

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

AD HOC CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

April 15, 2021 at 7pm

PRESENT:

Committee Members: Daryl Baker, Christopher Lake, Ann Sovey, Jo Vanderstelt, Tamra Weissenborn, and ex-officio member Bryan Myrkle. All reported their remote meeting location as being in the City of Charlotte, County of Eaton and State of Michigan. Staff: Manager LaPere

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion by Weissenborn, second by Vanderstelt, to approve the agenda as published.

Carried. 5 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion by Baker, second by Lake, to approve the minutes as submitted.

Carried. 5 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON CODE ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES:

Chairperson Sovey opened the public hearing at 7:10pm. No members of the public were present; therefore the public hearing was closed at 7:11pm.

Myrkle provided a summary of the written comments received from the public prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Members discussed the current code enforcement activity. Lake noted that he reviewed the properties noted in written comments and felt they were not representative of all properties in violation. He noted there are violations of our ordinances on trailer storage throughout the community which were not included in this correspondence. Lake noted persons may have limitations on income and other resources that impact their property's appearance and upkeep. He noted that ordinances ought to be reviewed for appropriateness and provided the example of the requirement to clean rubbish containers after disposal.

Vanderstelt stated that it will be important to maintain a balance between enforcement of rules and consideration of outside constraints on individual resources. She noted that the maintenance and investment in individual property impacts property values for the neighborhood and city overall.

Baker added that building and maintaining community pride is the main goal for these ordinances and the enforcement. Sovey agreed that proper enforcement will aid in making Charlotte an attractive community

for potential residents and businesses. Weissenborn also commented that the safety of buildings benefits the health, safety, and welfare of the community, as well as property values.

Sovey inquired as to the number of owner-occupied properties compared to tenant occupied. Myrtle estimated that currently approximately 47% of the residential properties are tenant occupied. Vanderstelt noted that it was important to hold all properties to the same standards regardless of who occupies the home. Lake added that he felt education was key to improved compliance.

Discussion was held regarding potential communication and education for residents. The suggestion was for the code enforcement personnel to serve as a resource for the community to educate them on ordinances as well as resources available for assistance. Baker added that the County has resources available that residents may not be aware of that could be beneficial. Partnerships with the schools was another suggestion. Myrtle added that we will have a guest speaker at next week's meeting that is a partnership with Eaton Community Health entitled Streethart that seeks to build neighborhood alliances.

Myrtle added that in addition to the involvement by police and fire outlined at last week's meeting, the Department of Public Works also plays a role in abatement of complaints including garbage and debris removal and cutting of grass and weeds. He estimated that grass complaints result in approximately 40-50 times in which a crew must mow a lawn and they spend approximately 1-2 hours per week on removal of garbage or debris.

Discussion was held regarding the workload and need to hire a full time code enforcement officer. The Committee noted that the time to investigate, inform, and follow up on complaints necessitated a dedicated person for this position. This could also result in more equitable enforcement as it would be a proactive approach to enforcement in lieu of complaint based enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

None. .

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Vanderstelt, second by Weissenborn to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Carried. 5 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent.

Chairperson Sovey