of when it was originally tagged but that there are four Tag Monitoring Fees that Mr. Hooker wants removed.

Mr. Hooker purchased the property on February 10, 2012 and attained a Work Permit on February 27, 2012.

Code Compliance discontinued Tag Monitoring Fees after Mr. Hooker purchased the property, but in the time frame of Mr. Hooker's purchase, the property was either not checked or it simply was not found out that these fees were already placed on the property.

Ms. O'Berry stated that the law provides that assessments run with the property so purchasers take the property as is.

Code Compliance confirms that these all attached before his date of purchase.

Councilmember Yorko asked Mr. Hooker if he had worked with a realtor.

Mr. Hooker stated that he did go through a realtor and did possess Title Insurance that stated that this fee was not there when the property was checked. He is seeking an official document that he can provide for insurance.

Councilmember Yorko stated that she now understands that this is not a matter of the Committee waiving the fees, but rather collecting them from the insurance.

Mr. Hooker stated that he has already paid the fees in full and now needs something that states that the City found that the assessment was in place when he purchased it and was not found.

Councilmember Yorko asked Ms. O'Berry if Mr. Sanford would be able to write that letter.

Councilmember Houghton stated that Mr. Hooker is looking for proof that it was in the assessors' database at the time of occurrence.

Mr. Hooker stated that it was dated September 17, 2012 with Mr. Scott Sanford's name.

COUNCILEMMEBER YORKO MADE A MOTION TO DENY THE CLAIM FILED BY CLARENCE HOOKER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,015 FOR A BOARD UP FEE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1232 N. WASHINGTON. MOTION CARRIES, 2-0.

Councilmember Yorko stated that she wants the Resolution to stated that it is the understanding of this body that at the time of purchase these Tag Monitoring Fees were in our assessors database in November and December of 2011 and in January and February of 2012, so that when Mr. Hooker purchased the property on February 10, 2012, these Monitoring Fees were still due.

Councilmember Houghton stated that she wants the Resolution to state the same for Mr. Hooker's second claim for \$600 as it is the same situation.

COUNCILMEMBER YORKO MADE A MOTION TO DENY THE APPEAL WITH THE SAME LANGUAGE AS ABOVE. MOTION CARRIED, 2-0.

Councilmember Houghton stated that during the next General Services Committee meeting minutes will be approved, as Councilmember Dunbar was absent and Councilmember Yorko was not present for the last meeting.

Request Submitted by Fenner Conservancy for Recognition of Non-Profit Status

Mr. Meyer stated that the Fenner Conservancy has been working hard on the Non-Profit side of things to increase its sustainability and decrease its need to rely on the City for funds.

Mr. Meyer stated that they have a fundraiser fast approaching that is associated with Earth Day and that they are going to do a 50/50 raffle, and therefore needs the Council to recognize them as a Non-Profit.

Ms. O'Berry stated that the paperwork that Mr. Meyer provided looks to be in order and she sees no problem in recognizing them locally as a Non-Profit.

COUNCILMEMBER YORKO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY FENNER CONSERVANCY FOR RECOGNITION OF NON-PROFIT STATUS. MOTION CARRIED, 2-0.

OTHER

None.

PENDING

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Submitted by,

Lindsay Green, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on 3-05-13_____.