

MEETING MINUTES

CLARA CITY
LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION
SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday
April 14, 2020
6:00 PM

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CLARA CITY, MINNESOTA

Members present: Gary Nelson (In Council Chamber), Nate Speiser, Rhonda Pieper, Vic Sparks and Jeff Davids (Council members present by phone conference)

Absent: None

Staff present: In Council Chambers- Winthro C. Block (City Administrator), Steve Jones (Interim City Administrator), Julie Aalfs (Deputy Clerk), Judy Gosseing (Finance Director)

1. Call to Order--By Mayor Gary Nelson at 6:00 P.M. A Quorum was declared as being present.

Note: Due to Governor Walz' Stay at Home Executive Order due to COVID-19 this meeting is being held via phone conference. This meeting is being officially recorded. Any and all commentary must be communicated through the microphones at the Council and Staff tables or through the microphone attached at the speaker's podium. Also, please silent all cell phones and do not use them during the meeting.

1. (A) *Mayor Nelson noted that Councilor Nate Speiser and himself have both attained the required LBAE training within the past four years and, as such, the presence of at least one of them at this meeting validates the Council's holding of the meeting.*
2. Additions/Deletions/Modifications to Agenda—None.
3. Introduction by the City's Assessor—Bonnie Crosby and Kerri Heim present by telephone conference.

The Chippewa County Assessor's Office was represented by Bonnie Crosby (the County Assessor) and Kerri Heim (Assistant Assessor). They presented an overview of the area and properties that were reviewed and evaluated in Clara City for the 2020 Assessment (see Attachment "A"). They also shared a few facts on property sales and current property values. They noted that in 2019 there was a total of 21 residential sales in Clara City with a median sales ratio of 93.3% based on the 2020 assessment.

Crosby shared that both the old Junior High Building and the new Aquatic Center are not included in the assessment totals. Also, 2022 will be the next year that all exempt properties will be looked and adjusted.

Upon questioning by staff, Crosby and Heim reported that one person from the City had contacted their office with assessing concerns. Heim then spoke with this resident regarding issues with his foundation and requested these issues lower his assessment amount. Due to the COVID-10 pandemic the resident sent pictures to Heim to help determine a decision. (30-140-0204)

Crosby and Heim asked if the council would like to approve a 5.00% decrease on this resident's value lowering it by \$2,400.00.

Action taken: on a roll call vote Ayes: Davids, Pieper, Nelson, Speiser and Sparks, Nays: none. M/S/P 5-0 (Pieper/Speiser) to approve the 5.00% decrease to the resident's assessed value.

4. ***Appearance and Testimony of Interested Citizens***—It was noted that this session is about taking testimony and questions concerning property valuations and/or classifications—***Upon a call by Mayor Nelson for interested citizens to address the Board, No one requested to be recognized.***

5. ***Adjournment***—***Upon recognizing no additional business or commentary to be heard, Mayor Nelson, without objection, declared this Meeting of the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization (LBA&E) to be adjourned as of 6:30 P.M.***

ATTACHMENT "A"