

**CITY OF COLUMBUS
PUBLIC HEARING IN INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY MEETING FORMAT
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STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
ORDINANCE 23-03 CHAPTER 7A
5-17-2023**

The 5-17-2023 Public Hearing to consider the proposed Ordinance 23-03 to amend Chapter 7A regarding administrative variances for low floor elevation regulations for pre-1990 dwellings. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lynn Carver-Quinn at the City Hall at 6:13 PM. Present were Planning Commission members Barb Bobick, Judy Huntosh and Bethany Barrette, City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, Council Planning Commission Liaison Janet Hegland, City Planner Dean Johnson, and Associate Planner Frank Koenen.

Also in attendance were Cindy Angel, and Jon Sawyer

In attendance via interactive technology was City Engineer Tim Olson

The meeting was held in an interactive technology meeting format.

Carver-Quinn: Now we will open the public hearing for the ordinance 23-03, chapter 7A, administrative variances for low floor elevation regulations for pre-1990 dwellings, pages 45 through 46.

Frank Koenen: Madam Chair if I may read the public hearing notice?

Carver-Quinn: Ok

Notice was read at this time by Associate Planner Frank Koenen

Elizabeth Mursko: Madam Chair and Planning Commission members, this is my presentation for tonight – just a short for this ordinance amendment. So, I wanted to give all of you a little bit of background as to why we were doing this ordinance. This ordinance came to me from the City Council. There was a resident who had contacted a city council member and indicated that he would like to do an addition to his home, but he had built a home prior to 1990 and, at that time, there were soil borings done which met the conditions at that time. Today, when he went to do an addition, it didn't meet conditions and what would've happened is he would have had to step up into his addition if he wanted to do an addition on his home. So, we had a discussion at the council level as to how we could help them, and how we could help others. Because this isn't the first time this request has come before me, or the council where we've had, again, an older home that was built at an elevation that met all the requirements but didn't quite meet our three-foot separation from water table or mottled soil today. And it would be a hardship for them to have a different elevation for either an addition or other amenity that they were going to add to their home. So, in the big picture, while it came from one request and a council member did some research when we looked at it and the question was asked 'who will benefit', it's really the whole city that will benefit. Which is why this ordinance was drafted by the city and brought forward versus a private party. So in this case, we have drafted a short ordinance, and this ordinance is for an administrative variance. We have this process for one other area in Columbus and that's for a septic system. And that process has been very successful, and we've been able to process variances for a septic system when it doesn't meet separation – again on older homes, or properties

that exist, when they can't meet the requirements. So this ordinance was based on that premise because it's been a very successful process. And so, if you look at section 1 of the ordinance that's before you. Again, it's a very simple ordinance. It's for homes in the Rural Residential (RR) district. It is for homes built prior to 1990. It will be reviewed by myself and the city engineer, so that all is looked at – when we look at drainage and if there's additional drain tile needed, because they won't have the separation that is required. And again, the process would be don't administratively. In looking at the overall process, City Staff is recommending approval of this ordinance. Again, if you have amendments or questions, they'll be happy to answer them.

Carver-Quinn: Anybody have any questions?

Bobick: This is Barb, I have none.

Huntosh: This is Judy, I have none.

Barrette: Bethany, I have none.

Carver-Quinn: I have none either. Anyone else?

Carver-Quinn: In that case I'll close the public hearing and look for a motion.

At this time, Chair Carver-Quinn closed the Public Hearing. Hearing closed at 6:19 PM.

Eleanor Hahn

Respectfully submitted: Eleanor Hahn, Recording Secretary