



**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
LEGISLATION AND CODES  
9/7/2021**

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Daniels (chair), Schaber, Thomas  
Meeting called to order at 6:48 PM with a quorum present.

**Minutes:**

Schaber made a motion to take no action, Thomas 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Thomas: Nays – none

**Minutes of 04/19/2021, 05/17/2021, 06/21/2021, 07/19/2021 approved (3-0)**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Item 1. tempORD2021-71: ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MARION CITY CODE (Neff) (previously ORD2021-31)**

Mr. Neff explained the vacant property registration ordinance. A similar ordinance was enacted in Marysville and in three years removed 180 properties off the registry. He has talked with Zach Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer and Tim Ansler, Law Director. He has also spoke with individuals from Urbana, Springfield, Sandusky where there are similar ordinances. The purpose of the ordinance is to remove burden from taxpayer and put it on property owner for them to take care of property and for us to know who they are

Mrs. Swanger (6<sup>th</sup> Ward) said that this is a registry for abandoned/blighted property. She showed an existing list of properties developed by City Sanitarian and County Land Bank. This ordinance creates more government. She thinks we need the government to do the job they are charged to do, not more government. Based on her research with these list, numerous properties have deceased owners. This ordinance will do nothing for those properties. There are only 34 properties that are owned by non-private owners. Majority are private owners. Entities that can do something about these properties need to do their job – land bank, commissioners, and prosecutor. These home owners are behind on taxes already. They will not pay this either. Another list of abandoned homes solves nothing.

Mr. Kelly (E Farming) has concerns about property maintenance and inspections. He has concern about placard advertising places as empty. Others stated that is not purpose. He has concerned about utility services. Vacant property excludes lawfully licensed businesses. Ordinance does not properly address foreclosed properties. Banks do not transfer title timely, if at all. They get order for previous owner to stay away, but do not transfer. Nothing happens. No one to go after.

Neff reiterated that this is to move burden from taxpayers to property owners and is enforced successfully in other municipalities.

Mayor Schertzer stated that there is an issue with only dealing with the symptoms of the disease. They do not do proactive tax foreclosures. He thinks that they need to be more aggressive in the foreclosure process. Majority of dollars go to the schools and could help them. This is a decades old problem.

**Other Matters:**

**Adjourn:**

The chair adjourned the meeting at 6:58 PM to accommodate the Council Special Meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM.

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Josh Daniels, Chair

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Tarina R. Rose, Council Clerk