

Franklin City Council
Legislative Committee
Minutes of June 23, 2011 Meeting

Present: Councilor Glen Feener; Councilor Jerry Audet

Also Present: Mayor Ken Merrifield; City Manager Elizabeth Dragon; Planning and Zoning Administrator Dick Lewis; Chuck Farmer; Donna Tully; George Djuena

Chairman Feener called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. He asked City Manager Dragon to introduce the agenda item of proposed amendments to the Disorderly residence ordinance.

City Manager Dragon indicated that after the ordinance was last amended this past April several property owners/landlords contacted the City to express concerns with some of the language. To address the concerns a meeting was held in the Library and approximately 7 landlords attended.

The general consensus amongst landlords was that the ordinance unfairly targeted them as opposed to their tenants, and discriminated against the owners of the larger buildings in the City since more individual units means there is a higher potential for multiple disorderly residence calls that can result in significant fines for the property owners. The landlords felt that, while they try as hard as they can to manage the building, they cannot be the "parents" or "babysitters" for their tenants.

City staff took the comments from this meeting and prepared some revisions to the ordinance that addressed the concerns.

Administrator Lewis reviewed the changes being presented to the Committee. He agreed with the City Manger that the goal of the City was to get compliance, not to treat the landlords unfairly or too harshly.

Chairman Feener opened the discussion up to the Committee and then the other attendees. There was discussion on how multi-family residences were defined and treated with the new language. It was decided to use the word "property" instead of residence in definition section "B" to clarify that the intent is to cover the properties that have many units or apartments in one or more buildings. There was also discussion on Section D.4 ad the fact that the fourth disorderly event discussion does not have the same option for a waiver of the fine. It was decided to reword this to allow for a reduction or waiver of the fine for this category.

It was moved and seconded by the Committee to forward the proposed changes to the City Council for a hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55.