

MINUTES

Monday, November 2, 2009



Fiscal Committee

5:49 p.m.
Carnegie Town Hall
235 W.10th Street

Members Present: Committee Chair Gerald Beninga, Vernon Brown, J. Pat Costello
Staff Present: Debra A. Owen, City Clerk; Jamie Palmer, Assistant City Clerk
Guests: Eugene Rowenhorst; Michelle Erpenbach; Sue Aguilar; Kermit Staggers; Bob Litz; Jerry & Jeanne Gerken; Mike Cooper; Chris Pierson; Parry Hanavan; Thad Schetnan; Denise Hanzlik; and Rod Fitis.

1. Call To Order

Beninga called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Costello and seconded by Brown to approve the minutes from Monday, July 27, 2009. Beninga called for a voice vote on the motion and all members voted yes. **Motion Passed.**

3. Reports and Updates

A. Rental Registration discussion (no action)

Mike Cooper, Director of Planning & Building Services

Beninga invited Cooper to start the Rental Registration discussion. Cooper gave a brief background regarding this topic. He shared copies of a pamphlet "Rental Housing Permit" that the Planning Department currently distributes. He stated that basically, the ordinance states that if you have rental property, you need to register it with the city every three years. He said that the information obtained from the registration is entered into a contact database (for city use) if the property owner needs to be contacted for code enforcement or emergency issues.

Cooper stated that there are currently about 15,020 units registered but that there are over 20,000 rental units in Sioux Falls. If they find that a property is not in compliance, they send notification to the property owner about the registration requirement and the issue is resolved. Cooper stated that the majority of the rental property owners are following the rules. Discussion occurred about ways to get the remaining properties into compliance.

Beninga asked for clarification about inspections of unregistered properties. Cooper clarified that even if the unit isn't registered, the city has the authority to conduct an inspection of that property if it is deemed necessary.

Shetnan stated that he believes the registration process works well but stressed the importance of assuring that all rental units are registered. He stated that his major complaint is that not all city departments are using the database for contact information which results in doors being broken down and trees being trimmed. In the past, he has found the forestry department trimming trees on his rental property without his knowledge. Cooper stated that there is a monthly coordination meeting with all departments involved in code enforcement and stated that he will continue to encourage departments to be consistent and utilize that database.

Shetnan said that the South Dakota Multi-Housing Association offers classes to landlords and tenants on various code enforcement issues associated with a rental property.

Cooper suggested that the revocation provision portion of the current ordinance should be reviewed as he feels that it seems somewhat extreme and it has never been enforced to that extent.

Fitis spoke regarding rental units being crime free and the current background verification requirement. He shared his frustrations, such as, the cost per background check and that the county only allows two requests per day. Discussion followed. Shetnan stated that the city could help by encouraging the state legislators to link South Dakota into the national database for criminal background verifications. Jeanne Gerken shared a copy of 2008 Senate Bill No. 160. Discussion occurred about including this topic with the 2010 legislative priorities. Costello suggested that this issue be discussed with the county at the Breakfast meeting on Wednesday morning (11/4/09). Hanzlik shared the process they use for criminal background verification. Discussion followed. Beninga stated that this issue will be discussed at the meeting with the county and also submitted with the City Council's legislative priorities.

Cooper stated that he will continue to work on notification and continue to encourage departments to utilize the database. Costello asked Cooper to pursue the background check problem with the Mayor's office. Jeanne Gerken asked that the sidewalk repair and the forestry departments be specifically reminded to utilize the database.

B. 2010 Budget Review discussion (no action)

- Brief history by Debra Owen, City Clerk
- Council discussion

Owen distributed a memo and a snapshot of the budget adoption process timelines for years 2005-2009. Costello said that he liked that the operational and CIP hearings were held together this year. Beninga agreed because they often correlate with each other. Beninga thought the process this year went very well. The council liked that the hearings were on a once a week basis rather than all in one week.

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Owen reviewed the Charter language regarding the budget plan and appropriations and revenue ordinance.

4. Open Discussion

There was none.

5. Adjournment

A motion was made by Brown and seconded by Costello to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Beninga called for a voice vote on the motion and all members voted yes. **Motion passed.**

Jamie L. Palmer
Assistant City Clerk