

Minutes
April 14, 2011
Special Meeting
Property Issues

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Charles Neff/Mayor.
 - a) Council Members present were Charles Neff/Mayor, Bob Dablow, Burl Ingebretsen, and Mark Hanson.
 - b) Others present were Wendy Otte/Clerk, Zenas Baer, Roland Holms, and Kelan Boughton.
- 2) Pledge Allegiance was said.
- 3) Property Issues – When do property rights come into conflict and how can we resolve those issues? Charley is a strong advocate of property rights, but there is a line that can be crossed. There have been complaints on some properties in town and we believe they have been made with good reason. Zenas and Roland have been asked to attend this meeting to make sure our Ordinances are in place and find out how we go about dealing with these complaints. Zenas informed the council that according to State Statute Chapter 463 we have the right to order repair or removal of property and assess the costs to the property owner. Do we only want to deal with health issues or do we want to get into appearance? Council would like to discuss all options on health & safety issues and appearance. Council would like to know how to go about enforcing our Ordinances. If it is a hazard we can send the property owner an order to repair or remove the hazard or we can take care of it and assess the property owner for the costs. Mark feels that if someone wants to live without water or power it should be their choice. If the city has hazard complaints Zenas recommends that we document everything and take photos to support the claims before we move further. Council is not out to get anyone, but there have been some complaints over the years that have merit. To determine if there is a health & safety issue with a complaint Zenas and Roland recommend that a Council Member, Fire Chief, Electrical & Building Inspector, and someone from Clay County Environmental Health look into the matter. Property owners would then be informed that there is a hazard and given time to remedy the issue or the city would fix the issue at the owner's expense. We don't want to put any undue hardship on somebody that cannot afford to fix things, but also would like to make sure they aren't causing safety issues to themselves or others. Zenas recommends we just look into exterior issues for now and interior issues should be checked as a last resort. Roland recommends sending a report to Bruce Jaster at Clay County Environmental Health for anything we find as a health issue. We should only check into complaints made by residents.

Kelan asked if we have a beautification plan in place. We do have a Nuisance Ordinance, but complaints should be made by neighbors before we look into those issues. Council doesn't want to go looking for issues we would just like to know what our options are if issues arise.

Roland has brought in some information on how Barnesville handles these types of issues as well as a form for people to sign up for free minor fixes done by high school and collage aged kids that will paint homes, fix steps, build wheel chair ramps and a few other minor fixes free of charge. The service is available to all residents regardless of income. It looks like a great program and we hope residents will take advantage of this service. Roland said he would offer to do the inspections free of charge after the service has been preformed by this group. We will check with Becky about putting the sign up information in the Area Update.

- 4) Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Bob Dablow to adjourn. It was 2nd by Burl Ingebretsen and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Otte/City Clerk

Approved 4-19-11