

**SHREVEPORT CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
*February 25, 2014***

The Committee of the Whole was called to order by Chairman Joe Shyne.

Approval of Minutes:

**Motion by Councilman Webb seconded by Councilman S. Jenkins for approval.
Motion approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmen Rose McCulloch,
Everson, O. Jenkins, Corbin, Webb, Shyne, and S. Jenkins. 7. Nays: None.**

Awards and Recognition of Distinguished Guests by the Mayor

Awards and Recognition of Distinguished Guests by City Council Members

Communications of the Mayor

Communications from Council Members

Councilwoman McCulloch: Yes, first of all I want to thank you MLK CDC for coming out. Today was good seeing you. Always good to see you and also I wanted to share with the council that I had the opportunity – well I'll wait until you guys finish.

Councilman Shyne: Nah, proceed now because I'm –

Councilwoman McCulloch: If you're going to talk –

Councilman Shyne: Now look, look, you have the floor. Now we have something else over here.

Councilwoman McCulloch: You're being televised Councilman Shyne.

Councilman Shyne: Now, we have something else over here. We're going to move on to another council member who'd like to have the floor.

Councilwoman McCulloch: And it's important that we remain respectful Councilman Shyne.

Councilman Shyne: Do you want the floor or do you want us to move on?

Councilwoman McCulloch: If you're going to listen.

Councilman Shyne: Look, nah the floor is yours. Now you can't determine whether I'm going to listen to you or not. Now if you going to wait on that we're going to move on.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Are you finished?

Councilman Shyne: No, are you ready?

Councilwoman McCulloch: I wanted to ask this council concerning Resolution 33 based on the legislation that was a draft that was presented to me on yesterday. I had the understanding that based on what I saw and that's why I asked for some explanation that the mayor would no longer designate based on what was presented to me the financial advisor. And of course I wasn't so familiar with the amendment that we addressed today which is pretty much in the same so that was why when we voted for the – now just the regular legislation Resolution 33 I voted no, but as I understand that legislation does the support the City of Shreveport moving forward to get a designee and I do support that. That's why it's so highly favored having a financial advisor in place and I wanted to ask you Sam

as a member of the Audit and Finance Committee I brought it to your attention in our meeting this past week. Are we going to or can you have it placed on the agenda so that we might address a financial advisor? I don't know, you know, that was a concern. Will we be addressing a financial advisor at our next meeting? Will we be communicating with the mayor as to whether or not he would be designating someone, but I think it's an issue such that it does need to come up in our next Committee Meeting if that's possible.

Councilman S. Jenkins: Yeah, and any member of the committee that wants to place something on that agenda we can certainly do that.

Councilwoman McCulloch: I'm interested to have something, some update or something regarding what we're going to do as far as having the mayor to designate the financial advisor.

Councilman S. Jenkins: Well I know we had some unfinished audits that we still need to review. We haven't come together on a date –

Councilwoman McCulloch: Okay.

Councilman S. Jenkins: Or time to do it (inaudible) on the agenda. The concern will be placed on the agenda and the committee can deal with it as we see fit.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Okay, and also I got the opportunity to – I was the guest speaker this week at the Andrew Currie Park I think it is. Mayor Glover Recreation Park, I got a chance to actually be the speaker. I had the opportunity to speak to babies from 3 years old all the way up to 15 and my topic of discussion was, "What are your Convictions?" Do you have Convictions? Are you man or woman enough to stand on your convictions – what you believe in and I really enjoyed myself. I really appreciate the staff at Andrew Currie Park, Mrs. Linda Smith and some others. I can't recall their name and it's because you know, I just didn't write it down. But even our SPAR Staff, they were present and they provided dinner for the boys and girls and they had a nice little program and I really had a wonderful time and I was presented this beautiful plaque. I'm sure you saw it on Facebook Jeff Everson because I immediately as soon as I got home Ronald I put it on Facebook.

Councilman Jeff Everson: And I believe I liked it.

Councilwoman McCulloch: But it was really a joy to share in the Allendale community because most of the time I'm in you know, the Lakeside or MLK community, but it was really a pleasure to serve the Allendale community as well and meet and greet with what I call my babies. Thank you so much Councilman Shyne.

Councilman Shyne: You are quite welcome. Councilman Oliver Jenkins did you want to follow Councilwoman McCulloch?

Councilman O. Jenkins: I didn't have anything at this point.

Councilman Shyne: Okay. Councilman Sam Jenkins, did you?

Councilman S. Jenkins: Not for today, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Councilman Shyne: I can't believe it, but thank you. I'm just kidding, Sam. Okay, Mike?

Councilman Corbin: I'm good.

Councilman Shyne: Alright.

Councilman Webb: You haven't asked me?

Councilwoman McCulloch: Did I get permission to change my vote?

Councilman Webb: You're not going to ask me?

Councilman Shyne: Yeah, I'm coming to you Ron. I'm coming to you. You know I'm not going to leave you out, Ron.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Shyne, Ron has allowed me to do this. Do I have the opportunity to change that vote for Resolution 33 based in misunderstanding of the legislation said?

Mrs. Glass: The procedure for that would be as I mentioned to you and I think this probably needs to be done back – when we go back into the Regular Meeting so that it will be on the minutes of the Regular. You can say that you would like to change your vote and if there are no objections then the clerk can do it. If there's any objections the former procedure for doing it would be for someone on the prevailing side to ask for reconsideration of the vote and then you could re-vote the way you wanted to. If there's no objections then it could done that way.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Interesting.

Councilman Shyne: Mrs. Scott, I just saw the old city – I think it was an old city attorney just walk in.

Councilman Corbin: Former city.

Councilman Everson: Former, not old.

Councilman Shyne: Well, he'll tell you when you been down here as long as –

Councilman Webb: Old, fat, whatever.

