COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

LAW, BUILDINGS AND CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Joseph Igoe, Chair

Meeting called by: Joseph Igoe, Chair  Date: 6-12-18  Time: 5:30PM

Robert Magee
Sam Wells
Richard LaJoy

Invitees/Speakers

Committee Members
Present:  Igoe, Chair ☒ O’Brien ☒Applyrs ☐ Anane ☒ Farrell ☒

Council Members
Present:  Corey Ellis, Cathy Fahey, Alfredo Balarin and Judy Doesschate

Minutes

Chair convened the meeting stating members present and the agenda.

The Chair announced the Committee would first consider Resolution 42.61.18R.

Points of Discussion:

- After discussion, Council Member Igoe made a motion to confirm the appointment of Richard LaJoy as the Director of Building and Codes with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Council Member Anane. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the Ordinance 30.51.18.

- Following May 29, 2018, Law Committee meeting, languages were added and removed to Vacant Building Registry.
- Provision for a copy of driver license/identification card to be provided was removed from ordinance 30.51.18.
- All owners have to comply with the City Code so that language was removed and added a time limit a code violation has to be fixed.
- The goal is to make it easier for an owner to register.
- A property that’s vacant for less than three months and owned by a natural person and registered by a real estate agent said property it doesn’t have to register as vacant.
- As long as the building doesn’t have electric and plumbing issues and it is inhabited thus owners would not have to pay vacant building registration fee.
- The registration fee you would to pay if the building is not up to Code would go up every year.
- Owners will be required to have their building inspected yearly thus preventing future fires and safety hazard.
• 133-78.4 (5) was added to exempt the land bank and nonprofit organization like Habitat for Humanity and Historic Albany properties from registering. The land bank does not have the budget to perform work on properties. They sell these properties as is.
• Removed “As a condition of registration, all applicable laws and codes shall be complied with by the owner” from 133.78.3(8) part C because it was redundant and confusing.
• Moved “the vacant building registration fee shall be applied by the Chief Building Official towards the cost of any building permit fees otherwise owed for the work proposed at the building for which the vacant building registration fee was paid” from the Exemption section to Fee schedule section.
• “Any owner seeking a fee exemption for registration shall consent to an inspection of the exterior of the building, and shall consent to an inspection of the interior of the building unless the exemption application…building” was removed as duplicative in 133-78.4(1).
• 133-78.9 Registration exemption section was added to some of the concerns we heard about definitions at the May 29, 2018, Law Committee meeting.
• Committee discussed possibly adding fines for not registering and still enforcing the owner to register said vacant building. The goal is to have owner’s information we currently do not have.
• 60% of vacant building pay taxes based on what the Assessor has set the value at.
• We have demolished 175 buildings due to safety risk.

Council Member Igoe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Council Member Farrell. The motion passed unanimously.