

Agenda Item Attachment

February 18, 2020 City Council Meeting



Agenda Item: 13
Submitted by: City Manager
Reviewed by:
Budgeted Item: No
For Action: No
Attachments: None

Discussion And Action If Any Regarding The City's Approach To Upcoming Code Compliance Actions Through The Police Department

Discussion:

Recent changes in the Police Department have slowed the process somewhat. IworQ has been working on incorporation of the Appraisal District Shape File into the system so we can send an Officer into the field as a designee of the City Manager to start Code Compliance work. The intent as stated so far has been that we will begin in and around downtown with documentation of violations. A second means of initiation will be based on complaints received about specific properties. All violations will at first be sent as warnings for a set period of time.

We propose sending violations as warnings for sixty (60) calendar days. The sixty days will be started from the issue of the first warning, and citations will be issued thereafter. The representative of the City Manager issuing citations will have discretion to issue warnings in lieu of citations

I may point out some specific examples during the meeting for thought by Aldermen about the impact of enforcing what we already have on the book for local Ordinances. We need to be prepared to handle exceptions, and that may mean we have to modify language of codes to provide exceptions for hardship situations. In other words, the enforcement of a code might well be delayed in some circumstances to avoid undo financial hardship to residents.

Recommended Motions:

I propose a motion we adopt the approach to enforcement outlined in the Item 13 Attachment and empower the Municipal Judge limited authority to waive violations where financial hardships are proven in a code compliance situation as long as the individual being cited is a resident at the property in question.