Councilman Shyne: The two of us it's alright to say old. Yeah, alright, good to see you, hear? He was the city attorney when I came on the council about 8 years ago. If not, I believe Mr. Thompson –

Councilman Webb: You still haven't asked me if I had anything to say.

Councilman Shyne: I thought I did Ron. I'm sorry.

Councilman Webb: She took my place and then you took over.

Councilman Shyne: Oh, well I'm sorry. Rose, you should have told me you were taking his place.

Councilman Webb: Mine was simple. I was just wanting to ask the administration about Comcast, where we at in our dialogue with them and if we're getting any closer to –

Mr. Sibley: We are. We've actually gotten – we're down to working on some draft agreements in order to try and start looking at terms of the franchise agreement very early in the process. I think we've done as much diligence as we can in terms of exploring and understanding what the laws are, what opportunities are out there, who else maybe interested out there, but in any event the causes of non-exclusive situation we feel compelled to go ahead and go forward with them and try to get the best deal we can with them, as well as seek out any other opportunities that are out there. So we are in that process.

Councilman Webb: I'm not getting as many calls, but I know I am getting – people are coming up to me here and there and asking me about it and I say well I hadn't heard anything so I assume we're still trying to resolve some of the issues.

Mr. Sibley: And that's very important to us. We've gotten some feedback, you know, because they changed their key person here and I think all of you have his information. It's very important to us as we go thru this if there are still issues that we're not familiar with that y'all keep us posted on. And so we try to maintain constant communication with them and it's important for us to know whether or not they are in fact getting better in what they say they've been doing so we appreciate that feedback from y'all.

Councilman Webb: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Public Comments

Councilman Shyne: Yes, sir. Okay, with Public Comments, Mr. Maxie would you come forward? We're so happy to see you. Come on down and express to us what you'd like to express to us. I know Mr. Sibley is glad to see you down and I'm glad to have you come down. State your name and address so they can have it for the record over there.

Mr. Jiordano Maxie: (762 Austin Place, Shreveport, LA.) It's always a pleasure to come and speak and I just wanted to let you all know that I was back and I'm here to see – I don't know about anybody else, but I'm glad to see Mrs. Rose McCulloch still in the seat fighting and the district looks good. I wanna say that first off. And with the sewerage and the drainage in the lines – we talked about this once before. We've got to do something, y'all. If it's you all or someone else, we've got to do something. We need the sewerage lines in the sewerages. We need them. The streets – some of the schools I went to, graduated from Green Oaks, Linear. We need these streets. These are the streets that we travel down daily, once probably some of you all, but we travel down daily and I'm going to say this for the last time. Brother Glover it's always a pleasure to see you and I hate that you'll be chipping golf balls, but you chip them and you chip them well. Thank y'all very much.

Councilman Shyne: All right, thank you very much Mr. Maxie. We have a request here for Mr. William Ary. Where is William? Is it anybody here from the Police Department because I think what Mr. Avery is going to be talking about –

Mayor Glover: Mr. Chief Huddleston is here, Mr. Chairman.

Councilman Shyne: Where are you, Chief? Chief, you want to come up a little bit, right, so Mr. Ary has a beautiful singing, but I don't know how loud he talks.

Mr. Ary: (4958 McDaniel Drive, Shreveport, LA.) The mayor and to this council, you're my favorite council, Mr. Shyne.

Councilman Shyne: Thank you.

Mr. Ary: I wanted to talk to the council and to see if we can get something done about devastating ear piercing, nerve racking music. They call it music, up and down our streets. Not one day, not one hour, not one-half hour I dare say. Hardly one quarter hour, you're not banging and bumping up and down our streets. I didn't give my address. I live at 4958 McDaniel Drive, may not look like it, but I've been there 35 years. Thank God I've been retired 12 years. I just see a lot of stuff going on up and my street set. It doesn't please me at all. I walk the street almost daily, especially on Fridays to retrieve all this stuff that everybody else don't want. They just throw it in the street and I picked it up. Have a stop sign two doors from my house. The stop sign is run daily, speeding and racing right thru that stop sign like they done lost their mind. It sounds a lot of times like their competing with this noise. One wants to be louder than the other. Ninety-nine percent of these people – like I say I've been where I live 35 years. I know just about everybody that live on my street, not personally, but I know them. These people that race up and down these streets; they don't live on my street. Apparently they can't make all the noise on the street that they live on.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Shyne, 3 minutes.

Councilman Shyne: We got 3 minutes.

Councilman Everson: So move.

Councilman S. Jenkins: Second.

Councilman Shyne: Okay, we're moving the – I'm sorry I should have told you in the beginning. You only have 3 minutes, but we're moving to give you some more.

Mr. Ary: Thank you. For this council, you're almost succeeded in moving this loud music and stuff from Greenwood Road and Jewella, but when they leave Greenwood and Jewella they come out in our neighborhoods and they come in droves. On the weekend it's worse. At night it's hard to sleep. You can't relax. Mr. Mayor, I voted for you several times. If given the opportunity I'd probably vote for you again, but your interpretation of our city becoming the next great city of the south, it's not working where I live. I am a tax paying registered voter. I am a law abiding citizen. I'd like to ask this council including my councilman –

Councilman Shyne: Amen.

Mr. Ary: Can't something be done about this boom box noise up and down these streets day in, day out? It doesn't stop. I'm asking you mayor, you councilmen to help us. We need some help. When I play my radio or my TV my neighbor don't know it's on. Everybody else want to pan their music and their noise off on us. There's three things that happens in the hood, but a word really gets out. It's a fire, a fight, and a funeral. The word gets out. I truly believe if some citations or some punishment or something was issued for these people running up and down these streets with all this noise I do believe if that can be done I think the word would get out. I think it'll help us a lot. My last comment; Mr. Mayor, when you fell and broke your leg you were about two doors from where I live. I thought about coming over helping pick you up, but I saw no reason for both of us to be in the hospital. We just glad to see you up and around (inaudible) recovery. Thank you so much.

