

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON MARCH 16, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CIVIC CENTER MEETING ROOM, 16327 LAKEVIEW, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

A. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Erskine at 6:00 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor, Rod Erskine	City Manager, Mike Castro, PhD
Council Member, Justin Ray	City Secretary, Lorri Coody
Council Member, Greg Holden	
Council Member, Harry Beckwith III, PE	
Council Member, Sheri Sheppard	
Council Member, Tom Eustace	

B. Receive and discuss a presentation on Health and Sanitation issues relative to Code Enforcement activities.

Gordon Mayer, Interim Public Works Director, introduced the item. He told City Council that this item is in response to an email received from a resident, expressing concerns about the condition of a home on Jersey Drive. City staff investigated the property to identify and take corrective actions as necessary to abate the issues. Staff is taking this opportunity to brief the Council on this incident and to have a more general discussion about our current approach to Code Enforcement.

To promote discussion and to provide additional background information, Mr. Mayer gave a PowerPoint presentation containing the following information:

1. History of the Property
2. Issues and Complaints
3. Relevant Code Sections
4. Pictures Depicting the Condition of the Property
5. Abatement Process
6. Entering Private Property
7. Other Issues
8. Pictures Depicting Other Issues
9. Confirmed Violations Chart
10. Moving Forward

Council engaged in discussion about the following topics:

1. Weeds and how some properties with St. Augustine grass may never reach 12 inches in height yet may seem unsightly;
2. Cracks in the bricks on homes are common, and can be found on many homes in Jersey Village; and
3. The process for complaints that may not be a violations and actions by staff to keep the complainant informed.

Council engaged in extensive discussion about the various situations for which complaints are received and the extent that staff visits with complainant regarding the complaint process and follow-up. This led to discussion about anonymous complaints and the special

WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS – March 16, 2015

issues imposed upon staff in receiving an anonymous complaint. Council suggested an article be placed in the JV Star concerning the code enforcement process.

Council then discussed the home on Lakeview. It had been in bankruptcy proceedings for some time, which prevented any action until recently. Repair work on this home is now underway.

Council also discussed the “confirmed violation table” presented by Staff during the presentation. Staff reported that 90 to 95% of reported violations are resolved after the first contact with the resident. 10 to 12 homes in Jersey Village are in violation on a regular basis.

Council then discussed the home on Jersey Drive. It was noted that this home will continue to be a code enforcement issue for the City due to certain circumstances that will prevent a major overhaul.

In closing the discussion, Council engaged in a brief discussion about the possibility of purchasing problem properties in the City as a means of resolving code enforcement issues.

C. ADJOURN

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Lorri Coody, City Secretary