

**BUILDING & BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2008**

The Building & Building Codes Committee meeting was held on November 17, 2008, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Don Willey, Larry Antoskiewicz, Kurt McKee; Council: Dan Kasaris, John Nickell; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik; Other Attendees: Pat Jones, Paul Marnecheck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Larry Antoskiewicz, seconded by Kurt McKee **to approve the October 20, 2008 Minutes.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Abandoned houses update report

Mr. Alvarez was unable to attend the meeting however, he did convey to Mr. Willey that he was unable to obtain an updated list of abandoned houses in the area. Mr. Kasaris said he can get a list of foreclosures in the area. Mr. Kasaris said he spoke with Judy Willey who said there are a few more than 100 homes in the area that are either in property tax foreclosure or mortgage foreclosure. Mr. Kasaris will get a list of these homes from the county and will distribute that list to Council members.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said that Ms. Vozar distributed to Council members information regarding abandoned and vacant homes in the area. Ms. Vozar received this information at a foreclosure seminar she attended recently. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that Council members should notify Mr. Alvarez if they know of any vacant or abandoned homes in the area so he can report them to the county which will speed up the process for these homes. Mr. Kasaris said that in order to speed up the foreclosure action process, the clerk's office is now telling the plaintiff to file the Motion for Default immediately instead of waiting for the plaintiff to file on their own.

2. Proposal to amend grass/weed ordinance

Mr. Willey said that Mr. Alvarez does not feel we need to change this ordinance. Mr. Willey stated that Mr. Kelly indicated that we can embellish the current ordinance to take into account larger vacant lots. Mr. Kasaris said that currently the landowner only needs to cut 50 feet of weeds in a vacant lot. If Mr. Alvarez asks them to cut more than 50 feet and the landowner does not cut it, there is no ordinance in place to force the landowner to do that. Mr. Kasaris said the purpose of the proposed ordinance is to force property owners of vacant lots in subdivisions to cut more than 50 feet of weeds/grass to make the subdivision safer and get rid of the nuisance. Mr. Willey feels the ordinance should be broader than just covering subdivisions. Mr. Kasaris said he did not intend for this ordinance to apply to streets other than those located in subdivisions. He said when you live in a subdivision, you do not expect surrounding lots which are vacant to be left unattended as far as weeds and grass are concerned. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked where you set the bar as far as how many vacant lots need to be cut. Mr. Kasaris said that he feels 50% of the street should be cut.

This item will remain on the agenda until more information can be obtained from Mr. Kelly and Mr. Alvarez.

NEW BUSINESS

1. No New Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. McKee, seconded by Mr. Antoskiewicz **to adjourn the meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.