



Planning and Public Safety Committee
Virtual Meeting
May 26, 2020
Summary and Motions

Chair Jennifer Mossotti called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Committee Members Chuck Ellinger, James Brown, Josh McCurn, Mark Swanson, Susan Lamb, Preston Worley, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Jennifer Reynolds, and Kathy Plomin were in attendance. Council Members Angela Evans, Steve Kay, Richard Moloney, and Bill Farmer, Jr. were in attendance as non-voting members.

Chair Mossotti began the meeting with the following statement: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, state of emergency and Governor Beshear's Executive Orders regarding social distancing, this meeting is being held via teleconference pursuant to Senate Bill 150 (as signed by the Governor on March 30, 2020) and Attorney General Opinion 20-05, and in accordance with KRS 61.826, because it is not feasible to offer a primary physical location for the meeting.

I. Approval of March 10, 2020 Committee Summary

A motion was made by McCurn to approve the March 10, 2020 Planning and Public Safety Committee Summary, seconded by Reynolds, the motion passed without dissent.

II. Comprehensive Review of Code Enforcement

Alex Olszowy, Director of Code Enforcement, presented the item. He reviewed the types of problems they investigate including housing disrepair, nuisance, sidewalk, snow, unsolicited materials. He reviewed the housing complaint process, the nuisance complaint process, and the sidewalk complaint process and said sidewalks can be a sensitive subject. He reviewed some of the significant changes including salesforce and the 311 web interface, compliance letters, courtesy notices, and administrative fees for citations. He described the officer qualifications, training required, and he reviewed the attrition rates from 2016-2019. He provided an overview of the cases and citations by Council District. He explained the appeals process and reviewed the various cases city-wide for 2019.

Reynolds asked about soft-skills training and the classes that are available. Olszowy said there is an all day class related to customer service and we are working with HR for internal staff training. Reynolds said tree removal should be included in sidewalk repair and she said we might have to review whether to include this. Olszowy said we wouldn't want to provide information that indicates people would be reimbursed for this if we aren't prepared to allow that. Reynolds asked what a person should do if they feel targeted. Olszowy said they should check with Code Enforcement first as there can be many explanations for this including an eyesore, bad neighbors, etc.

J. Brown expressed appreciation for the work being done in the division. He spoke about the improvements in District 1 and said the closeout letter is a good idea and will be a good benefit as well as a customer service training tool. He said Code Enforcement is customer-facing and public perception is important. He asked to keep the item in committee to allow public to comment on issues.

Moloney spoke about the 3rd district and the number of citations being lower than it has been in the past. Olszowy said the correlation would be based on the number of permits and if there were no calls coming in to report violations. Moloney spoke about signs in right-of-way and he asked if they are just

removed and if so, why they are not enforced with a citation. Olszowy said the issue is catching someone putting the sign out which would be appealable.

Kay questioned the appeals process and asked if the state statute requirement was that it must be 7 days or at least 7 days and if there is any flexibility with this. Olszowy said it must be within 7 days. Kay asked if we would have to work with legislature if we wanted to extend this and change the language and Olszowy said that is correct. Kay asked if a complaint is registered, and a Code Enforcement Officer inspects but does not find anything, if that owner would receive an indication that a complaint has been filed. Olszowy said that is correct and no notification would be sent that Code Enforcement was there. Kay commented that although it might look like certain areas are being targeted, as long as Code Enforcement is following procedure and can verify there is a problem, this should not be seen as targeting by Code Enforcement.

Swanson asked about staff attrition for the last 4 years with 17 employees having left and he asked if that is normal. Olszowy said this is not surprising because there have been retirements, promotions, etc. and there has only been one termination which was a probationary termination. He said for the most part, these have been good moves.

Lamb asked about the Code Enforcement Officer and the Nuisance Complaint Officer and the pay range for those positions. Olszowy said the Code Enforcement Officer is about 19.10/hr and the Nuisance Complaint Officer is about 17.80/hr. He said the average salary is about \$40,000.

Mossotti asked what the protocol is generally. Olszowy said it can be public view like overgrown grass or by appointment if it is housing disrepair. He said permission is needed to go past the side of the house. Mossotti asked if it would be better to have Building Inspection under Code Enforcement. Olszowy said the issue levels vary so it would better to have them separate. Mossotti asked what calls have come in over the last 10 weeks. Olszowy said tenants don't want to risk it anymore than others so calls are typically an emergency situation. He said they thought cases would increase, but they have not.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

III. Items Referred to Committee

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

A motion by J. Brown to adjourn, seconded by Ellinger, the motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

KT 06.04.2020