Councilman Shyne: Mr. Ary, just before you go the chief will have the community liaison officer to check your area out and we will make sure since you been a 35 year resident of that area. We want to make sure – well Chief since you're here we want to make sure that Mr. Ary – wow, I like that Mr. Ary how you had to look up to the chief.

Chief Huddleston: We'll take care of it pronto. I got that covered. I heard everything he said and we'll have somebody at his house conversating with him tomorrow and we'll follow-up from there.

Councilman Shyne: Alright, please do.

Mayor Glover: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ary.

Mr. Ary: Yes, sir.

Mayor Glover: I appreciate your concern, but first of all I didn't break my legs. I ruptured a tendon and as hard as it may be for you to believe, not only did I not need your help to get up I didn't need anybody's help to get up. I got myself up, but I appreciate your concern and your consideration. Here's what I want you to understand. Going forward, you need to make sure that you don't speed or run a red light over on McDaniel.

Mr. Ary: I agree.

Mayor Glover: Because my guys are going to be there looking for everybody and if we happen to catch you it's going to be your bad luck, too.

Mr. Ary: Thank you.

Councilman Shyne: Thank you, Mr. Ary for coming down and Mr. Ary if they catch you running a red light or a stop sign or something and if you need a little help in paying it come by and let me know, hear?

Mr. Ary: I'll remember that.

Councilman Shyne: I got \$10 toward your ticket.

Mr. Ary: Thank you so much.

Councilman Shyne: Okay, we have next Reverend Linus Mayes. Look, I'm sorry. Wait a minute Reverend Mayes. I'm sorry. I believe our good friend that was here just before you; Property Standards, Mr. Craig

B. Lee. Mr. Lee, I'm sorry. I don't know who had your request. I don't whether Jeff or Michael had it, but I got it now. You need some help with the machine?

Mr. Craig Lee: Yes.

Councilman Shyne: Jackie, please?

Mr. Lee: USB accessible?

Councilman Shyne: Yes. Jackie will facilitate it for you.

Mr. Thompson: That's just a camera.

Councilman O. Jenkins: That's just an overhead projector.

Mr. Thompson: That's just a camera.

Mr. Lee: Okay. I'll print the photos out the next time.

Mayor Glover: Mr. Chairman, not to cut you off. Craig, if you have something that you want to use to get to the projection screen if you want to let someone else come we can have staff come back. They may be able to get you some –

Councilman Shyne: Alright, Reverend Mayes please come up.

Mayor Glover: Confer with him Charles to see what he needs to –

Pastor Mayes: (New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, 335E Dalzell) Thank you to my good friend Craig Lee. Thank you Councilman Shyne, Chairman, and to the rest of the committee I just have a few concerns and let me do this, get this out the way. I want to thank those that participated in parades and the different events that we had concerning black history. But as I was heading there listening a few minutes ago I can understand firing Mr. Grigsby, but what I don't understand is that once someone is fired it would look like it would be feasible for this committee or for the mayor to have someone in place to let the projects that is already in the bond proposal that the citizens of this city agreed on; look like that should've already been put in place by either Mr. Grigsby Office to have this stuff already done so when he got fired or whatever or either this council to petition the Mayor's Office to have someone in place to make sure that the concerns of the citizens of this city be able to go forward. It kind of look to me like, you know, it's done backwards and it's no criticism to anybody. It just seems like it's being done backwards because to me if I'm gonna fire somebody and which I'm not against firing people. If I'm gonna fire somebody it would be feasible to either make sure that the individual serve out the balance of his term and then let him go or whatever or however the term works to make sure that the things that are already in place Mr. Shyne, to make sure that those things are done for the citizens of the city because we been waiting over 3 years and I just be being a taxpayer and a citizen of this city and wanted to come before this City Council. This just doesn't seem fair to me that the citizens of this city has to wait now for either the mayor to appoint a new individual to come forward to do these projects that needs to be done since Mr. Grigsby is no longer here. It just seems to me that something is just not right with the overall way it's being done and I know it's a lot of people out there that's watching this that's gonna also be upset as well because it just doesn't seem that the roads are in deplorable condition. The taxpayers of this city that voted for the \$175,000,000 bond proposal this council that also voted for the increase in the water. You know, it just doesn't seem right to me now that the citizens of this city has to bear the burden of having to wait even longer and that our streets now – the streets in the MLK area Councilman Shyne in you district, District F, in all the districts. We know how bad these streets are and it was my understanding from the beginning that there was gonna be some kind of precedence set for –

Councilman Shyne: Pastor, you got one more three minutes. Just kind of keep it to what you –

Pastor Mayes: Right, and that's what I'm doing. That's what I'm doing, but I just wanted to bring some because I know that this council and this Mayor's Office do things in more a professional order than what I'm

seeing this being done in because it's sounding to me my good friend Councilman Shyne that – and I know you been here a long time and I know you and Huck's started a lot of stuff that we have privilege of now. I understand that, but I never seen this being done that you put the horse before the cart or you put the cart before the horse Mr. Everson and I just don't understand it, me just being me. I don't understand how is that we don't have somebody in place that when Mr. Grigsby was fired, which that's you all right to do, but in order for the city to function and go forward and these streets that are in deplorable condition and the citizens that voted on this \$175,000,000 bond proposal we shouldn't have to be put on hold just because we no longer have Mr. Grigsby. So with being said I appreciate what's being done here, but to me it's just doesn't seem like it's right and with all due respect – and I know most have disagreed with me, but we still love each other. We're still gonna keep the same dialogue. I still respect you and I hope that you respect me and those that don't that's between you and your God. I don't have anything to do with that. I tell my church members all the time I'm not responsible for what people do to me, but I am responsible for what I do to people so with that being said I'm glad that you all tabled this so that you can look into it a little bit more. Get with the Mayor's Office and figure out – look here the citizens of this city Mr. Oliver Jenkins, you know this as well and Sam Jenkins and to the whole council, Jeff, my councilman and Rose. The citizens of this city has waited long enough and I hear Sam I heard you said. You say it time to start doing something. Let show these people that projects that they voted for in the bond proposal that it's time for payment to start going on the streets. That's why people are complaining because we feel like in the African American communities as well as other communities we feel like that this thing has been tabled long enough Mr. Shyne and that it's time to move forward. There should be somebody in place that is capable enough to say hey look here let's get this done and I hope that you all would do that. Once again, I thank you for your time. I appreciate all that you do. You know we good friends. We gone be that, but with this being done the way it's being done and I know it probably wasn't meant, the intent wasn't meant to be done this way, but since it's being done this way I just think that it's out of order and it should be done better. There should somebody to step up to say hey we're going to do this since we have gotten rid of Mr. Grigsby. Thank you very much.

