

**NEWBERG AFFORDABLE HOUSING
ACTION COMMITTEE – FEES/FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Newberg City Hall

Permit Center Conference Room

414 E. First Street, Newberg, OR

OPEN MEETING: The meeting began at 7:05.

I. ROLL CALL:

Present: Ken Austin, Mike Gougler, David Maben, Charlie Harris, Dennis Russell

Absent: Beth Keyser

Staff Present: David Beam, Economic Development Planner

II. PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT DISCUSSION :

Mr. Beam referred to the memo in the meeting packet prepared by Barton Brierley regarding two potential property tax abatement provisions by state statute for low-income housing. The first provision is regarding the rehabilitation of residential facilities in a distressed area of the city. Two questions arose: (1) what is the definition of a “distressed” area; and, (2) does the “distressed” area have to consist of contiguous properties? After a short discussion, the subcommittee voted unanimously recommended that this option not be pursued (Russell/Gougler). They felt that benefits of such a program would not be worth the needed investment of administrative time and political capital.

The second provision is regarding the construction of new single-family dwellings in a distressed area of the city. As with the first provision, the subcommittee voted unanimously recommended that this option not be pursued (Ragsdale/Gougler) and felt that benefits of such a program would not be worth the needed investment of administrative time and political capital.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Austin suggested pursuing a gas tax to help fund affordable housing. Mr. Gougler stated he wasn't interested in pursuing that mechanism. Increasing the transient tax was also mentioned. While this may be an option, the amount of money that would be raised for affordable housing would likely not be very much in the initial years of its implementation.

At their next meeting, the subcommittee would like to have a joint meeting with the City Housing Subcommittee to discuss the proposed housing trust fund.

V. **ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**Approved by the Affordable Housing Action Committee – Fees/Finance Subcommittee this
14th day of July, 2010.**


Fees/Finance Subcommittee Secretary