

CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD
February 25, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Charlie Leonard, Chair
Phil Hoffmann
William Price
Rose Quin-Bare
Bob Rickey
Robert Westbrook

Board Members Absent:

Robert Rotondo, Vice Chair

Staff Present:

Whitney Chapman, Code Enforcement Officer
Mike Williamson, Code Enforcement Officer
David Persson, Code Enforcement Board Attorney
Deanna Roberts, Clerk of the Board

Mr. Leonard called the February 25, 2014 meeting of the Code Enforcement Board to order at 6:00 p.m. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called. Mr. Rotondo was absent from the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Mr. Hoffmann moved, Mr. Rickey seconded, and motion carried unanimously to approve the February 25, 2014 Agenda.

2. ELECTION OF 2014 OFFICERS

Mr. Rickey nominated Charlie Leonard for Chair. Mr. Hoffmann seconded the nomination. Mr. Rickey nominated Robert Rotondo as Vice Chair. Mr. Price seconded the nomination.

Mr. Leonard called for a vote on the two nominations, and both were approved unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes: July 30, 2013
- B. Legal expenses through July 30, 2013

Motion: Mr. Rickey moved, Mr. Hoffmann seconded, and motion carried unanimously to approve the February 25, 2014 Consent Agenda.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Deputy Director of Public Works Javier Vargas introduced himself to the Board. He informed the Board that Mayor Bryant moved Code Enforcement to Public Works a few months ago. He opined the move makes sense as the Building Department and Planning Department are also there. He introduced Officers Mike Williamson and Whitney Chapman to the Board and thanked them both for their hard work.

He stated that a couple of adjustments have been made to the way Code Enforcement operates. They are trying to educate the public rather than acting as enforcers. And, the officers are now working weekends. He invited the Board members to contact him with any questions or suggestions.

Mayor Bryant addressed the Board and thanked members for their time. She advised them that the City is working to improve the corridors and the City as a whole. New ordinances are moving through the process now. Code Enforcement officers working weekends is a big help. It protects the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. They can target unlicensed contractors doing work that is not permitted and not being inspected.

Code Enforcement Officer Whitney Chapman reported that the level of compliance has been good. Things are heading in a positive direction and they are receiving a lot of cooperation. Education along with enforcement has been a good combination.

Code Enforcement Officer Mike Williamson echoed the sentiments of Mr. Vargas. The department is focusing on education. They are working hand-in-hand with the fire department, police and building and zoning. For the most part, compliance has been voluntary so far.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bryant gave a brief overview of three proposed ordinances that will be moving through the City Commission:

Ord. No. 2013-20 – Regulation of the use and location of outdoor vending machines.

She stated that businesses bring in a beautiful site plan and then bring in vending machines to sit in front of the building.

Ord. No. 2013-19 - Regulation of drop boxes

Drop boxes are for-profit. The contents are sold by the pound. In a storm they become missiles, and over time they deteriorate and become slum and blight. They are not permitted and not secured.

Mayor Bryant said she is often contacted by someone who wants to invest in the City. That is why our gateways are so important. Investment is affected by the appearance of the City.

Ord. No. 2013-21 - Regulation of the use and location of portable storage containers

The use of portable storage containers has been abused. Pods have become permanent storage. This deteriorates neighborhoods.

She invited Board members to contact her with any questions or comments.

Rose Quin-Bare asked about follow up on a drive-through she had done with the Mayor in blighted neighborhoods. She said they had observed boarded up windows, fascia falling off, and foreclosed homes not being maintained. Mayor Bryant said her plan is to divide the areas into sections and begin with the areas with the highest number of violations. The mapper will pull the information together and use the data.

Mayor Bryant informed the Board that she is now a certified code enforcement officer.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Minutes approved: October 28, 2014

Charles W. Leonard

Charles W. Leonard, Chair