Councilman Shyne: Thank you. Alright, Mr. Craig B. Lee.

Mr. Craig B. Lee: (1035 Eustis Street, Shreveport, LA.) I'll have to bring you guys the photos the next meeting. On January 28th 2014 my house almost burned down and my house almost burned down due to the fact that was a critical issue that I've advocated about for well over a decade. It deals with fair housing ordinance and that's basically what I'm here to talk to you about today. The fire was started by some squatters in the backyard of the property located at 1030 Prospect Avenue. Myself and Councilman Everson live in the Fairfield Historic District. This is a very critical issue. My neighbor Alana Curry came in and she's gonna speak as well. The fire jumped onto her fence and then jumped onto my storage unit in the back damaging my property and almost burning down on the home. As a matter of fact, the firefighters said if my neighbor had not been home and called 911 not only my house, but the neighbor's house who is renting and Mrs. Alana Curry's two houses would have been burned that day because the wind was so high. Now why has this situation happened? This leads me to today's discussion. There's a subhuman individual who does not even possess the title or deed to lease this property, but he's paid a few taxes and he's renting out a condemned property. Now Mrs. Farnell has been very good in Property Standards in discussing this, but this is a critical issue facing the city of Shreveport because you got slum people and I call them subhuman people that are going around paying a few taxes and literally, illegally renting facilities and why? Because there's no legislation that stops them from doing this. This is a condemned property. It's approximately 2000 sq. ft. It only has one electric breaker. That's a fire hazard. It has substandard plumbing. Mrs. Curry's going to talk about that. Raw sewer backed into the house with the last tenants that lived there, a young white couple. They had to move out. Standing raw sewer in the house and then the sewerage runs down into her yard and this creates a major health hazard with mosquitoes, so now we're talking about the West Nile Virus and ultimately we're talking about property depreciation. Now we've done a good job in the Fairfield Historic District of trying to beautify the (inaudible). We've done a good job of trying to attract individuals and increase property value over in that particular area, but when you have individuals that are coming into not only the Fairfield Historic District, but Highland, Lakeside, Cooper Road, whatever and these individuals are not legally owning property, there's no way they should be leasing these substandard housing out to individuals. So we have no fair housing on the books which would regulate the landlords into what they should be able to do. And there's no substandard legislation that prevents individuals who have no legal title or deed of property from leasing property and this is where Mrs. Farnell says her hands are tied because the council needs to act on this putting legislative measures in place.

Councilman Everson: (Inaudible) Craig, just for our clarification because I think we are aware of some –

because if you will recall I think earlier during this council's term we passed the – within the first year that we passed the substandard housing or minimum living.

Councilman O. Jenkins: What minimum living conditions are.

Councilman Everson: And I think there are some challenges with enforcement there, but just – so I can understand the particular situation with the house that you just mentioned. Had Dorothy had a chance to look at that particular –

Mr. Lee: Oh yeah, they've looked at it.

Councilman Everson: She did?

Mr. Lee: And it was condemned a year ago. It was condemned for the reasons that I've listed. One electric breaker –

Councilman Everson: So they had issued like a Property Standards –

Mr. Lee: It was a sign on the house and everything.

Councilman Everson: For demolition?

Mr. Lee: No, just a sign up saying condemned.

Councilman Everson: Okay, and then – cause I think what happens sometimes and I don't know how we could regulate this, but what I think happens sometimes is people do; they pick these up at tax sales and then they tell people yeah you can pay me in cash or a money order and there's no paper trail of that. We don't know it's being rented out. There's no way other than maybe if they have utilities hooked up or something like that. That way it gets in the system, but sometimes people are actually living in these structures without hooking up the utilities and somebody's charging rent for that which is, you know, obviously I agree with your description.

Mr. Lee: And here lies the issue, of course the people don't know their legal rights of course and their trying to find somewhere to stay. Maybe they wouldn't pass the muster of actual application in a better facility, but as I told some of the landlords a few years ago, you're just not renting to your tenant. What you do with that property impacts the other property owners in the community and so now you burned down my fence, my neighbor's fence and damaged my unit so those were the pictures that I was gonna show you. I'll do that the next week, but once a resident now makes a formal complaint. Now the people may not make the complaint, but once now someone like myself makes the complaint we gotta have some kind of action because this individual does not own this property. He does not own this property and now he leases out, so the week of the fire, which had a sign that said condemned. That weekend Mr. Shyne, he moves (inaudible) and I just got a call. I see it savage because y'all gone have to leave because this is impacting the entire community and we're gonna get it handled, but this is how the overall city now starts to look bad. So when you all were talking earlier about Whole Foods, attracting those type of entities when you have diminished property value in your inner core, especially when you're talking about your historic areas it creates a situation where people don't want to come invest in the inner core. And so what we want to do is not create more vacant lots, but maintain house structures so that it can be done properly or when you have individuals that are not really regulated in terms of acquiring property and then leasing them out. We got a major problem because this impacts everybody that's putting up dollars. Now Jeff didn't put up as much money as I did in terms of fixing up his property because mine was kind of messed up. His was more expensive than mine.

