

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 12, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Vermilion City Council:

Steve Herron, President of Council; Emily Skahen, Ward One; Steve Hologacs, Ward Three; Brian Holmes, Ward Five. Absent: Monica Stark, Council at Large; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Barb Brady, Ward Four

Administration:

Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Chief Hartung; Chief Stempowski

Call to Order:

Steve Hologacs, Vice Chairman, RESOLVED THAT this Legislative Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

TOPIC ONE:

Review of Transient Rentals – Draft Legislation

S. Hologacs explained last month Council had a question about the insurance and the Finance Director spoke to the insurance company who said there is no special insurance if someone had a transient rental, as their homeowner's policy would cover it and there would be no risk to the city. He advised the public that application fees as it stands now in the draft legislation is \$200 for the application and \$100 for the renewal.

G. Fisher said they were still waiting for the law department to address the penalty portion of the ordinance and as soon as they provide it, then they can insert it into the ordinance.

S. Herron said they want to keep the requirements to a bare minimum and protect the public, but if they can go through their own homeowners' policy, then Council does not have to bombard them with another issue. He thought the penalties should be a fourth-degree misdemeanor, which is ultimately 30 days in jail, but the idea is not to penalize but to get people to conform, so he would suggest \$100 fines on each day and then if there are more than several convictions, then it could be raised to a fourth-degree misdemeanor in his opinion. S. Hologacs said they will wait for the law department to provide the penalty section.

B. Holmes agreed they should wait for the law department to address the penalties and mentioned this has been a long process. E. Skahen thought in her opinion the fees were high.

Homer Taft of 3972 Edgewater Drive continued to have concerns about the ordinance and thought Council would be far wiser to start with a \$100 fee. They want to encourage people to comply and make it easy. He mentioned the City of Huron has an ordinance that at one time Vermilion modeled after, which was stopped, but meanwhile Huron has changed their ordinance. He said Vermilion is now modeling on the Sandusky ordinance and the most troubling issue to him with regards to the Sandusky ordinance, is that Council took out all requirements of parking. If they are going to treat it as a business – he thinks there is a difference between somebody renting it for a week or 10 days, or 28 days, but if somebody is going to be treated as a business like a motel or hotel, then he thinks they should be treated like a business for those purposes too and provide parking for those, including parties who will be there, so he would encourage Council to look at this. He will have further observations because he has concerns about this. He noted that Huron set a limit of five percent of its residential structures as its limit of the number, and he would hope Council would do this much for the City of Vermilion. He said with regards to the inspections, at one point they required everyone to have a carbon monoxide detector, but if there is nothing that causes combustion in the unit then this would be overkill.

S. Holovacs MOVED, S. Herron seconded to authorize the clerk to draft final legislation for a first reading at the next Council meeting. Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

TOPIC TWO: Review of Ordinance 2021-4 (Modular Storage Units)

S. Holovacs said at last month's committee meeting, B. Brady had asked Attorney Chojnacki to review this ordinance. The remainder of Council had agreed for him to review the legislation once again to make sure there were no conflicting sections. G. Fisher said she never received anything to date from the law department. S. Holovacs tabled this item to the May meeting for review.

S. Holovacs adjourned the meeting upon no further discussion.

Next meeting: May 10, 2021 – 7pm @ Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street

Transcribed by Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC)