



CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

6:00 p.m.

Attendance: D. Sterner, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, S. Marmarou

Other City Staff Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

Dennis Sterner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

I. Animal Control Ordinance Amendment

This topic has been rescheduled.

II. Sidewalk Vendor Ordinance Amendment

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that this item was placed on the agenda due to comments from Councilors during discussions to approve/deny sidewalk vendors outside the downtown area. She explained that most Councilors noted that they did not feel these vendors were appropriate outside the downtown area. The amendment could eliminate vendors outside the downtown area or designate specific zoning areas in which they would be allowed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted her belief that these vendors should only be in the downtown area. Mr. Marmarou and Mr. Sterner agreed.

Mr. Sterner noted the Committee's recommendation that sidewalk vendors be allowed in the downtown area only. He requested that this be discussed at the upcoming work session and the amendment be introduced at the September 28 Council meeting.

III. DCR Ordinance

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that she spoke with the solicitor for Kutztown. He stated that Kutztown must allow students to remain in rentals until after the eviction appeal has been heard.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the Disruptive Conduct Appeals Board has been very consistent in upholding evictions. She stated her belief that the problem is more with some landlords.

Mr. Marmarou described a new student rental in the 1900 block of Olive St. He stated that the residents endured problems this past weekend because they were afraid of retaliation. He stated that this property does not have zoning approval or housing permits.

Mr. Sterner reminded the Committee that Chief Heim does not support the level one and level two DCRs. He noted his dismay that this item remains on the agenda and does not seem to move forward.

Mr. Sterner requested a written opinion from the solicitor regarding this process and whether tenants can be removed without action by the landlord. The Committee would also like a written opinion regarding a DCR following a tenant and also being attached to a property to alleviate "house hopping" by problem tenants.

Mr. Sterner requested that this item be removed from the agenda until further action can be taken or new information is learned.

IV. Housing Permit Amendment

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that this item has remained on the agenda in hopes that the redrafted amendment would have been submitted for Committee review. She explained that the amendment has been introduced but is in the pending box due to the new draft not being received.

Mr. Sterner instructed Ms. Katzenmoyer to request the new draft so that it can be passed at the September 14 meeting.

V. Codes Ticketing System Update

No report.

VI. Special Event Permit Amendment Update

No report.

VII. Graffiti Update

No report.

VIII. Other Business

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the great amount of concern by the neighbors of the Evergreen Power Plant. She noted the residents requested the emergency plan should problems arise at the plant.

Ms. Katzenmoyer noted that the City Emergency Management Coordinator is Deputy Chief Jim Conrad. She stated that Deputy Chief Conrad is generally amenable to attending neighborhood meetings. He will be invited to attend the follow up meeting to discuss this item with the neighbors.

The Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*

Issues for Follow-Up:

- List of property owners without rental permits – July Work Session
- Codes ticketing system ordinance - August
- Review DCR Amendment – creation of Level 1 and Level 2 DCRs – August – pending written opinion of Solicitor
- Animal Control Ordinance – September
- Special Events Ordinance – September
- List of tenants and landlords receiving DCRs - September
- Enforcement of 800 foot rule for student rentals - September
- Vacant Property Registration Ordinance – January 2010
- Graffiti Enforcement – Monthly