Councilman Everson: The person before me fixed it up nice so I was lucky for them.

Mr. Lee: But we've been working together in that area to appreciate property values and this happens throughout the entire city. People will just literally come put signs up and say for lease, hit people because they don't know any better from that overall standpoint and this is what we actually have. So I'm asking the council to

definitely look into this because Mrs. Farnell's hands are tied. They don't have anybody to actually go out. The house is still condemned. She told me outside it's still condemned, but he's moved somebody into a condemned house.

Councilman Shyne: Let me say this. Could you get with city attorney and –

Councilman Everson: And maybe the police chief as well.

Councilman Shyne: Because I think those people have come thru the City to buy that –

Councilman S. Jenkins: Or the Parish, City or the Parish.

Councilman Shyne: Buy those properties?

Mr. Lee: They just pay taxes.

Councilman Everson: Not necessarily.

Councilman Shyne: I mean some come thru the City and then some come thru the Parish.

Mr. Sibley: Right. And some do it otherwise. Some as Craig said, don't even own –

Councilman Everson: Sometimes they get a quick claim deed from somebody and –

Mr. Lee: And Joe, as Mrs. Farnell has just indicated, these particular sub-humans here. This is their standing practice. They do this from Bossier, coming into Shreveport and they possess illegally in terms of this process, hundreds of these properties.

Councilman Shyne: Dale.

Mr. Sibley: Yes, sir.

Councilman Shyne: Would you think about maybe you and the city attorney think about what we need to do in order to at least get a hand in this since maybe we have no laws in active (inaudible)? Jeff, will be glad to take the ball and run with it and see if we can come up with some legislation that would help to take care of this particular situation.

Councilman Everson: Well, to see if maybe we have existing things on our books.

Mr. Sibley: Yeah, because it has come before and there is a way that you can enforce some of it when it's proven, but the big problem I think, as Craig is pointing out is just like a minimum living conditions unless that person living there is willing to come in and say this who I pay is this is how I paid them and here's a copy of my lease. You know, a neighbor can't prosecute that so there's some specific issues with that, you know we've talked about it before even in these chambers about these folks who will as Craig say, take possession of a property, takes some unsuspecting renter, convince them that they own it and then rent it to them. You know, cash payments. Sometimes it's discovered when they try to hook up water or utilities. They can't because they found out that person doesn't own it, but by then they may have been there, you know, 2 or 3 months or they may feel I got nowhere else to go. You know, which is a major challenge in a lot of what Bonnie and her guys tried to do so it's something I'll get with Terri, but it's a larger issue because you get into property rights. You get into state laws and it's a much bigger issue. You know the most that can happen probably at this level is what's there is we can prosecute the person for fraud or theft or something like that if they're discovered, but there's a larger issue that makes it hard to find out who's actually doing this because of the rules on how some of this property can be acquired.

Mayor Glover: You also have to have a legislative appetite to place some degree of responsibility on the person who's renting the property.

Mr. Lee: Absolutely.

Mayor Glover: And unless there is the appetite for that, which is we saw doing the rental code discussion from several years ago. It leaves you in this (inaudible) because as Dale mentioned, the idea of trying to use a person who is a renter as the basis of building your case, which is the shakiest least reliable aspect of this particular set of circumstances to deal with creates a problem. If you put the owners on the person who actually is putting out the rent sign and collecting the rent and taking advantage of these types of situations then you do have something that is actionable, but that takes actions from a legislative standpoint that we'll present to you and Julie and Terri will get together and give you all a list of what those options are.

Councilman Everson: I recall that discussion. That is valid. I mean now that we've had this in place and with good, you know, with every good intention I think there are some – was it the improved – I think I remember the discussion you're talking about. I'd be glad to take another look at that, but what I'd like to do is and I think this is an important thing to think about in the big picture term, but also in the specifics for Mr. Lee's situation. Maybe we can get together afterwards and just make sure that both the Police Department, Property Standards, City Attorney, kind of understand what's going on in this immediate situation so we can make sure if there is any specific action that we see.

Mr. Sibley: And I think that one is moving. Craig and Dorothy talked and that's being dealt with, the burned place and the condemnation as I appreciate it. Craig, you're really getting to that larger issue of how that happened in the first place with this non-owner (inaudible) rented out that –

Councilman Everson: But the immediate situation you think that is rolling now.

Mr. Sibley: I believed that's being moved. Isn't it, Craig?

Mr. Lee: Yeah, it's moving, but the people are there with the pit bulls and cars in the back and I don't want my good friend Willie Shaw to have to get me out of jail because trust me had my house got burned down that day somebody would've got swooped. I'm just being honest.

Mr. Sibley: And understand, Councilman Everson that the process will eventually lead to that structure being condemned. Craig's issue is though in the meantime this person is renting it.

Mr. Lee: And that person is renting it.

Councilman Everson: Well, I think maybe we can get it secured faster than we can get it torn down and that might make it hard for them to in or out of there –

Mr. Lee: And as I told some of the land owners, Mr. Pryor, one of the good guys from Bayou Classic that does a good job, he has two houses on the street. I say, look, if you guys don't get this, you're not just renting to this person; you're renting in a community. So the neighbors that now invest have to have a vested interest in this overall deal and that's pretty much where this is going because the property owners have now pretty much said what actually needs to be done. So I think you guys (inaudible).

Councilman Shyne: Right. Thank you for coming down and I think Jeff will be grabbing this and getting with Terri and we'll go from there and see what we can do.

Mr. Lee: Sounds great.

Councilman Shyne: Okay, next we have Mrs. Curry. Is this Mrs. Curry? Mrs. Curry, please give us your name and your address.

