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|  | **OFFICE OF THE**  **CITY COUNCIL** |  |
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**SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON JACKSONVILLE’S**

**NEIGHBORBOOD IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 4, 2016**

**4:00 p.m.**

**City Hall**

**117 W. Duval St., 1st Floor**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Garrett Dennis (Chair), John Crescimbeni, Al Ferraro, Bill Gulliford, Tommy Hazouri and Joyce Morgan

**Also**: Council Member Anna Lopez-Brosche; Lawsikia Hodges and Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Robert Campbell – Council Auditor’s Office; Alli Korman Shelton and E. Denise Lee – Mayor’s Office; Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services Division; Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division; Dayatra Cole – Housing & Neighborhoods Department; Joe Namey – Real Estate Division; Mary O’Brian – Advanced Disposal

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Dennis called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. The meeting began with introductions of committee.

**Update from Bill Gulliford**

CM Gulliford comments pertained to the importance of the City finding a way to successfully address the housing and neighborhood issues. There needs to be a system to utilize the huge inventory of vacant/abandon/foreclosed properties to match the enormous need for housing that will significantly impact declining neighborhoods. CM Gulliford suggested the committee focus on initiating a clearing house process for properties that can be used for affordable housing.

**2015-519**

Ms. Lawsikia Hodges provided a thorough review of the proposed changes to the legislation. The initial concerns of the committee included: tax-reverted properties; property maintenance by owners after the sale; adjacent property owners; donation procedures; and property donation eligible entities. Under the current Code provisions, there is an existing backlog of tax-reverted properties; and Council Members have ability to uphold disposition of properties in their specific district.

Within the proposed changes, all donations would require use of the property for the construction of affordable housing. Properties being sold do not have a requirement to build in the proposed language. A federal statute requires that the Affordable Housing List is approved and submitted every three years. The recommendation is for Council to review the inventory list annually. There was extensive discussion regarding the criteria and procedures for entities receiving properties from the City. Additional revision is needed for a more objective determination of whether a non-profit organization vs. for profit organization receives the donation. The committee’s focus is improving

Assignment

Ms. Hodges will:

* meet with each committee member within next two weeks;
* provide a committee copy of the Affordable Housing List and the remaining inventory list (large print requested);
* continue to revise the criteria for donations;
* add language to allow individuals to make purchases; exclusion clause; and definition of Affordable Housing Account; and
* provide copy of draft that includes the sale of properties as first option.

Note: CM Crescimbeni requested that properties moved over to the remaining inventory list have an explanation for not meeting the Affordable Housing criteria.

**2016 City Wide Initiative**

CM Dennis expressed his desire for the committee to spearhead a citywide initiative to clean up Jacksonville. The event would take place in the spring and target all areas. CM Dennis has spoken with haulers that are committed to being involved with the initiative. He will assign a subcommittee at next meeting. The concept is to have four or five dumpsters within each district; and all Council members would assist in promoting citizen participation.

**Public Comment**

No public comments.

Next meeting will be January 19, 2016 in the Lynwood Roberts room. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division

Posted 01.07.16 5:00p.m.

Materials: OGC 2015-519 Handouts

01.04.16