

Clearwater City Council
City Council Work Session Minutes
Clearwater City Council Chamber
July 20, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Ritzer called the City Council workshop session of July 20, 2015 to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Present: Council Members Ritzer, Lange, Ranum and Crandall. Absent – Mayor Edmonson, and Member Ranum.

Staff present: Administrator Kress

Public Present Vern Scott, Elaine Paumen, Gene Miller, Paul Koopmeiner, and Dan Niehoff.

Others Present: Ken Francis – Clearwater Tribune

Discussion – Abandoned Cars & Nuisances

Members opened the discussion on the process to deal with nuisance violations. Members reviewed the current nuisance and abandoned cars ordinances. The current ordinance for nuisance's states:

“Whenever the officer charged with enforcement determines that a public nuisance is being maintained or exists on premises in the city, the officer shall notify in writing the owner or occupant of the premises of such fact and order that such nuisance be terminated and abated. The notice shall be served in person or by certified mail. If the premise is not occupied and the owner is unknown, the noticed may be served by posting it on the premises. The notice shall specify the steps to be taken to abate the nuisance and the time, not exceeding 30 days, within whom the notice is served may request, in writing to the city clerk-treasurer, a hearing before the city council. Such hearing must be requested before the deadline for abatement stated in the notice. If the notice is served by posting, 30 days must elapse between the day of the posting and the deadline for abatement. If the notice is not complied with within the time specified, and a hearing has not be requested, the enforcing officer shall take immediate steps to abate the nuisance. If a hearing has been requested, such action may not take place until after the hearing and the city council has rendered its decision”

The current ordinance for abandoned cars states:

Removal or impoundment. Vehicles constituting an attractive nuisance or a public nuisance may be removed and/or impounded. Any duly authorized law enforcement officer may immediately order any vehicle constituting an attractive nuisance or a public nuisance to be removed and/or impounded from public property in the manner herein provided, and it shall be surrendered to the duly identified owner thereof by the towing company, or its agent, only upon payment of the towing and storage fees, if any. If the owner or operator requests that such vehicle be towed to any garage or place other than that of the towing company, and provided the owner or operator shall advance to the towing company, or its agent, a sum equal to the towing charge, neither the towing company nor the police department shall order such vehicle to be impounded in the towing company's pound unless the police department considers possession of such motor vehicle necessary in the prosecution of a violation of law.

Tagging. Any vehicle ordered removed or impounded under this article shall immediately be tagged for identification by the law enforcement officer. The tag shall show the disposition of

the vehicle and the reason for which it was removed or impounded. The tag shall be delivered to the towing company with the tow sheet.”

Members discussed how they would like the process to take place for the removal of a nuisance within the city. It was mentioned that it may be beneficial to have the city attorney draft a letter when there is a nuisance. Visitors Paumen and Miller addressed the Council and explained their concerns with nuisances within the city. Mr. Scott addressed the Council and explained that in the past, the mayor or a council member would approach the violator prior to a notice being sent out. He explained this was done in an attempt to avoid conflict. Mr. Powers addressed the Council and explained some of the different ways he has been involved with code enforcement. Powers recommended having someone personally contact the violator, because the legal process can be expensive and lengthy. Members were in favor of having the Mayor and or Council Members approach the person who is violating the ordinance for nuisances. Council asked that Member Lange and Administrator Kress develop a procedure for dealing with violations regarding nuisances and abandoned cars.

Discussion – Internship Program

Administrator Kress briefly explained how an internship program could be utilized. Members discussed whether the internship program would be paid or unpaid. Kress explained that the majority of internships he has seen are paid. Kress discussed putting together some job duties and expectations for an internship program. Mr. Kress mentioned that most internship programs are posted in the spring or fall and typically last about 6 months. Council consensus was to continue to discuss the potential of an internship program moving forward.

Schedule next workshop

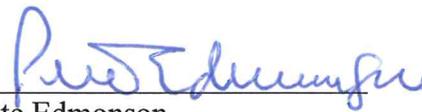
Council agreed to host a workshop on Monday, August 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

**MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Lange, to adjourn the workshop session at 6:36 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.**



Kevin Kress
City Administrator



Pete Edmonson
Mayor

8-3-2015 Date Approved