

**HARDSHIP AND GRIEVANCE COMMISSION
EVANSDALE CITY HALL
JULY 21, 2016 – 5:30 PM**

The Hardship and Grievance Commission met on July 21, 2016 at the Evansdale City Hall at 5:30 pm to review Garbage Exemption applications. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson Gene Walker. Present: Dottie Wear, Gene Walker, and Joelle Strader. Absent: Charles Schumacher and Steve Seible. Quorum present.

Walker suggested the order of the agenda be changed to review applications first then review guidelines. Wear/Strader moved that the order be changed for the July 21, 2016 agenda. Ayes-Three. Motion carried.

Strader/Wear to approve the January 21, 2016 minutes. Ayes-Three. Motion carried.

Review of applications:

There were twenty three (23) applications submitted prior to the deadline of July 14, 2016. Strader stated that it was since discovered that one of the applications was already approved on January 21, 2016 bringing the number of July applications for review down to twenty two (22). Walker/Strader to remove the January application from review. Ayes-Three. Motion carried. Sixteen (16) of the applications were approved for garbage exemption. Four (4) of the applications were denied for exceeding the income guideline. Two (2) of the applications need income information confirmed. It was agreed that if such information cannot be provided they will be denied for lack of paperwork.

Review of guidelines:

The commission discussed whether to keep or modify the current income guidelines and looked closely at the income guidelines used by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The SNAP guidelines reviewed are effective through September 30, 2016 and consider a poverty level of 130%. Walker stated the city guidelines currently reflect a poverty level of 112.5%. Because the city guidelines have not been updated since 2013, Walker recommended the city accept the current SNAP guidelines. Wear/Strader moved that the commission change the income guidelines to match the SNAP guidelines and for the new income guidelines to be effective January 2017. Ayes-three. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Wear asked if the application should have better wording on how to list income. Walker commented that the application already does. It was discussed that there may be a need to fill a seat on the commission. When the need to fill a seat arises, Walker recommended that any future commission members should not also be employees of the city. The next meeting was set for January 19, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

There being no further discussion, Strader/Wear to adjourn at 6:12 p.m. Ayes-Three. Motion carried.



Joelle Strader, Secretary