

**CITY OF HYATTSVILLE**  
**CODE COMPLIANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 15, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

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**ATTENDEES**

Jamie Bean, Chair  
Ian Fay, Vice Chair  
Arinee Flurry, Recorder  
Gloria Felix-Thompson, Member  
Angel DuBose, Member  
Stacy Dennery, Potential Committee Member  
Joe Brewer, Code Compliance Committee Liaison

**ABSENTEES**

Jimmy McClellan (Councilmember Liaison Ward 3)  
Rommel Sandino (Councilmember Liaison Ward 5)

**MEETING NOTES**

**1. Adoption to 2023 Calendar**

July removed for recess. June is tentative pending liaison being able to secure a fill in while he is out. Gloria moved and Ian motioned to approved. Schedule unanimously approved.

**2. Election of Chair and Secretary**

Jamie Bean –unanimously approved by quorum members as Chair

Ian Fay - unanimously approved by quorum members as Vice Chair

Arinee Flurry –unanimously approved by quorum members as Recorder

**3. Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

Unanimously approved by quorum members.

**4. Committee Stipend Program**

Chair discussed process for applying to program. Gloria advised members that all members must complete form to either approve or deny the stipend. Liaison will send all members the link via email to complete.

**5. Committee Recruitment**

Chair advised committee to use various platform to recruit neighbors for committee.

## **6. Update on Code Issues**

- a. New gas station opened and licensed. The attached mechanic shop has clear understanding about junk vehicles. Vacant property on Oliver has debris and drainage issues.
- b. Meeting with PG County for multiple body shop that is spray painting cars outside. City does not have zoning authority. Permits are given by county, so City is trying to coordinate with County to enforce environmental hazards violations.
- c. Waiting on update for CH 113 on council agenda related to changes to code on auto body shops that park outside who violate road safety. Proposed changes extend authority, no council members present to update members on status.
- d. Joe was in court related to complaints for lack of sanitation on dumpster enclosures. Rodent issues because of dumpster gates remaining open. Multi complex apartments received multiple citations and hearing was successful.

## **7. New Business**

- a. Ch 52 in Code under Animal Welfare section. Received complaint about chicken coup being kept on property. City issues warning notice but received additional complaints, so citation issued to property owners. Liaison was able to meet and guide resident on proper chicken keeping on grounds. Under current city code chickens aren't allowed. Location of coup is right on property line for neighboring property so complainant informed code it was a nuisance based on a location.

USDA allows for Urban Farming and issues an ID called a tract number. This USDA tract number issuance comes with the expectation that resident will provide some form of commerce to the community. Court hearing scheduled but inspector is not pursuing citation because Joe used superseding USDA allowance. USDA tract number identification allows Urban farming in residential neighborhood.

USDA gives tract number so resident can have their land designated as a farmland which conflicts with current City Code. Joe and Ian advised that City Codes needs updating and proposed language should emphasize urban farming and remove chicken from current code. Solutions to validate urban farming could include verification of form track ID from USDA or some form of plan that says you are more than just trying to have chickens in the backyard. Also, proposed language could indicate urban farm issuance of tract numbers could trigger city to require the resident to have a business license. Gloria asked does Public Works Director have thoughts, Liaison had not discussed but he will reach out for buy-in.

Next steps – 1) Ian will contact DOCA to obtain their language for urban farming or how they have helped cities establish urban farming. 2) Ian will research any neighboring cities that have code language. 3) Jamie will obtain case study on environmental benefits of backyard chickens and will contact POC, Don Taft, on Environmental committee.

- b. Gloria notified committee of properties with garbage on porches. Liaison advised properties with unenclosed outdoor storage/trash is a violation but can't compel owner to remove the problem. Gloria asked was a public awareness campaign an option to notify homeowners. Code liaison will bring it up during their public code sessions on social media.

## **8. Next Meeting**

Next meeting scheduled on April 19, 2023 –Committee will review documents gathered by Ian and Jamie to review existing conflict and further discuss issue.