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|  | **OFFICE OF THE**  **CITY COUNCIL** |  |
| **E. DENISE LEE** |  | SUITE 425, CITY HALL |
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**AMENDED**

**Stand Up For Your Neighborhoods Meeting Minutes**

**April 15, 2014**

**5 p.m.**

**Restates the conflicts different city agencies have concerning foreclosures.**

**Date:** April 11, 2014

**Location:** Conference Room A, City Hall.

**In Attendance:** CM E. Denise Lee, Joe Namey, Real Estate; John Jones, Real Estate; Karen Bowling, Mayor’s Office; Kimberly Scott, Regulatory Compliance; Devron Cody, Code Compliance; Claude Ayoub, JSO; Tony Davis, JSO; Jack Shad, Parking; Kirk Sherman, Council Auditor; Jim Robinson, Public Works; Daryl Joseph, Parks; Paige Johnson, OGC; Paul Tutwiler, NJCDC; John Shellhorn, Regulatory Compliance; Brian Mossier, MCCD; Elaine Spencer, HCCD; Lin White, Public Works; Jeff Foster, Public Works; Calvin Burney, Planning; Lisa Darnall, JTA; Rev. Kenneth Atkins, The Issachar Media Group; Angie Nixon, FNM; Hosea Small, property owner; Kevin Kuzel, District 14 ECA; Ken Adkins, Public Relations; and Dan Macdonald, District 8 ECA.

CM Lee called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and asked that minutes from the last meeting be approved.

CM Lee asked that a letter of thanks be drafted for the sponsors of the Tire and Snipe Sign Buyback event. Jeff Foster said he’d provide an event action paper and a list of sponsors.

The Real Estate department provided a list of 106 total parcels in the target area that are valued at $5,000 or less. Of the total of 715 pieces of property in the target area, 50 are eligible for tax foreclosure. To do proper deed searches it would cost $150 per property. CM Lee wondered if the Tax Collector’s office could waive the fee. Jim Robinson said this is an example of two agencies working in different directions. ~~Code Enforcement wants the foreclosures, while at the same time the Tax Collector’s Office is trying to save money by not foreclosing on the house and spending the $150 per property.~~ **There may be conflicting interests between city agencies whether or not to pursue foreclosures.** Paige Johnston said if a list is compiled of all such property in the county, maybe the tax collector could give the City a bulk rate.

The discussion turned the property behind the former Moncrief Road and 13th Street bus stop. The bus stop was on city right-of-way. Directly behind that is a plot of land owned by Roosevelt Clark and next to that is a city tax reverted parcel. No taxes have been paid on the property (valued at $140) over the last 6 years. It was decided that the city should begin foreclosure procedure and hopefully the owner will be convinced it is in his best interest to donate the land to the city.

Assistant Chief Tony Davis reported that Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office is having little success in contacting homeowners to get them to put no trespassing signs on their property. Without this permission JSO cannot arrest loiterers. Many of the owners live out of town or are banks. Of 71 homes, 5 have been contacted. A sample letter from the JSO was presented that tells homeowners that the JSO wants to talk to them about their property.

Inmates will be in the area on April 17 to clean the right-of-way and city property. Unfortunately only a few days after such clean ups the property becomes blighted again. CM Lee said this is a reason the need to be fences and security cameras. CM Lee suggested that JSO and the Mowing division work together to coordinate inmate involvement in right-of-way clean up.

Jack Shad of the Parking Division reported that requested signs were up. CM Lee asked that he report next meeting where other signs would be appropriate in the area. She also wants parking to investigate the issue on its own.

Kimberly Scott of Regulatory Compliance explained the condemnation procedure prior to 2006 changes in the law. Then, if a structure was boarded for 3 years it could be torn down. Since 2006, the dwelling must pose a safety hazard and be inspected before the condemnation process can begin. Ms. Scott said that if owners are taking no actions to comply and fix cited problems, the city should be able to foreclose and demolish if the structure has reached a point of no return. CM Love said consideration has to be taken into account in historical districts where homes of historic importance are in ill-repair. Mr. Jones of Real Estate said the city has no funds for demolition projects.

Bryan Mosier of Municipal Code Compliance discussed the different kinds of liens – Administrative, Nuisance, and Demolition. Ms. Johnston was asked to look into the effectiveness of these liens. Ms. Scott explained that if there is an Administrative lien on one piece of property it applies all properties the violator owns. This prevents the owner from being able to sell a non-violating property. Karen Bowling wants to know if this can be changed so the unaffected property can be sold. Ms. Johnston was asked to look into this matter.

Lisa Darnall of JTA showed the new ridership map with the removed stop added to it. Average ridership at that stop was 4 people.

Kirk Sherman said money can be found in the Housing Division. Grants may be in play but addresses are needed for the specific properties involved in the grant process. CM Love asked which department would be applying for the grants. CM Lee asked Mr. Sherman to investigate any funding to be found in the General Fund.

Paul Tutwiler of Northwest Community Development Corporation said he’d like to find the funds to purchase the store and the adjacent buildings on 13th and Moncrief and replace it with affordable housing there and on other nearby parcels. Deeds need to be cleaned so that they can be purchased.

Mr. Tutwiler discussed the apartments on Payne Avenue and Roosevelt Gardens near Shands Hospital. He said the density of occupancy needs to be reduced in these apartments and single-family homes need to be built to reduce crime and stabilize the neighborhood in the long term. In the meantime neighborhood cleanup days have been organized. There is also a race scheduled to be run on the S-Line to promote nutrition and health.

Environmental regulations will present a report on streamlining the portable car wash process and other regulatory matters.

The next meeting is at 9 a.m. Friday April 25 in Conference Room A. All reports for this meeting are due to Dan Macdonald by close of business on April 23. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Package contains Minutes, sign-in sheet, audio CD.