

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following Council Members present: Amy Ernst, Chad Cummings, Alaina Kolpin, Chris Kielblock. Larry Janssen (excused absence).

Staff members present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Matt Selof, City Planner; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others present: Ken Bickner, Michele Ebbers, Nobles County.

RENTAL HOUSING DRAFT ORDINANCE & PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Steve Robsinson, City Administrator said and Ken Bickner has put together a draft policy for the Rental Housing Code. The final copy is planned to be presented to Council the first Council meeting in March and implemented on May 1st.

Ken Bickner, presented the draft of the new Rental Housing code. He said the purpose is to eliminate unsafe, unhealthy, substandard, and blighted rental housing, to improve the quality of rental housing in Worthington to protect the health, safety and welfare to the citizens of our community. He suggested having a shortened version of the manual that could be handed out to the landlords prior to the implementation of the program. Council Member Cummings asked if a checklist could be given to the landlords as well so they know what to expect. Mr. Bickner said that could be made possible and something they could receive when they registered the property. The information would also be available on the website.

Mr. Bickner explained the proposed tiered inspection schedule that could implemented and done annually, every two-years, or every five-years based on better maintained buildings and cooperation by the landlord. Staff would work with Community Service Officers on complaints. The new enforcement tools would allow for Administrative Fines to be written by the inspector for non-compliance.

Council Member Cummings said he thinks landlords will appreciate the new program.

Michelle Ebbers, Nobles County said she is currently working on coordinating and collaborating with the City on these same issues. She said that she is trying to get another health sanitarian position but the State hasn't been hiring for the position since the pandemic. Mr. Robinson said another meeting is scheduled for Friday with Nobles County.

Council agreed staff was on the right track with the new code and directed them to keep moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

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The motion was made by Council Member Ernst, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk