

# City of St. Helens

## CITY COUNCIL

Public Hearing Minutes

November 16, 2016

**Members Present:** Randy Peterson, Mayor  
Doug Morten, Council President  
Keith Locke, Councilor  
Susan Conn, Councilor  
Ginny Carlson, Councilor

**Staff Present:** John Walsh, City Administrator  
Matt Brown, Finance Director  
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder  
Neal Sheppard, Public Works Operations Director  
Sue Nelson, Public Works Engineering Director

**Others:** Bobbi Siek Cynthia Ferguson Art Leskovich  
Rick Scholl



### **Public Hearing**

**Petitioner:** Bobbi Siek

**Proposal:** Appeal of Dangerous Building Abatement

**Location:** 35418 Helens Way

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Randy Peterson opened the public hearings.

### **Staff Report**

Building Official Bob Johnston presented his report. A copy of the posting and appeal letter are included in the archive meeting packet. Water service was shut off and five days later the building was posted as dangerous, as defined in the Municipal Code. It was unsanitary based on lack of sanitary facilities.

### **Appellant**

♦**Bobbi Siek.** Owner of the home. She has been in and out of the state with family deaths. She was unaware that the water bill had gotten this high. She was sending the money to her aunt and uncle to pay the bills and they were only paying the minimum amount to keep the water on. She is in the process of getting loans to pay off the water. The water department won't accept payments.

Finance Director Brown reported that it was sent to collections on August 18 for \$2,440.50. Bobbi said she was not made of aware of it at that time. Brown added that there is another note on the account that staff spoke with Bobbi on October 20. The total due is \$2,876.06 to pay off her balance in collections. Payment can be taken at City Hall and then sent to collections. Bobbi agreed and is working on getting a loan to pay that off.

Mayor Peterson asked what the procedure is once the water has been shut off. Brown explained that they are required to pay in full to turn their water back on. There have been instances of setting up payment plans. The last payment was made February 11, 2015. Peterson pointed out that was almost two years ago.

Bobbi is asking for a payment plan. Without it, she and her family will be homeless. She can come in on Monday to pay the current month's bill plus \$200.

Council agreed to allow a payment plan according to Finance procedures. The water can be turned on when the current bill is paid plus first installment of the payment plan has been made. She needs to follow-up with Brown on Monday.

**Close Public Hearing and Record – 6:17 p.m.**

**Public Hearing**

**Petitioner:** Christie Nagel

**Proposal:** Appeal of Dangerous Building Abatement

**Location:** 2564 Columbia Blvd.

**Staff Report**

Building Official Bob Johnston presented his report. A copy of the posting and appeal letter are included in the archive meeting packet. This residence has been lived in since 2014. He received complaints from neighbor about activities taking place. There have been multiple attempts to arrange for utility payments but they were never made. Children were living there and living in unsanitary conditions.

**Appellant**

◆Not present.

No one representing this property was in attendance.

Finance Director Brown said that the property owner was sent to collections on February 17 with a balance over \$600.

Council agreed to deny the appeal since there was no one here representing the property. He asked staff to contact the owner with the next steps.

There were no requests to leave the record open or continue the public hearing.

**Close Public Hearing and Record – 6:23 p.m.**



Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:



Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder



Randy Peterson, Mayor