Mrs. Curry: (1046 Prospect Street, Shreveport, LA) Good evening. I would just like to piggy back off of what my neighbor Mr. Lee has reported and I heard you Mr. Everson state that perhaps these people are not aware of it. I'm going to start there. They are very much so aware of it. I have been reporting this since 2009 before this person even got this. That's how long that plumbing has been running down my driveway. I have pictures of – I've

gone inside. I've met every neighbor in that house and have talked to them about this and have talked to them and told them that they do not have to accept this type of, you know, condition. And a lot of times what has happened as Craig has said, many of these people may not be able to find a property that they can afford to pay fair rent or whatever for the condition of the property so they will take this and it's a very nice house with some attention this could be a property that could make a nice home for someone. I looked into purchasing it myself, but I was not going to allow this person who had only tax interest in the property try to sell me a deed that he did not have. He does not have this. I have another property that he's doing the same to this young lady. Somehow or another this gentleman supposedly worked with the mortgage company and he came in lieu of these deeds or whatever when this company went out of business. And what, if I am not telling the truth I am not telling the truth based on what this lady, the renter has told me, that this man has gotten a hold of this deed to the house and he only is I guess, the tax part of it.

Councilman Everson: It's the tax assessor (inaudible).

Mrs. Curry: He has a percentage of it, but he does not own – the mortgage is suppose to supersede that. And so what's happened is the property that is next to my home, the family and it kind of saddens me because the gentleman that own the house and his niece they somehow took out a second mortgage to supposedly pay the taxes of what this man said he had paid, but in actuality he had come and paid maybe \$1200.00 at the time I had researched it and I think that's about all he had in the property. And when I spoke with the young lady who was living in the house – her family owned the house. This man had told these people that they had to pay somewhat of a mortgage basically to pay him back in so many years, every month, \$350.00. So they were paying the mortgage on that house and paying him \$350.00 a month supposedly to pay the taxes.

Councilman Shyne: And he just had taxes involved in it?

Mrs. Curry: That's all he had, but he's been making these people think that they have to do this and then come and get a subpoena, not a subpoena, to get him put out and then people get afraid and they move out of their property. And I was there yelling, telling this young lady you do not have to move out of that property. You know what I'm saying? If you got to go down and redeem your property, pay your taxes. You don't have to give up your family property. Everybody does not have knowledge of things. She got scared. She moved. Then every since then I've had people moving in and out. I've met the couple that Craig was talking about; the young people in there. I have videos of us. I have a video of their shower. I want you all to see this and this is graphic. This is graphic with feces coming out of the shower. I have it on video if you would like to see it.

Councilman Everson: So I take it they don't have running water.

Mrs. Curry: Yes, they do have running water. Okay and I'm going to tell you this. Whoever it is – I mean the owner is sending people to fix that house. Now I'll let y'all know something. I've been dealing with this and Craig knows since 2009. I have on the other side of my house – I live on one side and I have another house that I'm renting. The house is nice. I fixed it up and everything else. How would you like sir, to have your property where you have water running down your driveway no matter if it's sunshine or whatever. Your driveway stays wet all the time and then when I call and I report this they will send somebody out and then they will say, well it's just water or it's whatever. Water brings mosquitoes, regardless if it's clean water or whatever. I don't want my property – it erodes my property. My yard, you know, it's a rental property, but it stays wet, but it's right next to my place.

Councilman Shyne: Who is it that's coming out? Is that somebody from the City that's coming out?

Mrs. Curry: People have come from the City at least 8 or 9 times and every time they've come they've given them a 10 day notice to repair it and it's never been followed thru. There've been notices and notices and notices and notices. I've raised holy with these people and I'm being told, well, we're gonna send them a letter and the last time that letter stuff came up I was like "no" don't send them a letter. I said, "When are you all going to make a fine? Put some money behind it. Do something that's gonna get their attention." Well, I want to bring to the council's attention that my neighbor in 2009 if I'm not mistaken, his name was Mr. Police. That was the family that owned the house that this man scared and made the niece move out. That man – I kept going to them and asking them about that water going down the driveway. Well, this old man was very – I don't know if he had rheumatoid arthritis or whatever, but he was really deformed and cripple. The young lady refused to do anything.

You know how young people are. She might have been 25 or so and I know she did have some sort of income, but she would not pay for a plumber. I have even found a plumber that was going to go over there and do it for nearly nothing for them. Well, instead of paying hardly anything, this old man climbed under that house and with the plumbing and wires touching the ground he died under that house. He died under that house. Yes, sir. He died under that house. After I had reported it over and over and over again to the City that this plumbing was messed up that man I guess because he didn't want any – and it wasn't any strife. I was like, Mr. Police y'all have to do something. You know, I can get you a plumber. Instead of getting a plumber, he crawled under that house and that man got electrocuted under that house.

Mrs. Pearce: Mr. Chairman.

Councilman Everson: Oh, wow. It sounds like this particular situation that has a lot of details to it – I'd like to hear more about it from you. If I could, could I ask you after we wrap up the meeting in a few minutes I'll get with you and maybe we can to with Dorothy and I'll take a look at some of that and we'll see what we can figure out.

Mrs. Curry: Yes, sir.

Councilman Shyne: Let me ask you something. Malcolm, would you come up for a minute please? Is it anything that you can add when it comes to buying or paying back city taxes and I know we'd have to have somebody down here from the Parish to speak? I mean is it anything you can add to the discussion?

Mr. Stadlander: Well, Mr. Shyne what I can add is, I see this a lot. I get calls. It saddens me when people call me and say I'm living in a house. I have an apparent deed. I had a call today. The deed had never been recorded. This man's not the assessed owner, but he thought he was. It's terrible what some people do to other people. You know we try our hardest to sale as many of the adjudicated properties as we can.

Councilman Shyne: Right.

Mr. Stadlander: I don't give legal advice over the telephone because I'm not a lawyer, but I do listen to what they have to say and I try to advise them on where they need to go if it's a legal issue. I think it's a bigger issue than the City Council or the Parish. I think it's with the State of – I mean, I think it's a state issue, a property rights issue because you do have people that have an ownership interest in the property that bought it at tax sale, but do they have the right to rent it? I don't know. That's a legal issue, so I don't know if I answered your question.

