

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
JANUARY 12, 2022
5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Sandra Magiera
Council Members: John Hill, Kylee Johnson, Barry Smith
Paul Myers, Janet Koch
City Clerk: Tracy Chamberlain
Fire Chief: Tom Sturdevant
Grant Administrator: Sandra Brundage

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Council Member Koch stated that Fire Chief Tom Sturdevant and Code Enforcement Officer Brandon Smith have met to work on the need to address code violations within the City.

Fire Chief Sturdevant noted that a lot of issues are zoning violation and the Zoning Law is in need of updating. The City Judge has suggested that a fine structure be established. Chief Sturdevant reviewed the process of notifying property owners of violations. They are looking to establish a better and faster way of handling violations.

Council Member Hill noted he has received many complaints regarding properties in his Ward. He has spoken with a City Attorney regarding ticketing the property owners. However, it is not ideal to pursue property owners that live out of New York State. Chief Sturdevant explained that the Code Office is requesting local contacts for these properties. It was noted the Seneca Nation of Indians is assisting with the issues at properties that are affiliated with the SNI.

Chief Sturdevant provided the Council with a proposed fine schedule for high grass, garbage and unlicensed vehicle. There was some discussion regarding the Department of Public Works cutting of grass and the proposed fees. It was noted that the City Attorney will need to advise how to adopt the fine schedule for these code issues. The Zoning Board of Appeals will need to be involved with establishing the rules and fines for zoning violations, such as setbacks, variances and business signage. It was noted one of the biggest issues with Zoning is the signage

There was discussion regarding the serving of violation tickets. Council Member Myers stated the Salamanca Police Department can assist with serving tickets within the City. However, the Code Enforcement Officer can serve tickets outside the City.

Council Member Koch stated she appreciates the Council meeting on this issue and appreciates all the work that Chief Sturdevant has done.

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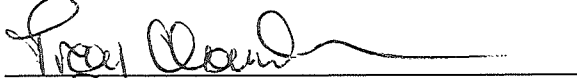
Chief Sturdevant noted the Code Enforcement Office tries to work with property owners that are having a hardship. The issues are usually with repeat offenders or non-resident property owners.

It was a consensus of the Council to have the City Attorney review and prepare to adopt the proposed fine schedule for code violations, such as high grass, garbage and unlicensed vehicle. It was noted the schedule will most likely be done by Ordinance to amend the City's Municipal Code, which the Court would follow.

Moved by Myers and seconded by Johnson:

RESOLVED: That we hereby adjourn – 5:55 PM.

Carried.



Tracy Chamberlain, City Clerk

Dated: January 19, 2022