

MINUTES OF A CITIZEN COMMENT SESSION OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2010, AT 6:33 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

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Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Shantal Taylor, DeTienne, Flammini and Mayor Harrison. Commissioner Jim Taylor was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Barbara Keisman stated her neighborhood has been experiencing crime activity for many years. There is ongoing noise and criminal problems in the 2100 blocks of Hermon, Hebron and Horeb Avenues. Ms. Keisman stated the Police Department has been responsive to calls, however the problem element returns as soon as the police leave. A citizen recommended enforcing curfew.

Mayor Harrison stated the City has experienced these types of issues in the past, noting the following possible solutions:

1. Several years ago, there were similar problems in the 2400 block of Hebron Avenue. Bonds were sold and the City bought the block and demolished the apartment buildings. This area was then zoned single family. In order to pay for the expense, Zion citizens agreed by referendum to increase their tax bills for a 2 year period. Mayor Harrison stated, given the current economy, he is not so sure even a temporary tax increase would be approved today.
2. The City has started a nuisance abatement program, identifying multiple police calls from the same area. Through this program, pressure can be placed on the landlords. Mayor Harrison recommended Ms. Keisman work with Chief Brooks utilizing the nuisance abatement program.

Ms. Keisman asked if a camera could be installed in the alleyway. Chief Brooks stated he is already checking into this issue.

The citizens stated the alleyway in the 2100 block of Hermon and Hebron Avenues is in disrepair, asking if this alley could be paved. Commissioner Flammini agreed the alley needs repaving, however at this time the City doesn't have the funding to do so, but instead will do patch work.

A citizen in the 2100 block of Hebron complained about an abandoned building adjacent to her building. This abandoned apartment building is unsafe and unsecured, allowing youth to trespass and play in it. It was also noted that the building has water damage, which creates water issues in the adjacent building.

Mayor Harrison stated the owners of properties are responsible and should be cited for all violations, asking residents to inform Chief Brooks and Building Director Eldridge of issues and ownerships, if known.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Shantal Taylor and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk

Approved August 17, 2010