Councilman Shyne: You did. I would ask – Mr. Sibley, I'm looking at you again. You or the mayor one, whoever our contact is at the state legislature, I don't know whether it would be Senator Greg Tarver – you all seem to have close ties with the senator or with our state representative, Barbara Norton or either Representative Roy Burrell who was a member of this distinguished body and now is in Baton Rouge helping to run the state. If you all would ask him to look into that and to let them know that this is a problem or situation that if they can give up some insight into because I think you're right. I think we probably would have to look at it from state level to see what we can, you know, to see what we can find out on our we alleviate this situation. We're not going to be able to solve this right here. Thank you, Malcolm. We're not going to be able to solve this today at this particular council meeting, but Jeff has agreed to throw a rope around this and see if we can get something done and Councilman Sam Jenkins I believe, might want to work with him. Sam?

Councilman S. Jenkins: Well, yes. One of the things I would like to see – if we can do at the city level, is if we find a tax buyer has a property violation of any of our codes let's not sell to that person again until they've complied with what our codes require. I do think some of the issues – it's going to take some legislation out of Baton Rouge, but I just think we shouldn't continue to allow people to purchase the property if all their going to have is more and more properties and all we're going to have is more repeat offenses. I would hope that maybe we could look at from perspective. At least if we have a tax buyer and Property Standards or anybody else involved with the City had found them in some kind of violation of what we do then maybe some kind of flag could be put out there that we don't sell another tax property or adjudicated property to that individual until they come into compliance with what we require here at the city level. That's one of the things I would like to see us do.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Councilman Shyne, I hit the buzzer to speak.

Councilman Shyne: Fine, and Sammie when Councilwoman McCulloch gets thru we're going to let you come up because I know your bus will be coming by soon.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Well, the one thing that I –

Mr. Mears: Malcolm's taking me.

Councilman Shyne: Mr. Malcolm is going to take you?

Mr. Stadlander: Okay.

Councilwoman McCulloch: The one thing that I wanted to share with the council in past experience with the adjudicated properties and I think what we need to pay close attention to Craig – one thing we discovered as a commissioner, when the adjudicated properties would come across the agenda to be approved, you know you have what you call a G.O number. And you also had a map that actually matched the description of the G.O number. Well, to God be the glory, to my discovery on some of the properties at that time, District 2 because I was on the commission the G.O. numbers were not matching property descriptions. So you know, if your dad went and bought some property, he passed away and you're thinking it's yours and the G.O. number is not matching what your, you know, what your daddy purchased I would think that would give the enemy leeway in to coming in and possibly – I mean and then I would think it's political, too. That gives them some leeway to say hey well, you know, the numbers are not matching the description of the property we can go in and we can claim this as ours and rent it out and I watched that for months and months and months at a time. That's what was really happening. If your number is not matching the description of your property then your generations to come are gonna have some issues and maybe that's where we're suffering from, some of those same issues now. There's no telling how long that's been going on and Mr. Stadlander, you know, maybe you might want to consider looking into that, also. But you know, if I buy a piece of property and I pass away I want to know that my children will get that piece of property, but if it goes up for adjudication – you understand what I'm saying? And then it's put on the agenda and the G.O. number which I purchased it under doesn't match what I purchased – what happens? I mean, does it make sense? So I think we need to pay close attention to the details of the G.O. graphical numbers, as well as the geographical sight itself because a lot of this is going on at that time in District 2, as well as now in District A. So I just wanted to kind of throw that in for the record.

Councilman Shyne: Okay, we're going to get Sammie to come up and then I have a request from Mrs. – is that Clinton? Is it a Mrs. Clinton? Okay and all of you all are (inaudible) Mrs. Clinton, alright.

Mayor Glover: Mr. Chairman, before Sammie and just to put a footnote on the property discussion. I want to make the council aware that there have been an ongoing effort to address a lot of property related issues at the state level. Monty Moore is in fact a member of a task force that's been going working with folks from Baton Rouge and Monroe and New Orleans and what have you trying to address a lot of these types of issues. And there has not been dating back to my tenure in the legislature any significant resolution. There had been some incremental progress, but nothing nearly in line with what's necessary from a state level to help address these types of issues. I don't want anybody to leave here with the impression that there's a bill that somebody could file this particular session that may end up alleviating this situation. Any relief that's going to come in the short and near term and unfortunately probably the long term as well, because those trends at the state level will probably continue who'll have to come here at the local level. And so as indicated, we're gonna task Terri and Julie with coming up with some specific recommendation that might be considered at this local level that can hold the folks who actually should be held responsible. And of course it will be whether or not that something that we have an appetite for to be able to actually put in effect.

Councilman Shyne: Alright Sammie, roll it.

Mr. Sammie Mears: (1901 Centenary Blvd., Shreveport, LA): I first would like to say that I'm very happy that the things are going to work out now for the Shreveport City Dog Park because I was asked from quite a few people today how that's progressing and I told them if they just get the opportunity to tune in that I'm sure

something good will be coming now and things will be moving forward. So I'm looking forward to that and of course you as pretty well know I could not be here 2 weeks ago because of the ice storm that happened. I would've wanted to, however, I knew that when the ice storm was coming I didn't want to take the risk of coming down and getting stranded or possibly breaking my neck, arm, or leg so I felt the best thing to do was just get my grocery shopping done and then just be at home because I feel that safety is very important. So it's not anything that I would have done and besides Cedric I'm not the one who said, "Ice storm, would you like to come and keep me away from the City Council?" I did not do any such of a thing. I'd be the last person to pull that stunt. And the thing is that I also would like to say that I did get to attend the concert that Horace and English was involved in at the (inaudible) school. It was a coffee concert and he does a great job of singing, so if he's watching – I'm not really sure if he is or not, but I was there to enjoy his opera singing. It was about coffee and this girl that was in the concert we kept on and on about coffee this and coffee that and he called her a funny name and everyone got a big laugh out of it. And I Horace afterwards, had he called her a carrot growing in a field of rabbits I likely would have fallen out of my chair laughing so I did get his autograph. They had coffee and cookies afterwards, which was exciting. And also, Monty Walford, I went to see him right after my birthday because I went on the 10th and got to spend a little time with him and Sheree just for a moment about my birthday. Afterwards, I went to the E. Bert Kouns McDonald's to celebrate and had a great time. I got off the Highland bus at the corner of Olive and Highland and I knew that the senior lunch had already finished. I just didn't go to it because I knew they would've made a big deal, "Oh your birthday came." Please. So I decided to have a little time to myself because I rightfully deserve that and if they would have said something I would've said, "Please, I just ate." And that's something that happened over at Monty's office when Sheree said something funny before I left. I said, "Listen, I had coffee. Don't ruin it." And Monty laughed so hard. By the way, his arm is in a sling and cast and he needs prayer for healing, but he did get a good laugh when I said, "Don't ruin it." Thank you.

Councilman Shyne: Sammie, thank you. I just got word from Mr. Thompson that your 10 minutes is up. Okay, Mrs. Clinton.

Mrs. Pinkie Clinton: (1920 N. Hearne Ave. Apt. 301, Shreveport, LA) Good evening. Can y'all hear me? Mayor Glover and City Councilmen I'm speaking in reference to the Grace House at 1134 College Street, yes sir. I run an emergency shelter and first of all I want to thank y'all for your support that you've given us and housing, Mr. Jeff, Mrs. Rose. I went to school up there in Linear with you, Mr. Shyne.

Councilman Shyne: I remember that, baby.

Mrs. Clinton: Anyway, what we're doing over there is we're housing people from all your districts and we need further support to try to keep these people off the street in abandoned houses, decrease crime. And I'm gone let my time run out and I want to thank –

Councilman Shyne: We gone give you some extra time because you are really helping – now are they with you right there?

Mrs. Clinton: Yes, these are some of them.

Councilman Shyne: You all want to stand in support?

Mrs. Clinton: Yes, stand in support that we need help, additional help and we're doing a good job over there I'm told.

Councilman S. Jenkins: What's the name of the group again?

Mrs. Clinton: Grace Community.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Grace Home.

Councilman S. Jenkins: Grace Home?

Mrs. Clinton: You've been over there to speak (inaudible).

Councilwoman McCulloch: I've actually been there to speak to the group.

Mrs. Clinton: And we've been doing this some time.

Councilman Shyne: Did she leave any money with you?

Mrs. Clinton: Oh, I can get some money.

Councilman Shyne: You got plenty money now.

Mrs. Clinton: You got plenty money. I know. Thank y'all so much and y'all pray for us.

Councilman Shyne: Jeff might come up there and bring y'all a few dollars, too.

Mrs. Clinton: Mr. Jeff, you know I saw you at the lake. Thank you.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Chairman.

Councilman Shyne: Art, thank you. Mrs. Clinton, before you go I think Mr. Jenkins here might want to give you some encouragement about some money.

Councilman S. Jenkins: Well yes, I do want to encourage you. I'm sure that Councilwoman McCulloch and Councilman Jeff Everson will make a donation on my behalf also, but we will certainly look out for you and do what we can to assist you.

Councilman Everson: I think Councilman Shyne volunteered to do (inaudible).

Mrs. Clinton: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Councilman S. Jenkins: But I really had another subject I was bringing up Mr. –

Councilman Shyne: Yes, go on.

Councilman S. Jenkins: Thank you so much.

Mayor Glover: Mr. Jenkins, if you don't mind before you lead. Mrs. Pinkie, I want to make sure we distinguish Grace House from Grace Home.

Mrs. Clinton: That's correct. We have a Grace Community Outreach (inaudible) in your appropriation grant. Thank you.

Mayor Glover: Grace Home is a hospice associated with Schumpert so these are two separate –

Mrs. Clinton: We're about trying to bring people –

Councilman Shyne: You all applied for a –

Mrs. Clinton: Be helping people to live.

Councilman Shyne: Grant from the City?

Mrs. Clinton: Yes.

Councilman Everson: Through appropriations.

Councilman Shyne: Okay, that will come under Jeff's committee. Jeff is very liberal at times when organizations are about helping the community.

Mrs. Clinton: Thank you so much.

Councilman Shyne: So I'm kind of for sure that Jeff is going to be leaning your way.

Mrs. Clinton: Thank you. Thank all of you.

Councilwoman McCulloch: You're welcome.

Councilman S. Jenkins: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to extend condolences to the family of Mrs. Bobbie Scott. Mrs. Scott was a long time employee of the City of Shreveport. She worked in SPD and she last worked in Community Development. She passed away and was funeralized this past week. Thank you, Mayor Glover for the sympathy and the statement that you sent. It was well received by the family, as well as Mrs. Bonnie Moore in Community Development, her and some of the police, did show up at the funeral services and made the City's presence known. I did not want to omit mentioning something on behalf of Mrs. Scott and her quiet strength. She made a very good impression for the City on everyone. There was a lot of compliments about her at those services so I just want the family to know, her mother Mrs. Betty Reed and her 3 children that our thoughts are still with them at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Councilman Shyne: Thank you. Before we reconvene back into the regular meeting, did I miss anyone? Is it anyone – you know, I don't want to say that I didn't – because I have been accused of not giving some people an opportunity to talk. So if not, we will reconvene back unto our regular meeting.

Miscellaneous Matters

THE COMMITTEE RISES AND REPORTS: (Reconvenes Regular Council Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

//s// *Joe Shyne, Chairman*

//s// *Arthur G. Thompson, Clerk of Council*