

City of Sheboygan
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CITY OF SHEBOYGANMAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP CABINETTuesday, March 6, 2018

Mayor Mike Vandersteen called the meeting to order at 6: 30 pm in the Rocca Room of the Mead Public Library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Members present: Mayor Mike Vandersteen, Director of Planning and Development Chad Pelishek, Neighborhood Development Planner Nancy Maring, Police Chief Christopher Domagalski, Markus Savaglio, Joe Clarke, Dean Dekker, Peter Sjollemma, Grazia Perrella, Jody Kraemer, Penny Weber, Scott Hanson.

Others present: Assistant City Attorney Thomas Cameron, Officer Matthew Heimerl, Jenny Given.

Minutes: Motion by Joe Clarke, seconded by Scott Hansen to approve minutes of January 16, 2018 meeting. All ayes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY
Feature Presentation:

Code Enforcement in the Municipal Court Assistant City Attorney Thomas Cameron The four steps of Code Enforcement: Step 1 Survey Step 2 Notice Step 3 Citation Step 4 Municipal Court Step 4 (a) Initial Appearance This doesn't happen in every case. It tends to happen in a Long Form Building Citation. Step 4 (b) Pretrial Conference This is where the bulk of the resolution happens, Thomas meets with the property owner to discuss if there is a path forward to compliance that doesn't involve going to a trial. This takes place about 6 weeks after the citation is issued and it's not unusual for three or four pretrial conferences for any given citation. If the property owner attends the pretrial conference that's great because it means they are engaging in the system and there is an opportunity to get the property into compliance. Next question: is the property in compliance as of the date of the pretrial conference? With small matters such as sanitation tickets or a vehicle parked on an unpaved surface, these are often in compliance by the time of a pretrial conference so normally we are able to get to a resolution. The resolution could be a reduction in the cost of the ticket, or it could be a hold open agreement which outlines long-term compliance to correct the underlying issue. In general, larger matters that have been ongoing, such as a roof that needs to be replaced, will not be resolved with the 6-week span between when the ticket was issued and the date of the pretrial conference. In that situation, we look at factors such as timing and past records of violations. For example, if a ticket was received in December for a bad roof, it's not likely that a roofer will do the job in January. If the property owner has a history of tickets on this issue, we need to discuss the underlying issue are they making steps towards compliance? If so, we can make a variation on a hold open agreement that sets timing parameters for compliance. We generally prefer to have the property in compliance before negotiating a reduction of a ticket. Then we set a date for another pretrial conference. Before each pretrial conference we try to do a compliance check we get pictures of the property so we have a sense of what's going on. When the

inspector goes out, it s possible that another ticket gets issued to address the continued non-compliance. We have had a property owner say that he paid the \$691 ticket hoping to buy some time, but didn t understand that he s not really engaging in the system because he didn t communicate his intentions with us. From our perspective, we re not getting his attention so the next step is a citation for daily non-compliance, we call this a long form citation. The municipal code states that every day of non-compliance is a new violation. Seeing a ticket for \$124,000 can become paralyzing, it s easy to throw up your hands and say, It doesn t really matter what I do. A judgement of this nature is likely uncollectable, so the long form citation is an effective tool we can use to gain people s attention. At that point, we tend to make progress toward getting into compliance. If the property owner does not attend the pretrial conference, the result is default judgement against them for the full ticketed amount.

Step 4 (c) Trial In general, most code enforcement matter don t end up at trials, they often get resolved through pretrial conferences.

Not Every Building Code Violation is Created Equal The starting point for a sanitation violation is \$150 + court costs = \$250 Most building code violations are \$500 + court costs = \$691 Cost of 1 Building Code Violation Starting Point: \$500 (plus costs) per Violation Between \$150 and \$750 (plus costs) per Violation Between \$250 and \$1,006 (including costs) per Violation Cost of 30 Days of Non-Compliance Starting Point: \$20,730 Cost of 180 Days of Non-Compliance Starting Point: \$124,380

Very few building code violations escalate to the level where the City collects thousands of dollars, most are negotiated. Only a handful of situations have occurred in the past 10 years where the City ended up taking ownership of properties we don t want things to get to that level. We work to determine a balance for what is the dollar amount that s enough to get the property owner s attention so they engage in the process, yet not so high that they just shut down. What do violations look like: Vehicles that continue to park on grass in their yard despite multiple tickets Some citations are a result of targeted code enforcement in specific neighborhoods Some citations are a result of neighbor complaints If the violator is a tenant, the person who gets the citation is the landlord It s not unusual for a 1 -year extension on violations that might involve a roof or residing a whole house. The key is that the property owners be engaged in the process and regularly communicate their progress with us. Some sanitation violations can be tricky because the severity can span such a huge range: a bag of garbage on the patio is not in the same league as someone with a junk yard in front of their house. Nevertheless, they all have the same starting point: \$150 + court costs = \$250. Occasionally we get into a treadmill type of effect we try to move the process forward but there can be other factors that we aren t aware of at the beginning that prevent progress. By the time a violation has reached the level that it s reached the City Attorney s office, it s unlikely that the ticket will be dismissed. It is of the utmost importance that property owners participate in the system as early in the process as possible so that all interested parties can work together to efficiently achieve compliance.

Neighborhood Association Reports

Near North Joe Clarke reporting: The group will be meeting soon to wrap up their discussion on the sign so it can be approved and hopefully installed prior to their annual meeting.

King Park Scott Hanson reporting: In the process of ordering signs. Have

been discussing a summer fundraiser of some sort bake sale, rummage sale, etc.
this would take place at King Park.

Indiana Corridor Dean Dekker reporting: Neighborhood cleanup is scheduled
for May
19.

