



Minutes

Housing Committee

Oelwein City Hall, 20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein, Iowa

March 18, 2024 - 4:00 PM

Roll Call

Present: Payne, Fisk, Lenz, DeVore

Also present: David Kral, Gina Jordan

Absent: NA

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussions

1. Discussion on addressing concerns regarding large rental companies.
 - a. Discussed large rental companies and potential code requirements to have someone based in the State of Iowa as a property manager and to have that person listed to the property rental license as a point of reference. Renters have been having difficulty with Fortress Joy, a company based out of state, and their timely response to major problems with their rental homes (i.e. furnace failure.) If they were required to have a primary point of contact it would help renters and code enforcement with solutions to future issues. Code phrasing to be pursued and brought to the city legal team regarding this concept.
2. Discussion on new housing building code.
 - a. Discussed existing City code standards for new home building and how, so long as adhering to IRC and state code standards and local zoning standards, almost all home build typed are allowed in the city limits. The primary point of hindrance with building new is cost effectiveness for a new building in relation to the potential sell-able or rent-able value the home may carry. There is also a shortage of available builders. These new build projects will take time and patience to carry out.
3. Update from Mayor DeVore.
 - a. OCAD has been evaluating TIF applications and is focusing on options for investment toward upper story housing repairs or improvements primarily in the downtown area of Oelwein.

Adjournment