

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7pm

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Burns, Ald. Bruno, Burghart, Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Kosirog, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Fornari, Admin. Dawkins, Asst. Admin. McCreedy, Dir. DeGroot

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm noting all alderpersons were present in City Hall Council Chambers.

2. APPROVE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES FROM JUNE 13, 2022

Moved by Ald. Bruno, seconded by Ald. Mayer                      Voice Vote 10-0                      Motion carried.

3. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

a. Policy Discussion on Fence Regulations

Dir. DeGroot summarized the current regulations in place since 1995 as well as those in the surrounding communities. DeGroot was seeking consensus from the committee on several aspects of the regulations including possibly expanding height allowances, treating corner lots differently, exceptions and special regulations for swimming pools, and regulations for fences in rear yards.

Patrick Larson, attending remotely, supported updating the regulations to allow taller fencing. Also attending remotely, local realtor Pattie Lane requested more consideration to corner lots allowances.

Discussion amongst the committee centered on fence heights and opacity requirements. At the conclusion of the discussion DeGroot confirmed directives on raising the height allowance to 48 inches as well as making distinctions on requirements between front and corner lots. Opacity requirements were still to be debated when the draft ordinance would come forward later this summer.

DeGroot then reviewed the current regulations related to fencing and barriers for swimming pools. Of main concern was a question on whether a pool cover with locking mechanism without a fence was acceptable. Consensus was that it was not acceptable.

b. Policy Discussion on Encroachments in the Public Right-of-Way

DeGroot provided an overview of 35 properties with potential encroachments into the right-of-way and four confirmed encroachments. He then reviewed the current code and zoning language related to these types of encroachments and reasons as to how they may have come about. These properties comprised of both residential and commercial entities. DeGroot was seeking direction on updated code language for confirmed encroachments including whether to 1) uphold the City Code, not allowing the construction or maintenance of any structure in the public ROW; 2) revise the code to provide nonconforming provisions for existing structures in the public ROW, allowing for ordinary maintenance and repair; 3) explore the possibility of vacating the necessary portion of the ROW to accommodate the existing structure and, 4) consider entering into a licensing agreement to allow the encroachment in the ROW.

Discussion began with Ald. Swanson stating he had requested this topic be discussed as he had a constituent that was issued a violation for an encroachment and wanted to explore options for residents other than violations when the encroachment predated ownership of the property. Swanson also noted he preferred option no. 2. Most aldermen were agreeable to options 2, 3 and 4 depending on the individual situation; and removing option 1.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Burghart thanked city staff for their work in preparing the city for Swedish Days.

5. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ald. Marks, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:47 pm.

*- submitted by Deputy Clerk Fornari*