Memorial A candidate forum for District 2 is scheduled for 6: 30 pm on March
15 at First Congregational Church with John Belanger and Todd Wolf. March 14 is
an event at Maywood about adoptable areas Nancy Maring has more info. Update
on Aurora Memorial Hospital: Dave Grabner said that the 2020 lead date of
moving out of the hospital is looking optimistic. There is a plan to establish
an inter-governmental agreement between Kohler, the City of Sheboygan, and the
county because although the land belongs to Kohler, the City of Sheboygan has
greater resources, so there s coordination that needs to happen between the
parties. Once that s established, then the move date will be established, then
they will work with a consultant to determine what they want to do with the old
hospital.

Maple Heights Chad Pelishek reporting: January meeting was canceled due to
not having access to the building, the meeting has been rescheduled for the end
of March.

Gateway No report.

Ellis No report.

Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride Update Penny Weber reporting: Has been working
with several neighborhoods to mentor them into achieving Neighborhood
Association status. There is a combined group going for Kiwanis, KND South,
and Wildwood. Meetings are coming up next week for Vollrath, North Point,
Franklin Park, East Side, End Park, Swift, and South Lake. Vollrath/North Point
is hoping to have their election in June at a picnic. The East Side is hopeful
to have an election meeting in July at a picnic. There is a great working
relationship with the police department, the beat cops, and the neighborhood
officers. There is a new webmaster for the Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride
website, it is in the process of being rebuilt to offer the necessary
content. The Wildwood/Kiwanis group is meeting at 6: 30 pm on March 19 at the
Kiwanis Park fieldhouse.

CITY STAFF UPDATES

Report by Police Chief Christopher Domagalski The annual report is being
wrapped up at the end of this week, it will be on the website and will go out in
the City newsletter. We had a good year last year we were under 1,000 part 1
crimes, which is a tremendous improvement. There are about 25 people signed up
for the Citizen s Academy, it starts next week Tuesday and continues for 11
weeks. The Landlord Training Program is coming up on April 24, Chad and Nancy

have more details. Our outreach programs: Skate with a Cop took place at Blue Line, kids from grade schools participated. Officer Heimerl is working on an Easter event called Hop with a Cop. One of the big goals for this year is to try to improve traffic safety, Bill Adams named the program Car In Gear, Brain in Gear. The approach consists of raising awareness so that people can monitor their own driving habits, educating people by putting out tips that dispel myths about laws, and focused enforcement that is announced where it is happening. This program focuses not only on reducing crashes, but also reducing distracted driving and aggressive driving. We are training our officers for dementia awareness so they can understand what it is, how it impacts people, and giving officers some tools to better work with people when they come in contact with people who have dementia. Our in-service tomorrow involves a presentation and an interactive experience with putting on glasses and gloves then trying to do some tasks so they have an understanding of what dementia is like. The first week of our in-service was open to the public, about 25 people attended. Rapid response is a program we've been working on for about 4 or 5 years, this is training for our response to active shooter incidents. It's part of the ALICE program that we've been doing with the schools. This warm zone training involves coordination with the fire department for best practice on treatment for victims. For mental health issues, we've purchased lethal equipment that we will be putting into the squad cars next week. We've always had some less lethal equipment such as rubber bullets or foam bullets for situations like if someone is holding a knife and threatening an officer or threatening to hurt themselves. We are training on our drug endangered children program which is a cooperative agreement that we've entered into with all the other law enforcement agencies in the city, Health and Human Services, the hospitals, and doctors. When we come across a house where there's drug use, we can make a decision about if the children need to be removed from the house or what we can do to try to reduce the trauma to them and get them in a better situation. We're working on resiliency training this addresses mental health of the officers, due to the nature of their work we train them to bounce back from what they deal with and keep them healthy. Audience question: It's been a few months, how are the body cameras working out? Answer: They're good, but it's a lot of work for us due to the large number of discovery requests and open records requests. We created a new staff position for Digital Evidence Manager to handle this, but the demand is still overwhelming and she gets assistance from other staff members. The technology to provide the videos is in the process of being re-evaluated with plan of streamlining it to being all online so we can provide a link that can be accessed with a login and password, this would eliminate our current process of burning each video to a CD. The current retention policy is set that videos need to be stored for 90 days. Videos that are deemed as evidence need to be retained longer.

Report from City Development Nancy Maring Copies of the department's annual report are being passed around. A major project that we've been working on is the SouthPointe Enterprise Campus which is the new business park on the south side of Sheboygan. Other highlights include the High Pointe Apartments on S. 8th Street, the annexation for the Kohler golf course, a couple of tax incremental district amendments, and continuing the code enforcement program. The report explains what our department is responsible for, what committees we hold, how many permits and applications we process, info about our recent economic development projects, grant writing and management most notably the Community Development Block Grants that have been used for projects such as the skate park and City Green. We work closely with Visit Sheboygan which is the tourism entity that promotes the City of Sheboygan and gets people to visit here. Chad also works with Visit Sheboygan to plan the July 4th festivities. We've been working with the Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation

to develop plans for the Innovation District on the Indiana Avenue corridor. We've been working with Sheboygan Squared and the John Michael Kohler Arts Center on projects such as the alley improvements downtown. We chair the Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force and work with its sub-committees toward a variety of initiatives related to sustainability. Neighborhood revitalization is an inter-departmental initiative. We've worked closely with Sheboygan SOUP (Support Our Urban Projects) is a community crowd funding project. The building inspection department information shows the number of permits and licensing that they've processed. We've continued to increase our development for housing units. The Landlord Training Program will take place on April 24 at the Police Department. We will be working on a neighborhood annual report that will profile the accomplishments that have been made toward neighborhood revitalization.

CLOSING OF MEETING Next meeting date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018.

ADJOURN Meeting adjourned at 7: 40 pm.